

1	Legislation	53	<u>Commission on Religion and Race ¶643</u>
2		54	Class of 2023
3	Committee on Nominations	55	Manuel Cruz (C)
4	(Those to be elected since last session of Annual	56	
5	Conference)	57	Class of 2024
6		58	Selina Springer (L)
7	<u>Nominations to Individual Leadership and Board,</u>	59	
8	<u>Agencies, and Committee Membership</u>	60	Class of 2025
9		61	Dawrell Rich (C)
10	<u>Conference Disaster Response Coordinator</u>	62	
11	Cricket Denton (C)	63	Class of 2026
12		64	Rob Lynn (L)
13	<u>Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650</u>	65	Younghak Lee (C)
14	Class of 2024	66	
15	Jesse Ruch (C)	67	<u>Committee on Disability Concerns ¶653</u>
16		68	Class of 2023
17	Class of 2026	69	Don Tomalino (L)
18	DeAnna Brathwaite Mays (L), Chair	70	
19	Zachary Holder (L)	71	Class of 2024
20		72	
21	<u>Board of Global Ministries ¶633</u>	73	
22	Class of 2026	74	Class of 2025
23	Moses Flomo (C)	75	ChangYong Shin (C)
24		76	
25	<u>Board of Discipleship ¶630</u>	77	Class of 2026
26	Class of 2024	78	
27	Josiah Chung (C)	79	
28		80	<u>Committee on Parish and Community Development</u>
29	Class of 2026	81	<u>¶633.5</u>
30	Anna Thomas (C), Chair	82	Corinne Arthur (C)
31		83	
32	<u>Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns ¶632</u>	84	<u>Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶625.1</u>
33	Class of 2024	85	Class of 2024
34	Samuel Albania (L)	86	Staci Scheetz (L)
35		87	
36	Class of 2026	88	Class of 2026
37	Roeline Ramirez (L)	89	Frank Davis (C)
38	Latasha Milton (C)	90	
39		91	<u>Committee on Native American Ministries ¶654</u>
40	<u>Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641</u>	92	Class of 2023
41	Class of 2024	93	Ron Crouch (C)
42	Frank Friend (L)	94	
43	Rupert Hall (C)	95	Class of 2025
44		96	
45	<u>Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious</u>	97	
46	<u>Concerns ¶642</u>	98	Class of 2026
47	Class of 2024	99	Gail Gould (L), Chair
48	Javier Barroso-Rodriguez (C), Chair	100	Ray Schmeling (C)
49		101	Ex officio UMW Rep: Leslie Bivins
50	Class of 2026	102	
51	Gerard Mayers (L)	103	<u>Committee on Rules of Order</u>
52		104	Class of 2026
		105	Laura Steele (C)

1 **BOARD, AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS**
2 **ORGANIZED BY THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

- 3
4 **Board of Ordained Ministry ¶635**
5 **Class of 2024**
6 Kay Dubuisson (C)
7 James Lee (C)
8 Hosuk Chung (C)
9 JiSun Yang (C)
10 Veronica Palmer (C)
11 Joe Tiedemann (C)
12 Josh Mularski (C)
13 Derrick Doherty (C)
14
15 **Board of Pension ¶639**
16 **Class of 2030**
17 Garry Smith (L)
18
19 **Council on Finance and Administration ¶611-618**
20 **Class of 2026**
21 Rosario Quinones (C)
22
23 **Board of Trustees ¶640 and 2512**
24 **Class of 2023**
25 Vivian Rodeffer (C)
26
27 **Class of 2024**
28 Aaron Amankwah (L)
29 Joe Monahan (C)
30
31 **Class of 2026**
32 Cynthia Mosley (L)
33 Rupert Hall (C)
34
35 **Committee on Episcopacy ¶637**
36 **Class of 2024**
37 Carolyn Pendleton (L)
38
39 **Committee on Investigation of a Clergy Member**
40 **¶2703.2, 2008 BOD**

41
42 **OTHER CONFERENCE AND AFFILIATED AGENCIES**

- 43
44 **Camping and Retreats Board**
45 **Class of 2026**
46 Gabrielle Corbett (C)
47
48 **Next Generation Ministries, Inc.**
49 **Class of 2025**
50 DeAnna Brathwaite Mays (L)
51
52

53 **OTHER BOARDS THAT SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE**
54 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

- 55
56 **The Pennington School – Board of Trustees**
57 Secretary: Jason Ridings
58 Alumni Association President: Jacob Levy
59
60 **Class of 2023**
61 Matthew Pauls
62 Stephen Tan
63 Peter Tucci
64 Erich Stegich
65 Jack Green
66 Jian “Jim” Wang
67
68 **Class of 2024**
69 Lou Denton
70 Michael Jingoli
71 Dan Mahony
72 Brenda Martini O’Loughlin
73 Julie Wulf
74 Celeste Jackson
75 Katherine Rosa
76 Jason Ridings
77
78 **Class of 2025**
79 David Long
80 William Oldsey
81 Judith Rosenberg
82 Steve Silberman
83 Soopakij “Chris” Chearavanont
84
85 **Class of 2026**
86 Jordan Gray
87 Dennis Keating
88 John Biddiscombe
89 Lisa Espinoza
90 Jae Hyeok Heo
91 Min Soo Kim
92 Swati Navani
93

94 **United Methodist Communities – Board of Directors**

- 95 **Class of 2026**
96 Gavin Stobie (2)
97 Brian Roberts (1)
98

99 **DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

100
101 **METRO HIGHLANDS REGION**

- 102
103 **Meadowlands – Rev. William Williams, III**
104 District Lay Leader: David Yamoah

