



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

FORWARD

In everything, acknowledge God, who makes straight our paths. - Proverbs 3:6

THE UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY
PRE-CONFERENCE JOURNAL + HANDBOOK

May 24-25, 2021

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- Connect with other leaders
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NEXT GENERATION
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



IGNITE
DISCIPLESHIP



In everything, acknowledge God, who makes straight our paths. -Proverbs 3:6

Friends in Christ,

In the last year, our paths have seemed anything but straight, and yet we moved forward with conviction and courage because God is leading us.

As we gather virtually for the 22nd Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Session on May 24-25, 2021 we will review past progress and chart a bold future under the theme *Forward*. When we gather, we will give thanks for those who served among us and now share in eternal glory, commission, ordain and elect the next generation of leaders.

We will also discuss important business, charting and securing a sustainable future mission. We will review progress on A Journey of Hope, our strategic plan, congregational vitality and sustainability, investment fund policy and adjustments to benefits programs.

The 2022 budget review and action will be postponed until Thursday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m., so that financial leadership can review performance on the new consolidated budget and make better projections for 2022.

To prepare for our conferencing together I invite you to:

1. Start with prayer. Pray that God will bless our time together. Pray for healing and renewal of the Wesleyan Path and pray for our ministry together.
2. Share with your congregation. Use the reports in this workbook to share about our ministries, to celebrate the lay and clergy members who are honored.
3. Engage with your congregation the legislation that will be before us, including that legislation related to the revised 2021 budget and the FAQs available on the GNJ website.

I look forward to joining with you in holy conferencing as we move forward following Christ Jesus and the path God continues to set for us.

Keep the faith!


John Schol, Bishop

Miracles Everywhere



The COVID-19 Relief Fund from the Miracles Everywhere Campaign enabled churches to do what Jesus did by providing comfort, security and hope to those who needed it most.

**Now in its last year, the campaign
is hoping for a strong end.**

Donate Today at: www.gnjumc.org/miracleseverywhere



**22nd Annual Conference Session
for United Methodists of Greater New Jersey
May 24-25, 2021**

Agenda

Monday, May 24

- 9:00 a.m. Episcopal Address
- 9:20 a.m. Organizing the Conference
- 9:30 a.m. Legislation - Nominations p. 14, Trustees Enabling Resolution p. 17,
Conference Advanced Specials p. 19, Equitable Compensation Recommendation for
2022, p. 21, Greater New Jersey Conference Arrearage Policy for Clergy Salaries p. 22,
Standards for Parsonages p. 23, Pension and Health Benefits p. 27, 2021
Insurance Guidelines p. 29
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Remembrance
- 11:30 a.m. Leadership Report
- Lay Leader
 - A Journey of Hope, *Ending the Sin of Racism*
 - Financial Overview
 - Leadership and Congregational Development
- 12:15 p.m. Miracles Everywhere Offering
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, May 25

8:30 a.m. Service of Passage

Reading of Appointments

9:00 a.m. Legislation - GNJ Designation Fund Policies p. 35, Journey of Hope Legislation Modification p. 44, Church Closures p. 44, Intersectional Peace with Justice p. 45, Making the Educational Society of the GNJAC a subcommittee of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry p. 46, Itemized Shared Ministries Statements and Remittance Forms p. 47, Presenting Recommendations – Rule III 19 p. 48, Inclusive Nomination Process to the General and Jurisdictional Conference p. 49

10:30 a.m. Ordination Service

12:30 p.m. Adjournment



BREAKTHROUGH

A GNJ guide to best practices for worship

Breakthrough Worship Series is the support system for both clergy and laity to develop engaging worship and move their congregations forward on the path to vitality. It is designed to provide easy-to-use best practices and worship tools so congregations can spend less time preparing the details and focus on what really matters – preaching the gospel to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

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UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

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THE
**maker's
place**
TRENTON | NEW JERSEY

For all those who've wrapped us in love.
Give a gift to struggling mothers

in honor of mom

Donate to the Maker's Place, a United Methodist diaper bank in Trenton, in honor of a mom in your life, and she'll make a difference in their lives too.

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OR WRITE TO P.O. BOX 54, TRENTON NJ 08601

Donate before Mother's Day (May 9th) and we'll send a letter in recognition of your donation to you or to your loved one.



GNJ Awards

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award: *Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.*

Clergy: Rev. Joshua Mularski, First UMC (Williamstown)



Rev. Joshua Mularski has been an out of the box innovative leader that has transformed First Church Williamstown. During his time there the church has become increasingly focused on God's mission for their future.

With the arrival of Pastor Josh in 2016, they were challenged to dream, vision and begin to make changes in outreach and through worship. The church now offers a contemporary worship service along with a traditional service so that all age groups and worship styles are interacting and working to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The average church worship attendance has grown each year in Josh's tenure.

Along with this growth has been the introduction of new small groups where the attendance in groups throughout the year has been almost that of the average worship. These small groups are much like the Wesley Small groups with discovering "how is it with your soul" in the sense that people are encouraged to live out the gospel message. The groups deal with topics, scripture understanding or even learning how to be better leaders in the life of the Church.

Josh has a niche for meeting people where they are in their encounter with Christ and then leading them into a deeper more meaningful relationship. During the pandemic, these groups have continued virtually, which has kept the church connected and offered invites to others to be introduced and brought into the church.

Before the pandemic, people involved in mission and ministry to the community was also almost that of the worshipping attendance. People have been involved in food distribution, clothes drives, and meals to neighbors .

One of the great ways of reaching out to the community has been in their winning a grant from the General Church for technology. Under Josh's leadership they are learning to not only have worship online, but how to connect with names, addresses and faces for those who have yet to be able to come through the doors of the church. Josh is getting the church out of the four walls and back into the community to where people are recognizing the name, ministry and encountering Christ.

Josh has a compassion and evangelist spirit that is seeking to help this church reengage with the "why" we are a United Methodist Church. He is helping the congregation to understand it is everyone's responsibility to know and share the gospel story of their life in true Wesleyan spirit that also entails the social aspect of where we are to live the gospel out in loving and serving all in the community.

Laity: Holly Robinson, Dennisville UMC



Holly's innovative evangelism ministry spans almost every realm of her church outreach; She is a liaison to the schools and coordinates with them in how to assist those identified in need within the school community. She also runs the church coat and mitten drive that goes to the school, and the food pantry.

She presents the mission moment each month with a passion that allows her enthusiasm for the mission to be contagious. Church giving to missions has increased since she began this monthly endeavor. She is a great advocate for, and involved in, the mission of Family Promise; she coordinates Thanksgiving dinner baskets with the school; is coordinator for the food pantry, and each month, she does all of the shopping with her sisters, (since the pandemic she has come over days early to pack each shopping bag for porch pick up); she carries the groceries into the social hall and organizes and accounts for every item which she carries to the second-floor storeroom where every item is organized. Holly runs and is present for every food pantry Sunday. When Holly heard of the loss of jobs to bus drivers and cafeteria workers, she contacted the school and arranged for food for families in need.

Additionally, Holly is the Treasurer of her church. Holly has coordinated and chaired the SPRC committee for five years and takes that responsibility seriously. Her major concern and direction has been toward pastoral care and a keen awareness to evangelism.

Holly understands how essential the presence of the Gospel, (lived-out), is to witness the message of Jesus. She lives out Matthew 25:34; and directs her church to do the same. Because of Holly and with the example and direction of other key leaders in the church, the church family is also keenly aware of, noticing, and responding to anyone hungry, thirsty, without a coat, sick or lonely.

Everyone who visits the food pantry is welcomed to participate in the uplifting devotional and prayer that is offered prior to the start of the distribution. A prayer basket is provided for prayer concerns and all know that the weekly Bible Study group prays for their concerns. All are offered prayer as they are helped with groceries to their vehicles.

Holly's ministry is changing lives; it impacts the community and region. Many in the community who do not attend church have been impacted by her actions of compassion, and although they do not attend, still view the church as their church home and reach out in times of spiritual need.

Holly models Jesus with her compassion and makes others truly feel loved in the how they are ministered to and cared for when they come to visit. She serves in a way that is welcoming and inviting, so that many who attend feel a part of the church.

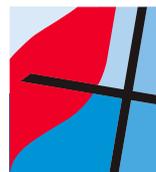
Holly's drive and compassion challenges and motivates me as a pastor. She is relentless in her desire to care for those who are hurting. When the food pantry had to close last March and April, she looked to other ways to meet their needs and arranged for special pick-ups and food cards. Holly's efforts have so impacted the community that since the summer the church has had had over \$5000.00 in unsolicited funds (designated by the givers) for our food pantry. Lives have been impacted and the church is clearly a vital presence in the community, and Holly is an important part of that vitality. There are many other mission projects in which she is involved that are not listed, but she has made the mission of Jesus the center of her life.

A Journey of Hope



Your congregation can be the bearer of hope, justice, and transformation that the world needs.

FOR MORE DETAILS
www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope



A JOURNEY OF HOPE
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

1 **Legislation**

2

3 **Committee on Nominations**

4 (Those to be elected since last session of Annual Conference)

5

6 **Nominations to Individual Leadership and Board, Agencies, and Committee Membership**

7

8 **Council on Youth Ministries ¶649**

9 **Class of 2021**

10 Charlie Kinch (C), Chair

11

12 **Class of 2025**

13 Rosie Eun Young Pang (C)

14

15 **Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650**

16 **Class of 2025**

17 Sara Smialkowski (L)

18

19 **Board of Church and Society ¶629**

20 **Class of 2025**

21 Teaira Parker (C)

22

23 **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶634**

24 **Class of 2025**

25 Cindy Gryniewicz (L)

26 Don Stevens (C)

27 Ron Wilkinson (C)

28

29 **Commission on Communications ¶646**

30 **Class of 2025**

31 Tiffany Murphy (C)

32

33 **Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶644**

34 **Class of 2025**

35 Marissa van der Valk (C), Chair

36 Krystal Woolston (L)

37

38 **Commission on Religion and Race ¶643**

39 **Class of 2025**

40 Joshua Colorado (L)

41

42 **Committee on Disability Concerns ¶653**

43 **Class of 2025**

44

45 **Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries ¶655**

46 **Class of 2025**

47 McWilliam Colon (C)

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BOARD, AGENCIES AND COMMISIONS ORGANIZED BY THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Board of Ordained Ministry ¶635

Michelle Ryoo (C), Chair

Class of 2024

- Gina Yeske (C)
- Daeil Min (C)
- Janice Sutton Lynn (C)
- Deb De Vos (C)
- Myungsun Han (C)
- Ingres Simpson (L)
- Dr. Lillian Edwards (L)

Board of Pension ¶639

Class of 2029

Elouise Hill-Challenger (C)

Board of Trustees ¶640 and 2512

Class of 2025

- Myungsun Han (C)
- Sajan Philip (L)

OTHER CONFERENCE AND AFFILIATED AGENCIES

A Future with Hope Board of Trustees

Class of 2024

- John Schol
- Niurca Louis
- Wilbert Mitchell
- Patricia Morton

Next Generation Ministries, Inc.

Class of 2024

Charlie Kinch (C)

United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of New Jersey

Class of 2022

Marlin Townes (L)

Class of 2024

James Ryoo (C)

1 **OTHER BOARDS THAT SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

2
3 **The Pennington School – Board of Trustees**

4 **Class of 2025**

5 Philip Bancroft

6 David Long

7 William Oldsey

8 Judith Rosenberg

9 Steve Silberman

10 Soopalkij “Chris” Chearavanont

11
12 **United Methodist Communities – Board of Directors**

13 **Class of 2026**

14 Gavin Stobie (2)

15 Dale Caldwell

16 **DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

17
18 **Gateway North District**

19 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

20 **Class of 2024**

21 David Yamoah

22
23 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

24 Samuel Albania, Jr

25 Adebayo Adesanya

26 Krystal Woolston

27 Penni Robinson

28
29 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

30 Janice Lynn

31
32 **Palisades District**

33
34 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

35 Hyoik Kim - Chair

36
37 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

38 Myungsun Han - Chair

39
40 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**

41 Charlene Gungil

42
43 **Skylands District**

44
45 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

46 Bob Keller

47 Tracey Gleason

48 Michael McKay

1 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

2 Pat Schultz

3

4 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

5 Lee Haase

6

7 **District Poverty Task Force**

8 Eliezer Franqui

9

Capital District

10

11 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

12 **Class of 2024**

13 Rupert Hall

14 Jesse Ruch

15

Northern Shore District

16

17 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

18 Wade Jackson

19

20 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

21 Sunny Shim

22 Ashley Wilson

23

24 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**

25 Rich Hendrickson

26

Raritan Valley District

27

28 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**

29 **Class of 2024**

30 Sang Hoon Choi

31

32 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

33 Jennifer Cho - Chair

34 Chuck Coblentz

35

Cape Atlantic District

36

37 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**

38 Erik Hall

39

40

41 **Trustees Enabling Resolutions**

42

43 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby
44 ratifies, approves, and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual
45 Session.

46

47 **Be it further resolved** that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual
48 Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2022 Annual Session, any property, real or

1 personal, that is conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person, firm,
2 partnership, or corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion,
3 provided that the same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to sell, transfer, lease or convey any such
4 real or personal property for such price and at such time or times and upon such other terms and
5 conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist
6 Church shall determine; and

7
8 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
9 Conference of the United Methodist Church be and hereby are authorized in the name and on behalf of
10 the Conference, to execute and deliver the Conference deed of conveyance or instrument of transfer and
11 all other instruments and documents to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing
12 resolution and to affix the corporate seal of the Conference thereto; and

13
14 **Be it further resolved** that the President or Vice-President or Treasurer of the Corporation is hereby fully
15 authorized and empowered to transfer, convey, endorse, sell, assign, and deliver, any and all stock, bonds,
16 evidence of interest and/or indebtedness and all other securities, corporate or otherwise, now, or
17 hereafter standing in the name or owned by this Corporation and to make, execute and deliver, any
18 property to effectuate the authority hereby conferred; and

19
20 **Be it further resolved** that whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and transfer,
21 executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of Secretary or of an
22 Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of such certificate shall set forth these
23 resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect, then all persons to whom
24 such instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled without further
25 inquiry or investigation and regardless of the date of such certificate, to assume and to act in reliance
26 upon the assumptions that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument were
27 therefore duly and properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this
28 Corporation, and that with respect to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such officers
29 is still in full force and effect; and

30
31 **Be it further resolved** that after this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the
32 United Methodist Church and prior to the 2022 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees of the Greater New
33 Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of District parsonages, Program
34 Director's, and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary and advisable and in
35 accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The Conference Board of
36 Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale and such other
37 documents as may be necessary to effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such properties. Such
38 properties, real or personal, may be sold or acquired from any person or persons, firm, partnership, or
39 corporation upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
40 Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

41
42 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
43 Conference of the United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such
44 deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of
45 such conference-owned properties.

46
47 Submitted by,
48 Reverend Clifford L. Still, Sr., Chair, Board of Trustees

1 Conference Advance Specials

2
3 **Be It Resolved** that the 2021 Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference designates the following
4 ministries and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2022 conference year (without
5 restricting in anyway a local church's ability to support other mission work):
6

7 **Be It Further Resolved** that the Executive Committee of the Connectional Table be authorized to make
8 any additions and deletions to the Conference Advance Specials list based upon recommendations of
9 the Conference Board of Global Ministries.
10

11 **C.A.M.P. YDP** (Community Association with a Ministry to People Youth Development Program) Provides
12 pre-school, after-school and summer programs for children aged 5 - 14 and their families, mainly on the
13 north side of Paterson. The program runs throughout the year. As an organization, we are committed to
14 work as a "partner" within the community. A stimulating and nurturing environment is provided. Total
15 care is available as well when schools are not in session with transportation available to pick up children
16 from certain schools.
17

18 **Centenary Fund/Preachers Aid Fund** Supporting retired clergy and spouses.
19

20 **Christian Outreach Project** provides no-cost home repairs to persons in need in the northwest area of
21 our Conference. Participants are made up of high school youth and adult volunteers. In addition to
22 home repairs, participants engage in morning devotionals, singing, worship services and recreational
23 activities.
24

25 **CUMAC/ECHO** works to alleviate hunger and its root causes for those in need in Paterson, Passaic
26 County, and northern NJ. CUMAC has a Pantry feeding 3,000+ monthly. Our Depot warehouses over 2
27 million pounds of food annually for a network of about 40 partner feeding programs. This Community
28 Food Coalition (CFC) distributes food while also screening clients for member pantries. We advocate at
29 the local and state level on behalf of CFC clients. CUMAC also has a Community Closet that offers
30 clothing & household items; Pathways to Work imparts job skills and hands-on experience; Place of
31 Promise is a supportive housing program for chronically homeless individuals; and our seasonal projects
32 for school supplies, holiday gifts and other items for area children in need. All our programs rely heavily
33 on volunteer and financial support from the community.
34

35 **C.U.M.I. Camden Urban Ministry Initiative**, a cooperative After-School Program is a shared ministry
36 amongst Camden churches. This partnering reaches families to ensure positive development of children.
37 We provide a safe environment for youth activities, such as an after-school program, summer day
38 camps, youth Bible study, choir, and a career training program. There are arts and cultural activities for
39 all ages. The exchange of stories, wisdom, advice, and experience builds a shared understanding of
40 family and community. This church-based intergenerational community surrounds our youth with caring
41 Christian adults who encourage, support, and pray for our youth while also holding them accountable.
42 We are dedicated to the spiritual, emotional, and social growth of Camden Youth.
43

44 **First Friends of New Jersey and New York** With the expansion of detention centers in New Jersey, the
45 need to provide advocacy, research, and social services to detained and released detainees has
46 increasingly grown. We provide a link to the outside world by providing toll free lines (English & Spanish)

1 in five different detention facilities where more than 2000 individuals are detained, and through visiting
2 individuals in detention. Our Pen-pal Program allows volunteers who cannot visit to write to detainees.

3
4 **Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)** is a ministry that works with people God calls us to work with: the
5 immigrant or what the Bible referred to as the stranger in both the Old Testament and Gospels. New
6 Jersey is a state of immigrants. Unique to this ministry is that three conferences, Peninsula Delaware,
7 Eastern Pennsylvania, and Greater New Jersey, will pool resources to serve together to support
8 immigrants in the Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Delaware Region. It will provide volunteer
9 compassion ministry and professional legal services. Greater New Jersey has long provided such services
10 to clergy and laity, particularly in Northern New Jersey. This new ministry will provide services in
11 Southern New Jersey, particularly to those with the lowest incomes.

12
13 **The Neighborhood Center** has served the Camden community since 1913. Today, they are a community
14 center that provides a healthy and nutritious lunch six days a week, day care, an after-school program,
15 and an evening teen program. We focus on a two-generation approach to lift families out of poverty.
16 Our commitment is to provide a safe space for Academic achievement, Athletic accomplishment, and a
17 flourishing Arts program. Our hope and vision for the next century of service is to create a "community
18 living room."

19
20 **Pennington School** A college preparatory institution affiliated with the Methodist Church, reflecting the
21 principles espoused by John Wesley and core values of Honor, Virtue, and Humility. Students experience
22 an environment where talents and values are forged for making a positive difference in the world. We
23 provide half scholarships for students in grade 6 to 12.

24
25 **Ranch Hope/Victory House** Ranch Hope provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16 ½ and Victory
26 House provides services to troubled girls between the ages of 14–18 years. We are faith-based and
27 provide learning environments for those whose needs can best be met through experiences outside
28 their homes. They can obtain or regain their long-term academic, behavioral, and spiritual focus in our
29 residential setting. Counseling, housing, and recreation is offered, as well as spiritual guidance, time to
30 attend chapel services and Bible study. We are licensed by the New Jersey State Department of
31 Children and Families.

32
33 **The Maker's Place** is a new initiative of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. The goal is
34 to connect neighbors in Trenton with neighbors in central New Jersey and beyond, by opening a
35 neighborhood resource center that empowers poor and marginalized people in our capital city. The
36 Maker's Place is a site for local mission and ministry. Starting with initiatives centered around food and
37 families, The Maker's Place will cultivate transformative relationships that help people build bridges out
38 of poverty and create a multiethnic and economically diverse community hub where all people can
39 experience the wide welcome of God.

40
41 Submitted by,
42 Isabel R. Quezada, Conference Board of Global Ministries

1 **Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2022**

2
3 **Whereas** The Commission on Equitable Compensation in seeking to support quality pastoral leadership
4 to help United Methodists of Greater New Jersey to grow in all areas or vitality recommends the
5 following:

6
7 **Be it resolved that** the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopt the following recommendation for
8 required minimum salary for persons under full-time appointment in the local church effective January
9 1, 2022.

- 10
11 a. Elder and Deacon in Full Connection: \$48,550
12 b. Provisional and Associate Members: \$45,130
13 c. Full Time Local Pastor: \$42,700

14
15 Any changes in clergy ministry salaries related to a change in clergy status through ordination,
16 commissioning, or licensing in 2021 will become effective as of January 1, 2022.

17
18 These salaries apply to clergy (elder and deacon in full connection, provisional elder and deacon,
19 associate members, and local pastors) serving in full-time appointments in the local church. The years of
20 service for each clergy can be found on the Clergy Service Record at Wespeth (General Board of Pension
21 and Health Benefits). In calculating years of service, time on leave of absence is not counted in
22 accumulated years of service.

23
24 For purposes of pension credit and years of service calculations, the minimum equitable salary for $\frac{3}{4}$
25 time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required minimum in the pastor’s cash salary. The
26 minimum equitable salary for $\frac{1}{2}$ time pastoral appointments shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the required minimum. All
27 appointments less than $\frac{1}{2}$ shall be considered $\frac{1}{4}$ time appointments for pension purposes, and salaries
28 shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the local church
29 S/PPRC.

30
31 Each pastor’s salary is determined by the local church or charge in consultation with the District
32 Superintendent provided that the required minimum salary is met. In determining a recommendation
33 for salary, each Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee takes into consideration the pastor’s years of
34 experience, education, leadership ability, health and dental coverage, social security, and family needs.

35
36 All full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage or a housing/rental allowance as part of their
37 total compensation package.

38
39 All full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense line item in the church budget to
40 cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other professional ministerial expenses as
41 allowed by the IRS. The reimbursable amount shall be at least \$2,500. For churches receiving Equitable
42 Compensation support, their accountable reimbursement should not exceed \$2,500.

43
44 **Vacation Policy:**

45 All pastors regardless of full or part time status shall be entitled to receive the following vacation per
46 appointment year:

1 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays) of vacation consistent with the average work week; with 5 weeks
2 (including 5 Sundays) after 10 years of full-time or equivalent part time service consistent with the
3 Clergy Service Record.

4
5 Vacation time shall not be cumulative from year to year. Time spent in leadership responsibility in
6 conference/district activities shall not be considered vacation time. This includes Course of Study, Local
7 Pastors Licensing School, Camps, Annual Conference related Ministries, and other education and
8 renewal as required by the Book of Discipline (§1350.2).

9
10 In setting clergy compensation, local church Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees are encouraged to
11 consider a minimum of \$300 per year of service increment above the basic minimum compensation up
12 to a maximum 15 years. Years of service are determined by the number of full-time years (or equivalent)
13 fully completed prior to January 1, 2022.

14
15 Submitted by,
16 Steven Bechtold

17 18 **Greater New Jersey Conference Arrearage Policy for Clergy Salaries**

19
20 **Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Conference adopt the following arrearage policy for Clergy**
21 **Salaries:**

- 22
23 1. In the event that the local church treasurer becomes aware that the church will be unable to
24 provide to the pastor full payment of a regularly scheduled salary, or housing allowance
25 installment, or pension payment, or health insurance payment, the church treasurer shall
26 immediately notify both verbally (within 24 hours) and in writing (within 3 days) the Pastor, the
27 Lay Leader, and the Chairs of S/PPRC, Finance, Trustees, and the Church Council or equivalent of
28 the impending arrearage. Upon receipt of such notice, the Chair of S/PPRC and/or the Pastor
29 shall immediately notify the District Superintendent and congregation of the impending
30 arrearage. It is the pastor's responsibility to keep copies of all such written notifications, and to
31 provide additional written confirmation to the District Superintendent when an arrearage has
32 taken place. Failure to document salary or benefit arrearages may result in a loss of
33 compensation.
- 34
35 2. Upon receipt of notice of a pending arrearage, the Chair of S/PPRC shall meet with the Pastor,
36 Lay Leader, and Chairs of Finance, Trustees, and the Church Council to discuss the financial
37 situation and seek remedies to prevent an arrearage from occurring. Consistent with The Book
38 of Discipline ¶624, such remedies cannot include a reduction in the Pastor's compensation until
39 the beginning of the next Conference year.
- 40
41 3. If after consultation among these leaders it becomes apparent that the church may be facing a
42 long-term financial crisis, the Chair of S/PPRC shall notify in writing the Pastor, congregation and
43 District Superintendent to consider potential solutions including but not limited to developing a
44 payment plan so that the pastor receives full payment of compensation, full benefit payments
45 are made by the end of the fiscal and/or appointment year. The District Superintendent may
46 refer this to another appropriate resource person to work with the church towards resolution of
47 the situation.

- 1 4. If the local church is already receiving a subsidy grant, the District Superintendent or designee
2 will determine if all subsidy grant funds allocated to the church were used to pay the pastor's
3 salary.
4
- 5 5. It is the responsibility of the pastor to provide evidence of an arrearage by providing
6 documentation such as: Treasurer's Reports, Charge Conference reports, check stubs, etc.
7
- 8 6. The statute of limitations for any salary arrearage is one year from the date of the initial
9 arrearage. However, once an appointment ends the Pastor no longer has claim on the local
10 church for compensation funds (§342.4).
11

12 Submitted by,
13 Steven Bechtold
14

15 **Standards for Parsonages**

16 Revised January 2021
17

18 **Be it resolved** that the following recommendation be adopted as the standards for parsonages for
19 GNJUMC effective July 1, 2021.

20 **Standards For Parsonages**

21 **Responsible Group in the Church**

22 The Book of Discipline does not mandate a parsonage committee; however, it is strongly recommended
23 that each local church which has responsibility for a parsonage form a parsonage committee. The
24 committee will follow-up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health and
25 safety of the pastor and/or pastor's family (much like a landlord). The chairpersons of the S/PPRC,
26 Board of Trustees and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure
27 proper maintenance and up-keep. (§258.2 g(16) and §2532.4).
28
29

30 **Standards for Existing Parsonages**

31 All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy. It is the responsibility of the
32 Board of Trustees to be familiar with these requirements.
33

34 For existing parsonages, each local charge shall provide and maintain the following furnishings,
35 equipment and services:

- 36 1. Living room and family room furniture.
- 37 2. Dining room furniture.
- 38 3. Kitchen appliances including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust
39 fan, and dishwasher.
- 40 4. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc. that may be different from one charge
41 to another.
- 42 5. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.
- 43 6. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels/basic cable package), high speed
44 internet service fast enough to support streaming where available, and one telephone line (cell
45 or land line). As churches/parsonages are located in a variety of geographical areas, we
46 encourage discussion at the local church level to provide comparable communication services
47 and cost saving measures such as bundling of services.

- 1 7. Floor coverings (solid surfaces are preferred).
- 2 8. Functioning window shades and blinds, or curtains/drapes.
- 3 9. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall
- 4 be at least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and Carbon
- 5 Monoxide detectors are to be in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties
- 6 and certificate of occupancy.
- 7 10. Closets or free standing storage units in each bedroom.
- 8 11. Drive and walkways should be hard surfaced.
- 9 12. Minimally acceptable outside light for safety to illuminate walkways and driveways.
- 10 13. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the
- 11 parsonage, that local church is responsible to pay for this service.
- 12 14. Suitable equipment for lawn care and snow removal corresponding to the size and condition of
- 13 lawns/driveways/walkways and/or appropriate lawn/plowing services.
- 14 15. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishings shall include
- 15 a desk, desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor's library, additional chairs, and a
- 16 locking filing cabinet.
- 17 16. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
- 18 17. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
- 19 18. The septic or sewer system shall be fully functional and meet the needs of the parsonage family.
- 20 Maintenance of septic systems is the responsibility of the church.
- 21 19. In parsonages where there is a well, testing of water on a periodic basis should be done
- 22 consistent with local health codes for rental properties.
- 23 20. Radon testing is strongly recommended to be done periodically consistent with EPA standards
- 24 and local requirements.

25

26 **Additional Suggestions**

- 27 1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician
- 28 2. Roof inspection every five (5) years
- 29 3. Energy audit every five (5) years

30

31 **Responsibility**

- 32 **1. Each pastor is responsible for:**
- 33 a. Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs
- 34 b. Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware,
- 35 flatware, cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories
- 36 c. The following regular maintenance
- 37 i. Routine cleaning
- 38 ii. Floor maintenance
- 39 iii. Trash disposal and recycling
- 40 d. It is expected that the pastor shall provide tenant (renters) insurance to cover property
- 41 loss and personal liability.
- 42 e. Restitution for any damage beyond moral wear and tear.
- 43 f. At the time of a move, the current pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture
- 44 from the parsonage and property and shall leave the parsonage in a "broom clean"
- 45 state. Pastors are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces such as kitchen
- 46 counters, appliances and cabinets, bathroom fixtures, and church owned furniture that
- 47 has been used by the parsonage family during their time in the parsonage.