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

2 **Class 2022**

3 Greg Harewood (L)

4 Esther Morales (C)

5 Scott Griffith (C)

6

7 **Class of 2023**

8 David Yamoah (L)

9 Wayne Jones (C)

10 Eileen Hirsch (L)

11

12 **Class 2024**

13 Prescott Butler (C)

14 Mike Ernst (L)

15 Judy Karius (L)

16

17 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

18 **Clergy**

19 Hyoik Kim

20 Veronica Palmer

21 Vivian Rodeffer

22 Sharon Yarger

23

24 **Laity**

25 David Yamoah

26 Peter Dewes

27 Penni Robinson

28 Krystal Woolston

29 Elsie Sternbach

30 Rosa Williams

31 Dan Park

32

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

34 **Clergy**

35 Kil Jae Park

36 Gabrielle Corbett

37 James Ryoo

38 Gary Frieze

39 David Le Duc

40 Amanda Hemenetz

41 Veronica Palmer

42 Janice Sutton Lynn

43 Esther Morales

44 Christina LeLache

45

46 **Laity**

47 Ebo Nkrumah

48 Sandra Cook-McKnight

49 Joanna Pearrich

50

51 **District Poverty Task Force**

52 **Clergy**

53 Manuel Cruz

54 Kay Dubuisson

55 Victor Peterson

56

57 **Laity**

58 Daniel Jimenez

59 David Yamoah

60 Diana Yamoah

61 Rosa Williams

62

63 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**

64 Diana Yamoah & Daniel Jimenez

65

66 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**

67 Kay Dubuisson

68

69 **District Youth Coordinator:**

70 Brenda Wheeler Ehlers

71

72 **Skylands – Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez**

73 District Lay Leader: Barbara Miller

74

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

76 **Class 2022**

77 Carla Constantino (C)

78 Ed Gilsky (L)

79 Tracey Gleason (L)

80

81 **Class 2023**

82 Ellen Bechtold (C)

83 Jeanette Zayac (L)

84 Joyce Mcknight-Young (L)

85

86 **Class 2024**

87 David Tillish (C)

88 JogIn Lee (C)

89 Bob Keller (L)

90

91 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**

92 **Clergy**

93 Todd Lattig

94 Dennis Chung

95 Marissa Van der Valk

96 Ninabeth Medcalf

97

98 **Laity**

99 Seon Ah Anh

100 Kim Burse

101 Manuel Vargas

102 Mary Bland

103 Barbara Miller

104 Sung Kwon Kim

105 Charles Nielsen

106

1 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶1666**
2 **Clergy**
3 Deb DeVos
4 Even Rohrs-Dodge
5 Miso Park
6 Nancy Robinson
7 Sung Hoon Ahn
8 Ninabeth Metcalf
9 Tim Nicinski
10
11 **Laity**
12 Ignace Conic
13 Seon Ah Ahn
14 Lee Haase
15 Barbara Miller
16
17 **District Poverty Task Force**
18 **Clergy**
19 Manuel Islas
20 Betty Horne
21 Tricia Piazza
22
23 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**
24 Cara Quick
25
26 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**
27 Scott Matt/ Jack Inglis
28
29 **District Youth Coordinator:**
30 Miso Park/ Korean
31
32 **Raritan Shore – Rev. Sang Won Doh**
33 District Lay Leader: Douglas Fontenello
34
35 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**
36 **Class 2022**
37 Kevin Davis (C)
38 Kevin Helsby (L)
39 Dean Peterson ((L)
40
41 **Class 2023**
42 Douglas Fontenello (L)
43 Tracy Estes, Chair (L)
44 Derrick Doherty (C)
45 **Class 2024**
46 Sang Hoon Choi (C)
47 Steven Yeske (L)
48 Kirk Huber (L)
49
50 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**
51 **Clergy**
52 Jennifer Cho
53 Victor Franco

54 Chuck Coblentz
55 Isabel Quezada
56
57 **Laity**
58 Tracy Allen
59 Peter Espeut
60 Douglas Fontenello
61 Jim Silkensen
62 Ken Helsby
63
64 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶1666**
65 **Clergy**
66 Alison Van Buskirk Philip (Chair
67 Cameron Overbey
68 Benjamin Lee
69 Kevin Davis
70 Jill Hubbard Smith
71 Hyun Hui Kim (Registrar)
72 Gina Yeske
73
74 **Laity**
75 Beth Crawford
76 Linda DeLukey
77
78 **District Poverty Task Force**
79 **Clergy**
80 David Edwards
81 Wil Wilson Jr. (Chair)
82 Marco Depestre
83 Vijay Kumar
84 Federico Quezada
85
86 **Laity**
87 Cynthia Barlett
88 Helen Hunter
89 Dorian Gagliadi
90 Joy Kalfus
91 Brian Richard
92 Avery Grant
93
94 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**
95 Donald Schultz
96
97 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**
98 Kevin Davis
99
100 **District Youth Coordinator:**
101
102 **COASTAL PLAINS REGION**
103
104 **CENTRAL** - Héctor A Burgos
105 **District Lay Leader:** Judy Di Cecco
106

- 1 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**
- 2 **Class 2022**
- 3 John Taylor III, Chair (L)
- 4 Jim Conway (L)
- 5 Rupert Hall (C)
- 6
- 7 **Class 2023**
- 8 Charles Soper (C)
- 9 Keith Sheppard (L)
- 10 Jesse Ruch (C)
- 11
- 12 **Class 2024**
- 13 Michael Wright (L)
- 14 Dennis Poane (L)
- 15
- 16 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**
- 17 **Clergy**
- 18 Brian Joyce – Chair
- 19 Erik Matson
- 20 Jessica Stenstrom
- 21 Wade Jackson
- 22
- 23 **Laity**
- 24 Judy Di Cecco
- 25 Patricia Love
- 26
- 27 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**
- 28 **Clergy**
- 29 Jenn Smith-Walz, chair
- 30 Karen Murray, Co-Registrar
- 31 Samuel Park (BOOM)
- 32 Brian Joyce
- 33 Richard Romero
- 34 Evan Dodge, Co-Registrar
- 35 Sunny Shim
- 36 Jonathan Campbell
- 37 Jessica Stenstrom
- 38 Anna Gillette
- 39
- 40 **Laity**
- 41 Julie Dixon-Thomas
- 42 Jeneene Reduker
- 43 Emmet Bivins
- 44 Fred Muller
- 45
- 46 **District Poverty Task Force**
- 47 **Clergy**
- 48 Waleska Trinidad
- 49 Ruppert Hall
- 50
- 51 **Laity**
- 52 Judy Di Cecco
- 53
- 54 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**
- 55 Laura Jaskot
- 56
- 57 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**
- 58 TBD
- 59
- 60 **District Youth Coordinator:**
- 61
- 62 **Delaware Bay - Glenn Conaway**
- 63 District Lay Leader: Terri Ganderton
- 64
- 65 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**
- 66 **Class 2022**
- 67 Neil Neal (L)
- 68 Paul Graham (L)
- 69 Walt Mander (C)
- 70
- 71 **Class 2023**
- 72 Walt Kellen (C)
- 73 Joann Goldsborough (L)
- 74 Ron Sandmeyer (L)
- 75
- 76 **Class 2024**
- 77 Jay Brown (L)
- 78 Mike Bill (C)
- 79 Jim Neiland (L)
- 80
- 81 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**
- 82 **Clergy**
- 83 Steve Herman
- 84 Tiffany Murphy
- 85 David Strobe
- 86 Shelley Smith
- 87 Steve Elliott
- 88 Sandra Callahan
- 89
- 90 **Laity**
- 91 Terri Ganderton
- 92 Cynthia Mosley
- 93 Elwood Breon
- 94 Dawn Flitcraft
- 95
- 96 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**
- 97 **Clergy**
- 98 Jim Bolton
- 99 Carol Davies
- 100 Javier Barroso
- 101 Doug Goldsborough
- 102 Chuck Mitchell
- 103 John Inverso
- 104 Walt Kellen
- 105 Tom Lank
- 106

1 **Laity**
2 Belinda Hall
3 Janet Holdcraft
4 Sally Durham
5 Ralph Skeels
6
7 **District Poverty Task Force**
8 **Clergy**
9 Jack Fosbenner
10 Ricardo Ramos
11
12 **Laity**
13 Cynthia Mosley
14
15 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**
16
17 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**
18
19 **District Youth Coordinator:**
20
21 **Cape Atlantic – Jana Purkis-Brash**
22 District Lay Leader: Carolyn Pendleton
23
24 **Board of Church and Location ¶2519**
25 **Class 2022**
26 Jonathan Johnson, Chair (L)
27 Chris Antolini (L)
28
29 **Class 2023**
30 Mark Gibson (L)
31 Lyssette Perez (C)
32
33 **Class 2024**
34 Tom Novak (C)
35 Allen Maddox (L)
36 Nicole Troast (C)
37
38 **Committee on District Superintendency ¶669**
39 **Clergy**
40 Linda Ross
41 Ginnie Keiser (RL)
42 Hey Young Nam Horton
43 Doug Spencer
44

45 **Laity**
46 Carolyn Pendleton
47 Meredith Neeley
48 James Baker
49 Debbie Tai
50 Normary Rodriguez
51 Carl Henry
52
53 **District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶666**
54 **Clergy**
55 Dr. David Montanye chair
56 Dr. Robert Williams
57 David Ledford III
58 Glenn Scheyhing D
59 Dr. Linda Ross
60 Erik Hall
61
62 **Laity**
63 Carolyn Pendleton
64 Michelle Lee
65 Alma Matos
66
67 **District Poverty Task Force**
68 **Laity**
69 David Dorfman
70 Carolyn Taylor
71 Van Taylor
72 Amy Charleston
73 Emily Bruley
74 Joe Neidinger
75
76 **District Director of Lay Servant Ministries:**
77 Janice Betts
78
79 **District Disaster Response Coordinator:**
80
81 **District Youth Coordinator:**
82
83 **Mission Central Coordinator:**
84 Rev. Nicole Troast
85
86

1 **Conference Advanced Specials**

2
3 **Be It Resolved** that the 2022 Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference designates the following
4 ministries and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2023 conference year (without restricting
5 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 any
8 additions and deletions to the Conference Advance Specials list based upon recommendations of the
9 Conference Board of Global Ministries.
10

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

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

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

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

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

42 **First Friends of New Jersey and New York** With the expansion of detention centers in New Jersey, the need
43 to provide advocacy, research and social services to detained and released detainees has increasingly grown.
44 We provide a link to the outside world by providing toll free lines (English & Spanish) in five different
45 detention facilities where more than 2000 individuals are detained, and through visiting individuals in
46 detention. Our Pen-pal Program allows volunteers who cannot visit to write to detainees.
47

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

9
10 **The Neighborhood Center** has served the Camden community since 1913. Today, they are a community
11 center that provides a healthy and nutritious lunch six days a week, day care, an after-school program, and
12 an evening teen program. We focus on a two-generation approach to lift families out of poverty. Our
13 commitment is to provide a safe space for Academic achievement, Athletic accomplishment, and a
14 flourishing Arts program. Our hope and vision for the next century of service is to create a "community living
15 room."

16
17 **Pennington School** A college preparatory institution affiliated with the Methodist Church, reflecting the
18 principles espoused by John Wesley and core values of Honor, Virtue, and Humility. Students experience an
19 environment where talents and values are forged for making a positive difference in the world. We provide
20 half scholarships for diversity of students in grade 6 to 12.

21
22 **Ranch Hope/Victory House** Ranch Hope provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16 ½ and Victory House
23 provides services to troubled girls between the ages of 14–18 years. We are faith-based and provide learning
24 environments for youths and teenagers whose need can best be met through experiences outside their
25 homes. They can obtain or regain their long-term academic, behavioral, and spiritual focus in our residential
26 setting. Counseling, housing and recreation is offered, as well as spiritual guidance, time to attend chapel
27 services and Bible study. We are licensed by the New Jersey State Department of Children and Families.

28
29 **The Maker's Place** is an initiative of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. The goal is to
30 connect neighbors in Trenton with neighbors in central New Jersey and beyond, by opening a neighborhood
31 resource center that empowers underrepresented populations in our capital city. The Maker's Place is a site
32 for local mission and ministry. Starting with initiatives centered around food and families, The Maker's Place
33 will cultivate transformative relationships that help people build bridges out of poverty and create a
34 multiethnic and economically diverse community hub where all people can experience the wide welcome of
35 God.

36
37 Submitted by Isabel R. Quezada

38 39 **Trustees Enabling Resolutions**

40
41 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby
42 ratifies, approves, and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual
43 Session.

44
45 **Be it further resolved** that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual
46 Conference of The United Methodist Church and prior to the 2023 Annual Session, any property, real
47 or personal, that is conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person,
48 firm, partnership, or corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its

1 discretion, provided that the same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to refuse to accept, or accept
2 and then sell, transfer, lease or convey any such real or personal property for such price and at such time or
3 times and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
4 Conference of The United Methodist Church shall determine; and
5

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

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

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

29 **Be it further resolved** that after this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of
30 The United Methodist Church and prior to the 2023 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees of the Greater
31 New Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of all staff housing including but
32 not limited to District parsonages, Director of Connectional Ministries, Camping Staff, Episcopal Residence
33 and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary and advisable and in accordance with
34 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The Conference Board of Trustees is hereby
35 authorized and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale and such other documents as may be
36 necessary to effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such properties. Such properties, real or personal,
37 may be sold or acquired from any person or persons, firm, partnership, or corporation upon such terms and
38 conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist
39 Church shall determine; and
40

41 **Be it further resolved** that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual
42 Conference of The United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such
43 deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of such
44 conference-owned properties; and
45
46

1 **Be it further resolved** that the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United
2 Methodist Church, be and are hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Annual Conference in any and all
3 lawsuits or legal actions in which the Annual Conference is named.