48

1 **2. Each charge shall provide:**

- 2 a. Utilities – heat, electric, gas/oil, sewage, cable, internet, and basic telephone, as well as
3 any property taxes or HOA fees that are assessed to the parsonage.
4 b. Maintenance for all parsonage equipment
5 c. Basic furniture for all rooms except the bedrooms (see above)
6 d. Funds for the repair of the parsonage and its maintenance should be allocated and
7 allowed to accumulate so that continuing care and major repairs can be made when
8 needed.
9 e. At the time of a move, the church is responsible for cleaning and preparing the
10 parsonage for the new pastor and her/his family. This includes washing or dry-cleaning
11 curtains and drapes, cleaning window blinds, shampooing carpets and/or washing floor
12 coverings, washing windows, cleaning disinfecting garbage cans, doorknobs, etc.
13 f. Congregations and pastors are expected to follow the guidelines of the state and the
14 CDC with regard to effective and proper cleaning procedures of parsonages at the time
15 of a pastoral change. The most updated information for cleaning and disinfection is
16 available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

17
18 **3. Miscellaneous**

- 19 a. The parsonage is the pastor’s home for his/her tenure in that church or charge. S/he
20 has, therefore, the responsibility to care for the home and its furnishings from damage
21 by pets or people and, if it is damaged, to return the home to a condition equal to that
22 when s/he received it to use. If an item of furniture is damaged beyond repair, s/he is
23 obligated to replace it.
24 b. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged.
25 However, if s/he does own furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the
26 parsonage, and parsonage furnishings have to be stored, s/he should make every effort to
27 store it properly so it is in good condition and does not suffer damage from being in
28 storage. The site or method of storage for any church owned furniture shall be
29 determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of Trustees. The
30 pastor assumes financial responsibility for the storage of any unused furniture.
31 c. We recommend that in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the
32 Church Conference paperwork, there be a complete video/photo inventory of all
33 church-owned furnishings in the parsonage. The inventory and all videos and photos
34 should be updated annually as needed.
35 d. It is the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to be acquainted with the parsonage
36 and, after a new pastoral appointment is made, meet with the incoming parsonage
37 family to discuss the minimum acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet
38 annually thereafter with the parsonage family.
39 e. At the time of a new pastoral appointment, the chairs of the S/PPRC and the Board of
40 Trustees, the current pastor and the incoming pastor will walk through the parsonage
41 together for inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church
42 Conference parsonage inspection report as a guide.
43 f. In order to respect the privacy of clergy and families, the church has a responsibility to
44 make an appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the
45 household prior to visiting the parsonage at any time.
46

1 **4. Multiple Church Appointments and Clergy Couples**

- 2 a. In appointments where a clergy person is appointed to more than one church and a
3 parsonage is provided by one of the churches, the utility expenses (heat, water, and
4 electric) will be divided equally between the churches. Any capital improvements and
5 maintenance on the parsonage are the responsibility of the church that owns the
6 parsonage.
7 b. In cases of clergy couples when the couple resides in the parsonage of one of the
8 appointments, the utility expenses will be divided equally between the appointments
9 provided that housing is considered as a part of the compensation package for each of
10 the clergy. In situations where both persons in a clergy couple are utilizing their
11 respective parsonages, each church will provide utilities for their own pastor.

12
13 **Standards for Parsonages (Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)**

- 14 1. All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.
15 2. The District Committee on Church Location and Building must be consulted in developing plans
16 for all purchases or construction of a new parsonage.
17 3. All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the Book
18 of Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions.
19 *Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as*
20 *a bedroom by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible*
21 *laundry facilities (§2544.4d)*
22 4. Churches considering selling their current parsonage and purchasing a new one need to explore
23 property tax implications as well as leans on the property that may need to be considered in
24 potential financing.

25
26 **Option 1**

- 27 1. The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing, thus
28 contributing towards keeping maintenance costs lower.
29 2. The following room requirements:
30 a. Living Room/Family Room
31 b. Dining Room
32 c. Kitchen
33 d. Study
34 e. Baths (2)
35 f. Bedrooms (3)
36 3. A minimal electrical service of 200 amperes
37 4. A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools,
38 garden equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
39 5. Space to store large articles of furniture/equipment
40 6. The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows
41 7. Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This
42 consideration might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the
43 community and the church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its
44 future growth.

45
46 **Option 2**

- 47 1. The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing,
48 leasing, renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the District

1 Superintendent, the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District
2 committee on Church Location and Building

- 3 2. The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the “traditional” church parsonage for
4 ministry in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is
5 difficult to recommend a single standard for such settings.

6
7 **Appeals**

8 Appeals by the churches or pastors on any of the above provisions should be made to the District
9 Superintendent who has the final authority to interpret and implement the foregoing standards.

10
11 Submitted by,
12 Steven Bechtold

13
14 **Pension and Health Benefits**

15
16 **Be it resolved that** the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, be set at
17 \$727 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

18
19 **Be it further resolved**

- 20 1. That effective January 1, 2022, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to
21 sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time and one-half time clergy and continue to sponsor
22 UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
- 23 2. That contributions for January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, for the Clergy Retirement
24 Security Program for full-time and less-than-full-time (¾-time & ½-time) clergy and for
25 Conference sponsored UMPIP Plan for ¼-time clergy, be set at 14% of plan compensation. The
26 increased percentage includes 5% for administrative costs and 7% uncollectable fees per the
27 2020 approved budget set by Special Session of Annual Conference on October 26, 2020.
- 28 3. That contributions for January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, for the Comprehensive
29 Protection Plan be set at 3.4% of plan compensation for full-time and ¾-time ordained clergy,
30 and for Conference Sponsored UMLife Options for ½-time ordained clergy to be set 2.2% of plan
31 compensation. That local churches may sponsor ¼-time ordained clergy and ¾-time part-time
32 local pastors in UMLife Options. The increased percentages for CPP and UMLifeOptions includes
33 5% for administrative costs and 7% uncollectable fees per the 2020 approved budget set by
34 Special Session of Annual Conference on October 26, 2020.
- 35 4. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2021, unless
36 otherwise stated.
- 37 5. That the following members of the former Southern Conference be included in terms of
38 eligibility for conference-paid health benefits. Specifically, the following persons, upon
39 becoming annuitants with at least 10 years of service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health
40 benefits: Jae Jeong Shim, Mildred E. Bender, J. Evans Dodds, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh,
41 William R. Hess, and Charles D. Mitchell.
- 42 6. That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits upon
43 retirement and receiving an annuity.
- 44 7. That Rev. Patricia Bruger’s actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from
45 June 16, 1995, through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service year
46 credits to determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment responsibility
47 upon retirement.

- 1 8. That the following clergy be subject to five years “under appointment through the Conference
2 immediately prior to retirement” to meet eligibility requirements for health benefits in
3 retirement, rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 Annual Conference meeting
4 (Paragraph 3 under Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the following
5 persons, if, at the time of retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for health insurance
6 in retirement, shall be granted under this provision: Rev. Vena Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen,
7 Rev. Christina Zito.
- 8 9. That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated
9 with the adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per child upon the presentation of
10 the necessary documentation.
- 11 10. The Greater NJ Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating
12 to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the
13 Conference:

14
15 **Be it resolved that** an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received
16 from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”),
17 which includes all such payments from the Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period July 1,
18 2021 through June 30, 2022, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was
19 a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing
20 allowance for each such clergyperson; and

21
22 That the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation
23 applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized
24 under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company
25 that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund
26 authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference
27 or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any
28 local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the
29 Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed
30 the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that
31 elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an
32 active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit
33 as part of his or her gross compensation.

34
35 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson’s gross income in any
36 year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code
37 section 107(2), and regulations there under, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing
38 allowance designated by the clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as
39 this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the
40 clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including
41 furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each
42 clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine
43 what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

- 44
45 1. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2022, be reimbursed for one-time moving expenses up to
46 \$5,000.00 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This
47 reimbursement is limited to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company packing
48 costs. The same benefits and restrictions shall also apply to a surviving spouse moving out of the

1 parsonage upon the death of a pastor while in active service in the Annual Conference, and to
2 those entering disabled relationships.

3 2. That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications
4 to the current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to
5 the Plan that could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be
6 studied and enacted as the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include
7 increased participant deductibles, co-payments, greater use of generic medications, and other
8 avenues of cost saving and sharing. Such changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the
9 Cabinet.

10 3. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval
11 printed in the 2021 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

12
13 Submitted by,
14 William B. Wilson Sr., Chair, Board of Pensions

16 **2021 Health Insurance Guidelines, Conference Board of Pension and Health** 17 **Benefits**

18
19 The mission of the Conference Health Insurance Plan (the Plan) is to provide primary health insurance
20 coverage to full-time full, provisional, and associate ministerial members and full-time local pastors of the
21 Annual Conference and to eligible full-time lay employees.

22
23 The Plan provides secondary health insurance coverage for retirees who are receiving Medicare which
24 requires both Medicare Parts A & B for coverage. For those who have retired early and are not yet eligible
25 for Medicare, primary health insurance coverage is through the same plan as those in active ministry. The
26 Plan is a non-vested current benefit for active and retired pastors and lay employees.

28 **I. ELIGIBILITY**

30 **1. Clergy Eligibility:**

- 31 1) Active clergy under full-time Episcopal appointment to serve a local church including Elders,
32 Deacons, Local Pastors, Associate Members, and Provisional Members
33
34 2) Those under full-time appointment as district superintendents, clergy staff members of Conference
35 councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish development, general
36 evangelists, and campus ministers for whom the Conference provides pension contribution to the
37 Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) who are:
- 38 • a full elder or associate member (other than a missionary) (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1))
 - 39 • or an ordained clergyperson from another annual conference or another Methodist
40 denomination (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.1)
 - 41 • an ordained clergyperson from another denomination if not covered by the group health
42 plan of the denomination to which they belong. (Book of Discipline ¶344.1a(1), ¶346.2)
- 43
44 3) Enrollment in the Active health insurance plan must be completed within 31 days of appointment
45
46 4) Waiving coverage in the Plan - Contact the Benefits Assistant for required documents. Documents
47 must be completed and returned within enrollment deadline periods

- 1 • within 31 days of initial eligibility; or
2 • once per year during the Conference open enrollment period for the following
3 January 1; or
4 • within 31 days of an open enrollment period for a spouse’s plan; beginning January
5 1, 2016.
6 • see PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE for Waived Coverage Fees.
7
8 a) Participant must certify that:
9 • The plan is through a former employment or a spouse’s current or former
10 employment. Proof of such coverage is required.
11
12 • The plan is not a marketplace plan. Under these guidelines and marketplace rules,
13 Full-time clergy are ineligible for any Premium Tax Credit.
14 b) Re-admittance to the plan is during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special
15 Enrollment event (loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a
16 spouse, or gain a dependent).
17
18 5) Clergy in any category under Episcopal appointment to full-time service in an Extension Ministry
19 [¶344.1a (3)(4); 344.1b; 344.1d; 331.1a,b; 326.1; 331.8; 346.1; 346.2], may enroll in the Plan within
20 31 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election
21 Period or in the case of a Special Enrollment event - loss of other coverage, employment status
22 change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent.
23
24 6) Part-time clergy in any category are not eligible for coverage through the Plan.
25
26 **2. Ministerial members who are placed on Medical Leave status by the Conference** shall continue
27 enrollment in the Plan regardless of whether they are eligible for Medicare disability benefits. The
28 Conference Plan remains primary until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare due to disability,
29 at which time the Conference Plan becomes secondary to Medicare. Beginning January 1, 2016,
30 participants obtaining Medicare due to disability, may choose to remain in the Active Health Plan as
31 their secondary insurance, or to enroll in the United HealthCare Retiree Plan (Medicare Advantage
32 Plan). The premiums for ministerial members on Conference Medical Leave (and their enrolled family)
33 will be paid by the Conference with Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits funds.
34
35 **3. Clergy in Retired Status** may be in the Plan if they were under full-time appointment for 20 years and
36 appointed full-time through the Conference for the last 10 years with annuity credit immediately prior
37 to retiring; *provided, however, that:*
38 (a) Clergy in retired status may also be in the plan if they retired on or before July 1, 2021 (provided
39 that their participation shall be subject to the provisions of Part II and III below);
40
41 (b) Clergy in retired status may also be in the plan (subject to the provisions of Part II and III below)
42 if:
43 i. they retired after July 1, 2021,
44 ii. they were at least 62 years old as of July 1, 2021, and
45 iii. they had at least 15 but less than 20 years of full-time appointment; *provided that*
46 *Such retirees must pay such additional premiums or charges as may be established annually*
47 *by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.*

1 (c) Clergy in retired status may also be in the plan (subject to the provisions of Part II and III below)
2 if:

- 3 i. they retired after July 1, 2021,
- 4 ii. they were at least 62 years old as of July 1, 2021,
- 5 iii. they had at least 7 but less than 15 years' service of full-time appointment, provided that
6 *1. Such retirees must pay 100% of any and all fees, charges, premiums, and other requirements*
7 *for participation established by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits; and*
8 *2. Such retirees under this paragraph (c) also shall not receive any financial credit or*
9 *contribution toward the cost of the Plan.*

10 Retired participants and spouses age 65 and over are required to carry Medicare Part A and Part
11 B in order to be eligible for Conference insurance in retirement. Monthly premium for Part A if
12 any, and for Part B is a personal expense. A Retiree (and eligible dependents) not enrolling
13 (waiving coverage) in the Plan at the time of retirement, or who left the plan as a retiree, may
14 enroll during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special Enrollment event
15 (including but not limited to voluntary or involuntary loss of coverage) (refer to Clergy Eligibility
16 #1, subparagraph 1d). For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."
17

18 **4.** Any of the following **lay persons** are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 31 days of
19 hire. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan,
20 or in the case of a Special Enrollment Event - loss of other coverage, employment status change,
21 divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent.

22 (a) Lay employees of the Conference or any of its subsidiary agencies working a minimum of 1,560
23 hours annually (30 hrs. per week)
24

25 (b) Full-time (minimum of 1,560 hours annually) lay employees of any church in the Conference that
26 adopts the program, completes a Salary Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement and whose church
27 enrolls a minimum of 75% of its full-time lay employees
28

29 (c) Retired lay employees of the Conference, local churches, Conference-affiliated UM institutions,
30 the Episcopal office, units of the Conference whose lay employees are not on the Conference
31 payroll and the surviving spouse of such employees, may participate in the Plan provided they
32 have received or will receive a UMPIP benefit from Wespith Benefits and Investments through
33 their salary-paying unit and if they were employed full-time for 20 years and employed full-time
34 through the Conference for the last 10 years with immediately prior to retiring *provided, however,*
35 *that:*

36 (d) Lay employees in retired status may also be in the plan if they retired on or before July 1, 2021
37 (provided that their participation shall be subject to the provisions of Part II and III below);
38

39 (e) Lay employees in retired status may also be in the plan (subject to the provisions of Part II and III
40 below) if:

- 41 i. they retired after July 1, 2021,
- 42 ii. they were at least 62 years old as of July 1, 2021, and
- 43 iii. they had at least 15 but less than 20 years of full-time appointment; *provided that*
44 *Such retirees must pay such additional premiums or charges as may be established annually*
45 *by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.*

46 (f) Lay employees in retired status may also be in the plan (subject to the provisions of Part II and III
47 below) if:

- 48 i. they retired after July 1, 2021,

- 1 ii. they were at least 62 years old as of July 1, 2021,
- 2 iii. they had at least 7 but less than 15 years' service of full-time appointment, provided that
- 3 1. *Such retirees must pay 100% of any and all fees, charges, premiums, and other*
- 4 *requirements for participation established by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits;*
- 5 *and*
- 6 2. *Such retirees under this paragraph (c) also shall not receive any financial credit or*
- 7 *contribution toward the cost of the Plan.*

8

9 **5. Dependents eligible for coverage** in the Conference Plan are limited to the spouse, children who are

10 qualified adult dependents, and children who are under age 26. Dependents may be added only

11 during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment event

12 - loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, death of a spouse, or gain a dependent.

13 If an annuitant marries (remarries), coverage of spouse and/or children may be available and premium

14 for dependents is at the retiree's expense.

15

16 **II. PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ANNUITANTS**

17

18 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the

19 participants, based upon the premiums charged by the insurance carrier(s).

20 Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all

21 eligible enrolled annuitants of the Conference, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds.

22 A. A Clergy person age 65 or older, becoming an annuitant after July 1, 2021, who has 20 full-

23 time approved years with annuity credit in (CRSP), the Clergy Retirement Security Program

24 (includes prior plans), with Wespeth Benefits and Investments, shall receive health insurance

25 coverage under the Plan. Monthly premium for Part A if any, and for Part B (both required)

26 is a personal expense.

27 1. Annuitants age 65 or older who retired on or before July 1, 2021 shall continue to pay

28 and be responsible for a percentage designated by the Board for each year short of

29 20 full-time years of service. The 2022 percentage will remain at 5%. The percentage

30 will be reviewed annually by the Board.

31

32 B. **A lay person age 65 or older**, who has received or will receive a UMPIP benefit after July 1,

33 2021, who has 20 full-time approved years of employment with participation in UMPIP, the

34 United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (includes prior plan), of Wespeth Benefits and

35 Investments, shall receive health insurance coverage under the plan. Monthly premium for

36 Part A if any, and for Part B (both required) is a personal expense.

37 1. A lay retired participant age 65 or older who retired on or before July 1, 2021 shall

38 continue to pay and be responsible for a percentage designated by the Board for each

39 year short of 20 years of full-time service. The 2022 percentage will remain at 5%.

40 The percentage will be reviewed annually by the Board.

41

42 C. The Active premium for an **annuitant under the age of 65 commencing benefits**

43 1. Eligible annuitants under the age of 65 who retired on or before July 1, 2021 shall

44 continue to pay and be responsible for the annual fixed amount determined in the

45 year of retirement until the annuitant reach age 65. Premium payment for those

46 that have less than 20 years of full-time service shall continue to pay 5% for each

47 year short of 20 years of full-time service. Annuitants paying for the annual

1 percentage for which they are short of 20 years of full-time service are subject to
2 annual increase set by the Board of Pensions.

- 3
- 4 2. Eligible annuitants under the age of 65 who retired after July 1, 2021 shall pay the
5 amount equal to the actual plan premium rate set by Wespeth Benefits and
6 Investments until the annuitant reach age 65. The plan is subject to annual
7 increases.
- 8
- 9 3. Eligible annuitants who retired after July 1, 2021, *and*, as of July 1, 2021, were at
10 least 62 years old and had at least 15 but less than 20 years of full-time
11 appointment, see Part I paragraph 3(b) or 4(e).
- 12
- 13 4. Eligible annuitants who retired after July 1, 2021, and, as of July 1, 2021, were at
14 least 62 years old with at least 7 of service but less than 15 years net credited
15 service under full-time appointment, see Part I paragraph 3(c) or 4(f).
- 16

- 17 D. **Extension Clergy serving approved Conference Advance Specials** in the geographic bounds
18 of the Annual Conference who are not eligible to enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security
19 Program (CRSP) will be credited, solely for the years appointed to that Advance Special, with
20 actual years of appointment and service to the Conference, for the purpose of calculation of
21 service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated premium payment responsibility
22 upon retirement.
- 23

24 **III. PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – PRE-ANNUITY RETIREES**

25

26 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the
27 participants, based upon the premiums charged by the carrier.
28 For those who have retired early and are not collecting an annuity, the retired enrollee is responsible for
29 the full Active premium payment until they reach annuity age.

30

31 **IV. PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE**

32

33 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the
34 participants based upon the premiums charged by the carrier.

35

36 Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all
37 enrolled active participants, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

- 38 A. Each church shall pay the premium(s) or Waived Participation Fee(s) (which is equal to the
39 blended premium) of each of its full-time appointed clergy (including clergy spouse and
40 dependent children if enrolled) who are either a full, provisional, or associate member of the
41 Conference or a local pastor.
- 42 1. The salary paying unit shall also be responsible for remitting premium for its lay
43 employees who are enrolled in the Plan.
- 44
- 45 2. Plan participants are to pay the amount of their share of the premium in excess of the
46 premium credit provided by the HealthFlex Exchange default plan selected by the
47 BOPHB. The local church will deduct the funds from the participant's compensation
48 and remit the participants' share to the Annual Conference on a monthly basis.

1 B. Each eligible enrollee, whose fees are not paid as provided above, shall pay their own
2 premiums either directly or with employer participation. In every case, the individual enrollee
3 is responsible for seeing that payment of his or her own premium is made if the party with
4 PRIME responsibility fails to make the payment.

5 **V. CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER CERTAIN EVENTS**

6
7 **A. Voluntary and Involuntary Termination** - If a person's participation in the Plan ceases due to
8 voluntary or involuntary termination of Conference membership or employment or discharge or
9 removal from the Annual Conference, Continuation Coverage for health insurance may be
10 available through application to HealthFlex.

11
12 **B. Loss of Dependent Status** - If a dependent's participation in the Plan ceases due to divorce or to
13 attaining the limiting age, Continuation Coverage may be available through application to
14 HealthFlex.

15
16 **C. Medical Leave** - See #2 under Eligibility.

17
18 **D. Leave of Absence** (§353 and §354) - Clergy placed on voluntary leave of absence (personal,
19 family, or transitional) or involuntary leave of absence may continue in the Plan for a period of
20 twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation Coverage for up to an additional
21 12 months may be available through application to HealthFlex. Leave of absence is not an
22 appointment, causes a break in appointment years, and does not accrue annuity credit towards
23 health benefits in retirement.

24
25 **E. Sabbatical Leave** (§351) Clergy placed on sabbatical leave may continue in the Plan for a period
26 of twelve months, provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage may be available
27 through application to HealthFlex. Sabbatical leave is not a break in appointment years for the
28 purposes of health benefits in retirement.

29
30 **F. Death** - Surviving spouses of clergy members are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility
31 Guidelines #1 and 3) as the clergy member. Surviving spouses of lay employees of the
32 Conference and District offices are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guideline #4 c) as the
33 lay employee.

34
35 **VI. ADMINISTRATION**

36
37 All concerns, issues, requests, etc., relating to premiums, benefits, coverage (including voluntary
38 termination of coverage, additions, or deletions to policies) and benefits at retirement must be "in
39 writing" from the Plan participant to be considered official. Such correspondence, concerns, or requests
40 for changes in coverage must be sent to the Plan Administrator or their designated coordinator.
41 Commitments or resolutions of issues must come in writing directly from the Plan Administrator or his/her
42 designated coordinator.

43
44 The Benefits Officer and Administrator for the Conference Plan is the Conference Treasurer/Director of
45 Administrative Services. The Benefits Officer shall be a member of the Conference Board of Pension and
46 Health Benefits without a vote. Each person shall be responsible for promptly enrolling all eligible persons,
47 for collecting all amounts due from churches, agencies or individuals for participation in the Plan, for
48 arranging for their prompt deposit in a Conference account, for checking all billings from the Insurance

1 Carrier to certify their completeness and accuracy and for making proper remittances on schedule for the
2 Plan; and such Officer shall delete from the Plan any enrollee whose premium is not paid by the end of
3 the month for which the premium is due. Termination is effective the first day of the month for which no
4 payment has been received.

5
6 Submitted by,
7 William B. Wilson, Sr., Chair, Board of Pension and Health Benefits

8 9 **GNJ Designated Fund Policies, Processes and Procedures Legislation (May** 10 **2021 Annual Conference Session)**

11
12 **Whereas**, the world needs a strong GNJ to transform lives and communities as we recruit and develop
13 transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world. Key to
14 this mission are strategic funds that help fund present vital ministry and ensure a sustainable future
15 mission and ministry.

16 **Whereas**, funds are invested in accordance with the social principles of the UMC and prudently to
17 maximize gains so that balances keep pace with present AND future ministry needs. Further the funds
18 are overseen so that funds are only used for the designated or restricted purpose.

19 **Whereas**, funds are created to sustain the long-term health of the mission and ministry of GNJ. By
20 investing wisely and making prudent disbursements, they will continue to grow and provide financial
21 support for the important ministry and mission of GNJ. Healthy fund levels spur innovation and longevity
22 of core ministry especially during financially challenging times. Appropriate levels enable GNJ to do
23 more with less support from shared ministry giving.

24 **Therefore, be it resolved that** the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference session adopt the following
25 Designated Fund Policies, Processes and Procedures:

26 27 **I. Two types of Funds shall be categorized:**

28
29 A. Donor **Restricted funds** shall be contributions from an individual, or group of individuals, with
30 a restricted purpose that can only be changed by the individual(s) or their estate when so
31 designated or by the state’s attorney general. GNJ must use restricted funds for the purpose
32 designated by the donor. All restricted funds will be managed and dispersed according to the
33 donor’s restriction.

34
35 B. GNJ **Designated** funds are designated by the annual conference session and are overseen by a
36 designated body. The annual conference session can change the designated purpose if needed.
37 **These GNJ Designated Funds are the focus of this legislation.**

38 39 **II. CF&A will establish a GNJ Fund Committee as follows:**

40 A. GNJ shall have an eight-member GNJ **Fund Committee** made up of at least three persons
41 from the CF&A investment committee, the CFO/Treasurer and one person from each of the
42 following agencies – the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the
43 Connectional Table and the Cabinet. The GNJ Fund Committee is to report **at least twice a year**
44 to each of the above agencies the state of each GNJ designated fund including balances and

1 disbursements made toward approved uses (as defined in this policy), progress towards the
2 fund goal amount, and recommend to the Board of Trustees and CF&A policy updates as
3 needed.
4

5 **B. Every March and September**, the five agencies (CF&A, Board of Trustees, Board of Pensions
6 and Health Benefits, Connectional Table and Cabinet) and any GNJ mission partners who have
7 funds invested shall meet jointly with the investment institution(s) to hear about each fund's
8 short, medium and long-term performance, their expectations for the market based on the
9 trends observed and their economic forecasts and a report on the social impact our funds are
10 making to create a more just and socially responsible world.
11

12 **C.** Each GNJ designated fund will have a goal. The goal is a target balance the GNJ fund
13 committee sets that should be attained over time. When the goal is reached, CF&A and the
14 Board of Trustees will review the goal and see if it is adequate or if it needs to be adjusted.
15

16 **D.** The CF&A investment committee shall be responsible to make the investment decision for
17 each fund. These decisions should be communicated to the CFO in writing or by email who shall
18 then be responsible for executing the necessary trades at Wespath and reporting back the
19 executions to the CF&A Investment Committee in a timely manner. The investment committee's
20 charter, policies and investment guidelines are to be incorporated into CF&A's policies.
21

22 **III. Fund Procedures**

23 **A. Fund Purpose Designation**

24 The Annual Conference shall identify and state the purpose of each fund.
25 Any proposed changes in purpose shall be submitted as legislation according to the date set by
26 the conference rules. If an amendment is made to the purpose or designation of a particular
27 fund, CF&A will have the opportunity to review its impact on the annual conference or a
28 particular ministry prior to any vote being taken and make its recommendation to the annual
29 conference session.
30

31 **B. Fund Oversight**

32 The Annual Conference shall identify who has oversight of the fund. The group or individual shall
33 ensure the policies governing the fund are followed and the use of the funds is achieving the
34 desired purpose and impact. Any use outside the fund purpose and policy is to be reported to
35 the chairperson of CF&A and the bishop. For example, in the case of the Harvest Mission Fund,
36 the Connectional Table has been currently assigned the oversight of this fund.
37
38

39 **C. Fund Administrator**

40 The Annual Conference shall identify who administers the use of the fund for the intended
41 purpose of the fund. The administrator(s) is to evaluate the impact and report the use and
42 impact of the fund to the oversight group. All disbursements from the fund are to be itemized in
43 the budget that uses the fund. For example, in the case of the Harvest Mission Fund, the
44 cabinet is currently responsible to administer the fund. Further note, the Fund Administrator
45
46

1 has no direct access to the investment company to designate investment mix nor to the funds to
2 initiate withdrawals. Only the CFA investment committee can designate investment mix and
3 only the CFO, with approvals outlined in the policy in writing via email or letter, can execute the
4 investment mix and withdrawals.
5

6 **D. Fund Disbursements**

7
8 In consultation with the fund's administrator(s), in the last quarter of the year, the investment
9 committee of CF&A will review market performance of the last year and recommend between a
10 0-5% disbursement (with a minimum 3% disbursement if the administrator requests it) to the
11 Board of Trustees and CF&A to be disbursed and used for mission and ministry for the coming
12 year. The Board of Trustees and CF&A are to vote on the recommendation and the
13 CFO/Treasurer is to make the disbursement as approved from the fund by December 15th.
14 No further amounts are to be disbursed during the course of the year unless a need arises and
15 then, as approved by CF&A, for a fund that didn't take a disbursement on December 15th of the
16 previous year.
17

18 If a disbursement is not made in a particular year, they cannot be cumulatively disbursed in
19 subsequent years - only the 0-5% set by CF&A for that year may be disbursed.

20 In the next five years when subsidies are still being provided to the churches in the annual
21 conference for billables and benefits, disbursements that will be made from GNJ funds for the
22 budget will be approved by Annual Conference.
23

24 **E. Emergency Use of Funds**

25
26 Emergency use of designated funds may be approved if there is **insufficient** cash available for
27 critical mission and ministry. An emergency is not defined as poor budgeting or overspending or
28 under raising of income for the budget. These issues must be addressed in the budgeting
29 process. Before taking an emergency disbursement, spending reductions and fundraising shall
30 be applied first.
31

32 An emergency use requires a 75% approval of those present at each of the board of trustees and
33 CF&A meetings. The emergency usage is to be reported at the next annual conference session.
34

35 To the extent resources become available later, paying back the emergency disbursement
36 should be a priority of the Treasurer, board of trustees and CF&A.
37

38 **F. Borrowing from Funds**

39
40 Borrowing from GNJ designated funds is not generally recommended but can be considered for
41 capital projects if it is in the best interest of the ministry and mission of GNJ.