4 Submitted by Mathew J. Enzler
5

6 **Church Closures**

7

8 Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings
9 made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the following
10 congregations:

11
12 Embury United Methodist Church, Collingswood, NJ
13

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

17
18 Be it further resolved, that in keeping with the provisions of Paragraph 229 of the Book of the Discipline,
19 2017 edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of
20 their choice.

21
22 Be it further resolved, that through its budget fund distribution percentages for the sale of property, Greater
23 New Jersey Annual Conference distribute net proceeds after all outstanding loans and other obligations
24 owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference or any other creditor shall be repaid upon the sale of the
25 property, and liquidation of any other assets.

26
27 Be it further resolved, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2016 edition,
28 all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping
29 with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.
30

31 Be it further resolved that the remaining funds from the sale of the church after all debt and obligations have
32 been paid will be disbursed according to the legislation as approved by the January 22, 2021.
33

34 Submitted by the Greater New Jersey Cabinet
35

36 **Pension and Health Benefits**

37

38 **Be it resolved** that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, be set at \$742
39 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.
40

41 **Be it further resolved**

- 42 1. That effective January 1, 2023, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to sponsor
43 CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time and one-half time clergy and continue to sponsor UMPIP for
44 those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
- 45 2. That contributions for January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for the Clergy Retirement Security
46 Program for full-time and less-than-full-time (¾-time & ½-time) clergy and for Conference sponsored
47 UMPIP Plan for ¼-time clergy, be set at 14% of plan compensation. The increased percentage

1 includes 5% for administrative costs and 7% uncollectable fees per the 2020 approved budget set by
2 Special Session of Annual Conference on October 26, 2020.

- 3 3. That contributions for January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for the Comprehensive Protection
4 Plan be set at 3.4% of plan compensation for full-time and ¾-time ordained clergy, and for
5 Conference Sponsored UMLife Options for ½-time ordained clergy to be set 2.2% of plan
6 compensation. That local churches may sponsor ¼-time ordained clergy and ¾-time part-time local
7 pastors in UMLife Options. The increased percentages for CPP and UMLifeOptions includes 5% for
8 administrative costs and 7% uncollectable fees per the 2020 approved budget set by Special Session
9 of Annual Conference on October 26, 2020.
- 10 4. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2022, unless
11 otherwise stated.
- 12 5. That the following members of the former Southern Conference be included in terms of eligibility for
13 conference-paid health benefits. Specifically, the following persons, upon becoming annuitants with
14 at least 10 years of service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits: Jae Jeong Shim,
15 Mildred E. Bender, J. Evans Dodds, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh, William R. Hess, and Charles D.
16 Mitchell.
- 17 6. That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits upon retirement
18 and receiving an annuity.
- 19 7. That Rev. Patricia Bruger’s actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from June
20 16, 1995, through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service year credits
21 to determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment responsibility upon
22 retirement.
- 23 8. That the following clergy be subject to five years “under appointment through the Conference
24 immediately prior to retirement” to meet eligibility requirements for health benefits in retirement,
25 rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 Annual Conference meeting (Paragraph 3 under
26 Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the following persons, if, at the time
27 of retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for health insurance in retirement, shall be
28 granted under this provision: Rev. Vena Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen, Rev. Christina Zito.
- 29 9. That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated with
30 the adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to \$10,000 per child upon the presentation of the
31 necessary documentation.
- 32 10. The Greater NJ Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to
33 rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the
34 Conference:

35
36 **Be it resolved** that an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from
37 plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which
38 includes all such payments from the Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period July 1, 2022
39 through June 30, 2023, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member
40 of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each
41 such clergyperson; and

42
43 That the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation
44 applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized
45 under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that

1 provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under
2 the *Discipline*, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a
3 retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual
4 conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former
5 denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to
6 perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make
7 contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a
8 terminated, or a disabled clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her
9 gross compensation.

10
11 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson's gross income in any year
12 for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section
13 107(2), and regulations there under, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance
14 designated by the clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference
15 in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or
16 provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and
17 appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former
18 clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is
19 eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

- 20
- 21 1. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2023, be reimbursed for one-time moving expenses up to
22 \$5,000.00 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This
23 reimbursement is limited to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company packing costs.
24 Clergy are required to make every effort to obtain three bids to the Board of Pension & Health
25 Benefits prior to final approval. The same benefits and restrictions shall also apply to a surviving
26 spouse moving out of the parsonage upon the death of a pastor while in active service in the Annual
27 Conference, and to those entering disabled relationships.
 - 28 2. That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications to
29 the current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to the Plan
30 that could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be studied and
31 enacted as the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include increased participant
32 deductibles, co-payments, greater use of generic medications, and other avenues of cost saving and
33 sharing. Such changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the Cabinet.
 - 34 3. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval
35 printed in the 2022 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

36
37 Submitted by Jennifer Cho
38

39 **2023 Budget Recommendation**

40
41 Whereas in 2021, the world and GNJ continued to go through an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that
42 negatively impacted the ministry of our churches and their spending; and

1 Whereas normally the 2023 Shared Ministry Apportionment for each GNJ congregation is determined by
2 multiplying the congregation's spending in 2021 (inputted by each congregation in the GCFA Ezra database)
3 by a percentage set by the annual conference; and

4 Whereas the 2021-year spending was dramatically impacted by the pandemic and the spending is
5 significantly different than normal trends; and

6 Whereas the strength of giving expected of a congregation for 2023 is not reflected in the 2021 Statistical
7 Report numbers;

8 Therefore, be it resolved that the 2023 Shared Ministry Apportionment for each congregation be calculated
9 using the average of the 2019 and 2021 Statistical Report data; and

10 Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopt the 2023 Budget that includes the
11 following:

- 12 1. A consolidated budget that includes all billings to congregations, GNJ ministry and mission,
13 administration and property, and general church apportionments.
- 14 2. 15.3% shared ministry apportionment, 12.3% for GNJ shared ministry and 3.0% for general church
15 apportionment.
- 16 3. Salary and support for six district superintendents.
- 17 4. \$1.185 million from property sales and \$200,000 from 2021 surplus to support congregations with
18 their billings.
 - 19 a. Additional property sale proceeds beyond the \$1.185 million budgeted to support
20 congregations with their billings ("investable proceeds"), will be deposited into the approved
21 designated funds according to the plan developed by CFA so that all funds except the four
22 listed below reach their targets by 2026, or sooner; after which, funds will be deposited in
23 accordance with the annual conference policy to allocate property sale proceeds to the
24 Harvest Mission Fund (50%), Strategic Disciple Making Fund (20%), Retiree Health Care Fund
25 (15%) and Property Redevelopment Fund (15%).
 - 26 b. For 2023, the investable proceeds will be deposited as follows: 92% to Retiree Health Care
27 Fund and 8% as directed by CFA to funds as needed to achieve the goal amount.
- 28 5. \$449,394 from GNJ designated funds.
- 29 6. Qualifying congregations identified according to the Journey of Hope Equity Shared Ministry
30 legislation will be apportioned as approved by previous annual conference legislation according to
31 the formula outlined in the A Journey of Hope report and legislation
32
- 33 7. The monthly statements provided to congregations include the following.
 - 34 a. The total apportionment to the congregation for GNJ shared ministry.
 - 35 b. The total apportionment to the congregation on behalf of the general church.
 - 36 c. Direct billings to the congregation from GNJ, which include but is not limited to, blended rate
37 for active healthcare and incremental contributions for self-elected benefits (health, dental,
38 vision, and health reimbursement accounts) for active pastors/lay employees, workers
39 compensation, property insurance and back payments for past billings
40

41 Submitted by Vasanth Victor

42
43

	2023	Approved 2022
Income		
GNJ Shared Ministry Apportionment	6,852,258	7,129,164
GNJ portion of General Church MEF	67,918	67,171
Local Church Billing Revenue	15,723,542	13,908,578
Centenary Fund	700,000	700,000
Designated Funds	449,394	578,535
Property Sale Revenue	1,185,000	1,732,000
Grants and Donations	148,205	110,470
Registrations	269,750	163,500
Shared Services	45,000	45,000
Total Income	<u>25,441,067</u>	<u>24,434,419</u>
Expenses		
Personnel		
GNJ Staff	5,008,124	
Clergy Benefit Billings	8,807,394	
Retiree Health Insurance	2,037,175	
Total All Personnel	15,852,693	15,668,304
Leadership Development	175,318	185,800
Congregational Development	1,068,250	1,016,500
Mission and Justice Ministries	1,283,000	1,027,842
Agency Budgets	70,100	76,300
Administration	428,750	392,120
Communications	551,000	554,500
Property	6,203,140	5,457,270
Bridge Fund	0	50,000
Total GNJ Expenses	<u>25,632,251</u>	<u>24,428,636</u>
GNJ Income Over / (Under) Expenses	<u>(191,184)</u>	<u>5,783</u>
2021 Surplus funds	<u>200,000</u>	
Net surplus / (deficit)	<u>8,816</u>	
<u>General Church Apportionments</u>		
Apportionment Base	63,963,783	66,264,500
General Church Apportionment \$'s	1,924,950	1,924,950
General Church Apportionment %	3.0%	2.9%

1 **2022 Budget Addendum Legislation**

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A vibrant and vital young people’s ministry is essential for the health and vitality of GNJ.

In 1996 the camping and retreat ministry was incorporated to reduce liability for the annual conference related to camping ministry. The new nonprofit organization, Conference Committee on Camps and Retreats (CCCR) owned and operated the camps and their ministry. In 2017, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey voted to expand the oversight of CCCR and changed the name of CCCR to be Next Generation Ministries (Next Gen). Next Gen was tasked to provide direction and oversight to youth and campus ministries, in addition to camping.

Since 2017, the Next Generation Ministries' Board of Trustees and staff made progress on the implementation of the Next Generation Ministries 10-Year Strategic Plan for GNJ growing Ignite to more than 1,500 participants, expanding campus ministries from 3 to 8, and developing the leadership of young people’s ministries. While there was significant progress, two challenges have been hard to overcome.

1. Camping and retreat ministries at the Pinelands Center and Camp Aldersgate is not sustainable because over many years there has been a shift in the value ascribed to camping by families, a decrease in the number of young people in our congregations, the failure to modernize camping and retreat centers and the lack of resources to address deferred maintenance.
2. The COVID-19 Pandemic which hit and cancelled many programs and events.

Operating as a separate nonprofit has added costs to Next Gen for auditing, accounting and operations at a time when camping and retreat ministry was declining, and the pandemic inhibited other programs that were growing, like IGNITE for example.

Next Gen as a separate corporation is no longer sustainable - yet a vibrant and vital young people’s ministry is essential for the health and vitality of GNJ.

Next Gen has a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan that remains viable once the pandemic is over. To bridge to that time and reactivate conference-wide young people ministry, the board of Next Gen with the support of the GNJ Council of Finance and Administration has voted to fold back the Next Gen program and ministry back into GNJ programming and accounting. This would simplify accounting and operations and save money. The ministry will operate with a balanced budget and not require additional funding through shared ministry. The Next Gen entity would not be closed but be made dormant for now.

Whereas Next Gen as a separate corporation is no longer sustainable - yet a vibrant and vital young people’s ministry is essential for the health and vitality of GNJ.

Whereas Next Generation Ministries (Next Gen) and GNJ remain committed to the very important youth ministry programs and developing the next generation of disciples.

Whereas GNJ’s Council on Finance and Administration supports the decision to have the separate legal entity associated with Next Gen go dormant and to consolidate the operations of these ministries back into GNJ’s operating budget.

Whereas this is a budget neutral change and will have no impact on Next Gen’s progress towards its goals while providing GNJ’s Annual Conference greater transparency on where money is being spent and significantly simplify the accounting process.

1 **Be it resolved** that the Next Gen board will continue in an advisory capacity to the ministry of Next Gen; and
 2
 3 **Be it further resolved** that the Next Gen budget as identified in the following table be merged with the GNJ
 4 budget and going forward the Next Gen finances be reported in GNJ financial reporting.
 5
 6

GNJ 2022 Budget Addendum

	<u>2022</u>
<u>Next Gen Income:</u>	
GNJ Contribution	170,000
Reserve Interest (Aldersgate Proceeds)	25,000
Camping	13,500
Youth Activities	139,500
Total Income	<u>348,000</u>
<u>Next Gen Expenses:</u>	
Personnel	113,612
Operations	6,000
Camping	71,500
Youth Activities	181,100
Total Expenses	<u>372,212</u>
Next Gen Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(24,212)</u>
<u>Changes to GNJ 2022 Expense budget</u>	
Audit (change in audit firm)	(23,000)
Postage/supplies	(1,500)
Net Change in GNJ Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>288</u>
(vs. October 2021 Adjourned Session)	