42 Note: Only up to 20% of the fund may be borrowed and only with the approval of 75% of those
43 present at each of the Board of Trustees and CF&A meetings. The annual conference must be
44 notified of any borrowings at the next session. These borrowings are to be paid back within five
45 years at the market interest rate.
46

47 For example, borrowing may be requested to purchase a new district parsonage. Before
48 approval is given to borrow, careful consideration must be given as to whether borrowing the

1 money commercially is more advantageous to the mission and ministry of GNJ. Specifically, the
2 opportunity cost of not being invested in the market as a result of making the loan should be
3 considered.
4

5 **G. Property Sales and Funds**

6
7 Once a property is sold and debt and fees have been deducted, 100% of the remaining proceeds
8 shall be distributed as follows:
9

- 10 • To the extent the current year consolidated budget anticipates the need for property
11 proceeds to balance the budget, the CFO/Treasurer is authorized to use up to the
12 budgeted amount towards operating expenses.
13
- 14 • Proceeds above and beyond the operating budgeted amount (**Investable Property**
15 **Proceeds**) are to be invested with the investment institution within 5 days unless the
16 CF&A investment committee recommends waiting because of volatility in the market.
17 During the waiting period, the property sale proceeds may not be spent for other
18 purposes.
19

20 Example: The 2021 Consolidated Budget includes \$3,182,000 of property sales proceeds
21 to balance. Net proceeds over this amount are to be invested.
22

23 In order to rebuild the funds, the distribution of the **Investable Property Proceeds** to the various
24 funds will follow the plan established by CF&A until the funds other than the four funds listed
25 below have reached their targets ("**Funds allocation steady state**"). After that the allocation of
26 property proceeds shall be as follows:

- 27 • Harvest Mission Fund – 50%
- 28 • Strategic Disciple Making Fund – 20%
- 29 • Retiree Health Care – 15%
- 30 • Property Redevelopment Fund – 15%
- 31

32 Note: "**Fund allocation steady state**" will be reached after subsidies for billables are no longer
33 needed and all funds other than the four above are fully funded at their targeted goal levels –
34 we expect this will happen around 2026.
35

36 **H. Audit**

37 Each year the investments and fund balances are to be audited during the GNJ regular audit to
38 ensure compliance with GNJ policies and the accuracy of fund balances.
39
40

1 **Be it further resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference session adopt the following fund
2 names and respective purpose:

3
4 **IV. GNJ Designated Funds¹**

- 5 1. Operating Reserve Fund – each year, CF&A will establish a surplus needed to manage
6 cashflow during the year. It shall be set at 10% of the consolidated budget approved by the
7 annual conference. If more than 10% is needed, CF&A is to examine structural reasons why
8 the problem exists and address it. The fund shall be invested in short term instruments as
9 identified by the CF&A Investment Committee.
- 10 2. Harvest Mission Fund – supports leadership and congregational development and mission
11 engagement. Impact – meet current goals of 51% vital congregations, enable 150
12 congregations to engage in A Journey of Hope plan and allow GNJ to achieve a 98% giving
13 rate for shared ministry and billables. May receive a 0-5% disbursement per year as set by
14 CF&A.
- 15 3. Strategic Disciple Making Fund – funds new faith communities (congregations, second sites,
16 new worship services) so that we increase the number of new disciples and vital
17 congregations. Impact – more new disciples and vital congregations. May use up to 80% of
18 the fund balance.
- 19 4. St. John’s Native American Historic Preservation Fund – fund the preservation of the St.
20 John’s building as a historical site and the Native American burial ground. Impact – preserve
21 the only Native American Church in GNJ and serve as a cultural site for the people of New
22 Jersey.
- 23 5. Next Gen Ministries Fund (formerly known as Tumetheca & Time is Now funds)– fund
24 ministries of young people between 12 and 30 that may include camping, Ignite, youth
25 ministries, campus ministries and other ministries to form and shape young people’s
26 commitment to and faith in Jesus Christ. Impact – increase in the number of young people
27 participating in young people ministries in GNJ congregations. May receive a 0-5%
28 disbursement per year as set by CF&A.
- 29 6. Pension and Benefits Operational Fund – fund the administrative work of the Conference
30 Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and up to \$ 30,000 billing gap shortfall in collections.
31 May receive a 0-5% disbursement per year as set by CF&A.
- 32 7. Retiree Health Fund – fund payments for retiree health care and secure retire health care.
33 The fund will be funded with pre-82 pension surplus as available and property sales of 15%
34 starting once the “fund allocation steady state” has been reached. Impact – we will ensure
35 retiree health care funding and back the funds appropriately. May receive a 0-5%
36 disbursement per year as set by CF&A.
- 37 8. Property Operational Fund - funds maintenance and equipment purchases for the GNJ
38 Mission and Resource Center, closed church property and cemeteries owned by the annual
39 conference so that property is self-funded rather than funded through shared ministries and
40 property sales. Impact – more shared ministry funding to mission and ministry and property
41 sales to funds that will fund present ministry and sustain future mission and ministry. May
42 receive a 0-5% disbursement per year as set by CF&A.
- 43 9. Property Redevelopment Fund – funds redeveloping GNJ congregational property. Our first
44 priority is for congregations in low-income communities to be able to increase income for

¹ Each of the designated funds will experience a 0-5% disbursement each year as explained in the Fund Disbursements section.

1 ministry and mission in low-income communities. Impact – redeveloping church properties
2 that can no longer be maintained by congregations so that they can continue to have a vital
3 congregational ministry in GNJ’s low-income communities. May receive a 0-5%
4 disbursement per year as set by CF&A. Up to \$500,000 per project may be borrowed for
5 viable redevelopment projects. At no time may more than 50% of the fund’s balance be in
6 loans. When this fund is reported it must include the cash balance and the amount in loans.
7 Loans may be approved by a majority vote of each of the following agencies: Board of
8 Trustees, CF&A and the Cabinet.

9 10. Superintendent Housing Fund – funds the purchase and maintenance of superintendent
10 parsonages or provides a housing allowance for one or more district superintendents. The
11 fund shall be adequate to purchase and maintain district parsonages or provide housing
12 allowances for district superintendents. Impact – reduce the amount needed from shared
13 ministries so that more funds are available for mission and ministry and/or eliminate the
14 amount needed from church property sales so that more money may be added to the
15 ministry funds. May receive a 0-5% disbursement per year as set by CF&A or by a 75%
16 approval of those present at each of the Board of Trustees and CF&A for the amount
17 needed to purchase of a district parsonage.

18 11. Episcopal Residence Fund – funds the purchase and maintenance of the bishop’s residence
19 or housing allowance. Impact – reduce the amount needed from shared ministries so that
20 more funds are available for mission and ministry and/or eliminate the amount needed from
21 church property sales so that more money may be added to the ministry funds. May receive
22 a 0-5% disbursement per year as set by CF&A or by a 75% approval of those present at each
23 of the Board of Trustees and CF&A for the amount needed to purchase of an episcopal
24 residence.

25 12. Episcopal Office Fund – funds discretionary fund and scholarships to the bishop’s clergy
26 convocation. Impact – supports emergency needs of clergy and ministry and assists pastors
27 who need financial support to attend the bishop’s convocation on ministry.
28

29 **Rationale:** This legislation clearly defines the roles and responsibilities for the stewardship of the GNJ
30 Designated Funds by ensuring the stated purpose for each fund is established appropriately by Annual
31 Conference and that robust policy and procedures are in place with respect to the investment and use of
32 the funds.

33
34
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41

1 **GNJ Designated Fund Policy Chart**

2

Fund Name	Purpose Designation	Oversight	Administrator	Invested	2020 Rebalanced \$ Amount (1)	Goal \$ Amount
Operating Reserve Fund	AC Session	CFA	CFA	Short-Term	3,000,000	10% of Expenses
Mission and Ministry Funds						
Harvest Mission Fund	AC Session	Connect Table	Cabinet Dean	Wespath	10,000	25,000,000
Strategic Disciple Making Fund	AC Session	Connect Table	Cabinet Dean	Wespath	10,000	20% of Prop
Episcopal Office Fund	AC Session	Episco Com (2)	Bishop	Wespath	150,000	500,000
GNJ Funds to Other Organizations						
St. John's Native American Historic Preservation Fund	AC Session	CONAM	St. Johns Trustees	Wespath	0	1,000,000
Next Gen Ministries Fund	AC Session	Connect Table	Next Gen Board	Wespath	1,500,000	1,500,000
Benefits Funds						
Pension and Benefits Operational Fund	AC Session	CBOPH	CFO/Tres	Wespath	750,000	750,000
Retiree Health Fund	AC Session	CBOPH	CFO/Tres	Wespath	1,810,000	Actuarial (5)
Property Funds						
Property Operational Fund	AC Session	Trustees	CFO/Trustees	Wespath	10,000	6,000,000
Property Redevelopment Fund	AC Session	Trustees	Dev Com (3)	Wespath	10,000	5,000,000
Superintendent Housing Fund	AC Session	Trustees	CFO/Tres	Wespath	1,000,000	1,000,000
Episcopal Residence Fund	AC Session	Trustees	Epsc Res Com (4)	Wespath	750,000	1,000,000
Total					9,000,000	N/A

(1) The rebalance column is a onetime allocation of reserve funds based on the actual cash amount available for reserves, not the reported amount as of January 2021.

(2) Episco Com = Episcopacy Committee – The committee on Episcopacy is a Disciplinary committee responsible for overseeing the work and ministry of the bishop.

(3) Dev Com = Development Committee – A committee of four members of the board of trustees and four members of the A Future with Hope board of trustees to review requests to redevelop property form mission and ministry.

(4) Epsc Res Com = Episcopal Residence Committee – A Disciplinary committee whose responsibility is to oversee the bishop's residence.

(5) At least every other year, GNJ will have a third-party complete an actuarial analysis to determine the retiree health fund goal, based on plan design and participant population. This amount is reported in the annual audited financial statements.

3

4 Submitted by,
5 Vasanth Victor, President, Council of Finance & Administration

6

7

1 **Appendix A**
 2 **GNJ Restricted Fund Details**
 3

Fund Name	2020 Unaudited Balance
Mission and Ministry Funds	
Mosaic Ministries Fund	981,089
Lily Grant Fund	530,000
Tanzania Mission Partnership Fund	36,232
Trustees - Donor Restricted	
Goldsmith Estate Fund - 3rd Party	30,000
Deaconess Endow Fund Balance	10,000
Estate Funds (Drew & Kimble)- 3rd Party	161,155
Conf Scholarship Restricted Fund Balance	118,915
Glading Restricted Fund Balance	10,000
Seese Restricted Fund Balance	34,767
Goorley Restricted Fund Balance	5,000
Urban Scholarship Restricted Fund Balance	30,000
Kappler Restricted Fund Balance	20,000
Fullman Memorial Perm Restricted Fund	4,500
Augustin-Smith Endowment Fund	100,000
Nancy Belsky Perm Restricted Fund	6,365
Bard Trust - 3rd Party	143,839
Horner Trust - 3rd Party	80,688
Trustees - without Donor Restricted	
Goldsmith Estate Fund Balance	5,552
Deaconess Accumulated Income Reserve	53,308
Estate Funds - Drew/Kimble/Friedrich	133,125
Conf Scholarship Fund Balance	243
Glading Trust Fund Balance	16,622
Maddock Trust Fund Balance	158,263
Seese Scholarship Fund Balance	145
Goorley Fund Balance	7,741
Urban Scholarship Fund Balance	24,995
Ethel Snyder/Inez Irons Book Fund Balance	53
Frances Nelson Scholarship Fund Balance	46,680
Phyllis Jane Stetser Scholarship Bal	1,460
Fullman Memorial Temp for Sustentation	2,478
Augustin-Smith Fund	7,100
Nancy Belsky Temp Rest Fund	1,616

4
5

1 **Appendix B**
 2 **GNJ Affiliate Fund Details**
 3

Fund Name	2020 Unaudited Balance
Mission Partners	
Centenary Fund	13,670,156
The United Methodist Foundation (3 funds)	288,446
A Future with Hope	3,786
Other Affiliates	
Ministerial Education (GCFA) Fund	64,591
Youth Service Fund Reserve	2,950
Christian Ed Sunday Fund	18,542
Disability Awareness Sunday Fund	1,074
Comm of Native American Min. Fund	66,822
Trenton Initiative (Maker's Place) Reserve	88,245
New Spaces -Dinner Church	13,731
Miracles Everywhere Campaign (incl. \$37K pledged not rec)	107,951
National Hispanic Plan	77,117
GNJ Korean Partners in Ministry	2,394
Skylands District Union	855
Palisades District Union	8,473
Northern Shore District Union	1,558
Capital District Union	1,100
Raritan Valley District Union	8,523
Cape Atlantic District Union	1,741
Delaware Bay District Union	225
Gateway North District Union	9,345
Cultivate Grant Fund	32,797
Conference Grants	10,000
Friends of Old Estellville Methodist Church	44,536
Educational Society	180,672
Bright Spots	7,394

4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10

1 **Journey of Hope Legislation Modification**

2
3 **Whereas** the October 2020 Annual Conference Session passed the *A Journey of Hope* legislation to end
4 the sin of racism and align this ministry with the overall strategic plan and ministry of GNJ; and

5
6 **Whereas** part of that legislation recognized the inequities within the GNJ shared ministry apportionment
7 and billable system and sought to create a more just and fairer shared ministry and billable
8 apportionments by apportioning and billing congregations in low-income communities at a lower
9 percentage; and

10
11 **Whereas** the legislation included language that required specific requirements for Journey of Hope
12 congregations while it did not make those same requirements of all GNJ congregations;

13
14 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the following approved *2020 A Journey of Hope legislation* be amended to
15 state:

16
17 Apportion shared ministries and billables to congregations in low-income communities using the same
18 criteria in 5.a.i-v at the following percentages ~~to pay shared ministry apportionments and billables, as~~
19 ~~long as the congregation has and is making progress on A Journey of Hope Plan and gives 100% of their~~
20 ~~apportioned shared ministry and billables.~~

- 21 • Communities with median household income \$50,000 to 55,000 – apportion at 70%.
- 22 • Communities with median household income \$45,000 to 49,999 – apportion at 65%.
- 23 • Communities with median household income \$40,000 to 44,999 – apportion at 60%.
- 24 • Communities with median household income \$35,000 to 39,999 – apportion at 55%.
- 25 • Communities with median household income below \$34,999 – apportion at 50%

26
27 A district superintendent and/or a congregation may recommend to CFA that their congregation be
28 included in this program if the congregation is excluded only because the method used to determine the
29 income of the community served by the congregation does not adequately determine the financial
30 health of the community.

31
32 Submitted by,
33 Council on Finance and Administration
34 Cabinet of Greater New Jersey

35
36 **Church Closures**

37
38 **Be it resolved**, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the
39 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the
40 following congregations:

- 41
- 42 **Mt. Fern, United Methodist Church, Randolph, NJ**
- 43 **Bethany Browne Memorial United Methodist Church, Jersey City, NJ**
- 44 **Centre Grove United Methodist Church, Millville, NJ**

1 **Be it further resolved**, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.2b of the Book of Discipline,
2 2016 edition, the congregations are discontinued, and the assets of the church are transferred to
3 the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.
4

5 **Be it further resolved**, that in keeping with the provisions of ¶1229 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
6 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of
7 their choice.
8

9 **Be it further resolved**, that through its budget fund distribution percentages for the sale of property,
10 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference distribute net proceeds after all outstanding loans and other
11 obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference or any other creditor shall be repaid
12 upon the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other assets.
13

14 **Be it further resolved**, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016
15 edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent
16 safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.
17

18 **Be it further resolved** that the remaining funds from the sale of the church after all debt and obligations
19 have been paid will be disbursed according to the legislation as approved by the January 22, 2021
20 special annual conference session.
21

22 Respectfully Submitted,
23 The Greater New Jersey Cabinet
24

25 **Intersectional Peace with Justice**

26
27 **Whereas** United Methodist Women, “work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to
28 change unfair policies and systems” and “provide educational experiences that lead to personal change
29 in order to transform the world.” <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/about>
30

31 **Whereas** the United Methodist Women has 4 resolutions coming before General Conference 2021
32 focused on advocating for justice for Children’s Sabbath, The Girl Child, The Status of Women, and
33 Voting Rights Protection in the U.S. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/gc2020>
34

35 **Whereas** "Peace with Justice is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to
36 strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. It aims to
37 make shalom visible and active in people’s lives and communities by setting people free from bondage.
38 We will celebrate Peace with Justice when all people have access to adequate jobs, housing, education,
39 food, health care, income support, and clean water. We will further celebrate when there is no more
40 economic exploitation, war, political oppression, and cultural domination."
41 [https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/peace-with-justice-sunday-](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/peace-with-justice-sunday-and-special-offering-6139)
42 [and-special-offering-6139](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/peace-with-justice-sunday-and-special-offering-6139) , 2016 Book of Resolutions, #6139
43

44 **Whereas** "We know the presence of political and social turmoil can be caused by a number of issues
45 including economic disparity, environmental degradation, gender inequality, racism and xenophobia,
46 and illness and disease. If we want peace, we must be committed to disrupting these conditions and

1 systems that perpetuate injustice." <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice>

2
3
4 **Whereas** the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference passed a resolution to End Harm to Youth in 2018
5 committing to “offering training in group facilitation skills for sensitivity and respectful dialogue among
6 divergent opinions so that all peoples of all ages might grow to know they are beloved children of God.”

7
8 **Therefore, be It resolved** that the following resolution is adopted by the 2021 Greater New Jersey
9 Annual Conference.

10
11 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference commits to graceful presence and bold actions by:
12 We call all clergy and lay members to an ongoing commitment to continuing education and growth
13 around topics of intersectional justice and the overlapping systemic inequalities and discriminations that
14 impact all God’s children and our Greater New Jersey churches.

15
16 We implore churches to partner with United Methodist Women in continuing respectful, healing
17 conversations around difficult topics and among divergent opinions. We strongly encourage
18 collaboration and conversations between different congregations and diverse communities around
19 justice issues.

20
21 The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church makes a bold choice to
22 work for intersectional peace with justice and to create inclusive communities that respect the dignity
23 and sacred worth of all God’s children, and honor our shared, common humanity.

24
25 **Rationale:** There is a need for faith and love in action to address social divisions exacerbated by this
26 pandemic in areas such as healthcare, childcare, food insecurity, education, and economics as well as
27 systemic justice issues like climate justice, racial discrimination, immigration rights, gender inequities,
28 and rights for members of LGBTQIA communities. Although there are diverse opinions and backgrounds
29 on social justice issues, there is also a need for breaking down barriers within our congregations and
30 communities.

31
32 Submitted by,
33 by the GNJUMW Leadership Team, Sue Zahorbenski, President

34
35 **Making the Educational Society of the GNJAC a subcommittee of the Board of**
36 **Higher Education and Ministry**

37
38 **Whereas** the Educational Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (ESGNJAC) has provided
39 financial help through scholarships and loans to students pursuing ministry in the former Southern NJ
40 Annual Conference and the GNJAC since at least 1863, and

41
42 **Whereas** in those nearly 160 years of ministry the ESGNJAC has distributed hundreds of thousands of
43 dollars in financial support to pastors and prospective pastors of GNJAC, and

44
45 **Whereas** the ESGNJAC provides similar resources and support as the Conference Board of Higher
46 Education and Ministry (CBHEM), therefore

47

1 **Be it Resolved** that the Educational Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference become a
2 subcommittee of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry, further

3
4 **Be it Resolved** any member of the Educational Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
5 wishing to remain in ministry with the Educational Society be added to the Conference Board of Higher
6 Education and Ministry to serve out their term from ESGNJAC.

7
8 **Rationale:** The ESGNJAC has had a difficult time these last few years meeting its own set policies of
9 filling out its membership with eight clergy and eight laity members and in getting applications for
10 scholarships. Making the ESGNJAC a subcommittee of the CBHEM will benefit both bodies by adding
11 active members to both bodies and making the resources of ESGNJAC more available to seminary and
12 post-secondary students.

13
14 Submitted by,
15 Donald Stevens

17 **Itemized Shared Ministry Statements and Remittance Forms**

18
19 **Whereas** the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC) prior to 2021 sent monthly itemized
20 shared ministry statements to local churches which gave separate lines for each of the six different
21 Shared Ministry Items; and

22
23 **Whereas** the GNJAC Remittance form prior to 2021 gave separate lines for each of the six Fund Names
24 and Fund Numbers; and

25
26 **Whereas** churches need to comply with ¶ 258.4(f) in our Book of Discipline which states “Contributions
27 designed for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the intent of the
28 donor and shall not be used for any other purpose ¹¹. 11. See Judicial Council Decision 976 “ ; and

29
30 **Whereas** beginning in 2021, the GNJAC changed the Shared Ministry statements to eliminate the
31 itemized lines for each Fund Name and Fund Number and only shows two lines, one for GNJ Shared
32 Ministry Fund and another for GCFA Apportioned Funds; and

33
34 **Whereas** beginning in 2021, the GNJAC changed the Shared Ministry Remittance form to eliminate the
35 itemized lines for each Fund Name and Fund Number and only shows two lines, one for GNJ Shared
36 Ministry Fund and another for GCFA Apportioned Funds; and

37 **Whereas** to comply with Book of Discipline ¶ 258.4(f), in 2021, churches will need to record and report
38 giving for each of the 10 categories below according to the intent of the donor and designated giving
39 shall not be used for any other purpose:

- 40 Laity, Clergy, and Congregational Development
- 41 Conference Mission and Benevolences
- 42 Administration
- 43 General Administration Fund (Fund 401)
- 44 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (Fund 402)
- 45 World Service Fund (Fund 403)
- 46 Black College Fund (Fund 404)
- 47 Episcopal Fund (Fund 405)

1 Africa University (Fund 406)

2 Ministerial Education Fund (Fund 407)

3

4 **Therefore, be it resolved that** the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will begin to issue Shared
5 Ministry statements and Shared Ministry Remittance forms to local churches which show itemized costs
6 on separate lines for all categories below:

7 Laity, Clergy, and Congregational Development

8 Conference Mission and Benevolences

9 Administration

10 General Administration Fund (Fund 401)

11 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (Fund 402)

12 World Service Fund (Fund 403)

13 Black College Fund (Fund 404)

14 Episcopal Fund (Fund 405)

15 Africa University (Fund 406)

16 Ministerial Education Fund (Fund 407)

17

18 **Rationale:** Churches need to comply with ¶ 258.4(f) in our Book of Discipline which states,
19 “Contributions designed for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the
20 intent of the donor and shall not be used for any other purpose.”

21

22 Submitted by,

23 Tom O’Hearn, Lay Member

24

25 **Presenting Recommendations – Rule III 19)**

26

27 **Whereas** All recommendations with financial impact must be sent to CF&A for their reaction, prior to
28 being placed before the annual conference. Those requirements are clear in our current rules, but the
29 method guaranteeing that such review will be handled in an orderly fashion needs to be implemented.

30

31 **Be it resolved that rule: III 19 b) shall be amended by adding:**

32 iii. All recommendations submitted to the Conference Secretary in a timely manner shall be submitted
33 to the CF&A by the conference secretary or his/her designee in time for the CF&A to present its findings
34 to the annual conference in the Pre-Conference journal. If CF&A determines that adoption of the
35 recommendation would have a financial impact, CF&A shall report its understanding of such impact.

36

37 **Rationale:**

38 The rules should be amended by eliminating the possibility of a proposed recommendation being ruled
39 out of order because it did not reach CF&A, as required under the conference rules, in time to have their
40 reaction reported to the annual conference. This is actually codifying what has been a long-standing
41 practice for decades. This amendment clarifies "who" is required to act and "how" they are required to
42 act in handling proposed recommendations.

43

44 Submitted by,

45 Bob Costello

1 **Inclusive Nomination Process To The General and Jurisdictional Conference**

2
3 **Be it resolved** that the GNJUMC amends the Rules of Order VII. Petitions and Elections to General and
4 Jurisdictional Conference. 63) Nominations by inserting a sentence after the first sentence as followed:
5 “In the event of not receiving sufficient nominations to elect a full delegation, no nominations from
6 every ethnic groups or women are underrepresented, the conference secretary extends the nomination
7 period until March 31.”

8
9 63) Nominations – In a year in which elections to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences are to be
10 held, the Conference Secretary shall open nominations for lay and clergy delegates on December 15 and
11 nominations will be closed on February 15. In the event of not receiving sufficient nominations to elect a
12 full delegation, no nominations from every ethnic groups or women are underrepresented, the
13 conference secretary extends the nomination period until March 31. An individual who desires to be a
14 delegate shall download and complete a candidacy nominations form from the web page. On the
15 bottom of nominations for Lay Delegates shall be the names of two Lay Members of the Annual
16 Conference who endorse the nomination of the candidate. On the bottom of nominations for Clergy
17 Delegates shall be the names of two Clergy Members who are eligible to vote for such delegates, and
18 who endorse the nomination of the candidate.

19 **Rationale:** The GNJUMC already approved this amendment during the Special Annual Conference in
20 March 2019 whereas the conference leadership proposed to extend the nomination period to be
21 inclusive to the all & every ethnic groups and women represented in the nomination process. This
22 amendment is putting the language in the rules of order permanently.

23
24 Submitted by,
25 Gyuchang Sim, Lay member at large, Tenafly UMC

JOIN US FOR 2021 CAMPING EXPERIENCES AT THE PINELANDS CENTER

FAMILY CAMP

This summer, we are excited to offer four family camping sessions in July! Join us for a 3-day session with your family at The Pinelands Center!



MISSION RETREATS

The Pinelands Center wants to host YOUR group for a week of mission this summer! We are excited to offer many weeks and weekends of mission in June, July and early August.



Families will...

- Have their own private cabin to stay in as a household
- Participate in camp activities such as hiking, archery, the challenge course, crafting, paintball, hayrides, and swimming as permissible by current regulations
- Be led in morning and evening devotionals
- Retreat, refresh, and renew together

For more information, go to:
www.gnjnextgen.org/camping-ministry



Groups of youth, young adults and/or adults can expect to...

- Engage in group mission while maintaining safety and health guidelines recommended by the CDC and American Camping Association
- Collaborate on projects at The Pinelands Center and in the surrounding community
- Visit a local Hope Center to observe GNJ mission
- Participate in daily worship and small groups
- Enjoy outdoor experiences and activities

For more information, go to:
www.gnjnextgen.org/retreats



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mekan Payne, Camp Program Director
mpayne@gnjumc.org



NEXT GENERATION
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

The Leadership Academy is expanding!

The Leadership Academy programs will support laity and clergy as they develop as Christ-centered leaders, grow vital congregations, and transform the world.

Watch for announcements coming in 2021.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



Juel Nelson, *Director of Leadership Development*
jnelson@gnjumc.org



Judy Colorado, *Conference Lay Leader*
judy@jcolorado.org

1 Rules of Order

2 Paragraph (¶) references are to the 2016 Book of Discipline as corrected by Errata notations issued by
3 the General Conference. Portions in “quotation marks” are Disciplinary wording.

4 GENERAL

5 These Rules (hereafter called the "Rules") shall be standing rules for the governance of the Greater New
6 Jersey Annual Conference. At all times, the Rules shall be subject to the provisions of the applicable
7 provisions of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (hereafter called the "Discipline".
8 Unless otherwise indicated, all paragraph references below shall refer to the paragraph numbers and
9 letters indicating provisions of the Discipline). Except as they may be inconsistent with applicable
10 provisions of the Discipline, the Rules shall remain applicable unless and until modified or suspended as
11 set forth below.

12 I MEMBERSHIP

- 13
- 14 **1) Composition** – “The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy
15 membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members,
16 associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of
17 professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses,
18 and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference,
19 the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United
20 Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay
21 Speaking Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or
22 equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference
23 youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization and one
24 young person between the ages of twelve and seventeen and one young person between the
25 ages of eighteen and thirty from each district. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall
26 be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members.” (¶ 32) Each church shall elect
27 a lay member and an alternate lay member as outlined in Rule 3a. Additional lay members, as
28 provided in Rule 6, shall be members under the lay equalization formula.
- 29 **2) Clergy Membership** – “The clergy membership of an annual conference (¶ 370) shall consist of
30 deacons and elders in full connection (¶ 333), provisional members, associate members (¶ 327),
31 affiliate members (¶¶ 344.4, 586.4), and local pastors under full-time and part-time
32 appointment to a pastoral charge (¶ 317). (See also ¶ 32).” (¶ 602.1)
- 33 a) “Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on
34 all matters except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central
35 conferences, and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and
36 conference relations of clergy.” (¶ 602.1a)
- 37 b) "Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all
38 matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and
39 jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference
40 relations of clergy. (¶602.b) Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their
41 educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or
42 central conferences. (See Judicial Council Decision #1181 and ¶ 35, Article IV)."

- 1 c) Associate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all
2 matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and
3 conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference
4 Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of
5 ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶ 602.c) Affiliate clergy members
6 shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the constitutional
7 amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, jurisdictional or central
8 conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (See
9 Judicial Council Decision #1181 and ¶ 35, Article IV).
- 10 d) d. Full-time and part-time local pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge shall have
11 the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments;
12 election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of
13 ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members
14 of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session
15 on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶ 602.d). Local
16 pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a
17 minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to
18 elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences. (See Judicial
19 Council Decision #1181 and ¶ 35, Article IV).

20 **3) Election and Qualifications of Lay Members**

- 21 a) Lay members and one or more alternate lay members for each church shall be elected
22 quadrennially at the regular meeting of the charge conference following the meeting of the
23 general conference. "Both the lay members and the alternates shall have been professing
24 members in good standing of The United Methodist Church for at least two years and shall
25 have been active participants for at least four years next preceding their election (see ¶ 32),
26 except in a newly organized church, which shall have the privilege of representation at the
27 annual conference session." (¶ 251.2) There shall be no restriction as to the number of
28 terms for which a qualified person may be elected a lay member or alternate lay member.
- 29 b) District youth and young adult representatives may be elected annually by the Ministries
30 with Young People Team (or its successor, however named).

31 **4) Seating of Lay Members** – Lay members and alternate lay members shall take office as of
32 January 1 following their election, and the term of office shall be for the ensuing quadrennium.
33 If the regular meeting of a Charge Conference is delayed beyond the year of the meeting of the
34 General Conference, the lay member and alternate lay members shall take office immediately
35 upon election. If the office of lay member or alternate lay member of any church becomes
36 vacant during the quadrennium, a replacement for the unexpired term shall be elected at the
37 next regular meeting of the Charge Conference or at a special meeting thereof. Each District
38 Superintendent shall provide the Conference Secretary with a correct list of lay members from
39 charges within the district by January 15 prior to the first meeting of the Annual Conference in
40 the quadrennium. It shall be to the lay members so listed that credentials shall be issued for
41 seating at sessions of the Annual Conference.

42 **5) Lay Representation of a Local Church** – If the church's lay representative to the Annual
43 Conference "shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, an
44 alternate lay member in the order of election shall serve in place." (¶ 251.2) If there is no

1 alternate lay member who can attend, another lay member or alternate lay member may be
2 elected by the Charge Conference.

- 3 a) The pastor may request the District Superintendent to authorize a special session of the
4 Charge Conference for the purpose of electing a lay member or alternate lay member. A
5 special session of the Charge Conference requires the written consent of the District
6 Superintendent in his/her absence, and at least ten days advance notice to its members. (¶
7 250)
- 8 b) The pastor shall report to the District Superintendent and the Conference Secretary, in
9 writing, the name and address of the elected lay member or alternate lay member.
- 10 c) Under no circumstances shall a person who is not duly elected as stated above be seated at
11 sessions of the Annual Conference.

12 **6) Equalization of Lay Members** – “If the lay membership should number less than the clergy
13 members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for
14 the election of additional lay members to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of
15 the Annual Conference.” (¶ 32) Members will be added in the order nominated or
16 recommended for selection until the required number of additional lay members is reached. All
17 terms will be for the quadrennium with the exception of category “i” below which shall be
18 annually.

- 19 a) The following persons shall be named as additional Lay Members to Annual Conference:
- 20 i. The Conference Secretary, Conference Treasurer, and Conference Statistician, when
21 persons elected to these offices are lay persons who meet the disciplinary requirements
22 for Conference membership and are not otherwise elected.
- 23 ii. Elected Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences not otherwise elected
24 as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
- 25 iii. Lay Chairpersons of the following agencies not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the
26 Annual Conference: Council on Finance and Administration, Commission on Archives
27 and History, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Committee on the Episcopacy,
28 Board of Pensions, Board of Trustees, Board of Church and Society, Board of
29 Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus
30 Ministry, Commission on Camps and Conferences, Commission on Christian Unity and
31 Interreligious Concerns, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status
32 and Role of Women, Commission on Communications, and Commission on the Ethnic
33 Local Church.
- 34 iv. The past conference Lay Leaders not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual
35 Conference. This includes the former Northern New Jersey and Southern New Jersey
36 Conferences as well as the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.
- 37 v. Laity members of the Council on Finance and Administration not otherwise elected as
38 Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
- 39 vi. Laity members of the Sessions Committee not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the
40 Annual Conference.
- 41 vii. The District Presidents of United Methodist Women and District Presidents of United
42 Methodist Men not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
- 43 viii. Lay Missionaries not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

- 1 ix. The District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries not otherwise elected as Lay Members
2 of the Annual Conference.
- 3 x. The co-secretaries of the Ministries with Young People Team, the Youth Service Fund
4 Chairperson and one additional Youth and Young Adult from each District not otherwise
5 elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.
- 6 b) Nominations for additional Lay members from local churches: In the year preceding the
7 beginning of the quadrennium, the Laity Council shall solicit nominations for additional Lay
8 Members from local churches through Administrative Boards or Councils. The Laity Council
9 will receive the nominations and elect those who will serve as additional Lay Members for
10 the succeeding quadrennium. Vacancies that occur during the quadrennium shall be filled by
11 the action of the Laity Council.
- 12 **7) Lay Membership** – “The lay members of the annual conference shall participate in all
13 deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license,
14 ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the
15 character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the
16 Board of Ordained Ministry and the committee on investigation.” (§ 602.6)
- 17 **8) Seated Without Vote** – The following shall be seated without vote in the Annual Conference and
18 shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: student local pastors, lay missionaries
19 regularly appointed by the Board of Global Ministries in fields outside the United States, and the
20 Conference Chancellor(s) “if not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference”
21 (§602.10) The following shall be invited to attend the Annual Conference, without voice or vote,
22 on the same financial basis as members of the Annual Conference: spouses of deceased clergy
23 members, persons not officially eligible for appointment who have been assigned by the District
24 Superintendents between sessions of Annual Conference as pastors in charge with the intention
25 of appointment or reassignment for the ensuing conference year, and persons to be presented
26 for consecration as Diaconal Ministers or ordained as Deacons or Elders. Staff and clerical
27 personnel necessary for the conducting of the Annual Conference Session shall attend at
28 conference expense.
- 29 **9) Attendance of Members** – “It is the duty of every member and all provisional members and
30 local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions and furnish such reports in such
31 form as the Discipline may require. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to
32 the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister
33 in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory
34 reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the Board of
35 Ordained Ministry.” (§ 602.8)

36
37 **II ORGANIZATION**

- 38 **10) Presiding Officer** – The bishop assigned shall preside over the annual conference, or “in case of
39 inability, shall arrange for another bishop to preside. In the absence of a bishop, the conference
40 shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president pro-tempore from among the
41 traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except
42 ordination.” (§ 603.6)
- 43 a) The Presiding Officer shall see that all business pertaining to the Conference shall be
44 brought forward and conducted in a proper manner, according to the provisions of the
45 Discipline and Rules for the Conference.

- 1 b) The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to the right of appeal by any
2 member of the Conference.
3 c) The Presiding Officer shall appoint all committees and officers not otherwise designated to
4 the Nominating Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Conference.
5 d) The Presiding Officer shall appoint an elder to preside at the Conference during any
6 temporary absence.

7 **11) Conference Secretary** – At the session following the General Conference, the Annual Conference
8 shall elect a Secretary to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. The Nominating Committee, in
9 consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet, shall present the nomination. Term of office shall not
10 exceed two consecutive quadrennia. “In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the sessions, the
11 bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until
12 the next session of the annual conference.” (§ 603.7) Term limits of Rule 58a. shall apply.

- 13 a) The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Conference,
14 authenticating by signature all acts of the Conference.
15 b) The Secretary shall handle all notification and communications directed by the Conference.
16 c) Unless otherwise directed, the Secretary shall handle all other matters that normally come
17 under the Secretary’s responsibility.
18 d) The Secretary shall have the responsibility for editing, publishing and distributing the
19 Journal, Yearbook and Minutes of the Annual Conference.
20 e) The Secretary shall nominate any staff that require election by the Conference.

21 **12) Conference Statistician** – At the first session following the General Conference, the Annual
22 Conference shall elect a Statistician to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. “In the case of a
23 vacancy in the interim of the sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district
24 superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference.”
25 (§ 603.7)

26 **13) Conference Treasurer** – The “annual conference, on nomination of its council on finance and
27 administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the quadrennial session of the
28 general conference or jurisdictional conference, or at such other times as a vacancy exists, elect
29 a conference treasurer/director of administrative services. If a vacancy shall occur during the
30 quadrennium, the council shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.”
31 (§ 619)

32 **14) Conference Chancellors** – The Annual Conference may designate as Chancellor one or more
33 laypersons, each of whom is a member in good standing of one of the local churches or a
34 clergy person who is a member of the Annual Conference in the Episcopal Area, and who is a
35 member of the appropriate bar or bars in the Episcopal Area. Each chancellor, who shall be
36 nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference, shall serve as legal advisor to
37 the Bishop and the Annual Conference. (§ 603.8)

38 **15) Conference Parliamentarian** – There shall be a Parliamentarian at each Plenary Session of the
39 Annual Conference. The Bishop shall select the Parliamentarian(s).

40 **16) Rules of Order Committee** –

- 41 a) There shall be a standing Rules of Order Committee of eight (8) members, four (4) clergy
42 and four (4) lay, nominated by the Committee on Nominations. The Conference
43 Parliamentarian, if not already a member, shall be an ex-officio member of this committee
44 with vote.

- 1 b) Prior to the consideration of any other business of an Annual Conference Session, the Rules
2 of Order Committee shall present, for informational purposes only, any changes to the Rules
3 mandated by changes in the Discipline.
- 4 c) The Rules of Order Committee shall also present for adoption by the Conference any other
5 changes to the Rules that the Committee recommends. If any member of the Annual
6 Conference desires to propose any other change to the Rules, the member shall submit a
7 resolution setting forth the proposed change in accordance with the deadline for submitting
8 proposed legislation. See Rule 19b. Upon its submission, the proposed legislation shall be
9 referred to the Rules Committee for its review and response, prior to any vote on the
10 legislation by the Conference.

11 III BUSINESS PROCEDURES

13 **17) Roll Call** – The Conference Secretary shall take the roll of all members of this Annual
14 Conference, both clergy and lay, by card registration while the Conference is in session, and the
15 attendance shall be recorded in the Journal. Upon registration, members shall receive a name
16 badge which shall state name, church, or position, and which shall also indicate voting rights.

17 **18) The Bar of the Conference** – The bar of the Conference shall be fixed at the beginning of each
18 Annual Conference on motion of the Secretary. All members of the Conference, lay and clergy,
19 must be within the bar of the Conference to have the privilege of the floor and to vote. Other
20 persons shall be seated outside the bar of the Conference as indicated by the ushers.

21 **19) Pre-Conference Reports and Recommendations** –

22 a) Reports –

- 23 i. There shall be a Pre-Conference Workbook which shall contain all reports of
24 Conference, Jurisdictional and General agencies, boards, commissions, committees,
25 councils or teams received at the Conference offices by the first business day of March
26 (or such other deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish). Such reports are to
27 identify how the agency or other body has helped the Conference make disciples of
28 Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, how the agency has furthered the goals
29 of the Conference, and the goals of the agency or other body for the coming year. Any
30 such report may be included in the Journal of the Annual Conference, subject to
31 editorial corrections, at the discretion of the Conference Secretary. Any
32 recommendations from such an agency or other body must be submitted separately as
33 legislation for consideration by the Annual Conference, in accordance with applicable
34 procedures and deadlines for legislation.
- 35 ii. Except as provided in (b) below, no reports or recommendations of any Conference
36 agency excepting the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Committee on Nominations,
37 and then only with the consent of the Bishop, shall be acted upon unless (1) they shall
38 have been correctly and timely submitted to be included in the Pre-Conference
39 Workbook as reports or legislation (as indicated above).

40 b) Recommendations –

- 41 i. The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain all proposed legislation and all reports of
42 agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams that have been received
43 by the Annual Conference offices by the first business day in March (or such other
44 deadline as the Conference Secretary may establish).

- 1 ii. All proposed legislation and reports received after March 1 shall be submitted to the
2 agenda committee for review. Upon the agenda committee's recommendation and the
3 bishop's consent, such items may be included in the agenda where urgent and
4 appropriate.

5 **20) Program** – The program as contained in the Pre-Conference Workbook shall be the official
6 program of the session of the Annual Conference, subject to necessary modifications by the
7 Chairperson of the Session Agenda Subcommittee.

8 **21) Official Journal** – The Conference Journal, signed by the Presiding Officer and the Secretary,
9 shall be the official Journal of the conference. Among other materials included by the
10 Conference Secretary, the Conference Journal shall contain all legislation and recommendations
11 agreed to by the Annual Conference.

12 **22) Copy for the Journal** – All materials for publication in the Conference Journal shall be in the
13 hands of the Editor of the Journal (who shall be the Conference Secretary, or a person selected
14 by the Conference Secretary) by the close of the Conference Session. Exceptions to this rule
15 shall be at the discretion of the Editor.

- 16 a) All substantive actions of the Conference shall be indicated in the Conference Journal. The
17 Editor of the Journal shall have authority to make all appropriate, non-substantive editorial
18 and conforming changes and corrections. Where explicitly so authorized by the Conference,
19 the Editor of the Journal and the author of the action shall also be empowered to edit the
20 contents of a given action together, to reflect the intent of the Conference. Rationales,
21 preambles or supporting statements shall not be printed except in the case of
22 complimentary resolutions.
- 23 b) Memoirs shall be limited to five hundred (500) words.
- 24 c) Addresses delivered to the Conference Session shall not be included in the Conference
25 Journal, except for those of the Bishop, the District Superintendents and Conference Lay
26 Leader(s). A motion to so include shall be out of order unless prior permission to make the
27 motion shall have been received in writing by a committee composed of the Secretary of the
28 Conference, the Editor of the Journal, the Chair of the Council on Finance and
29 Administration, the Chair of the Conference Sessions Committee and the Dean of the
30 Conference Cabinet.

31 **23) Distribution** – The Journal shall be distributed according to the following formula:

- 32 a) One mailed paper copy for each surviving spouse of clergy or laity member in the year the
33 Memorial is printed in the Journal at no cost.
- 34 b) One paper copy to each conference officers, agency chairpersons, and general and
35 jurisdictional agencies as required by the Discipline.
- 36 c) One mailed paper copy upon request to retired clergy.
- 37 d) A hard copy printed journal will be produced and available to all members upon request. A
38 minimum fee for production and mailing costs will be assessed to each hard copy journal
39 request. The amount to be paid for the journal will be published in advance.
- 40 e) An online version of the journal will be available on www.gnjumc.org and available for
41 download and review.
- 42 f) All Annual Conference reports will be made available on the conference website.
- 43 g) The Conference Journal will not be produced in CD format.

1 **24) Copyright** – In order to protect its directories and contents from unauthorized use, the
2 Conference Secretary shall copyright the Journal on behalf of the Annual Conference.

3 **25) Mail Ballot** - In an emergency situation as declared by the Council on Finance and
4 Administration, a mail ballot may be taken of the Annual Conference. All members of the Annual
5 Conference immediately preceding the emergency will receive ballots. The vote will be
6 confidential with the outside envelope requiring the signature of the member.

7 **26) Remote Participation Annual Conference** - In a situation which a state of emergency has been
8 declared by the Governor of New Jersey or other applicable governmental authority, or in
9 extraordinary circumstances as declared by the Bishop, Cabinet, Conference Trustees and CFA,
10 the regular Annual Conference session, or a Special Annual Conference session, or parts of
11 either, can be held by means of remote participation. Notice of such a session and all such
12 means of remote participation shall meet all requirements of the Discipline, applicable state
13 law, and the Rules of Order, including without limitation:

- 14 a) authorization and prior notice of the meeting and means of participation;
- 15 b) verification of membership and voting credentials.
- 16 c) reasonable opportunity to concurrently see, read or hear, participate and vote; and
- 17 d) record and maintain a record of any votes or other actions.

18 19 **IV PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

20 **27) Order of Precedence of Motions** –

- 21 a) Not debatable
- 22 Privileged
- 23 Fix time at which to adjourn (when compared to other privileged)*#
- 24 Adjourn (when compared to other privileged)
- 25 Take a recess (when compared to other privileged)*#
- 26 Raise a question of privilege
- 27 Call for the orders of the day
- 28 Subsidiary
- 29 Lay on the table (2/3)
- 30 Previous question (2/3)
- 31 Limit or extend time of debate (2/3)

32 ** Can be amended; the others cannot be amended. (from Robert's Rules of Order)*

33 *# Is privileged only when other business is before the Conference. (from RRO)*

- 34 b) Debatable
- 35 Postpone to a certain time
- 36 Commit or refer
- 37 Amend
- 38 Postpone indefinitely
- 39 Main motions

40 **28) Main Motion** – A main motion is a proposal that the Conference take certain action, or that it
41 express itself as holding certain views. Any member may make a motion.

42 **29) Motions Which Are Not Debatable** – The following motions shall be acted upon without
43 debate:

- 44 a) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference.
- 45 b) To suspend the rules. (2/3 vote)
- 46 c) To take from the table.

- 1 d) To call for the previous question. (2/3 vote)
2 e) To reconsider a non-debatable motion
3 f) To limit or extend the limits of debate. (2/3 vote)
4 g) To call for the order of the day.
- 5 **30) Precedence of Secondary Motions** – If any one or more of the following motions are
6 pending, the order of precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of
7 their listing below:
8 a) To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to
9 amendment or it may be laid on the table.)
10 b) To adjourn.
11 c) To take a recess.
12 d) To order the previous question.
13 e) To lay on the table.
14 f) To limit or extend the limits of debate.
15 g) To postpone to a certain time.
16 h) To commit or refer.
17 i) To amend or substitute.
18 j) To postpone indefinitely.
- 19 **31) When a Second is not required** – The following do not require a second, pursuant to latest
20 edition of Roberts Rules of Order.
21 a) To raise a question of privilege.
22 b) Question of order.
23 c) Objection to the consideration of a question.
24 d) Call for the order of the day.
25 e) Call for the division of the question.
26 f) Call for the division of the Conference (for voting).
27 g) Call for the motion to reconsider.
28 h) Filling blanks.
29 i) Nominations.
30 j) Leave to withdraw a motion.
31 k) Inquiries of any kind.
32 l) Presentation of a report or recommendation by a Conference agency.
- 33 **32) Division of Question** – Before a vote is taken, any member has the right to call for the
34 division of the question as the member indicates, if it is subject to division. If no member
35 objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the Chair, not waiting for a
36 second, shall put the division to a vote.
- 37 **33) Tabling Related Motions** – No motion that adheres to another motion or has another motion
38 adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. If they are laid on the table, such motions
39 carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere or which adhere to them.
- 40 **34) Motions After Speaking on a Pending Question**
41 a) A member may make a motion after a speech, although strict parliamentary practice
42 requires motion to be made and seconded before a speech is made so the Conference may
43 determine if it wishes to hear the matter.

- 1 b) No member who has spoken on a pending question shall at the close of the speech have
2 the right to call for the previous question, to move for indefinite postponement, or to lay
3 the motion on the table.
- 4 **35) Previous Question** – To move the previous question is to move that the vote now be taken
5 on the motion or motions pending.
- 6 a) When moving a previous question, a member shall indicate to what such action applies if
7 any secondary motion or motions are pending. If the member does not so indicate, the
8 chair may regard it as applying only to the immediate pending question. This vote shall be
9 taken without debate and if, in the judgment of the chair, two thirds (2/3) of those present
10 vote for its adoption, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motion to which it applies.
- 11 b) It shall not be in order to move the previous question in cases involving character or
12 Conference relations, or where the Rules otherwise expressly limit when it is in order to
13 move the previous question.
- 14 **36) Reconsideration of a Question** – A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be
15 in order at any time during the prevailing session if offered by a member who voted with the
16 majority. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is not debatable, the motion to reconsider
17 may not be debated.
- 18 **37) Suspension of Rules** – The application of any of the provisions of these Rules of Order may be
19 suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Conference.
- 20 **38) Motions and Resolutions are to be Written** –
- 21 a) All motions, resolutions and reports shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, properly
22 signed by the movers thereof.
- 23 b) Motions made on the floor shall be written on forms provided by the Secretary.
- 24 **39) When a Motion is in Possession of the Conference** – When a motion is made and seconded,
25 or a resolution introduced and seconded, or a report presented and/or read before the
26 Conference or stated by the Chair it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference. But
27 any motion may be withdrawn or altered by the mover with the consent of the Conference at
28 any time before voting has commenced.
- 29 **40) Amendments and Substitutions** –
- 30 a) Only one amendment to an amendment shall be in order.
- 31 b) It is in order to move a substitute for the main motion. In such case, the Chair shall proceed
32 to perfect the original motion. When the main motion has been perfected, the Chair shall
33 state the question on the substitute. If the substitute is adopted, it shall replace the original
34 main motion and become the main motion. The Chair will then state the question on the
35 (new) main motion. The new main motion can be amended only by addition. If the
36 substitute does not carry, the Chair shall state the question on the original main motion as
37 it has been perfected.
- 38 **41) Order of Amendments** – When a main motion, report or resolution is under consideration,
39 only one amendment and one amendment to that amendment are permissible. While there
40 can be only one amendment of each degree pending at the same time, any number of
41 amendments can be offered in succession. A substitute and one amendment to the
42 substitute may be offered while amendments of the first and second degree are pending. The
43 permissive order then is: 1) main motion, 2) amendment, 3) amendment to the amendment,

1 4) substitute, and 5) amendment to the substitute. The voting in this order is 3, 2, 5, 4, 1. If
2 the substitute becomes the main motion, it shall be treated as such.

3 **42) Appeal** – An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be taken without debate, provided
4 that after the Chair shall have stated the reason for the decision, the appellant may give the
5 grounds for the appeal. (¶ 51)

6 **43) The Question of Consideration** – The question of consideration may be raised by any
7 member upon the presentation of any matter that shall be deemed irrelevant, unprofitable,
8 or contentious, and shall be decided without debate by majority vote. This applies only to the
9 main motion.

10 **44) Method of Voting** – Voting shall be by voice vote and/or show of hands, or by standing count
11 (provided that in such a count those who cannot stand may vote by raising hands), or by
12 ballot, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, unless otherwise ordered by the Conference.
13 It shall be in order for any member to call for a vote by count on any question before the
14 Conference, and, if the call be sustained by one-third (1/3) of the members present and
15 voting, a vote shall be taken as called for.

16 **45) Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority** – In any parliamentary situation not
17 covered in these Rules of Order, the Conference shall be governed in its action by the
18 appropriate provisions of the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order.

19 20 **V SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR**

21
22 **46) Securing the Floor** – Before speaking in debate or delivering any matter to the Conference, a
23 member shall approach and wait at a microphone provided for addressing the Conference
24 from the floor or shall raise a card provided for the purpose of gaining recognition. When the
25 member has been recognized by the Bishop, the member shall proceed to speak at a
26 designated microphone. Before addressing the purpose of speaking, members shall state
27 their names and local church or affiliation.

28 **47) Limitations on Debate** –

- 29 a) The chairperson of the agency that originated the report or recommendation(s)
30 shall present them as the main motion before the plenary session and shall have
31 five (5) minutes for comment, except as provided under h) below.
- 32 b) If there is a (are) minority report(s) or recommendation(s) from members of the
33 agency, a representative shall be allowed five (5) minutes for a presentation.
- 34 c) All debate on the floor of the Conference shall follow the principle of alternate
35 debate, that is, a speaker for, then a speaker against. When no speaker on the side
36 opposed to the last speaker is ready, the President may recognize one who desires
37 to speak on the same side as the prior speaker.
- 38 d) No person shall speak more than once on the same question without permission of
39 the Conference, except as provided under g) below.
- 40 e) No person shall speak more than three (3) minutes at one time without permission
41 of the Conference, except as provided under a) or h).
- 42 f) The initiator of the main motion shall in all cases be entitled to three (3) minutes to
43 either
- 44 i. oppose the motion to lay the report or recommendation(s) on the table.

- ii. close the debate before the report or recommendation is voted upon.
- g) An agency presenting Special Reports at the direction of the Conference shall have sufficient time as determined by the Sessions Committee to present such reports and recommendations.
- h) Except for non-debatable motions, no report or motion shall be put to the question without the opportunity having been given for at least two (2) speeches for and two (2) speeches against the pending question. After two (2) speeches pro and two (2) speeches con and provided no secondary (subsidiary, privileged--other than "previous question"-- or incidental) motions come to the floor and no other member seeks the floor to speak on the pending question, the question shall automatically be put to the question.
- i) The motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the pending question until opportunity has been given for at least two (2) members to speak on each side of the pending question. If, after reasonable opportunity has been offered by the chair, no member has requested to speak against a resolution, motion or amendment, any member may move the previous question, to close debate. Likewise, if one member has spoken against a resolution, motion or amendment, but, after reasonable opportunity has been offered by the chair, no second member has requested to speak against the measure, any member may move the previous question, to close debate.

48) Representation of Committees – When the chairperson of a Conference agency is not in harmony with a report or recommendation adopted by the agency, it shall be the chairperson’s duty to state the fact to the agency. The agency may then elect one of its members to represent it in the presentation of the report or recommendation in Conference. If the committee fails to elect such a representative, the chairperson may designate a member to represent the committee.

49) To Limit or Extend Debate – To move to limit or extend the limits of debate is in order at any time, except when a member has the floor, except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in the Rules.

50) Interrupting the Speaker – No one shall interrupt a member who has the floor except for a breach of order, a misrepresentation, a departure from the question, to direct the attention of the Conference that the time has arrived for a special order of the day, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

51) Questions of Privilege – All requests from the floor to be recognized for matters of privilege must be made in writing to the Conference Secretary. They shall state the reason for the request to address the conference and the purpose of the request. The requests will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Conference Lay Leader, Conference Secretary, and the Chair of Conference Sessions. The committee shall recommend to the Presiding Bishop whether or not to recognize the requestor for the purpose of presenting the matter of privilege. The Presiding Bishop shall have sole authority in receiving and acting upon the recommendation of the committee.

52) Announcements, Courtesy Presentations and Distribution of Papers –

- a) Announcements of matters of information to the Conference shall be submitted on the Announcement Authorization Form to the Conference Secretary before the

1 conclusion of the plenary session prior to the plenary session when the
2 announcement will be made unless it is an emergency matter which may be
3 submitted as soon as possible after the matter is known.

4 b) Requests to make Courtesy Presentation speeches during a plenary session by a
5 person not a member of Annual Conference or by a member are subject to the
6 discretion of the bishop. As a general rule, no presentations or speeches will be
7 made to the Conference outside the agenda.

8 c) Papers or other materials may not be distributed to the members during the
9 Conference sessions, except with express prior permission by the bishop.

10 **53) Privilege of the Floor for Lay Members of Conference Agencies** – Laypersons not
11 members of the Conference but currently serving on Conference agencies shall have the
12 privilege of the floor without vote.

13 **54) Lay Officers of a Conference Agency** – Any Lay Officer of any Conference agency, who is
14 not a lay member of the Conference, shall have the privilege to move and defend the
15 report of the group such Lay Officer represents, without vote.

16 17 **VI NOMINATIONS**

18
19 **55) The Committee on Nominations and its Ministry** – The Committee on Nominations will
20 consist of the District Lay Leaders, the Conference Lay Leader, the Director of
21 Connectional Ministries, and the District Superintendents. The Committee shall
22 nominate the appropriate number of people each year to the Annual Conference
23 Session for election.

24 a) The Committee on Nominations will develop and use a system to identify nominees
25 based on their gifts, experience, and skills that will help the Conference achieve its
26 vision, mission and goals as adopted by the Annual Conference, particularly
27 leadership evidenced in making and maturing disciples, growing vital congregations
28 and transforming lives and communities. Additionally, the Committee shall ensure
29 the nominations reflect the diversity of the Conference.

30 b) Agency members shall be elected and placed into four staggered classes and each
31 class will serve for a term of two years. An agency member may serve for four terms
32 for a maximum of eight years. Nominations and elections will follow the rotation
33 schedule unless otherwise mandated by the Book of Discipline.

34 c) In order to aid the Committee on Nominations in its work, it is requested that any
35 member of the Conference who has a personal preference to serve on any
36 particular agency communicate such personal preference to the chairperson of the
37 Committee on Nominations on the appropriate form prior to January 1.

38 d) Nothing herein shall exclude additional nominations from the floor of the
39 Conference. All nominations from the floor must be submitted on forms supplied in
40 the pre-conference mailing or secured from the Chairperson of Nominations prior to
41 placing the name in nomination. The signatures of the nominator and nominee must
42 be on the form or it will be declared invalid.

43 **56) Chairpersons and Officers** –

- a) For the sake of empowering diverse leadership, the Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, all chairpersons and officers for agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, and teams except where the Book of Discipline instructs differently. All terms shall be for the quadrennial, or such other period as specified by the action of the Conference.
- b) The Committee on Nominations shall nominate all chairpersons and officers for agencies, boards, commissions, committees, council, and teams [hereinafter Agency/Agencies] that the Book of Discipline requires to select its own chair and officers. These nominations shall not come before Annual Conference but shall be presented directly to the respective Agencies for vote at their first meeting after Annual Conference. In the absence of a duly elected Chair, whose term has not yet expired, the District Superintendent assigned to the agency either permanently, or for the election process, shall chair the meeting until the new chair is elected.²
- c) In all nominations, special attention shall be given to seeking diversity of inclusion by gender, age, racial and ethnic background, and to inclusion of people with disabilities and from all size churches. (See Discipline paragraph 610.5)

57) To Fill Vacancies –

- a) The Committee on Nominations is to recommend to the Connectional Table Executive Committee any persons to fulfill an unexpired term of any agency vacancy between Annual Conference Sessions except where the Discipline instructs differently.
- b) Preference will be given to members of the Annual Conference to serve on conference agencies when they have the skills, experience and qualities being sought for an agency.
- c) The Connectional Table Executive Committee shall approve the appointments or request additional nominations, in which case the Committee on Nominations is to submit new nominations. These individuals serve until they or someone else is elected at the next Annual Conference Session.
- d) When a person duly nominated and elected to any Conference agency does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the agency, it shall be the responsibility of the chairperson to attempt to contact that person by mail or telephone with a view to activation or resignation. The chairpersons shall report in writing annually to the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations regarding contact with all non-participants and the results of such contacts. This information shall be provided by January 31 of each year.