7
 8
 9 Submitted by Vasanth Victor, Eric Drew, Sam Perez

1 **Local Church Contributions to the BSA Bankruptcy Settlement**

2
3 **BACKGROUND**

4
5 The BSA filed bankruptcy in February of 2020 to address sexual abuse claims against the BSA dating from
6 1939 to 2020. An Ad Hoc Committee – comprised of eight annual conference chancellors, two lawyers from
7 the General Council on Finance and Administration, two staff members of the General Commission on
8 United Methodist Men, and two bishops – has been providing oversight to legal counsel retained by the Ad
9 Hoc Committee to look out for the interests of the alleged survivors and all United Methodist congregations
10 that have chartered BSA troops. More than 9,000 United Methodist congregations, including 202 in GNJ,
11 filed proofs of claim in the BSA bankruptcy case.
12

13 United Methodists participated in the bankruptcy mediation process with five goals.

- 14 1. Healing and support for survivors
- 15 2. Releases from claims related to sexual abuse for United Methodist congregations that chartered Boy
16 Scout troops and Cub packs
- 17 3. Releases for all charter organizations
- 18 4. Preservation of congregations’ and annual conferences’ insurance
- 19 5. A fair and just financial settlement
20

21 Pending court approval of the settlement agreement in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy case,
22 United Methodists have agreed to contribute \$30 million to a \$3 billion Survivor Trust Fund that will receive
23 contributions from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), insurance companies and charter organizations.
24

25 In addition to a financial contribution to the Survivors Trust Fund, United Methodists are committing to the
26 following:

- 27 1. Provide an opportunity for survivors to share their experiences and hopes for the church
- 28 2. Publish a series of articles about the Boy Scout bankruptcy case and the sexual abuse of young
29 people in denominational publications and U.S. annual conference communication resources.
- 30 3. Review all Safe Sanctuary/Ministry Safe policies and procedures for congregations in the U.S. to
31 ensure they are up to date and are being followed.
- 32 4. Ensure that all BSA chartered organizations receive a release for Boy Scout-related claims. While
33 United Methodists have the capacity to organize and have legal representation, most chartering
34 organizations do not. Small community nonprofits, small denominations (including sister
35 denominations of the Pan-Methodist Commission), parent-teacher associations, grange halls and
36 many other chartered organizations were not represented in the mediation process, leaving them
37 vulnerable to future lawsuits. Our United Methodist mediators advocated for their release from BSA
38 claims, not only to assist them but also to help ensure that scouting will be able to continue. As part
39 of securing the release for all charter organizations, United Methodists committed to work toward
40 raising an additional \$100 million from chartering organizations for whom we helped to obtain a
41 release. This is to be a good faith effort and the \$100 million is a goal, not a guarantee.
- 42 5. The Methodist Church will provide a representative to the survivor working group that will work to
43 make Scouting and youth programs safer for young people.
44
45

1 **Whereas** GNJ has been allocated the amount of \$910,420 as our contribution to the \$30M settlement in the
2 BSA bankruptcy case,
3

4 **Whereas** GNJ Council on Finance and Administration and Board of Trustees unanimously approved, using the
5 emergency fund distribution provision of the Designated Fund Policy, to contribute to GNJ's \$910,420 share
6 of the \$30M settlement, which is to be paid following the court settlement so that survivors can receive
7 compensation quickly and fairly,
8

9 **And whereas,** United Methodists of Greater New Jersey do not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind and have
10 consistently worked to keep young people safe, and are committed to the financial restitution, healing,
11 educational and preventative commitments of the BSA bankruptcy settlement,
12

13 **Be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference affirms GNJ participating in the BSA
14 Bankruptcy settlement, including the contribution to the Survivor Trust Fund.
15

16 **Be it further resolved** that every GNJ congregation participate in the commitments of the BSA Settlement,
17 including:
18

- 19 ● To review, update and implement their Safe Sanctuaries policy.
- 20 ● Share articles about the BSA bankruptcy case and settlement.
- 21 ● Participate in the opportunity for survivors to share their experience and hopes for the church.
22

23 **Be it further resolved** that CFA and the Board of Trustees contribute 25% of the \$910,420 settlement
24 contribution to assist with the settlement cost.
25

26 **Be it further resolved** that the remaining balance of GNJ's financial contribution to the settlement be billed
27 to each congregation proportionately to their 2021 shared ministry percentage over a three-year period of
28 time to ensure equitable distribution.
29

- 30 ● \$910,420 total GNJ Survivor Trust Fund Contribution
- 31 ● Share of CFA and Board of Trustees is \$227,605 contribution
- 32 ● Share of GNJ congregations in aggregate is \$682,815 contribution Illustrative calculation for a
33 church with a \$15,000 yearly shared ministry apportionment:
 - 34 ● 0.15% is the proportional allocation for this congregation with a \$15,000 shared ministry
35 apportionment relative to the total shared ministry allocation to all GNJ churches.
 - 36 ● \$1,024 is the congregation's allocation
 - 37 ● \$340 per year over 3 years is the church's contribution to the Survivor Trust
38

39 Submitted by Vasanth Victor
40

41 **Arrearage Policy for Clergy Salaries** 42

43 **Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Conference adopt the following arrearage policy for Clergy**
44 **Salaries:**
45

- 46 1. In the event that the local church treasurer becomes aware that the church will be unable to provide
47 to the pastor full payment of a regularly scheduled salary, or housing allowance installment, or

1 pension payment, or health insurance payment, the church treasurer shall immediately notify both
2 verbally (within 24 hours) and in writing (within 3 days) the Pastor, the Lay Leader, and the Chairs of
3 S/PPRC, Finance, Trustees, and the Church Council or equivalent of the impending arrearage. Upon
4 receipt of such notice, the Chair of S/PPRC and/or the Pastor shall immediately notify the District
5 Superintendent and congregation of the impending arrearage. It is the pastor's responsibility to keep
6 copies of all such written notifications, and to provide additional written confirmation to the District
7 Superintendent when an arrearage has taken place. Failure to document salary or benefit arrearages
8 may result in a loss of compensation.