58) Elections –

- a) The report of the Committee on Nominations shall be distributed in the Pre-Conference mailing and/or the packet received at the seat of the Annual Conference. The report shall be presented without reading. Upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations shall move the election of all nominees whose elections are uncontested.

² See Judicial Council decision 1328

1 b) When the number of persons nominated exceeds the vacancies on an agency or
2 when more than one person is nominated for a specific office, there shall be a
3 secret ballot listing only those persons where a contest exists. The ballot will be
4 taken at a time subsequent to the election in a) above. The ballot shall be
5 distributed, collected, and tallied by tellers selected by the Conference Secretary,
6 who shall report the results listing only those elected. Election shall be by a majority
7 of those voting. Lacking a majority, there shall be another ballot listing only those
8 receiving 25% or more of the votes.

9 **59) Quadrennial Agencies -**

10 a) An elected member of a conference or district committee, board or agency shall be
11 eligible for not more than two consecutive four year terms unless specified
12 otherwise in the Book of Discipline. Service of two years or more in filling an
13 unexpired or vacated position shall be counted as a full four-year term. For this
14 purpose, annual conference to annual conference shall be considered one year,
15 regardless of the actual dates of the conferences.

16 b) Persons elected by the Annual Conference to serve in an affiliated organization*
17 may serve in accord with the by-laws of the organization in which they are elected
18 to serve, except that no term of office may exceed five years. All persons elected or
19 reelected to serve in an affiliated organization shall be elected in accord with the
20 Annual Conference rules on nomination and election.

21 *An affiliated organization is one that wishes to maintain a connectional relationship
22 with the United Methodist Church through the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

23 c) Members of the Annual Conference who are voting members of a general agency
24 shall serve as ex-officio (with vote) members of the corresponding annual
25 conference agency or its equivalent structure (§¶610.6, 710.4 and 710.6).

26 **60) Quorum** – The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting of a
27 Conference agency, board, commission, committee, council, or team shall constitute a
28 quorum.

29 **61) Limitations of Service** – No person shall be elected to more than two conference
30 agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, or teams, except for persons who
31 are ex-officio members by virtue of an office or as a member of a general agency.

32 **62) District Superintendent Voting** – A District Superintendent regularly assigned to any
33 Conference agency by the Cabinet shall have a vote in that agency and shall be the only
34 District Superintendent who shall have the right to vote in such agency, except where
35 the Discipline provides otherwise.

36
37 **VII PETITIONS AND ELECTIONS TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

38
39 **63) Petitions to General Conference** – All petitions to General Conference shall be
40 presented as prescribed in ¶ 507 of the Discipline. Petitions for endorsement by the
41 Annual Conference to General Conference will only be considered in the year in which
42 General Conference delegates will be elected.

43 **64) Nominations** – In a year in which elections to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences
44 are to be held, the Conference Secretary shall open nominations for lay and clergy
45 delegates on December 15 and nominations will be closed on February 15. An individual

1 who desires to be a delegate shall download and complete a candidacy nominations
2 form from the web page. On the bottom of nominations for Lay Delegates shall be the
3 names of two Lay Members of the Annual Conference who endorse the nomination of
4 the candidate. On the bottom of nominations for Clergy Delegates shall be the names of
5 two Clergy Members who are eligible to vote for such delegates, and who endorse the
6 nomination of the candidate.

7 a) Nominees may address their respective sessions for no more than one minute each,
8 provided that no more than forty five minutes shall be allotted for speeches. If more
9 than 45 lay persons or clergy persons are nominated, the allowed times for
10 individual speeches will be adjusted accordingly. No speeches regarding nominees
11 will be in order after the original time allotted for such speeches.

12 **65) Balloting** – The Conference Secretary shall announce the number of clergy delegates to
13 be elected. A like number of lay delegates will be elected.

14 a) The time of initial balloting shall be set by the agenda committee.

15 b) Balloting shall be by electronic or mechanical means.

16 c) The Secretary shall announce a Chief Clergy Teller and a Chief Lay Teller, and two
17 lists each of clergy and lay assistants.

18 **66) Voting** – All members, lay and clergy, must be within the bar of the Conference to be
19 eligible to vote.

20 a) Before each ballot, the President shall announce the number of delegates each
21 ballot shall elect. To be effective, a ballot must list the exact number of names of lay
22 or clergy delegates to be elected.

23 b) The intent of the voter shall be allowed regardless of mistakes in spelling.

24 c) Where there is more than one member with the same family name, the Christian
25 name or identifying initials shall precede the family name.

26 d) A majority of valid votes cast shall be necessary for election, except on the ballot to
27 elect reserve delegates pursuant to Rule 68.

28 e) Only those nominated are eligible for election. If a ballot lists someone who has not
29 been nominated, the ballot will be disqualified.

30 **67) Counting and Reporting** –

31 a) After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a
32 written report to the bishop, which shall contain (a) the number of ballots cast; (b)
33 the number of ballots not valid; (c) the number of valid ballots counted; (d) the
34 number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) the list of names of persons voted for,
35 including the number of votes received by each. The results will be disclosed or
36 displayed before the next ballot is taken.

37 b) Minimum Votes. On the first ballot for both General Conference and the
38 jurisdictional conference, the presiding officer shall read or distribute all names
39 receiving 5 or more votes, together with the number of votes cast for each.
40 Thereafter, the minimum number of votes received to be included in the next ballot
41 shall be increased by five for each delegate elected (that is, on the first ballot a
42 minimum of 5 votes to be included in the next ballot; after the election of the first
43 delegate, a minimum of 10 votes to be included in the next ballot; after the election
44 of the second delegate, a minimum of 15 votes, etc.). After the ballot in which the

1 last delegate is elected to the General Conference, all the names that were originally
2 nominated are available for election to Jurisdictional conference. Those elected to
3 General Conference will not be listed.

- 4 c) If necessary, another ballot shall be taken in like manner, and so on, until the proper
5 number of delegates has been chosen.

6 **68) Qualifications –**

7 a) Clergy Delegates – The Discipline, ¶ 35 (Article IV), permits any active or retired
8 member of the Annual Conference in full connection to be eligible for election to
9 the General or Jurisdictional Conferences.

10 b) Lay Delegates - The Discipline, ¶ 36 (Article V), asserts that lay delegates shall be
11 elected “without regard to age, provided that such delegates shall have been
12 professing members of the United Methodist Church for at least two years next
13 preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in the United
14 Methodist church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are
15 members thereof within the Annual Conference electing them at the time of holding
16 the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.”

17 **69) Reserve Delegates –** After the authorized numbers of delegates have been elected, 3
18 clergy and 3 lay reserve delegates shall be elected on a single ballot, with the 3 persons
19 receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of
20 the number of votes received.

21
22 **VIII CONCERNING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

23
24 **70) Budget –** The Annual Conference shall adopt at each Annual Session a budget for each
25 of the following: Clergy Support, Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference, World
26 Service, Conference Benevolences, and other Apportioned Funds. These budgets
27 become effective for the fiscal year beginning on January 1st following the session.
28 Apportionments of these budgets shall be sent to the several churches as soon after the
29 session as is feasible.

30 **71) Apportionments –** The Conference Shared Ministry Budget shall be apportioned
31 annually among the churches of the Conference according to a formula recommended
32 by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and adopted by the Annual
33 Conference. Following adoption, the formula will remain in effect until such time as
34 changes are recommended by the CF&A and adopted by the Annual Conference. The
35 formula shall be outlined on a Shared Ministry data sheet, which shall be distributed to
36 the churches as soon as practical after the end of each year’s annual conference, but in
37 no event later than the end of the fiscal year.

38 **72) Prior Action by Council on Finance and Administration –** Every motion,
39 recommendation, resolution, or other legislative act having to do with budgeting,
40 apportionments, allotments, or expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to the
41 Council on Finance and Administration. After adequate time is allowed for investigation
42 and study, the council shall report its recommendation to the Conference. This report
43 shall be received before such legislation may be acted upon by the Annual Conference.

- 1 a) No agency or member of the Conference shall commit the Conference financially for
2 the support of programs within or beyond the Greater New Jersey Annual
3 Conference without first obtaining the approval of the Annual Conference after
4 study and recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration, and not
5 until funds are available or have been allocated to meet such commitments.
6 b) Any person or agency requesting an emergency offering should contact one of the
7 Team Coordinators, who will present the matter to the Cabinet and the Council on
8 Finance and Administration. Any funds received as a result of such an offering will
9 be held by the treasurer and administered by a task force established by the Cabinet
10 for that particular appeal.

11 **73) Time Limit on Submitting Budget Requests –**

- 12 a) Requests for inclusion of an item in the Clergy Support Budget and/or the
13 Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference Budget to be acted on by an Annual
14 Conference shall be submitted to the Treasurer’s office by the third Monday of
15 January preceding the date of the Annual Conference, except in cases of
16 unavoidable emergency.
17 b) Requests for inclusion of an item in the World Service Budget and/or the
18 Conference Benevolences Budget to be acted on by an Annual Conference shall be
19 submitted to the Connectional Table by January 15 preceding the date of the Annual
20 Conference, except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

21 **74) Amending Allotments –** An agency shall not attempt to amend its allotment in a
22 proposed budget submitted to an Annual Conference unless it has previously presented
23 an appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration at a meeting held preceding the
24 date of the Conference.

25 **75) Increased Asking by Amendment –** In amending a proposed budget on the floor of the
26 Annual Conference, no item shall be increased above the amount originally requested
27 by the responsible agency in its asking to the Council on Finance and Administration,
28 except when the consent of both the agency and the Council on Finance and
29 Administration has been obtained.

30 **76) Proper Use of Budgeted Funds –** No agency of the Conference shall spend budgeted
31 funds for any purpose other than the general purpose for which the funds were
32 originally requested, unless the consent of the Council on Finance and Administration
33 and the Ministries Team has been obtained for such a reallocation. An expenditure item
34 shall be budgeted for the year when it is expected to be spent, and it shall be spent only
35 in the year for which it is budgeted. When uncontrollable circumstances warrant, an
36 emergency request may be directed through the Ministries Team to the Council on
37 Finance and Administration for a budget adjustment.

38 **77) Financial Appeals to the Churches –** Any agency planning to send a communication or
39 appeal to the churches requesting contributions to any agency or fund shall first submit
40 its proposed communication or appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration.
41 The Council shall ascertain if the procedure is in accord with existing legislation and shall
42 make certain that remitting instructions are correct. Any contribution received by the
43 Conference Treasurer in response to a communication which has not been cleared as

1 herein provided shall be credited automatically to World Service and Conference
2 Benevolences through the remitting church.

3 **78) Customary Draft** – When presented and endorsed, the customary draft from the United
4 Methodist Publishing House shall be turned over to the Conference Treasurer for
5 pensions for clergy of the central conferences.

6 **79) Bonding** – All persons who hold or disburse conference funds shall be bonded in such
7 amounts as may be deemed wise by the Council on Finance and Administration.

8 **80) Fiscal Year** – The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year unless another fiscal
9 year is designated by the Conference Treasurer after approval by the Conference. All
10 payments to be credited to a given fiscal year shall be in the hands of the Conference
11 Treasurer not later than the following January 20th. All local church financial reports
12 shall be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer by a deadline to be announced
13 annually.

14 **81) Audit** – The Council on Finance and Administration shall be responsible for arranging
15 that a Certified Public Accountant shall audit the accounts of the Annual Conference.
16 The Council on Finance and Administration shall publish a statement of Certification of
17 each audit in the Journal.

18 19 **IX CONSENT CALENDAR**

20 21 **82) Consent Calendar –**

- 22 a) The Conference Agenda Committee may present to the Annual Conference a
23 proposed consent calendar, including those items which the Annual Conference
24 may approve with one vote of approval by the Conference membership.
- 25 b) A written list of items on the consent calendar, including the name of the motion,
26 name of the author, and page number in the Pre-Conference Workbook will be
27 presented to all members of the Conference upon check-in at the Conference
28 session.
- 29 c) The consent calendar list will include a space where Conference members may
30 check any item(s) which they would like to see removed from the consent calendar.
- 31 d) To vote to remove an item from the consent calendar, Conference members must:
- 32 i. Check the item(s) they wish to see removed from the list, or
33 ii. Write in an item which has been added subsequently by Conference action.
34 iii. Print his or her name and church on the list and sign the list.
35 iv. Bring the list to the Conference Secretary's table and give the list to the
36 Conference Secretary or one of the Assistant Secretaries.
- 37 e) If any item on the consent calendar receives ten (10) or more such votes in favor of
38 removing it from the consent calendar, that item will be removed and placed on the
39 Conference agenda by the Agenda Committee.
- 40 f) All requests for items to be removed from the consent calendar shall be delivered to
41 the Conference Secretary as early as possible, but no requests will be received
42 within the last twenty-four (24) hours before the stated time of adjournment of the
43 Conference session. During this last twenty-four (24) hour period, items may only be
44 removed from the consent calendar by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Conference.
45

1 **X NOMINATION OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES**

2
3 **83) Nomination of Episcopal Candidates** - The procedure for nomination of Episcopal
4 Candidates to the Jurisdictional Conference as permitted by ¶1405 of the Book of
5 Discipline shall be as follows:

- 6 a) In a year in which one or more Episcopal Candidates are to be nominated by the
7 Annual Conference, the Conference Secretary shall provide for the receiving of
8 nominations until the deadline for submission of proposed legislation for that year's
9 annual conference. Each proposed nomination shall be submitted on one side of an
10 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper or by electronic means designated by the Conference
11 Secretary. Only eligible persons may be nominated. The Bishop shall, before the
12 ballot is taken, remind the Annual Conference of the eligibility requirements for
13 election to the office of the episcopacy.
- 14 b) The Jurisdictional Conference delegates (acting as a group) shall have the privilege
15 to speak to the Annual Conference on behalf of the person(s) they have endorsed
16 for nomination to the episcopacy (provided they have submitted such nomination in
17 the manner described in Rule 82(a) above). If no other nominations have been
18 submitted as indicated in Rule 82(a) above, the Bishop shall call for a vote of the
19 body. A majority vote will be sufficient for this person (these persons) to be
20 recognized as the episcopal nominee(s) of the Annual Conference.
- 21 c) If there are additional nominations submitted in accordance with Rule 82(a) above,
22 the Bishop shall call for a written or electronic ballot following this procedure.
- 23 i. Nominees may each give a three minute speech. There shall be no seconding
24 speeches.
- 25 ii. If any ballot contains the name of an ineligible person, that name shall not be
26 tallied, but other names on the ballot shall be tallied.
- 27 iii. Conference members may vote for one such nominated individual. An individual
28 must receive 60% of those voting to be nominated by the Annual Conference. If
29 an individual does not receive 60% of the vote by the fifth ballot there will be no
30 nominee. If someone is nominated, the conference will take up to three ballots
31 to see if a second person is nominated. If no one receives 60% of the vote by the
32 third ballot there will not be a second nominee. Those who do not wish to see
33 anyone nominated may so indicate that desire on their ballots (in the manner
34 prescribed by the Conference Secretary) and the ballot shall be counted as cast.
- 35 d) Only the persons selected in the foregoing manner shall be deemed Nominees of
36 the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.
- 37 e) This procedure shall not foreclose efforts by individuals or groups in the Annual
38 Conference to promote the candidacy for the episcopacy of other persons.

39 **XI RULES OF ORDER RESOLUTIONS**

40
41 **84) Resolutions to Change the Rules of Order –**

- 42 a) Any resolution or proposed change, by addition or deletion to the Rules of Order,
43 with the exception of **Concerning Financial Operations**, shall first be referred to the
44 Committee on Rules of Order for its recommendation. The Committee shall submit
45 its recommendation to the body prior to any action by the body. The initiator of any

1 proposed change to be included in the Pre-conference mailing shall at the same
2 time submit a copy of said proposed change to the chairperson of the Committee on
3 Rules of Order. The Rules Committee may request a meeting with the initiator prior
4 to the convening of the Annual Conference.

- 5 b) If the change is proposed at the site of the Annual Conference, it shall be referred to
6 the Committee on Rules of Order and a report to the body will be made no later
7 than the next plenary session.
8

9 **XII HOLY CONFERENCING PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS**

10
11 **85)** A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used, at the Bishop's discretion, to
12 discuss petitions to General Conference regarding issues related to human sexuality or
13 such other issues that would benefit from the same procedure.

14 A special order of the day will be established to provide for holy conferencing. The
15 special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

- 16 i. Representatives of the two primary positions selected by the Bishop will each
17 make a twenty-minute presentation.
18 ii. Upon conclusion of the opening presentations, the Bishop shall bring the
19 Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
20 iii. Then ten minutes will be provided for delegates to share what they heard with
21 their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time
22 for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
23 iv. The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Delegates will then have the
24 opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. The Bishop shall
25 establish a total amount of time for discussion, not to exceed sixty minutes. No
26 member may speak longer than two minutes. All speakers will be notified when
27 ten seconds remain of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a
28 sentence at the expiration of allotted time. Then, that microphone will be cut
29 off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until the total
30 allotted minutes have elapsed or everyone who wished to be recognized had an
31 opportunity to speak, whichever comes first. No subsidiary privileged or
32 incidental motions will be in order during this time of discussion.
33 v. The regular business of the Conference will then resume.
34

35 At a previously noted time during plenary session on the following session day, the
36 petitions will be voted upon by secret written ballot. Thirty minutes will be allotted for
37 this vote. No debate or motions will be in order at this time.

38 **XII HOLY CONFERENCING PROCEDURE FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

39
40 **86)** A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used at the Bishop's discretion to
41 discuss proposed Constitutional amendments coming from the General Conference.
42 A special order of the day may be established to provide for holy conferencing. The
43 special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

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- i. The co-chairs of the delegation to General Conference will present the proposed amendments to the Conference in a fifteen-minute presentation.
- ii. Upon conclusion of the opening presentation, the Bishop shall bring the Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
- iii. Then up to ten minutes will be provided for members to share what they heard with their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
- iv. The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Members will then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. Sixty minutes will be allotted for this. No member may speak longer than two minutes. Each speaker will be notified when ten seconds remains of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a sentence at the expiration of their time. Then, that microphone will be cut off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until sixty minutes have elapsed or everyone who wishes to speak has been recognized whichever comes first. No changes are permitted to be made to Constitutional amendments.
- v. The regular business of the Conference will then resume.

At a previously noted time during a subsequent plenary session, the amendments will be voted upon by secret ballot. Members will be able to vote in favor of or against each individual amendment. If a member wishes to abstain, the member will leave the ballot blank for that particular amendment.

Should any of the foregoing Rules of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference be in conflict with the provisions of the current Book of Discipline, then the provisions of the Discipline shall take precedence.



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We care for those who serve by providing investment and benefit services that honor the mission and principles of The United Methodist Church.



Retirement

Our pension programs support clergy and lay participants. We promote retirement and personal financial planning through a partnership with EY Financial Planning Services.



Health

We offer six HealthFlex medical plans to meet the needs of our participants. We work closely with plan sponsors to provide medical, prescription drug, behavioral health, dental and vision care for approximately 19,000 covered lives.



Well-Being

We favor an integrated view of participants' physical, emotional, financial, social and spiritual well-being and continually provide support tools that target these dimensions.



Investments

We seek competitive returns for our participants and institutional investors, while supporting the mission and values of the Church.

We invest in a sustainable manner that we believe supports positive financial, environmental and social impacts.



Events

We educate clergy about their benefits and finances through educational events tailored by age, location and need, including:

- Clergy Benefits Academy
- revitup! for a Lifetime in Ministry
- Delivered to You—a virtual event



Central Conference Pensions

We support access to retirement plans for the Central Conferences. We continue to educate conference leaders so they will ultimately become self-funded, self-governed and have pension programs that are self-sustaining.

37 HEALTHFLEX PLAN SPONSORS	100,000 PARTICIPANTS	\$28 Billion IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT*	250 EMPLOYEES	Largest REPORTING FAITH-BASED PENSION FUND
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*As of 12/31/2020

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1 Reports to Greater New Jersey

3 Archives and History, Commission on

5 **Mission:** The Commission on Archives and History (CAH) engages in the ministry of memory. We
6 advance our Wesleyan heritage by doing extensive outreach and providing consistent resources for
7 GNJC at a minimal impact on the shared ministry budget, thanks to the tremendous dedication and
8 exceptional stewardship of our team. With changes to commission membership and restrictions on
9 physical access to our archives collection at Drew University created by Covid-19 social distancing
10 measures, 2020 has been a year of transition. As the keepers of our missional memory, we support vital
11 congregations by resourcing clergy, lay leaders, and church historians with the tools to strengthen our
12 Wesleyan identity. We fulfilled our Disciplinary mandate to identify, preserve and make available the
13 historic record of ministry within GNJC. Our extensive physical archival and digital collections serve as
14 resources within which local churches can research their “Methodist DNA,” and also function as
15 repositories where churches can safely and securely maintain their historical records and artifacts.
16 Additionally, we post guidelines for Church Historians, suggestions for writing church histories, records
17 retention schedules, and provide other valuable resources online through the CAH webpage on the
18 GNJC website.

20 **Archival Collection:** We preserve the historical records of closed churches within the bounds of GNJC
21 and its antecedents and provide for the retention of the corporate records of GNJC boards, agencies,
22 and committees. We manage a 1,100+ cubic foot archival collection located in the fire-safe, climate
23 controlled, archival depository in the vault of the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH)
24 of the UMC, in the Archives and History Center at Drew University in Madison, NJ. Our archival space is
25 secured through a unique and cost-effective rental agreement with GCAH. We look forward to Covid-19
26 restrictions being lifted and our materials again being available through Drew University’s Archival
27 librarian.

29 **Ancestry.Com:** Our GNJCAH page on Ancestry.com received a total of **430,693 page-views, 224,992**
30 **image views** and **205,701 text views** during 2020. As a result, our closed church vital statistics (births,
31 baptisms, deaths, and marriage records) are easily accessible, highly utilized, and extend our CAH
32 influence far beyond GNJC. **On Ancestry.com, our GNJC records are identified as: New Jersey, United**
33 **Methodist Church Records, 1800-1970.**

35 **Internet Archive:** We support a digital library of historical journals and resources on Internet Archive (IA)
36 and maintain a link to this resource from the GNJC website. IA is a free portal that allows us to post an
37 unlimited amount of material online without impacting GNJC data rates. Digital copies of The Historical
38 Trail and The Circuit Writer, the respective historical journals of the former SNJ & NNJ Annual
39 Conferences, are available on Internet Archive. Since 2016, the GNJC materials on IA have generated
40 **4,390 page-views; 1,196 page-views** were made in 2020.

42 **Work of The Archivist:** Our commission assisted local churches in documenting their past ministry,
43 individuals seeking church and family genealogical information with the help of our volunteer archivist,
44 Walt Jones. Walt and Mark Shenise also assist the Conference Trustees with clarification of issues of
45 boundaries and deeds, etc. In addition to processing records for our collection, Walt also responded to
46 21 search requests in 2020: 7 for vital statistics (marriage and baptismal records), 7 for church history, 5
47 for genealogy, and 2 for GNJ records.

1 **Church History Awards:** We inspire the celebration of our Wesleyan heritage and the preservation of
2 local church history by hosting three annual church history awards; **The Robert B. Steelman Church**
3 **History Award, the Morris L. Smith Ethnic Church History Award, and the John C. Goodwin Multi-**
4 **Media History Award.** Each award is dependent upon qualified submissions. **In 2020, we awarded the**
5 **first-ever John C. Goodwin Multi-Media Award to Haddonfield UMC. for their video, “The Heritage**
6 **Project (190th Anniversary).”**

7
8 **Conference Historic Sites:** Recognizing churches as conference historic sites inspires congregations to
9 celebrate their place in the mission of GNJC. The commission has now completed the multi-quadrennial
10 task of formally recognizing the conference historic sites of the former Northern New Jersey Annual
11 Conference.

12
13 **Nominate Your Church:** We welcome congregations to request nomination as a Conference Historic
14 Site. A church must demonstrate that a site played a significant role in the historic development of our
15 conference or denomination to be considered. We believe that there are other possible candidates for
16 this honor in GNJ, especially within our growing diversity of ethnic churches, and invite congregations to
17 reach out to the commission to explore this opportunity.

18
19 **GNJ Conference Historic Sites:**

20 *[GNJC sites currently listed on the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) Conference*
21 *Historic Site roster. Sites listed in order registered by GCAH. GCAH Historic Site Number precedes the*
22 *church name.]*

- 23 1) 44 Cape May Monument, Cape May, NJ
- 24 2) 174 Mt Zion UM Church, Lawnside, NJ
- 25 3) 175 First UM Church, Trenton, NJ
- 26 4) 176 Head of the River UM Church, Estell Manor, NJ
- 27 5) 177 First UM Church, Salem, NJ
- 28 6) 178 Ocean Grove Camp Meeting, Ocean Grove, NJ
- 29 7) 207 Broad Street UM Church, Burlington, NJ
- 30 8) 214 Old First UM Church, West Long Beach, NJ
- 31 9) 223 Batsto-Pleasant Mills Meeting House, Pleasant Mills, NJ
- 32 10) 224 Gloucester Point, Gloucester, NJ
- 33 11) 272 First UM Church, Sea Bright, NJ
- 34 12) 273 John Wesley UM Church, Swainton, NJ
- 35 13) 274 Trinity UM Church, Merchantville, NJ
- 36 14) 284 Pemberton UM Church, Pemberton, NJ
- 37 15) 291 Old Stone Church, Woolwich Township, NJ
- 38 16) 320 Mt. Hope UM Church, Salem, NJ
- 39 17) 426 "Old Main", Pennington School, Pennington, NJ
- 40 18) 483 Mount Tabor Camp Meeting, Mount Tabor, NJ
- 41 19) 500 South Seaville Camp Meeting Association, South Seaville, NJ
- 42 20) 509 Flanders UM Church, Flanders, NJ
- 43 21) 510 The Neighborhood Center in Camden, NJ
- 44 22) 511 Port Elizabeth UM Church, Port Elizabeth, NJ
- 45 23) 513 McCullough House, Asbury, NJ
- 46 24) 514 Asbury UM Church, Asbury, NJ
- 47 25) 519 Franklin-St. John’s UMC, Newark, NJ
- 48 26) 520 Morristown UM Church, Morristown, NJ

- 1 27) 522 The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, NJ
- 2 28) 537 Frankford Plains UMC, Frankford Plains, Sussex County, NJ
- 3 29) 538 Old Stone Church, Upper Nyack, NY
- 4 30) 539 St. John UM Church, Fairfield Twp., NJ (Fordville)
- 5 31) 551: Evangelical UM Church, Clarksboro, NJ
- 6 32) 552: Kingwood UM Church, Stockton, NJ
- 7 33) 553: Emanuel UM Church, Union City, NJ
- 8 34) 556: Centenary College, now Centenary University, Hackettstown, NJ

9
10 **NEJCAH:** We continued to have a representative, Donald DeGroat, on the Northeast Jurisdiction
11 Commission on Archives and History Executive Board, which gave GNJ CAH a leadership role on the
12 jurisdictional commission.

13
14 **Consultation And Speaking:** We also stand ready to provide consultation on historical issues and
15 assistance in planning and celebrating significant anniversaries and events, including providing speakers
16 to lift up the historical significance of the church or explore other topics related to our Wesleyan
17 tradition, American Methodism and GNJ history.

18
19 **Personal Privilege:**

20 I wish to thank all of the current and former members of the commission for their dedicated and faithful
21 efforts to advance our ministry of memory within GNJC. I want to specifically thank the Rev. Nick Petrov,
22 who moved out of state to assume a professor’s position in Missouri. We will miss his quiet and
23 thoughtful presence. I would also like to especially thank the Rev. Donald DeGroat, our former Vice-
24 Chairperson and Treasurer, who rotated off the commission this year. I am deeply grateful for Don’s
25 faithful leadership and support these past four years. He has led many of our initiatives during this time,
26 including our Conference Historic Site process and our Church History Awards, as well as expended
27 much energy on our Conference Table displays, supporting me in shaping the commission agenda and
28 laboring to keep an accurate accounting of our commission budget. We are grateful that he will
29 continue to actively support the ministry of the commission as a consultant.

30
31 I feel privileged to have served as chairperson of the Greater New Jersey Conference (GNJC) Commission
32 on Archives and History (CAH) throughout this quadrennium and beyond.

33
34 Submitted by,
35 John D. Callanan, Chairperson

36
37 **Cabinet**

38
39 *“God is our refuge and strength and help always near in times of great trouble. That’s why we won’t be*
40 *afraid when the world falls apart.” Psalm 46: 1-2a CEB*

41
42 Psalm 46 is a psalm of trust and self-assurance in God during difficult times and circumstances. What a
43 powerful text this is! We all have experienced challenges and difficult moments since the pandemic
44 began. COVID-19 has affected many people, communities, and the church. Life as we knew it is no more
45 and we are adapting to an emerging new normal. This pandemic has changed the way we gather, how
46 we plan and do ministry, how we worship, do evangelism and mission. With confidence, we can testify
47 that God indeed has been our strength and help during these troubled times so that we continue to lead
48 in our communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

1 The Cabinet would like to thank all clergy and laity from our Conference as you have led your local
2 congregations with faith, courage, and resilience. You have been committed to the mission of Jesus
3 Christ for such a time as this! We have continued to witness how you are doing God’s work in a new way
4 with flexibility and creativity. Since the beginning of this pandemic, churches closed their buildings but
5 NOT the ministries and missions. Now, more than ever, the words of the hymn, **“We Are the Church”**
6 has become a reality in our midst, **“The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church
7 is not a resting place, the church is a people.”**
8

9 GNJ congregations have adapted and creatively found ways to be the church. Pastors and leaders have
10 continued to be open, flexible, and adaptable to our current realities. Many churches have transitioned
11 between online, outdoor, and inside worship services as the numbers of infections changed. District
12 Superintendents continue to be engaged with congregations in their districts via Zoom, YouTube,
13 Facebook, and other media platforms to praise God and worship together, to offer support and to let
14 the church and pastors know that they are not alone. As a cabinet, we have experienced powerful and
15 creative worship services. GNJ congregations continue to do Spirit-filled, creative, and life-giving work in
16 their communities and beyond.
17

18 During this time of pandemic, the Cabinet continues to experience God’s power, endurance, and
19 wisdom as we lead our districts and regions for such a time as this! We completed all of our Charge
20 Conferences by Zoom. Our districts and regions have engaged in meaningful workshops and trainings to
21 continue equipping laity and clergy for the task ahead and to help churches to continue doing ministry in
22 their communities. As “missional strategists”, District Superintendents continue to strategize with the
23 Connectional Ministry Resource team and the Circuit Elders to coach and develop resources like pace
24 groups, workshops, training, Foundational or Days of learning, Financial Seminars, small groups, and
25 many other district/regional events to strengthen and equip local congregations to remain vital during
26 these unprecedented times. This year we continue moving towards the regional approach. This method
27 will help us to provide quality and meaningful resources in a more effective way.
28

29 Our regular Annual Conference, originally scheduled for the month of May, was postponed to the Fall
30 (October 5-6) and by special resolution and mail vote, we held our first virtual Annual Conference,
31 “Courage”. We celebrated the commissioning and ordination of siblings in Christ that God continues to
32 call into the ministry, celebrated retirements of pastors that have served faithfully, and a service of
33 remembrance. The Journey of Hope legislation was put forward and passed. This is an audacious plan
34 for GNJ to work collectively to i) end the sin of racism in our conference and churches, ii) equity and
35 inclusion, iii) and sustainable congregational vitality. We are planning and soon will start working with
36 congregations to develop their Journey of Hope ACT Plans. The GNJ strategic plan, along with the
37 Journey of Hope, solidify GNJ’s commitment to create a culture of intercultural competency in our
38 conference.
39

40 Since our last Annual Conference in October 2020, District Superintendents have continued working and
41 giving out COVID-19 grants to the Districts/Regions to alleviate financial difficulties in the local churches
42 due to this devastating pandemic. So far, we have given more than \$1.1 million dollars in grants. We
43 witness how local churches continue to be engaged in mission and ministry, and some churches have
44 increased their efforts during the pandemic to serve the increasing needs. We praise God for your hard
45 work and faithfulness to the mission. The Bishop and Cabinet encouraged churches once again to offer
46 two weeks of Renewal Leave to pastors at the beginning of the year 2021. The Conference along with
47 Bishop Schol, and the District Superintendents, created two worship services with Korean and Spanish
48 translations for the churches to use while pastors were taking their Renewal Leave.

1 The cabinet recognizes and grieves the new financial challenges before us as a Conference, and trust
2 that God is with us during this difficult season and that God will lead and help us so that the mission can
3 continue moving forward.

4
5 We also adapted the way we meet by holding all our Cabinet meetings, Cabinet Retreats, Charge
6 Conferences, Special Charge Conferences, appointments, and consultations by ZOOM. God is faithful!

7
8 During the appointment season the Cabinet and Bishop Schol enter into a season of discernment as we
9 seek God's guidance to match the pastors' gifts and graces with the congregations needs. There are
10 good appointments this year that will continue to advance the mission of the church forward. We pray
11 for pastors and congregations that will receive a new appointment this year. We pray for a good and
12 healthy transition even in the midst of the pandemic.

13
14 We continue to mourn the loss of our colleague and friend, Rev. Myrna Bethke – we deeply miss her
15 contagious laughter, wisdom, hard work and strategic and missional mind. Losing her so suddenly was,
16 and still is, very hard but we continue trusting in God for healing. She, and her legacy of love and service,
17 will forever live in our hearts. Since Myrna left us in July 2020, her position has been vacant. Glenn
18 Conaway and Brian Roberts took her district under their wings by caring, directing, leading, and
19 supporting the pastors and churches-that she was so devoted to in the Gateway South District. We are
20 so thankful for their faithfulness and hard work.

21
22 Now in 2021, we find ourselves in another time of transition as two of our District Superintendents will
23 be moving on to what God has next for them in their journey. The Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson from
24 Northern Shore will start a new missional appointment as the Lead Pastor for the First UMC of
25 Moorestown and Rev. Gina Kim from Palisades will retire. We give God thanks for both of these strong
26 and faithful women of God. They have served their districts, regions, and the Cabinet faithfully and with
27 excellence. We pray God’s blessings on their next steps of their lives and ministry. We will miss you!

28
29 Finally, there will be a significant adjustment moving forward in the area of superintending and
30 resourcing, but we trust that God will sustain us for the days, months, and years ahead!

31
32 Submitted by,
33 Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez on behalf of the GNJ Cabinet

34 35 **CAMP YDP**

36
37 On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am extremely pleased to report that in the very challenging year of
38 2020, CAMP YDP has proven to be relevant, resilient, and instrumental, supporting the children and
39 families in the neighborhood. In the last 12 months, thanks to the hard work and collaboration of the
40 director, staff, board of trustees and with generous support from GNJUMC, CAMP YDP was able to meet
41 the challenges that developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though our doors closed for
42 three months due to a state health mandate, CAMP reopened for summer and fall programming.
43 Through teamwork, faith, and persistence this year has resulted in a vital program that has found clear
44 purpose during a year of cultural hardship and chaos. I gratefully report this year’s developments.

45
46 **Licensing** : All state licenses and certifications are to code. CAMP YDP is in good standing with the city
47 and state.

48

1 **Staffing:** We have had an exciting new development at CAMP with the hiring of Kenrick Wagner as our
2 new director. Kenrick is dedicated to providing top quality youth programming and building a generation
3 of leaders who will use creativity to learn and thrive. He is a passionate, creative, effective leader. He
4 has expertly picked up the CAMP YDP mission and moves us one step closer to transforming the
5 neighborhood.

6
7 **Programming:** CAMP YDP is currently supporting Paterson Public School students daily as they attend
8 virtual school, homework support and after school fun. A dynamic summer program is in the works.

9 10 **Building and Grounds**

11 During this past year the playground and building have had many upgrades. We are currently working
12 with PSE&G, The Bergen County Women’s Junior League, and local professionals to maintain and
13 improve the building, the playground, and the future sacred green space where St. Phillip’s Church once
14 stood.

15
16 **Finances:** In lieu of holding any in-person fundraising events, due to gathering constraints and concerns,
17 the board set up fundraising letter campaign and an on-line donation button on the website. We are
18 grateful to our donors for their generous support. This includes many United Methodist Churches, The
19 United Methodist Women, and a generous Community Outreach Grant from GNJUMC. We received
20 three other grants.

21
22 **Partners :** While we have had to temporarily pause all in-person volunteerism, we are grateful for the
23 steadfast support of our partners; GNJUMC, A Future With Hope, Bishop Janes UMC, MPUMC,
24 Ridgewood UMC, Christ Church UMC, Teaneck UMC, The United Methodist Women, Hawthorne
25 Christian Academy, Indian Hills High School, Ramapo High School, the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood,
26 Realtors Care Foundation of Bergen County, Inner Faith Performing Arts, The Paterson Alliance,
27 Rebuilding Together North Jersey.

28 29 **President’s Comments**

30 Keeping it real, this has been a hard year. It has been for most people and organizations. But when I step
31 back and reflect on the last year at CAMP YDP, I am grateful for the difficult moments and decisions. It
32 has been a year of learning, development, grace and resilience and CAMP is better off for these reasons.
33 My sincere gratitude goes out to the board of trustees, Sherise, our previous director, Kenrick, our new
34 director, the staff, GNJUMC and all of our donors and partners. Because of you CAMP YDP continues to
35 make a difference!

36 37 **Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Commission on**

38
39 I am deeply humbled to present my report as the Chairperson of the CCUIC for year 2020-2021. Under
40 the new structure approved by the 2021 GNJ Annual Conference, I or my representative represented
41 within the Leadership Team of the Conference Connectional Table, but due to the COVID situation we
42 were unable to meet as the committee for this past several months.

43 As members together in the Body of Christ, we seek to “work toward the full reception of the gift of
44 Christian unity in every aspect of the Church’s life and to foster approaches to ministry and mission that
45 more fully reflect the oneness of Christ’s church in the human community. We also seek to “work for the
46 establishment and strengthening of relationships with other living faith communities, and to further
47 dialogue with persons of other faiths, cultures, and ideologies”. Our responsibilities are listed in

1 paragraph 642 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and our Commission is in connectional relationship with
2 the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

3
4 This is an interactive, online training designed to support Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationship
5 (CUIR) Chairs in Annual Conferences across the UM Connection. The training consists of every-other-
6 month, hour-long Zoom gatherings. Subjects chosen by the CUIR Chairs are explored during some
7 gatherings, and other gatherings are times of relationships-building and idea-sharing among the
8 participants. Participants must pre-register for the live engagements, but teaching times are recorded
9 and uploaded to bishops' website.

10
11 The 2021 UMEIT: Zooms will be monthly, last about 20 minutes, will have a brief teaching and will
12 conclude in prayer for unity. Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst will be leading this month's session.

13
14 During 2020, three CUIC members were asked to attend the National Workshop on Christian Unity in
15 Texas, an ecumenical event hosted by the United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training
16 (UMEIT. This year, all the CUIC members will be encouraged to attend the National Workshop on
17 Christian Unity to be held (TBA) with an aim of continuing to raise up a new generation of ecumenical
18 leadership.

19
20 In recent years, ecumenical ties between the UMC/Episcopal Church (USA) and UMC/ELCA (Evangelical
21 Lutheran Church in America) have been strengthened through establishment of Interim Eucharistic
22 Agreements.

23
24 Finally, we affirm the work of many local congregations throughout the GNJ Annual Conference in
25 fostering Christian unity and strengthening our relationships with people of other faiths. Indeed,
26 through our ministry, we seek “to advance and strengthen ecumenical and interreligious commitments
27 that are essential to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by forming and inspiring the clergy and lay leadership
28 within the Annual Conference.”

29
30 Submitted by,
31 Vijaya Kumar, Chairperson

32 33 **Church and Society Report, Board of**

34
35 The Board of Church and Society worked closely with the Commission on Religion and Race this year to
36 sponsor a series of anti-racism discussions and initiatives. This initiative included weekly panel
37 discussions featuring clergy and lay leaders in addressing various aspects of anti-racism activism. These
38 conversations created the impetus for the crafting and publication of “A Letter Confronting Racism,”
39 endorsed by over one hundred and fifty clergy members of the Annual Conference, addressing racism
40 and recommendations for congregational engagement and calling for pastoral leadership in addressing
41 congregational and community concerns with racism and its systemic effects. The BCS also worked with
42 the New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders and Salvation and Social Justice in engaging United
43 Methodist participation in a “Say Their Names Funeral Procession,” a four hundred and fifty car
44 procession calling attention to deaths within the New Jersey State Prisons from Covid-19 and calling for
45 early release of prisoners.

1 In consultation with allied groups, N.J. Coalition of Religious Leaders, Salvation and Social Justice, the
2 BCS worked to resource and advocate for legislative initiatives addressing issues of systemic racism,
3 including school desegregation efforts. These efforts were further supported by the social justice cohort
4 project. This project is a partnership between the GNJ BCS and the General Board of Church and Society
5 of the UMC. Currently based in the Capital District, it is hoped that the social justice cohort model will
6 become a model to be replicated throughout the GNJ to activate local congregations and other districts
7 to address local social justice concerns, particularly regarding race and discrimination.

8
9 Several BCS members participated in Black Lives Matters rallies held throughout GNJ over the course of
10 the summer. These included community gatherings held in Woodbridge promoted by Rev. Dave
11 Delaney, Camden led by lay member Ed Martin, and Willingboro organized by the Capital District and
12 featuring a number of lay and clergy speakers from the GNJ, including Rev. Gil Caldwell. Rev. Caldwell, a
13 giant in the Civil rights movement who called GNJ his home conference, went on to next life. Rest in
14 power, Rev. Caldwell.

15 **Board of Church & Society Grants 2020**

16 In 2020, the GNJAC Board of Church and Society awarded two grants of \$2,500 each to the "Write, Read,
17 Achieve Power" (WRAP) Literacy Program of UMC of New Brunswick and Justice for Our Neighbors of
18 the Delaware Valley (JFON-DV).

19
20
21 The WRAP Literacy Program used the grant to provide 15 mobile hotspots to Lincoln Elementary School
22 students and their families during the Pandemic. These students and their families benefited from
23 having high speed internet access. Without these hotspots these students would have been unable to
24 complete their schoolwork this year.

25
26 JFON-DV used the grant to help fund immigration intake clinics at United Methodist Churches. These
27 clinics provoked immigrants with legal services and counseling services.

28
29 Submitted by,
30 Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett, Chair
31 Rev. Sammy Arroyo
32 Rev. Jonathan Campbell
33 Rev. Dave Delaney
34 Rev. Jack Johnson
35 Mollie James-Vickery
36 Aaron Wilson

37 38 **Disaster Response Committee**

39
40 The Disaster Response Committee convened under new leadership following the October 2020 session
41 of Annual Conference. The Committee wishes to thank Tom O’Hearn, lay member of Annual Conference
42 from Brick who served as the Chairperson of the committee for several years, for his faithful and diligent
43 service.

44
45 The Committee currently consists of District Disaster Response Coordinators from 6 of our 9 districts:
46 Rev. Cricket Denton Brennan - Cape Atlantic
47 Frank Friend - Capital

1 Hee Young Lim - Gateway North
2 Pastor Kevin Davis - Gateway South
3 Rev. Dr. Robb Shoaf - Palisades
4 Pastor Scott Maat – Skylands

5
6 We are currently seeking District DRCs for Delaware Bay, Northern Shore, and Rarity Valley. Please
7 contact your District Superintendent if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

8
9 These District DRCs have plugged in to their local and county-level VOADs (Voluntary Organizations
10 Active in Disaster) and are keeping abreast of ways that UMCs in their area can be prepared and helpful.
11 The committee is also coordinating closely with A Future With Hope, the GNJ Communications staff, and
12 United Methodist Volunteers in Mission so that we can operate effectively in the event of a disaster.
13 UMCOR continues to be an important partner and a source of funding should the need arise.

14
15 So far, we have repositioned disaster response trailers to northern and southern positions in the
16 conference and are keeping them ready for action with monitoring, upkeep, and inventory.
17 We are beginning an effort to get all Early Response Teams in the conference re-certified and badged to
18 be ready for deployment at a moment’s notice. Currently we have about 300 volunteers in GNJ who
19 have been trained. Nearly all of them require re-certification.

20
21 We will also review and update the Conference Disaster Response Plan. When it is ready, we will bring it
22 before the Annual Conference for approval and it will be published on the GNJ website.

23
24 Thankfully we have not experienced large-scale disasters in GNJ from October 2020 up to the time of
25 this writing. We pray that this will remain true in the year ahead, but we stand ready if called upon. It is
26 also true that many annual conferences in the US were not spared from natural disasters during this
27 pandemic time. The gulf coast was hit hard at the end of hurricane season, Tennessee had devastating
28 tornadoes, and wildfires raged in the West. Our goal is to deploy our trained volunteers to assist with
29 the long-term recovery operations in these areas as vaccination rates increase and as quarantine and
30 travel restrictions allow.

31
32 In the meantime, we encourage all churches to continue making UMCOR Relief Supply Kits like Cleaning
33 Kits, Hygiene Kits, and School Kits. You can deliver these to any of the three HUBs in Greater New Jersey
34 - the Skylands Outreach Depot in Newton, the Central Jersey Outreach HUB in Edison, or the Good
35 Shepherd HUB in Northfield.

36
37 Submitted by,
38 Rev. Tom Lank, Chairperson

39 40 **Discipleship, Board of**

41
42 The goal of the Board of Discipleship of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is to help resource,
43 support and affirm clergy, laity, and congregations in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the
44 transformation of the world.

45
46 This past year, the year of the pandemic, was especially challenging for us all on many different levels.
47 However, the Church will persevere. Last year as we entered the second week of Lent we were faced

1 with a shut down that we have never experienced before. Churches were forced to close their doors.
2 Clergy and laity in churches big and small had to adapt on a dime. Within days, worship services were
3 offered via Facebook, YouTube, Zoom and other platforms. Small groups went from in-person to Zoom
4 in a matter of days. Meetings of all kinds happened via Zoom. Zoom, a platform that had been used
5 once in a while for convenience became a necessity and a gift that allowed us still to connect with one
6 another.
7 Our ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ calls for us to connect, to be in relationship with others and now
8 we were faced with making that happen through our devices and screens. We had affirmation that
9 when we do the work in earnest and excellence God blesses our efforts. The church I serve has seen an
10 average of 12 small groups meeting per week with over 100 participants each week. Most churches are
11 seeing higher attendance that includes people from farther distances with livestreamed services.
12 Missions continue as we feed, clothe, and connect with others.

13 The Board of Discipleship will be updating its webpage to include book recommendations and other
14 things that people have tried during the pandemic that worked. It is important that we share our
15 successes and learn from one another. That is the beauty of the connectional church. Now more than
16 ever we must seek out our colleagues, our sisters, and brothers to affirm and support all of the work we
17 are doing throughout GNJ. If you have a great discipleship success story please share it with us. We
18 want to celebrate you.

19 Also keep in mind that the Board of Discipleship for the GNJ honors people every year who are living,
20 breathing sermons who by virtue of the way they live their lives and minister are evangelizing to the
21 world around them. Stay tuned for this year's recipients of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism in
22 the categories of clergy, laity, and youth.

23 Finally, please check out the Board of Discipleship page on the GNJ website. Included there are links to a
24 variety of resources to aid churches and individuals in their discipleship journey. These include the Walk
25 to Emmaus communities within GNJ, the Upper Room's offerings of the Two-Year and Five Year
26 Academies, Junius Dotson's Soul Reset, the Be A Disciple webpage, Search, Tres Dias, and the Order of
27 St. Luke. All of these are resources for discipleship.

28 The BOD desires to continue to resource and support lay and clergy spiritual leaders to make and
29 mature disciples that grow vital congregations and transform lives as well as their communities. We
30 continue to explore how the BOD can best serve in this way.

31
32 Submitted by,
33 Rev. Dr. Debra A. De Vos, Chair
34

35 **Drew University Theological School**

36
37 As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early
38 spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted
39 to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their
40 courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to
41 accommodate our many international admits who would not be able to enter the United States for fall
42 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program.

43
44 As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in
45 a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the
46 way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe. All
47 degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box

1 thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote
2 adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational
3 pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills.

4
5 The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses
6 reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The
7 faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a
8 commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental
9 justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

10
11 Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the
12 world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

13
14 Submitted by,
15 Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

16 17 **Duke University Divinity School**

18
19 Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Reconciliation and
20 Theology, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the Center for Reconciliation will become
21 Dean of Duke Divinity School (DDS) July 1, 2021. Dean Gregory L. Jones will leave DDS to become
22 president of Belmont University.

23 Duke Divinity School (DDS) continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the
24 changing church and the world. The disruptions, challenges, and injustices of 2020 occupied enormous
25 attention as the school adapted to different modes of teaching/learning and interacting while also
26 managing financial challenges both to DDS and Duke University.

27 DDS announced a new hybrid version of its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program that will give students
28 the opportunity to earn the M.Div. degree without relocating to Durham, N.C. The hybrid learning
29 curriculum combines remote coursework with week-long residential intensives, where students connect
30 in-person. The first cohort will begin coursework in fall 2021.

31
32 DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in school history with 257 new students from 35 different
33 states and seven countries, including China, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, South Korea and the United
34 States. Our Master of Arts in Christian Practice (28 students) and Doctor of Ministry (52 students)
35 programs received record enrollments. The Master of Theology (13 students), Master of Theological
36 Studies (34 students), and Doctor of Theology (6 students) had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in
37 Theology and Health Care will enroll 6 students, all of whom are TMC Fellows. Across all degree
38 programs, 31 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white. Black
39 students made up 21 percent of all students, Asian students, 5 percent; and American Indian students, 2
40 percent. 45 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 55 percent were male. The
41 Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program gained 113 new students. Students from minority groups
42 comprised more than 25 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 19
43 percent. Female students made up 46 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 54
44 percent. There were 30 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 30 percent
45 affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Nondenominational students made up 16 percent of the
46 new M.Div. students; Baptists, 16 percent; and Anglican-Episcopalian, 9 percent.

1 2020 also witnessed an expansion of DDS's partnerships, including the Kern Family Foundation
2 partnership with the Office of Wesleyan Engagement to provide accelerated pathways for
3 undergraduate students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree at Duke. DDS welcomed its first cohort
4 of students at Martin Methodist College, taking classes at Duke. The Americas Initiative, a fellowship of
5 organizations, scholars and practitioners convened by the Center for Reconciliation, is working on
6 peacebuilding among Latin American and Latinx communities, particularly those of Indigenous and
7 African descent. The five-year Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration, begun in the fall of 2019 and
8 jointly funded by DDS and the Provost's Office, is working to harness the research and experiential
9 wisdom of Black pastoral leaders nationally through a leadership school and practical theology archiving
10 project.

11 DDS sought to reckon in deeper and broader ways with systemic racism and injustice, particularly in light
12 of the overlapping pandemics of COVID-19, economic crisis, and mental health challenges, and the
13 school sought opportunities to strengthen its partnership and racial justice work across Duke University.
14 A Story Listening and Gathering project solicited past or present students, faculty, and staff to share
15 stories of how race and racial discrimination affects daily life at DDS with a goal of understanding the
16 experiences of the community and to inform the school's broader anti-racism efforts. A new Race and
17 the Professions Fellowship, in partnership with the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and the Churches
18 Promoting Recovery Project, in partnership with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative, provided
19 new opportunities for students to deepen their vocational formation and reimagine community
20 transformation beyond campus.

21 DDS hired eight new faculty members in 2020. Peter Casarella is a Professor of Theology and has
22 published widely on medieval Christian Neoplatonism, contemporary theological aesthetics,
23 intercultural thought, and the Hispanic/Latino presence in the U.S. Catholic Church.

24 Sarah Barton is an Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy and Theological Ethics whose scholarly
25 work is focused in theological ethics, with special attention to theological anthropology, disability,
26 liturgy, and pastoral care. She has a joint faculty appointment as assistant professor of occupational
27 therapy at Duke University Medical Center.

28 Quinton Dixie, Associate Research Professor of Church History and Black Church Studies, specializes in
29 American religious history and has written on a wide range of topics, from the African American Civil
30 Rights Movement to the history of Black Baptists in the U.S.

31 Zebulon Highben is Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music at Duke Divinity School and
32 Director of Chapel Music at Duke University Chapel, and his research interests include hymnody, liturgy,
33 music and exegesis, the musical heritage of the Reformation.

34 Alma Tinoco Ruiz is a Lecturer in Homiletics and Evangelism and Director of the Hispanic House of
35 Studies. She a practical theologian whose work centers on the intersection of homiletics, pastoral care,
36 and evangelism and she is a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church.

37 Janet Martin Soskice is the William K. Warren Distinguished Research Professor of Catholic Theology and
38 for the past 30 years was on The Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Her work lies at the
39 intersection of Christian theology and philosophy.

1 Norbert Wilson is Professor of Food, Economics, and Community, and his research explores food issues
2 such as access, choice, and food waste. He is an ordained vocational deacon in the Episcopal Church
3 USA.

4 Wylín D. Wilson is an Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics, and prior to joining the Duke faculty, she
5 was on faculty at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics and was a senior fellow at the Center
6 for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School. Her research focuses on religion, gender,
7 and bioethics, including rural bioethics and Black Church studies.

8
9 Submitted by,
10 Dean Jones, Duke University Divinity School

11 **Educational Society**

12
13
14 The Educational Society is an agency of the Greater NJ Annual Conference of the United Methodist
15 Church whose goal is to assist with the education of clergy for the edification of the church. We are
16 composed of clergy and laity from across the conference and have been assisting men and women of
17 New Jersey called by God to full-time Christian service by providing scholarships and loans for more than
18 one hundred and fifty years. We are supported by the repayment of loans, interest earned from long-
19 standing endowments, grants from the Annual Conference, and by local churches and individuals
20 through the Conference Advance #622. The Conference Advance #622 is an opportunity for local
21 churches to subsidize and affirm the ministry and education of New Jersey United Methodist pastors
22 who have reaped the benefits of the Society's ministry by supporting the Educational Society in its
23 historic mission.

24
25 In 2020 the Educational Society was delighted to award \$7,000 in scholarships and loans to 2 recipients
26 in order to further their seminary and leadership development education. Applications for GNJ
27 Educational Society scholarships and loans can be downloaded from the conference website at
28 <https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/2016-educational-society-application/>

29
30 If you would like more information about the Educational Society and its ongoing ministry of
31 underwriting seminary education, please stop by our display at Annual Conference or email Rev. Donald
32 Stevens (revdon64@hotmail.com) or Mrs. Jo D. Malessa (ma_malessa@comcast.net).

33
34 Submitted by,
35 Rev. Donald M. Stevens, President

36 **Equitable Compensation, Commission on**

37
38
39 The work of the Commission on Equitable Compensation has been challenging over the past year as we
40 have struggled with the realities of COVID-19 for both pastors and local churches. After our initial
41 discussions in the fall and winter a year ago, the commission reluctantly made the decision to hold the
42 2021 basic minimum compensation for clergy at the 2020 level for this year only, with a goal of catching
43 up in 2022. The recommendation for adoption by the annual conference reflects that goal.

44
45 The responsibilities for the Commission on Equitable Compensation as outlined in ¶625.2 of the 2016
46 Book of Discipline are four-fold: 1) To recommend conference standards for pastoral support; 2) To
47 administer funds used in base compensation supplementation; 3) To provide counsel and advisory

1 material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and
2 4) submit an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference. Last year, we developed a new
3 arrearage policy that will bring to light situations where pastors are not receiving their salaries in full.
4 Failure to do so puts a burden first on the pastor, and tangentially on the conference. Judicial Council
5 rulings do not allow a pastor to receive less than the basic minimum salary even voluntarily, and when
6 such situations occur, they need to be addressed as soon as possible.

7
8 You will find that policy in our recommendations for 2021 with some slight editorial changes. Parsonage
9 standards are updated annually with a few minor changes for clarification. Copies of these standards
10 should be in the hands of the SPRC, the Board of Trustees, and, if applicable, the Parsonage Committee.
11 Upkeep for the parsonage is not just for the benefit of the pastor, it is a protection of the investment
12 that the church has in one of its properties. While there are drawbacks to the parsonage system, the
13 benefit to the church is that its pastor lives within the community that she/he serves, something that
14 would be extremely difficult to guarantee particularly in an area such as GNJ with such a wide span of
15 real estate costs.

16
17 Over the next few months, the commission will be working on updating resources to guide SPRCs in
18 setting salaries. While the pastor's compensation is most often the largest single line-item in a budget,
19 the pastor is a primary resource for ministry through worship and preaching, administration, pastoral
20 care, community engagement, Christian formation, stewardship education, and many other ministries
21 that often go unnamed. Congregations need to be in serious conversation on how they set clergy
22 compensation and planning for the future in a way that considers years of service, educational levels,
23 effectiveness, responsibilities and expectations, cost of living in a specific community, family needs and
24 equity with pastors serving comparable sized congregations. A conversation that begins and ends with
25 what's the least amount we can pay a pastor is a surrender to a mind-set of scarcity rather than a focus
26 on the abundance of God's blessings. In the next few months, the commission will provide resources so
27 that these conversations can start within the congregation as they are looking to setting their
28 compensation packages in preparation for the 2022 Church Conferences.

29
30 As part of the Journey with Hope legislation, a significant part of our work in the coming year will be to
31 begin to address the inequities in compensation across GNJ. In some of our most economically
32 challenged communities, a pastor will serve in less than full time status (and therefore compensated
33 accordingly) even though the congregation and area served is significantly larger than smaller
34 congregations in more affluent communities. This has disproportionately affected churches and pastors
35 in urban areas, and particularly communities of color. It is our desire to work with others in GNJ to
36 provide new ways for ongoing, sustainable ministry that makes disciples and transforms communities
37 for Jesus Christ.

38
39 My thanks to the members of the Commission on Equitable Salary for their time and energy in our work
40 together on behalf of United Methodists of Greater New Jersey.

41
42 Submitted by,
43 Steven G. Bechtold, Chair

44
45 **Finance and Administration, Council on**
46
47 As 2020 started, we had every expectation that that it would be a strong year for GNJ and that we would
48 be able to build on the faithful stewardship and giving of GNJ congregations in prior years to fund local

1 and global mission. In February 2020, the former treasurer announced his retirement but we still did not
2 expect any major disruption as the former treasurer promised to continue working till June 2020 and
3 help with the transition. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID 19 a global pandemic - its first
4 such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. That is when a year of uncertainty
5 and adjustment started for everyone.