- 9
- 10 2. Upon receipt of notice of a pending arrearage, the Chair of S/PPRC shall meet with the Pastor, Lay
11 Leader, and Chairs of Finance, Trustees, and the Church Council to discuss the financial situation and
12 seek remedies to prevent an arrearage from occurring. Consistent with The Book of Discipline ¶1624,
13 such remedies cannot include a reduction in the Pastor's compensation until the beginning of the
14 next Conference year.
 - 15
 - 16 3. If after consultation among these leaders it becomes apparent that the church may be facing a long-
17 term financial crisis, the Chair of S/PPRC shall notify in writing the Pastor, congregation, and District
18 Superintendent to consider potential solutions including but not limited to developing a payment
19 plan so that the pastor receives full payment of compensation, full benefit payments are made by
20 the end of the fiscal and/or appointment year. The District Superintendent may refer this to another
21 appropriate resource person to work with the church towards resolution of the situation.
 - 22
 - 23 4. If the local church is already receiving a subsidy grant, the District Superintendent or designee will
24 determine if all subsidy grant funds allocated to the church were used to pay the pastor's salary.
 - 25
 - 26 5. It is the responsibility of the pastor to provide evidence of an arrearage by providing documentation
27 such as: Treasurer's Reports, Charge Conference reports, check stubs, etc.
 - 28
 - 29 6. The statute of limitations for any salary arrearage is one year from the date of the initial
30 arrearage. However, once an appointment ends the Pastor no longer has claim on the local church
31 for compensation funds (¶1342.4).
 - 32

33 Submitted by Steven Bechtold

34

35 **Standards for Parsonages (Revised January 2022)**

36

37 Be It Resolved that the following recommendation be adopted as the standards for parsonages for GNJUMC
38 effective July 1, 2022.

39 **Responsible Group in the Church**

40

41 The Book of Discipline does not mandate a parsonage committee; however, it is strongly recommended that
42 each local church which has responsibility for a parsonage form a parsonage committee. The committee will
43 follow-up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health and safety of the pastor
44 and/or pastor's family (much like a landlord). The chairpersons of the S/PPRC, Board of Trustees and the
45 pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance and up-
46 keep. (¶1258.2 g(16) and ¶12532.4).

1 **Standards for Existing Parsonages**

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

4
5 For existing parsonages, each local charge shall provide and maintain the following furnishings, equipment,
6 and services:

- 7 1. Living room and family room furniture.
- 8 2. Dining room furniture.
- 9 3. Kitchen appliances including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust fan, and
10 dishwasher.
- 11 4. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc. that may be different from one charge to
12 another.
- 13 5. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.
- 14 6. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels/basic cable package), high speed
15 internet service fast enough to support streaming where available, and one telephone line (cell or
16 land line). As churches/parsonages are located in a variety of geographical areas, we encourage
17 discussion at the local church level to provide comparable communication services and cost saving
18 measures such as bundling of services.
- 19 7. Floor coverings (solid surfaces are preferred).
- 20 8. Functioning window shades and blinds, or curtains/drapes.
- 21 9. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall be at
22 least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide
23 detectors are to be in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties and certificate
24 of occupancy.
- 25 10. Closets or free-standing storage units in each bedroom.
- 26 11. Drive and walkways should be hard surfaced.
- 27 12. Minimally acceptable outside light for safety to illuminate walkways and driveways.
- 28 13. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the
29 parsonage, that local church is responsible to pay for this service.
- 30 14. Suitable equipment for lawn care and snow removal corresponding to the size and condition of
31 lawns/driveways/walkways and/or appropriate lawn/plowing services.
- 32 15. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishings shall include a
33 desk, desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor’s library, additional chairs, and a
34 locking filing cabinet.
- 35 16. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
- 36 17. Parsonages shall be supplied with adequate HVAC systems commensurate with local conditions.
- 37 18. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
- 38 19. The septic or sewer system shall be fully functional and meet the needs of the parsonage family.
39 Maintenance of septic systems is the responsibility of the church.
- 40 20. In parsonages where there is a well, testing of water on a periodic basis should be done consistent
41 with local health codes for rental properties.
- 42 21. Radon testing is to be done periodically consistent with EPA standards and local requirements.

43
44 **Additional Suggestions**

- 45 1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician
- 46 2. Roof inspection every five (5) years
- 47 3. Energy audits every five (5) years

48

1 **Responsibility**

2 **1. Each pastor is responsible for:**

- 3 a. Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs
- 4 b. Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware,
5 flatware, cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories
- 6 c. The following regular maintenance
 - 7 i. Routine cleaning
 - 8 ii. Floor maintenance
 - 9 iii. Trash disposal and recycling
- 10 d. It is expected that the pastor shall provide tenant (renters) insurance to cover property loss
11 and personal liability.
- 12 e. Restitution for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.
- 13 f. At the time of a move, the current pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture from
14 the parsonage and property and shall leave the parsonage in a “broom clean” state. Pastors
15 are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces such as kitchen counters, appliances
16 and cabinets, bathroom fixtures, and church owned furniture that has been used by the
17 parsonage family during their time in the parsonage.

18
19 **2. Each charge shall provide:**

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

34
35 **3. Miscellaneous**

- 36 a. The parsonage is the pastor’s home for his/her tenure in that church or charge. S/he has,
37 therefore, the responsibility to care for the home and its furnishings from damage by pets or
38 people and, if it is damaged, to return the home to a condition equal to that when s/he
39 received it to use. If an item of furniture is damaged beyond repair, s/he is obligated to
40 replace it.
- 41 b. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged. However, if
42 s/he does own furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the parsonage, and parsonage
43 furnishings have to be stored, s/he should make every effort to store it properly, so it is in
44 good condition and does not suffer damage from being in storage. The site or method of
45 storage for any church owned furniture shall be determined by mutual agreement between
46 the pastor and the Board of Trustees. The pastor assumes financial responsibility for the
47 storage of any unused furniture.

- c. The pastor's family shall be permitted to purchase an all-electronic vehicle (EV) or a plugin hybrid and charge it at the parsonage. The expense of the charger and any electrical improvements to the parsonage are the sole responsibility of the pastor's family. All improvements to the parsonage must be approved by the local church board of Trustees and must meet all applicable local codes. Before purchasing the said vehicle, the pastor's family and the appropriate committees in the church must negotiate how the increased electrical expenses will be handled.
- d. We recommend that in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the Church Conference paperwork, there be a complete video/photo inventory of all church-owned furnishings in the parsonage. The inventory and all videos and photos should be updated annually as needed.
- e. It is the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to be acquainted with the parsonage and, after a new pastoral appointment is made, meet with the incoming parsonage family to discuss the minimum acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet annually thereafter with the parsonage family.
- f. At the time of a new pastoral appointment, the chairs of the S/PPRC and the Board of Trustees, the current pastor and the incoming pastor will walk through the parsonage together for inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church Conference parsonage inspection report as a guide.
- g. In order to respect the privacy of clergy and families, the church has a responsibility to make an appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the household prior to visiting the parsonage at any time.
- h. Given the great differences in housing costs throughout GNJ, a church and/or pastor who wishes to provide for a housing allowance rather than providing a parsonage must take into consideration comparable housing costs for that community to set an appropriate allowance that provides for the pastor and his/her family needs. Churches and pastors exploring this option should be in conversation with the District Superintendent at the very beginning of these considerations to understand the implications for future appointments, and the Disciplinary requirements for potential sale of an existing parsonage if applicable.