6
7 Once the potential scale and length of the pandemic was understood by April, the GNJ's financial and
8 cabinet leadership developed a plan to support the congregations through the pandemic. Five million
9 dollars was set aside through a portion of a property sale (Belmar) worth \$0.8 MM, through borrowing
10 \$1.4 MM from our GNJ designated funds and through expense cuts for the rest. With those resources,
11 GNJ offered congregations a four-month shared ministry holiday and assisted them to receive PPP
12 funding. The budget was recast based on a 60% shared ministry collection rate vs the originally
13 approved 92% collection rate.

14
15 Churches responded faithfully with courage and conviction. For the whole of 2020 we received 74% in
16 shared ministry (14% more than we had projected in May) and GNJ congregations and ministries
17 received more than \$8 million in PPP funding, and GNJ received 94% vs 90% with respect to billables in
18 2020 vs. 2019 from our congregations.

19
20 A new CFO/Treasurer, Rob Zuckerman, joined us mid-year and he is providing strong leadership for
21 which I am very grateful.

22
23 Unfortunately, because of the pandemic and newly discovered financial constraints, GNJ was not able to
24 pay 100% of general church apportionments in 2020. We did pay 66%, 16% points more than we
25 projected in April but this was the first time in more than 15 years that GNJ did not give 100%. Going
26 forward, we plan to apportion the churches for the General Church and pass through exactly what we
27 collect.

28
29 In November, we realized that GNJ was significantly under-billing congregations with respect to billables
30 – specifically in the areas of current employee healthcare insurance and property insurance. This
31 shortfall in billings was being made up with draws from designated funds and property sales. Over a
32 period of nine years, GNJ has spent down its reserves by \$10 million dollars. The under-billing led to a \$6
33 million shortfall in the 2021 budget.

34
35 GNJ's financial leadership and cabinet took a lot of steps to address the present challenges and the long
36 term needs of GNJ.

37
38 Steps taken:

- 39 1. Previously the budget would only cover the shared ministry piece of the finances which is under
40 the domain of CF&A. Now we have created a 2021 consolidated budget that includes the
41 domains of CF&A, Board of Pensions and Health and Board of Trustees. We have also ensured it
42 is balanced by making the expense adjustments necessary.
- 43 2. A plan was developed to help transition churches over five years to paying the full cost of the
44 benefit programs.
- 45 3. Worked with the Bishop, the cabinet, and the connectional table to update/implement the JOH
46 legislation.
- 47 4. CF&A approved and organized an independent financial team to investigate the financial
48 matters of the recent past and make policy and corrective recommendations.

- 1 5. A designated fund policy has been approved by CF&A to rebuild the reserves within 5 years
2 which is being presented as legislation for the May 2021 Annual Conference to approve.
3

4 Major projects ahead:

- 5 1. Develop comprehensive policy and procedures manual covering all financial matters at GNJ.
6 2. Recommend a long-term funding plan with respect to shared ministry apportionments and
7 billings necessary to implement the “Journey of Hope” legislation.
8 3. Establish a team in partnership with the Centenary Fund Board to work on generating a long-
9 term stream of income to pay for retiree health.

10
11 We are at a state of maximum economic uncertainty – on one hand we are very aware of how COVID
12 impacted our churches recently but on the other, we know that as vaccines are administered more
13 widely, and the stimulus efforts of the Government take effect, things will likely return to greater
14 normalcy in the next 3 to 4 months.

15
16 As a result, we think it prudent to delay putting together a 2022 budget till the fall of 2021 by which
17 time we will know better how well our churches are indeed faring.

18
19 We expect to have a special Annual Conference to review and approve our 2022 budget in October of
20 2021.

21
22 Submitted by,
23 Vasanth Victor , CF&A President
24

25 **First Friends of NJ and NY**

26
27 Since its founding in 1997, the mission of First Friends of NJ and NY has been to uphold the inherent
28 dignity and humanity of some of our nation’s most vulnerable populations -- immigrants and asylum
29 seekers detained in the four U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities in northern New
30 Jersey: the Elizabeth Detention Center, Essex County Correctional Facility, Bergen County Jail and the
31 Hudson County Correction Center. A volunteer-based organization, we strive to reduce detainees’
32 isolation and provide compassion and hope through visitations; a telephone hotline set up in each of the
33 facilities; commissary funds, bonds, the provision of funds for phone calls to family and attorneys;
34 supplying folders of stamps and writing materials to enable detainees to stay in contact with family
35 members; resettlement assistance upon release; and advocacy.

36 Most of the approximately 750 immigrants and asylum seekers currently detained are people from
37 Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa. They come to the US seeking safety and freedom
38 but are unjustly detained for months, sometimes even years. Most have no money to pay an attorney,
39 post bond or even telephone their families. In the facilities we serve, crowded conditions are common
40 and have become a serious health risk during the COVID pandemic. Upon release, most former
41 detainees work at minimum wage jobs which they lost when the pandemic hit.

42
43 In 2020, First Friends volunteers made 133 visits to detainees before the pandemic lock-down. 7,689
44 phone calls were received from detainees through our toll-free hot-line. Despite the challenges brought
45 on by the pandemic, First Friends has been working harder than ever to continue to provide hope and
46 healing for our detained friends. Although visitations in March 2020 were paused, 186 volunteers have
47 served as pen pals, with 415 letters having been received from detainees. We posted 59 bonds that
48 enabled immigrants to be released from jail while they await their immigration hearings. 93 newly

1 released immigrants have been provided with hygiene supplies and transportation to their families or
2 volunteer hosts, and 45 were provided with food, utilities, and rental assistance.

3
4 First Friends NJ/NY is an Advanced Special in GNJ, and as a Hope Center has strong partnerships with
5 many United Methodist churches across the state. Morrow UMC in Maplewood began visiting
6 immigrants held in detention almost ten years ago and continues to assist in training volunteer visitors,
7 coordinate visits to detention centers, assist in post release support, collect donations, and fundraise for
8 the organization. Chatham UMC participates in our Stamp Out Despair program that provides writing
9 materials and postage to detainees to stay in touch with friends and families which is especially
10 important during this pandemic. The UMW in Palisades have donated funds and signed up for volunteer
11 visitations. Sparta UMC, Sparta UMW, New Dover UMC have all contributed to First Friends either
12 through donations or direct service to immigrants. First Friends NJ/NY has a strong presence
13 throughout GNJ and is supported by many congregants in our conference.

14
15 To learn more about the mission of First Friends and how you can be a part of this important mission,
16 please visit www.firstfriendsnjny.org or contact us at info@firstfriendsnjny.org.

17
18 Submitted by,
19 Giselle Holloway, Executive Director

20 21 **Fund Balance Evolution Over Time**

22
23 The tables below show the projection of balances in the various designated funds over the next 10
24 years. These model projections will be reported each year after the model is updated.

25
26 The model makes an initial allocation to each of the 13 funds; then it sequentially directs excess
27 property sale proceeds to the various funds to achieve the fund goals over time.

28
29 Once a fund is fully funded, it will be invested as its own fund through Wespath from that time onwards,
30 and the draws for the particular ministry will come directly from that fund.

31
32 Over time shared ministry will be focused on supporting the core mission of GNJ which includes
33 superintending, leadership, and congregational development.

34
35 Model assumptions:

- 36 1. \$3.7 million in property sales in 2021 increasing to \$4.5 million in 2035.
- 37 2. Investments will return on average 7% per year and draws of 5% per year will be made to
38 support the designated ministries.
- 39 3. Congregations will transition to full payment of billables by 2026 – so the last year requiring
40 subsidies from GNJ to churches towards billables will be 2025.
- 41 4. Full funding of the St. John’s Native American church by 2023.
- 42 5. Full funding of all funds except for Harvest Mission Fund, Strategic Disciple Making Fund, Retiree
43 Health Care and Property Redevelopment Fund by 2027.
- 44 6. The goal is to return to the GNJ approved allocation funds as follows:
45 Harvest Mission Fund (50%), Strategic Disciple Making Fund (20%), Retiree Health Care
46 (15%) and Property Redevelopment Fund (15%).
- 47 7. The model may be affected by any or all of the following:
48
 - Changes in the number and value of property sales.

1
2
3
4
5

- Market disruption.
- Extraordinary crises or change in the denomination.

This model will be updated annually as needed and new projections will be made.

	Annual Return	7%	Annual Draw	5%					
	Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Funds \$ to Budget	Property Sales	3,700,000	3,700,000	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
		3,182,000	2,442,000	1,748,000	988,000	234,000	0	0	0
Mission and Ministry Funds	Fund Goal								
Harvest Mission Fund	25,000,000	10,700	10,877	32,294	149,244	531,137	943,551	2,656,520	4,770,352
Strategic Disciple Making Fund	20% of Prop	10,700	10,877	11,056	127,655	509,193	921,244	1,350,445	2,200,727
Mosaic Ministries Fund	1,000,000	1,070,000	1,087,655	1,105,601	1,123,844	1,142,387	1,161,237	1,180,397	1,199,873
Episcopal Office Fund	500,000	160,500	163,148	505,651	513,995	522,476	531,096	539,859	548,767
Tanzania Mission Partnership Fund	500,000	535,000	543,828	552,801	561,922	571,194	580,618	590,198	599,937
GNJ Funds to Other Organizations									
St. Johns Native American Preservation	1,000,000	225,175	775,743	1,000,924	1,017,440	1,034,227	1,051,292	1,068,638	1,086,271
Next Gen Fund	1,500,000	1,605,000	1,631,483	1,658,402	1,685,766	1,713,581	1,741,855	1,770,595	1,799,810
Benefits Reserves									
Benefits Operational Reserve	750,000	802,500	815,741	829,201	842,883	856,790	870,927	885,298	899,905
Retiree Health Fund	56,000,000	2,161,875	2,744,398	3,681,685	4,964,809	5,615,875	6,314,012	7,039,193	7,776,340
Property Funds									
Property Operational Fund	6,000,000	37,507	103,227	402,265	1,136,507	3,052,415	5,121,029	5,992,126	6,090,997
Redevelopment Reserve	5,000,000	37,507	103,227	402,265	1,136,507	1,724,406	2,358,334	3,018,246	3,689,047
Superintendent Parsonage Reserve	1,000,000	1,070,000	1,087,655	1,105,601	1,123,844	1,142,387	1,161,237	1,180,397	1,199,873
Episcopal Residence Fund	1,000,000	834,668	926,562	1,005,564	1,022,156	1,039,022	1,056,166	1,073,592	1,091,307
Total Invested Funds	99,250,000	8,561,130	10,004,419	12,293,312	15,406,571	19,455,090	23,812,599	28,345,506	32,953,207

6
7
8

	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Funds \$ to Budget	4,000,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission and Ministry Funds							
Harvest Mission Fund	6,919,063	9,501,703	12,685,856	15,922,547	19,212,644	22,557,028	25,956,594
Strategic Disciple Making Fund	3,065,039	4,047,112	5,045,390	6,060,139	7,091,631	8,140,143	9,205,955
Mosaic Ministries Fund	1,219,671	1,239,796	1,260,253	1,281,047	1,302,184	1,323,670	1,345,511
Episcopal Office Fund	557,822	567,026	576,382	585,892	595,559	605,386	615,375
Tanzania Mission Partnership Fund	609,836	619,898	630,126	640,523	651,092	661,835	672,755
GNJ Funds to Other Organizations							
St. Johns Native American Preservation	1,104,194	1,122,414	1,140,933	1,159,759	1,178,895	1,198,347	1,218,119
Next Gen Fund	1,829,507	1,859,694	1,890,379	1,921,570	1,953,276	1,985,505	2,018,266
Benefits Reserves							
Benefits Operational Reserve	914,754	929,847	945,189	960,785	976,638	992,753	1,009,133
Retiree Health Fund	8,525,650	9,364,948	10,218,094	11,085,318	11,966,851	12,862,929	13,773,792
Property Funds							
Property Operational Fund	6,191,498	6,293,658	6,397,503	6,503,062	6,610,362	6,719,433	6,830,304
Redevelopment Reserve	4,370,917	5,001,937	5,084,469	5,168,363	5,253,640	5,340,326	5,428,441
Superintendent Parsonage Reserve	1,219,671	1,239,796	1,260,253	1,281,047	1,302,184	1,323,670	1,345,511
Episcopal Residence Fund	1,109,313	1,127,617	1,146,223	1,165,135	1,184,360	1,203,902	1,223,766
Total Invested Funds	37,636,935	42,915,445	48,281,050	53,735,187	59,279,317	64,914,926	70,643,522

9

1 Higher Education and Ministries of the Greater New Jersey Conference, Board 2 of

3
4 *The Board of Higher Education and Ministries (BHEM) has mandates and responsibilities listed under*
5 *¶1634 in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and is the leadership development agency*
6 *of The United Methodist Church. “Its mission is preparing global leaders for a global church and the*
7 *world. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs.*
8 *Many young adults find help in clarifying their vocation and God’s call on their lives through our*
9 *leadership and discernment programs.” (gbhem.org)*

10
11 *“UM Collegiate Ministries are the missional presence of The United Methodist Church on college and*
12 *university campuses around the world. Through a network of chaplaincies, Wesley Foundations,*
13 *ecumenical ministries and church-based ministries, The United Methodist Church reaches more than*
14 *1,300 campuses around the world!*

15
16 *“We are called to share with our campuses the transformational nature of Christ in a way that raises up*
17 *a new generation of thoughtful, articulate Christians who care about making the world a better place.*
18 *While this calling looks and feels very different across our campuses, it is central to our identity and it*
19 *compels us to provide intentional, student-led ministries that reach this emerging generation of leaders.”*
20 *(gbhem.org)*

21
22 The Board of Higher Education and Ministries of Greater New Jersey has continued its work with Next
23 Gen Ministries. Our partnership towards the development of campus ministries includes funding
24 through grants from GNJ BHEM that will provide resources, directly and indirectly, for retreats,
25 coaching, trainings, and other events sponsored and hosted by the General Board of Higher Ed for GNJ
26 campuses and ministers.

27
28 As a GNJ Agency, the Board of Higher Ed will continue to promote and award scholarships to GNJ
29 students aspiring to attend Methodist colleges and universities and other schools while growing into
30 their call to mission and ministry in the areas of youth ministry, outreach, mission, service, and a call to
31 pastoral leadership.

32
33 This past year scholarship applications transitioned to online and the application verification process of
34 documents was reviewed and submitted by GNJ Connectional Ministries’ administrator following CDC
35 safety guidelines due to COVID19.

36
37 BHEM agency members met via Zoom to process the completed applications which were received
38 electronically for review and awards process. BHEM received 36 completed electronic scholarship
39 applications of which thirteen (13) GNJ students were awarded between \$1,500 and \$2,500 for a total of
40 \$22,000 in scholarships awarded. The students who were awarded scholarships submitted complete
41 applications by the deadline.

42
43 Every year members of BHEM are inspired with the mission and ministries that students engage in and
44 are so passionate about. Due to limited amount of grant funds, the awarding process is not an easy one.

45
46 Every year BHEM encourages clergy and laity to nominate a person for the Francis Asbury Award. The
47 Francis Asbury Award is a non-monetary award that recognizes those who encourage and support

1 higher education and campus ministries within the United Methodist Church. It is for all clergy or lay,
2 employed or volunteer, who are active in supporting, strengthening, and promoting higher education
3 ministries. This year no nominations were received due to the transition between BHEM and NextGen
4 Ministries who are now overseeing directly, while reporting to BHEM, the works and ministries of
5 campus ministers in their respective campuses.

6
7 It is GNJ BHEM's commitment to continue to encourage new relationships with congregations and
8 college campuses, and especially with students who are active members of congregations pursuing
9 careers inspired by mission and ministries and those who have a personal call to ministry.

10
11 Your continued prayers and support for our campuses, ministers, and chaplains; our faithful and
12 dedicated board members, and our conference youth and leaders will be greatly appreciated!

13
14 Submitted by,
15 Iraida Ruiz de Porras, Chair

16 17 **A Journey of Hope**

18
19 **Objective:** To integrate and deepen the mission and ministry of Greater New Jersey (GNJ)--to make new
20 disciples of Jesus Christ, make transformational leaders and make fruitful and sustainable congregations-
21 -by dismantling the systems and structures within the church that perpetuate racism and in turn,
22 developing a more racially just, inclusive, and equitable church.

23 The above objective is driven by the "why" stated at the outset of the Journey of Hope plan as part of
24 our urgent calling:

25 *As baptized Christians, we renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of*
26 *this world, and repent of our sin. We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil,*
27 *injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We confess Jesus Christ as*
28 *our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with*
29 *the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.*

30
31 **Journey of Hope Scope:** The Plan calls for a \$5.1 million investment to end the sin of racism in five areas:

- 32 • Increase and grow Leadership of Color.
- 33 • Start new and developing Congregations of Color.
- 34 • Develop resources to lead all leaders and congregations to integrate ending the sin of racism
35 with the mission of Greater New Jersey.
- 36 • Review all policies and procedures of GNJ for bias and to ensure equity and inclusion.
- 37 • Invest financially in repairing harm and engage in the long-term work of racial justice, inclusion,
38 and equity.
- 39 •

40 **Accomplishments & Ongoing/Next Steps**

- 41 • **One consultant organization**, which meets the key criteria as identified in the Plan's legislation, has
42 been identified following a series of vetting of all candidates. The Journey of Hope team is currently
43 in the process of identifying a consultant to assist GNJ in the implementation of the Journey of Hope
44 plan, including the training of facilitators.

- 45
46 • **Journey of Hope Planning Guide:** The Journey of Hope ACT (Aspire. Comprehend. Transform) Plan
47 is a congregational resource that will guide churches on a path to vitality that matches their

1 strengths and needs and moves them towards a more sustainable future alongside ending the sin of
2 racism. The two primary resources that will facilitate this work are The Leadership Academy and the
3 Journey of Hope ACT plan. This spring churches will be invited to begin this process. The Journey of
4 Hope ACT plan will guide congregations to assess their strengths, recognize the current realities of
5 ministry and the future probabilities for vitality, reflect on how God is calling the congregation into
6 the community, become culturally competent and take meaningful steps to end the sin of racism.
7 Congregations will be supported by a trained resource coach that will help coordinate and facilitate
8 their work. Congregations will then create a unique culturally competent plan for their ministry
9 based on increasing sustainability and vitality, community engagement, organizational leadership,
10 and ending the sin of racism.

- 11
12 • **Forbearance Plan (5a from the Journey of Hope Legislation) & Reductions in Shared Ministry**
13 **(Apportionments) and Billings (5e from the Journey of Hope Legislation):** The Journey of Hope
14 team’s intent and impact are to ensure racial and economic equity for all congregations in low-
15 income communities. Pending the approval of updated legislation in section 5e, the Finance and
16 Benefits Department is ready to begin invoicing congregations who meet the five criteria (5.a.i-v)
17 outlined in the legislation at the reduced rate for shared ministry and billings and to begin the
18 implementation of the forbearance program (5a), which outlines that “GNJ will permanently forbear
19 collecting on billable debt for all African American/Black and Native American congregations and all
20 other congregations that meet the criteria.”

21
22 May we all remember our baptismal covenant as we work together to live out our GNJ Mission.

23
24 Submitted by,
25 The Journey of Hope Team
26 Cabinet
27 Connectional Table, Kay Dubuisson, Chairperson

28
29 *March 17, 2021*

30 31 **Justice For Our Neighbors of The Delaware Valley (JFON-DV)**

32
33 *No human being is illegal.*

34
35 Justice For Our Neighbors of the Delaware Valley (Delaware Valley JFON) was established in 2019 and
36 became an affiliate of National Justice For Our Neighbors in 2020. National JFON is an immigration
37 ministry of the United Methodist Church composed of 20 affiliates across the United States that
38 provides low-cost and no-cost legal services to immigrant communities. Initially, the Delaware Valley
39 affiliate of JFON will serve communities in Southeast Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. It is a
40 cooperative effort among three annual conferences - Greater New Jersey, Peninsula-Delaware, and
41 Eastern Pennsylvania.

42
43 We are committed to providing exceptional immigration legal services to vulnerable and low-income
44 immigrants and refugees in the Delaware Valley, as well as strengthening communities through
45 education and family unification. Our attorneys can help those who are eligible obtain work permits
46 through protective programs like Temporary Protective Services (TPS) and Deferred Action for

1 Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Victims of domestic abuse, violent crime, and certain civil strife and natural
2 disasters are eligible under U.S. immigration laws to apply for protective visas. Our attorneys can help
3 victims fleeing dangerous homes and situations start life again with a clean slate. Our attorneys
4 understand the importance of keeping families together and will guide family members through the
5 immigration system and back into the arms of loved ones.

7 The New Jersey Council of JFON-DV has begun holding legal clinics on a monthly basis in Bridgeton and
8 will never turn an immigrant away because they cannot afford to pay legal fees. Our clinics are held with
9 the support of local churches and community volunteers to determine if those seeking help are eligible
10 to apply for a permanent residence, naturalization, work authorizations or any other form of
11 immigration relief.

13 JFON-DV became a Hope Center in October 2020 and has received a Peace With Justice grant and other
14 financial support from GNJ and local churches throughout the conference. We are hoping to raise
15 \$10,000 from supporting churches in GNJ in 2021 as we gradually expand our services from the
16 Southern Region to the Northern Region. Churches that would like to support JFON, donors, and
17 individuals who would like to volunteer their legal expertise or translation skills should contact New
18 Jersey Co-Chairs Rev. Cricket Denton Brennan (cbrennan1@drew.edu) and Rev. Tom Lank
19 (tom.lank@gmail.com).

21 Delaware Valley JFON plans to expand its services throughout Pennsylvania, New
22 Jersey, Delaware, and the eastern shore of Maryland. We are committed to providing
23 unparalleled excellence in legal services to unite families, enable eligible immigrants to
24 work and help victims of violence live safely and permanently in the United States.

26 Submitted by,
27 Rev. Cricket Brennan & Rev. Tom Lank, NJ Council Co-Chairs

29 **Laity, Board of**

31 *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,*
32 *knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”- 1 Corinthians 15:58*

34 The past year has brought many challenges to us, our churches, our families, and our workplaces as we
35 faced the unprecedented health crisis brought on by the pandemic.

37 We have seen firsthand the ingenuity of our laity in continuing to bring light to the communities they
38 serve through different outreach ministries such as establishing community care pantry/food pantry,
39 buying and bringing groceries to the doorsteps of elderly members, calling members who were sick,
40 quarantined or hospitalized and checking in on members virtually. Others brought the story of Christmas
41 to the neighborhood, narrating the true meaning of this season and singing carols and reading the
42 Christmas story during virtual worship. Technology became essential in order to gather together for
43 weekly worship and host Bible Studies. Still others started prayer groups, small groups, and study groups
44 through Zoom ministry. We praise God for your leadership in your churches in navigating through the
45 most challenging times!

47 The Board of Laity has been meeting monthly via zoom to continue the strategic conversation, planning,
48 and in identifying ways to be an effective resource to all our lay leaders and laity in GNJ. We started to

1 envision together how we can advance the participation and ministries of laity at such a time as this
2 when we are challenged with the COVID 19 pandemic, social and racial justice unrest, economic
3 downturn, and political divide. We strongly support all the laity ministries that are responding to these
4 priority needs and encourage all of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to bring more people to
5 Christ!

6
7 The Board of Laity reviewed its purpose, work, and goals for this quadrennium.
8

9 **The Purpose of the Board of Laity shall be:**

- 10 a. To foster an awareness of the role of the laity both within the local congregation, and through
11 the ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world in achieving the mission of the
12 Church; to develop and promote programs to cultivate an adequate understanding of the
13 theological and biblical basis for lay life and work among the members of the churches of the
14 annual conference.
15 b. To develop and promote stewardship of time, talent, and possessions within the annual
16 conference in cooperation with the conference council on ministries or other appropriate
17 conference bodies.
18 c. To provide for the training of laity and lay leaders in partnership with clergy through the
19 Leadership Academy to promote change and identify opportunities in mission with new ideas
20 and methods to reach more for Jesus Christ.
21 d. To provide support and direction for the ministry of the laity on the local, district, and annual
22 conference levels and to promote the observance of Laity Sunday.
23 e. To provide organization, direction, and support for the development of local churches.

24 -(Paragraph 631 of TBOD-UMC. #2)

25 **Important Work and Goals**

- 26 1) The Laity Board will review and ensure that lay representation at Annual Conference 2021-2024 is
27 equal in membership in accordance with the GNJAC Rules of Order/ Book of Discipline. New
28 Quadrennial "At-Large Members" will apply online and agree to be faithful to process as well as
29 commit to attend Annual Conference and report back to local congregation.
30
31 2) The Leadership Academy will continue to work to create a culture of learning in which laity
32 throughout the Annual Conference will have an opportunity to become engaged, equipped and
33 empowered to be **effective** partners with each other and their clergy partners to lead the church
34 and reach the community as disciples of Jesus Christ.
35
36 3) The Laity Board will continue to celebrate the ministry of faithful laity with a format called "Lay
37 Ministry Recognition." This program recognizes a person or group that has been creative and
38 innovative in transforming lives and making disciples of Jesus Christ. This is for the purpose of
39 resource sharing and encouraging congregations in their ministries. The Laity Board will choose
40 ministries from each district to be highlighted in April each year, at GNJUMC Mission and Resource
41 Center. This program will be reviewed on a yearly basis.
42
43 4) The Laity Board will work with the Connectional Ministry Team and District Superintendents to
44 ensure Christian leaders are offered vital and vibrant educational programs that develop
45 a) Fruitful and transformational leaders
46 b) Communication and interpersonal skills
47 c) Passionate faith and biblical understanding
48 d) 100 laity who make disciples who make disciples (Leadership 100)

1 e) missional mindset that connects with the community

2 f) Lay Servant ministries

3 **The lay servant ministries quickly adapted to the changes and challenges brought on by the*
4 *pandemic and had 188 persons successfully complete basic and advanced classes. The ministry is*
5 *exploring new ways to offer classes. Six persons completed the certified Lay Minister courses.*

- 6
7 5) The Laity Board will work collaboratively with all boards, committees, agencies, and the conference
8 leadership to support the strategic goals of GNJ and align its work to advance the A Journey of Hope
9 plan and other areas of focus from GNJ's strategic plan.

10
11 Let us encourage one another to continue the work we have been doing to make disciples for Jesus
12 Christ for the transformation of the world. Let us work together to have a significant impact on our
13 churches, our communities, and our workplaces. Let us be active participants in the work of God in our
14 midst. To God be the glory!

15
16 Submitted by,
17 Judy Colorado, Chair Board of Laity & Conference Lay Leader

18 19 **Native American Ministries, Committee on (CONAM)**

20
21 Challenge has been the most frequently used word this year for just about everyone. The most
22 rewarding experience for CoNAM was inclusion in the Journey of Hope process. Native American people
23 with historical roots to St. John United Methodist Church, the only Native American designated
24 Methodist Church in New Jersey and the fifth oldest in the Nation, can celebrate its 180th birthday in
25 2021 with a feeling of support for the future. There have been times when Native American people all
26 over the United States wonder if they are really included in Methodism. GNJUMC has assured us we are
27 an important part of the Church.

28
29 Unfortunately, our committee membership has been depleted for various reasons and we are looking
30 forward to new appointments to fill those empty slots and share the excitement of the Journey for
31 Hope. We are anxious to get started, first of all with the education structure at Pinelands Center.

32
33 CoNAM continues to have a supply of awareness materials to educate communities about the tragedy of
34 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women(MMIW). These materials would be excellent for NAMSunday.
35 Contact Cynthia Mosley (cmosley19@hotmail.com).

36
37 CoNAM members continue to participate in the Northeast Jurisdictional CoNAM activities as well as the
38 NAIC (Native American International Caucus) projects.

39
40 Submitted by,
41 Cynthia Mosley

42

1 New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders

2
3 The New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders seeks to build informed relationships and collaborate
4 around sacred values uniting us in action for the Common Good. The Coalition membership reflects the
5 religious diversity of our state including religious leaders from the Christian Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish,
6 Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Sikh faith traditions. United Methodist membership includes
7 Bishop John Schol, Rev. Dr. Tanya Bennett – Chair of the Conference Board of Church and Society, and
8 The Reverend Jack Johnson, who serves as Coordinator for the Coalition.

9
10 The work and program of the Coalition over the past year has been focused on issues of anti-Semitism
11 and racial justice. Both of these issues have had a significant impact in our state over this past year. Our
12 initial meeting, “Fighting Hate and Anti-Semitism” included member panelists from the Latino Coalition
13 of Ministers, The African American Advocacy group Salvation and Social Justice, the Religious Action
14 Center of Reformed Judaism, the Sikh American Legal Defense Fund, and the Council of Imams in New
15 Jersey, addressing this issue. The Keynote speaker was new Jersey State Attorney General, Gubir Grewal,
16 addressed the issue of bias crimes in New Jersey. He reported that 50% of known offenders of hate
17 crimes are high school and college age persons and affirmed the need for faith leaders to partner with
18 county prosecutor’s offices and local school districts.

19
20 Our fall program, “Cultivating a Moral Consciousness ... How does our Religious Imagery perpetuate
21 Racism in America” was one of storytelling by three distinguished members of the Coalition, The
22 Reverend Charles Boyer – founder of Salvation and Social Justice, Bishop Caryle Hughes – Bishop of the
23 Newark Episcopal Diocese, and Imam Wahy-Deen Shareef – Convener of the Council of Imams in New
24 Jersey. A distinguished panel of moderators included three members of the Drew Theological faculty
25 and Temple’s University Professor of Islamic Studies. The program provided opportunities of story
26 sharing and the impact of racism experienced as religious leaders.

27
28 Our most recent virtual gathering of some sixty religious leaders addressed the issue of “Racism
29 Revealed: The attack on the Capitol ... what we need to learn and do as Religious Leaders.” Addressing
30 the group, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman (12th NJ Congressional District) spoke of the
31 harrowing experience she had on January 6th as well as encouraged leadership to use their pulpit and
32 media platforms to speak out against racial injustice. The Primate of the Episcopal Church of America,
33 Bishop Michael Curry, also addressed the group reflecting on the current challenges confronting
34 religious leaders at this time in our nation. He too challenged us to address the issues of racial
35 inequities.

36
37 Over the past year the Coalition has worked in partnership with other civic organizations and leaders.
38 The Coalition partnered with the Brave Angeles program “With Malice Toward None”, seeking to bring
39 people together to build goodwill and friendships after the divisive national election. We shared in a
40 partnership with the New Jersey Ambassador Program designed to address issues around re-entry of
41 incarcerated persons in communities throughout New Jersey. One partnership was the development of
42 a “virtual care program”, coordinated by the Governor’s office of outreach in response to mental
43 hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

44
45 A Coalition editorial appearing in the Newark Star Ledger, “No Time for Retribution”, was in response to
46 the tragic death of Floyd George. Statements of support and collaboration were issues throughout this
47 past year reflecting our sacred values that unite us as a Coalition of diverse religious leaders. In the

1 ensuing year our focus will include a strategic plan of networks advocating for issues of criminal justice,
2 fair share housing, environmental justice, and reparations study.

4 **Next Generation Ministries**

6 Throughout 2020 and 2021, Next Generation Ministries has remained passionate to fulfill its mission to
7 *cultivate and catalyze new generations of enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ who connect, grow and*
8 *lead in their congregation and community for the transformation of the world.*

9 Connect: Through Family Camps, IGNITE Communities, Fall Family Days and IGNITE Watch
10 Parties, hundreds of students and families came together (in person and virtually) to connect
11 with God.

12 Grow: Through learning cohorts and IGNITE Communities Leadership Teams, youth and youth
13 group leaders grew in faith and learned together.

14 Lead: Through internships, Family Camp and in local churches, young people continue to be the
15 leaders for their church and community today.

17 While COVID-19 has created challenges for Camping Ministry, Campus Ministries, and events such as
18 IGNITE, congregations around GNJ continue to find creative ways to connect with youth and young
19 people. We celebrate the many pastors, part-time church staff and volunteers who have hosted Zoom
20 youth gatherings, socially distanced and outdoor events, created regular online content for young
21 people and more.

23 Next Gen's greatest learning since its beginning in 2017 is that synergy is the most important element to
24 raise up new generations of disciples (other than God, of course!). Many churches and campus
25 ministries have a good program, or group who meets, or a major event or retreat they do each year.
26 However, we know that faith formation does not happen one weekend or major event each year. Faith
27 formation happens through relationships developed over time through intentional planning and
28 gathering. Truly, Next Gen's original formation was to align the efforts of youth, camping and campus
29 ministries to create synergy across expanding ministries with young people.

31 This year we're so excited to give your congregation one tool that makes this synergy possible: the
32 IGNITE Discipleship Calendar. Using the Discipleship Calendar, your church will be able to create a year-
33 round plan for your people to connect with God, grow in faith and lead in the church and community
34 today. Through events such as IGNITE, Camping Ministry and more, as well as gatherings and events
35 specific to your church, this summer your church will be able to create its own, contextually specific
36 Discipleship Calendar to be in ministry with youth for the next whole school year. Now it is easy for you,
37 your leadership, and volunteers to have a great plan to reach young people in your church and
38 community.

40 We invite you to learn more about the IGNITE Discipleship Calendar by visiting www.gnjnextgen.org.
41 There you'll be able to download a copy for free, connect with a Next Gen Team Coach to help create
42 your own calendar, download the IGNITE Discipleship App for youth leaders and volunteers, learn about
43 upcoming events and more.

1 We're all discerning what ministry will look like coming out of the pandemic. This summer plan an entire
2 year of discipleship for young people in your church and community. Next Gen has all the tools to help.

3
4 Submitted by,
5 Samuel Perez, Next Generation Ministries Board of Trustees, President/Chairperson & Eric Drew
6 Executive Director

7 8 **Religion and Race, Commission on**

9
10 *He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace*
11 *faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

12
13 The GNJ Commission on Religion and Race (GNJ CORR) advances the mandate of the General
14 Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). "GCORR is the core agency within the United Methodist
15 Church tasked with empowering the Church to pursue racial equity and cultural competency to build a
16 stronger, more vibrant UMC." GNJ CORR is charged with this same task in the Greater New Jersey
17 Conference (GNJ) by promoting full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the
18 total life and mission of the church GNJ CORR seeks to empower clergy and laity to develop
19 transformational leaders and vital congregations.

20
21 I am honored to have been appointed as chair of GNJ CORR and I am grateful to lead such an
22 exceptional team. I am happy to give a report on the work done since our last Annual Conference in
23 October 2020. Because of COVID 19, my transitioning to becoming the chair was delayed until the
24 month of October, but that was a blessing in disguise.

25
26 During the summer months I had the privilege of working hand in hand with Rev. Vanessa M. Wilson,
27 who was the chair of our committee for 8 years. During that same time, we strengthen our partnership
28 with the members of GNJ's Board of Church and Society. We met every week for about two months to
29 strategize on how to respond to the news on police brutality in our nation and other racial issues
30 affecting our churches and communities. In these meetings we drafted the legislation on Black Lives
31 Matter that was approved in our Annual Conference in October. We also worked on the drafting of the
32 open letter from white clergy.

33
34 During the Summer and Fall we continued the series of *Conversations About Race*, where members of
35 our team and special guests led the members of our Annual Conference in dialogue about race issues
36 that are affecting our churches and the communities that we serve.

37
38 Our team continued to review and give input to the Journey of Hope (JoH). In January, we met to discuss
39 the financial effects of the January 2021 Special Session on churches and clergy of color. GNJ CORR was
40 invited to collaborate with the director of worship to create the "Not Soon Forgotten" service on legacy,
41 love and leadership honoring Black History.

42
43 I am very thankful for our GNJ GCORR team. Each member is doing special work in their communities to
44 combat the sin of racism. Our members are leading efforts to end school segregation in our schools,
45 others are pushing for police reform, and others are advocating for immigrant rights. These are just
46 examples of ways that we seek for God's justice for those who are hungry and thirsty for it.

47

1 During this coming year, GNJ CORR will continue to lead our Annual Conference in dialogue by re-
2 instating the Conversations About Race in the Fall. The team has been charged by the JoH plan to revise
3 the legislation that comes to Annual Conference for any racial biases they may contain. We will continue
4 to strengthen our relationship with other agencies of our Annual Conference, so that, in working
5 together, we will continue to fight the sin of racism.

6
7 Submitted by,
8 Rev. Dr. Sammy Arroyo

9

10 **Saint Paul School of Theology**

11

12 Saint Paul School of Theology , a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation
13 of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution, online and on-campus, in Kansas and
14 Oklahoma.

15

16 This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology
17 began the 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many
18 students choosing to attend class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly “Chat & Chew”
19 where students, faculty, and staff come together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry.
20 In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma Campus Chapel Coordinator, crafts a weekly Community
21 Prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the school seeks to provide spiritual formation in
22 new ways.

23

24 Kansas Campus Chapel Coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by
25 introducing our weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services
26 together for one service where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are.
27 Along with our featured alumni worship preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence
28 of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The Many, who led the music each week for worship. In
29 Spring 2020, Odell Talley, Director of Music for Swope Parkway United and organist for Zion Travelers
30 Missionary Baptist, served as Musician in Residence. For those who cannot join us live, chapel recordings
31 are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

32

33 Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have
34 added new adjunct professors, including Rev. Dr. Carol Cook-Moore and Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe
35 both of the OKUMC, Rev. Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon Chapel AME, UMC Deaconess Cindy Johnson of Rio
36 Grande Conference, Rev. Adam Hamilton and Debi Nixon both of Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Chebon
37 Kernell of the UMC Native American Comprehensive Plan, and Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma
38 Conference of Churches.

39

40 The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology continue to maintain high standards of scholarship, research,
41 publication, and engagement. Their many activities and publications over the past year are so numerous
42 that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

- 43 1. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology, will publish “Schleiermacher’s Christian Ethics”
44 in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Schleiermacher, which will appear in 2022 from the
45 Oxford University Press.
- 46 2. Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele
47 Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, continues her service on the Executive Committee of

1 the International Society for Science and Religion, working on several committees advancing the
2 aims of the Society.

- 3 3. Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, will see the
4 publication of his book, Reading and Interpreting the Bible with Global South Christians: A 21st
5 Century Model for Europe and North America Christendom, by Wipf and Stock Publishers this
6 summer. He has also written four Commentaries on 2 Corinthians and Ephesians which
7 appeared on WorkingPreacher.org in April.
- 8 4. Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies, continues his work as a
9 contributing writer in *The Missouri Methodist* magazine.
- 10 5. Dr. Kristen E. Kvam, Professor of Theology, serves as co-chair for the American Academy of
11 Religion's Program Unit "Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions." Over the last several
12 months, she has conducted invited presentations to the Great Plains UMC Clergy and its Clergy
13 Excellence in Liminal Time Conversations and the Fall Theological Conference of Central States
14 Synod (ELCA) on October 14, 2020.
- 15 6. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual
16 Education continues to contribute regularly to WorkingPreacher.org and served as the keynote
17 speaker at the Wesleyan Liturgical Society in Kansas City in March 2020. Her scholarly writing will
18 appear in the Preaching the Manifold Grace, Vol. 2, edited by Ronald J. Allen and published by
19 Wipf and Stock.

20
21 This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and
22 partnerships to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events,
23 Rev. Shannon Hancock, Director of Admissions and Communications, has expanded her reach to
24 prospective students by participating as a virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages
25 with prospective students via apps such as Whova and HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course
26 delivery system and formative community.

27
28 In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La
29 Torre. His lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current
30 immigration crisis. Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering
31 a conversation centering around the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint
32 Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, Associate
33 Professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and Pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on
34 the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant Communities." And for the first time, on
35 May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos, cap and gown photos, online
36 congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by Rev. Chebon Kernell.

37
38 The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and 1 Doctor of Ministry graduates.
39 Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60th Anniversary Celebration.
40 However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as
41 a community for a safe, in-person gathering.

42
43 For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students,
44 40 of which were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses.
45 Due to Covid-19, the school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both
46 asynchronous and synchronous online formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-
47 campus) schedule for six courses. Although for 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number
48 of hybrid course offerings are in development.

1 Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor
2 Emeritus at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of
3 Marketing, Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers
4 Strickland, Founder/CEO of Strickland Construction.

5
6 Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group on Native
7 American theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are
8 focused on how the church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related
9 to the spread of Christianity and the genocide of Indigenous North Americans.

10 As we have happily reported in past years, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced
11 budget. The changes made these last years have established a solid financial foundation for years of
12 sustainability. We continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology,
13 scholarships, and emergency assistance to students. Our significant investments in technology have
14 recently allowed our staff, faculty, and students to transition to a fully hybrid educational delivery model
15 providing a safe learning environment during the pandemic. Our faculty was uniquely adept at managing
16 technology in the classroom before the pandemic, making the transition to all online courses a smooth
17 process.

18
19 With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission.
20 Our trustees work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the
21 future. Perhaps most importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the
22 pandemic.

23
24 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to
25 answer the call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to
26 help our students manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21st century. We are grateful for your
27 support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be
28 faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

29
30 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers and
31 support.

32 33 **United Methodist Men**

34
35 Why is men's ministry important?

- 36
- 37 • Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words and deeds.
- 38 • Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes
39 on in others.
- 40 • Men growing in Christ become effective spiritual leaders in their homes and congregations,
41 working as partners with their spouses and congregational leaders-both lay and clergy.
- 42 • Spiritually growing men help congregations to become vital and alive.
- 43 • Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men growing spiritually and
44 maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual
45 leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. Men are foundational to the life and
46 health of the church.

- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored, and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives-nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.
- When a man comes to Christ, the family follows. When a woman comes to Christ, the man and the rest of the family may not find Christ.

<http://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/5WaystoReachYoungerMenslides.pdf> - slides on Men's Ministry

GNJUMM – In the next year help your UMM Group grow in Christ's image. Christ was a man and related to men. We plan after Covid-19 have two events that will teach you in interactive ways to relate to young men, not just the aging man. Christ was into mission and teaching ways to improve your life. This will be a shared learning experience. For sure we do not have the answers, but we will seek ways that men will find Christ.

- Mission Work
- Evangelism
- Worship that appeals to men
- Prayer – teaching our families to pray together once a day as a family

Events – Sept. 2021 – Gathering in Northern Shore (Sponsored by GNJUMM and NSUMM)

Oct. 2021 – Gathering in Skylands District (Sponsored by GNJUMM)

Lew Weil – President GNJUMM – Denman Award Winner in GNJUMC – I want you to spread Christ's Words by being a man of Christ.

United Methodist Stewardship Foundation

We at the Stewardship Foundation like everyone else are glad that 2020 is behind us. We experienced an unprecedented loss in investments, as performance dropped by 22% in March 2020. By the end of 2020 performance was at 19.43%. As a result of Wespath's excellent investment strategy and churches opening new accounts, at the end of January 2021 the investment balance of the Foundation totaled over \$53 MM. This is a milestone for the Stewardship Foundation.

Services for Churches & Related Organizations

- Socially Sustainable Investment Management Services
- Donor Advised Funds
- Planned Giving Resources (Including Legacy (Estate) Planning Seminars
- Stewardship Education & Resources
- Capital Campaign Services

For Clergy

- Clergy Personal Financial Literacy Training
- Stewardship Education & Resources
- Coaching

The Stewardship Foundation continues to manage the Miracles Everywhere Campaign, and is funding important connectional ministries, Next Generation Ministries, A Future with Hope, Hurricane Recovery,

1 and the Tanzania Partnership. In 2020 we added the COVID relief fund to support GNJ congregations
2 that continued in mission and ministry. We are available to assist congregations in running the
3 campaign.

4
5 We are grateful to be a partner in ministry with GNJ and its churches and look forward to serving
6 alongside you as we journey through 2021 and beyond. No matter the course of The United Methodist
7 Church, our Foundation is strategically aligned to continue our ministry with all churches and ministry
8 organizations in the Wesleyan tradition. Our mission to help faithful people live generous lives is
9 unwavering even during these uncertain times for our church.

10
11 Vision: To enable individuals, congregations and Conference mission organizations experience the joy of
12 generosity and facilitate the generation of increased financial resources to make new disciples, provide
13 inspiring worship opportunities, grow faith groups, and engage disciples in mission to the community.

14 Mission: The Foundation enables disciple making, increased congregational vitality and community
15 mission engagement by assisting congregations and mission organizations grow their financial assets by
16 providing stewardship resourcing and investment opportunities.

17
18 The Foundation Board of Trustees monitors and establishes policies for the operation of the Foundation;
19 supports the work of the Foundation with their time, and expertise, and encourages the ministry and
20 mission of the Foundation as representatives in their churches, districts, and annual conference.

21
22 Officers of the Board of Trustees: President – Virginia Harriett (Laity), Secretary – William Markert
23 (Laity), Treasurer – Rob Zuckerman (Conference Staff)

24 Board Members: Jie Hayes (Laity), Roxy Hammett (Laity), David Montanye (Clergy)

25
26 Brief History: Created in 1992 by action of the 135th Session of the Northern Annual Conference, with
27 the first investment made by the Conference. In 2000, became the UMF of Greater NJ after the merger
28 of the Southern and Northern Conferences.

29
30 Wespath Investment Management became the Investment Manager in August 2015. As of the end of
31 2017, the amount of investment in the foundation was \$44.3 MM.

32
33 Developments in 2018: The focus of the Foundation is three-fold – to increase conference wide fund
34 raising especially by providing planned giving opportunities; to resource congregations encouraging
35 commitment to a 12-month Stewardship Plan; to provide socially sustainable investment opportunities
36 for congregations and conference mission organizations.

37
38 Submitted by,
39 Jana Purkis-Brash, Executive Director UMSF

40 41 **United Methodist Women**

42
43 It is my great honor to be the new president of the United Methodist Women of Greater New Jersey. I
44 want to express my appreciation to our past president, Kathy Schulz, for her four years of service. She
45 left the organization in wonderful shape, making my job much easier. For example, we have a full slate
46 of officers including the Nominations Committee. Also, we met our “Pledge to Mission” for work in our
47 conference, our country, and our world, with our focus on mission to women, children, and youth.

1 This “COVID year” has been extremely unusual and difficult for everyone. That is why it is so remarkable
2 that we made our Pledge to Mission of \$130,000, when many fundraising events had to be cancelled or
3 creatively re-imagined as virtual or curbside. Many United Methodist Women stepped up to literally
4 serve the needs in their communities as people lost their jobs and hunger reared its ugly head. Soup
5 kitchens and food pantries multiplied and served more people than ever before.

6
7 There were many cancellations in the spring as the pandemic spread. For example, the spring meeting
8 was to have been held in Sparta on April 4th on “Breaking the Cycle of Poverty.” Mission u, held in
9 cooperation with GNJUMC, was to have been held at Georgian Court University, but became virtual on
10 Zoom. The theme, “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” was just what we needed in these anxious
11 times. Four single-day events were held with the following numbers attending: July 11th – 63 & July
12 18th – 54 (we thank Rev. Vaneekoven for leading these), Korean event on July 26th- 172 (thank you,
13 Rev. Yi), and Hispanic event on Oct 31st- 10 (thank you, Rev. Santiago).

14
15 This quadrennium, United Methodist Women will focus on climate justice and the criminalization of
16 communities of color. Our postponed-to-virtual Northeast Jurisdiction UMW meeting was in June. The
17 quadrennial election included Marilyn Powell becoming the Chair of Nominations, Bethany Amey Sutton
18 as the Secretary on the Board of Directors, and Yvonne Bouknight as an alternate. These women serve
19 us in new ways, and we said goodbye this year to two in particular who now serve with God in heaven.
20 June McCullough was a past conference president and Standing Rules Chairperson. Mary McLemore was
21 president of the Capital District. The deaths of many other persons, especially due to COVID19, were
22 remembered at our fall meeting.

23
24 The civil unrest following the death of George Floyd was just one impetus for our Charter for Racial
25 Justice Committee to act. Over the summer, we held four sessions entitled “Understanding What We
26 Don't Understand” : June 20 - A History of Slavery & Racism in America, July 25 - Healthcare Disparities,
27 August 15 - Engaging the Community in Racial Justice, and September 12 - Hope for a New Generation. I
28 want to thank all the committee members, facilitators they invited, and those who participated in these
29 and the still-continuing conversations on race.

30
31 We are proud to have supported the Resolution for Black Lives Matter at GNJ Annual Conference in
32 2020, as presented by the Commission on Religion and Race. This legislation has become “A Journey of
33 Hope” for GNJ to end the sin of racism. Likewise, “United Methodist Women condemns the culture of
34 White supremacy and the racism it nurtures” - read the entire statement at
35 [https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/black-lives-matter-to-god-and-united-methodist-](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/black-lives-matter-to-god-and-united-methodist-women)
36 [women.](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/black-lives-matter-to-god-and-united-methodist-women)

37
38 The theme continued at our fall annual meeting on October 17th, with Emily Jones, UMW Executive of
39 Racial Justice, as our guest speaker. Fifty-three people attended on Zoom and watched the video, “Say
40 Her Name.” Important business included the election of myself as president, Pat Schutz - Vice-President,
41 Barbara Miller - Spiritual Growth, Leslie Bivins - Nominations Chair, with Mary Bland Marilyn Beres,
42 Cynthia Lydon, Ivy Daniels, and RosaLee McNair added to the Nominations Committee.

43
44 Submitted by,
45 Sue Zahorbenski, President, GNJUMW
46
47

1 United Theological Seminary

2
3 *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19*

4
5 It appears God is doing some new things at United Theological Seminary, even in the midst of health,
6 racial, and political crises.

7
8 **God is doing a new thing at United financially.** United continues to make progress toward its goal of
9 becoming debt-free by the Seminary's 150th anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the faithfulness
10 and generosity of alumni/ae and donors, less than \$1 million remains of the original \$4 million mortgage
11 debt. After the mortgage is paid in full, the Seminary plans to convert those mortgage payments into
12 money for student scholarships.

13
14 **God is doing a new thing in enrollment.** Over the last five years, United's Doctor of Ministry program
15 has grown by 48%, from 170 students in the 2016-17 academic year to 251 in 2020-21. In Fall 2021, Dr.
16 Elvin Sadler, General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will become the
17 Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies, upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Hudson who has been a vital
18 leader at the Seminary for 17 years.

19
20 **God is doing a new thing with partners in church renewal.** In the 2020-21 academic year, United has
21 partnered with Fresh Expressions US and the Mosaix Global Network to introduce two new Houses of
22 Study. These houses oversee specialized tracks in the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity
23 programs. Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is director of the Fresh Expressions House of Studies, and Dr. Harry Li is
24 director of the Mosaix House of Studies.
25 In collaboration with the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, United also
26 introduced Rooted/Enraizados, a certificate program for coaches and mentors of Hispanic/Latino church
27 planters. In 2020-21, the program served students from more than five annual conferences.

28
29 **God is doing a new thing with the establishment of The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center.**
30 Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by providing a hub
31 of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage to introduce the Gospel of
32 Jesus Christ in new and creative ways. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins United as the inaugural director of
33 the Innovation Center.

34
35 United's prayer is that United Methodists will perceive the new things that God is doing in our
36 communities, congregations, and ministries as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
37 transformation of the world.

38
39 Submitted by,
40 Dr. Kent Millard, President

41 Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report 2021

42
43
44 For the world, 2020 was a year like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, plus resurgent racism,
45 mass unemployment, and politically challenging times in the US, Wesley remained committed to
46 fostering wisdom and courage, preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries while remaining
47 grounded in our biblical and theological traditions for the sake of God's inbreaking kingdom. The mode

1 of educational delivery changed overnight, as we became an all-online seminary on March 15, 2020 and
2 have remained so to keep students, faculty, staff, and all members of the Wesley community safe from
3 COVID-19 exposure on campus. This is simply Wesley modelling what we teach our students: to be
4 committed to our God-given mission while being innovative and responsive in the delivery of ministry.
5 Here are some of the ways we are accomplishing that with our many partners in this mission, as we seek
6 to faithfully minister to the world in the future.

7 8 ***Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future*** 9 ***ministry***

10 Wesley is pleased to announce new opportunities for UMC congregations to explore, clarify, and pursue
11 thriving in their communities. Through **The Source Collaborative**, Wesley will work with three cohorts of
12 regional congregations in a two-year process of prayer, community engagement, congregational
13 visioning, and coaching, with the goal of following Jesus in mission and ministry. Interested
14 congregations can contact innovation@wesleyseminary.edu for more information. This work, funded by
15 a \$1 million Lilly Endowment, Inc, grant, raises Wesley's role as a leading research and development
16 seminary for the whole church and complements Wesley's other Lilly Endowment-funded projects
17 focused on congregational vitality.

18
19 The **Religious Workforce Project** is an expansive study of the current and future nature of religious
20 work, particularly in local congregations, so as to understand what opportunities and constraints may
21 exist in the future and to adapt resources and training accordingly. Through the **Wesley Innovation Hub**,
22 the seminary has worked with 18 congregations in the greater Washington area to experiment with
23 ministries with young adults outside the church. Together, these projects forge insight into future
24 ministry and local church development, influencing the way students are trained in master's, doctoral,
25 and course of study education, but also informing workshops, podcasts, articles, and training for church
26 leaders working in their communities across the country.

27
28 We invite you to discover the latest research and conversations generated by the Wesley community
29 through our new web portal, #EngageInTheseTimes, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage.

30 31 ***Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers***

32 Research shows that the primary way people learn about and begin to consider seminary options is
33 through their pastor or an alumnus. Whether you feel called or you know someone who does, **Wesley is**
34 **ready to work with you** as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities
35 of ministry today—for laity and clergy, for those seeking a degree or certification or continuing
36 education, and for ministry from within or beyond the church.

37
38 Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of
39 Theological Studies, any of which can be focused around specializations in public theology, urban
40 ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African
41 American church leadership.

42
43 For full-time students, we offer a modern and affordable residential community in the nation's capital.
44 Our **Community Engagement Fellows** program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial,
45 community-based ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their
46 MDiv degree. Our **3+3 Fast Track BA/MDiv program with Shenandoah University** allows students to
47 complete both degrees in six years, entering ministry more quickly and with less debt.

1 For people with work, ministry, and family commitments, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now**
2 **be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years.** Check out
3 upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2021 at
4 www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3.
5

6 Wesley works with each student to make seminary affordable. Thanks to the consistent support of
7 graduates, congregations, and friends, Wesley provides more than \$2 million annually in scholarships. In
8 addition to our regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, Wesley has
9 released special additional scholarships: **full-tuition scholarships** for people recommended by Wesley
10 alumni, campus ministers, or Christian camping or service ministries who feel called to leadership in the
11 church as it is becoming; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students who have worked in a non-
12 ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx/Hispanic
13 leaders for ministries both within and beyond the church.
14

15 ***Take your ministry to the next level***

16 In addition to full master's degrees, Wesley offers graduate certificates for those preparing for
17 specialized ministry! The new **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is
18 designed for people who work with and advocate for children and young people, whether in churches,
19 schools, or non-profit organizations. The **non-residential certificate can be completed in 12 to 15**
20 **months** through online coursework and up to two residential sessions. For more information, visit
21 www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3. The **Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the
22 foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For
23 more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/
24

25 Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs** in specialized tracks that can include international
26 study. Wesley is pleased to announce three new Doctor of Ministry tracks for 2022: Ministry in a
27 Digital Age, a timely new track exploring the new opportunities and challenges of online
28 ministry; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World, hosted in Cambridge, England;
29 and a program focused on Latinx ministry. As well, new 2022 cohorts for our popular DMin
30 areas of focus will be offered for Military Chaplains and CPE chaplains, our international mission-
31 focused Global Church Leadership program, and Wesley's premiere DMin program in innovative church
32 administration "**Church Leadership Excellence.**" Find out more or apply
33 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.
34

35 ***Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry***

36 The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local
37 church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in
38 ministry each week. Stay on top of their latest developments by subscribing to their podcast or
39 newsletter at www.churchleadership.com. Also look for new practical online courses at
40 www.lewisonlinelearning.org.
41

42 The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches
43 and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister**
44 **Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Dr. Tom
45 Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.
46

1 The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create
2 spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. For more information, visit
3 <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

4
5 **The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** works with students, religious communities, artists,
6 and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. By engaging in innovative research,
7 staging challenging exhibitions in our Dadian Gallery, and hosting visiting artists in our on-campus
8 studio, the Luce Center seeks to promote dialogue and foster inspired creativity. For information on
9 upcoming workshops and shows at the Dadian Gallery, visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

10 11 ***Faculty leading the way***

12 Our internationally regarded faculty are the heartbeat of transformative education at Wesley. Our
13 faculty continue to advance theological scholarship with new research, publications, and courses. During
14 this past year, we celebrated the ministries of retiring faculty member Dr. Sondra Wheeler. We also
15 welcomed New Testament professor Dr. Laura C. Sweat Holmes to the Wesley community.

16 17 ***Stay connected***

18 Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree programs
19 can equip you for your next step in ministry.

20
21 Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley
22 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley's social media,
23 www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram @wesleyseminary, and on Twitter @WesTheoSem ,
24 or sign up for our electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

25 26 **Young Adult Ministry, Council on**

27
28 The Council on Young Adult Ministry champions young adult ministries at the local church, district, and
29 annual conference levels. We strategically partner with other conference agencies and NextGen
30 Ministries to benefit the young adults of the Greater New Jersey Conference by encouraging their
31 spiritual development and developing their leadership skills. And as per the Discipline, we also advocate
32 for the free expression of the convictions of young adults on issues vital to them (Para. 650, 3b).

33 This year we celebrate that GNJ young adult voices were lifted to dismantle racism as they supported
34 the forming and passing of the legislation "A Journey of Hope."

35
36 We celebrate that building upon the successful launch last year of NextGen's Cultivate: College Intern
37 program, there are 8 GNJ young adults participating in this year's program.

38
39 We celebrate that despite challenges of online only curriculum presently in New Jersey colleges, five
40 campus ministries are nevertheless moving forward to make young adult disciples of Jesus Christ for the
41 transformation of college campuses.

42
43 We celebrate that Mosaic ministries continues to equip and supply GNJ young adult leaders for ministry
44 in the local church.

1 As we move forward and emerge from the pandemic, we will continue to partner with NextGen
2 Ministries. We will encourage young adult involvement in the work of local churches, in camping and
3 campus ministries, and in the forming of Ignite Communities. And we will continue to support GNJ
4 young adults advocating for issues of social justice.

5
6 Submitted by,
7 Rev. Blair Goold, Chair, Council on Young Adult Ministry
8
9



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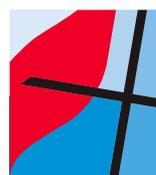


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