4. Multiple Church Appointments and Clergy Couples

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

Standards for Parsonages (Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)

- 1. All parsonages shall meet local requirements for a Certificate of Occupancy.
- 2. The District Committee on Church Location and Building must be consulted in developing plans for all purchases or construction of a new parsonage.
- 3. All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the Book of Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions.

1 *Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as a*
2 *bedroom by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible laundry*
3 *facilities (§2544.4d)*

- 4 4. Churches considering selling their current parsonage and purchasing a new one need to explore
5 property tax implications as well as leans on the property that may need to be considered in
6 potential financing.
7

8 **Option 1**

- 9 1. The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing, thus contributing
10 towards keeping maintenance costs lower.
11 2. The following room requirements:
12 a. Living Room/Family Room
13 b. Dining Room
14 c. Kitchen
15 d. Study
16 e. Baths (2)
17 f. Bedrooms (3)
18 3. A minimal electrical service of 200 amperes
19 4. A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools,
20 garden equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
21 5. Space to store large articles of furniture/equipment
22 6. The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows
23 7. Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This consideration
24 might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the community and
25 the church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its future growth.
26

27 **Option 2**

- 28 1. The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing, leasing,
29 renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the District
30 Superintendent, the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District Committee
31 on Church Location and Building
32 2. The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the “traditional” church parsonage for
33 ministry in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is difficult
34 to recommend a single standard for such settings.
35

36 **Appeals**

37 Appeals by the churches or pastors on any of the above provisions should be made to the District
38 Superintendent who has the final authority to interpret and implement the foregoing standards.
39

40 Submitted by Steven Bechtold
41
42

1 **Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2023**

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

Be It Resolved That the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopt the following recommendation for required minimum salary for persons under full-time appointment in the local church effective January 1, 2023.

- a. Elder and Deacon in Full Connection: \$50,735
- b. Provisional and Associate Members: \$47,160
- c. Full Time Local Pastor: \$44,625

Any changes in clergy ministry salaries related to a change in clergy status through ordination, commissioning, or licensing in 2022 will become effective as of January 1, 2023.

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

For purposes of pension credit and years of service calculations, the minimum equitable salary for ¾ time pastoral appointments shall be ¾ of the required minimum in the pastor’s cash salary. The minimum equitable salary for ½ time pastoral appointments shall be ½ of the required minimum. All appointments less than ½ shall be considered ¼ time appointments, and salaries shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the local church S/PPRC.

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

All full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage that meets parsonage standards adopted by GNJ or a housing/rental allowance as part of their total compensation package.

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

Vacation Policy:

All pastors regardless of full or part time status shall be entitled to receive the following vacation per appointment year:
4 weeks (including 4 Sundays) of vacation consistent with the average work week; with 5 weeks (including 5 Sundays) after 10 years of full-time or equivalent part time service consistent with the Clergy Service Record.

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

5
6 In setting clergy compensation, local church Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees are encouraged to
7 consider a minimum of \$300 per year of service increment above the basic minimum compensation up to a
8 maximum 15 years. Years of service are determined by the number of full-time years (or equivalent) fully
9 completed prior to January 1, 2023.

10
11 Submitted by Steven Bechtold

12
13 **Proposed Amendment to Rule 64, Concerning Nominations for Delegates to the**
14 **General and Jurisdictional Conferences (Substitute for Prior Proposals By Gyuchang Sim,**
15 **The Rules Committee, and Creed Pogue)**

16
17 **Whereas,** At the last Annual Conference session, there was pending legislation on Rule 64 regarding
18 nominations for delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences;

19
20 **And whereas,** the Rules Committee had recommended in favor of a proposal by Gyuchang Sim (as modified),
21 and recommended against a substitute proposal by Creed Pogue;

22
23 **And whereas,** near the end of that Annual Conference such pending proposals were referred back to the
24 Rules Committee for clarification;

25
26 **And whereas,** the Rules Committee has reviewed such referred proposals again, and has sought to clarify
27 and improve the process, with the goal of broadening the diversity in the nominations for delegates;

28
29 **Be It Resolved That** in Rule 64 (Nominations), in the first line of the rule, delete the phrase “In a year in
30 which elections to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences” and insert “In a year in which elections to the
31 General or Jurisdictional Conferences”.

32
33 After “nominations will be closed on February 15”, insert:

34
35 “or such other date as the Conference Secretary shall establish. Not less than ten
36 days before such initial date for closing pre-Conference nominations, the Conference
37 Secretary shall refer information concerning nominations submitted to date to the
38 Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) and the Committee on the Status and Role
39 of Women (COSROW), for their review and response within seven days.

40
41 “If by the end of the seven days, either COSROW or CORR reports to the Conference
42 Secretary that they have concerns regarding the gender, racial and/or ethnic
43 diversity of the nominations submitted to date, or if not enough nominations have
44 been submitted to fill all open positions in the Conference’s delegation(s), the
45 Conference Secretary shall promptly (a) report such concerns to the membership of
46 the Annual Conference, and (b) extend the deadline for submitting nominations by

1 30 days. In so doing, the Conference Secretary shall remind the members of the
2 Annual Conference of the importance of diversity in the delegations for GNJ.”
3

4 **Rationale:** At the last meeting of the Annual Conference, all pending legislation regarding Rule 64 was
5 referred back to the Rules Committee, because the then-pending proposals were viewed as too vague to be
6 easily administered by the Conference Secretary. This new proposal from the Rules Committee seeks to
7 respond to that concern, by adding greater specificity and operational clarity, in connection with the goal of
8 broadening the diversity of nominees for GNJ’s delegations to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. It
9 provides for review by the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) and the Committee on the Status and
10 Role of Women (COSROW), the bodies responsible for helping the Annual Conference avoid tacit or
11 unintentional biases and creates the opportunity to maximize diversity in the nominating process. **Nothing in
12 this proposal would prevent CORR or COSROW from working together in their reviews, or from engaging
13 or consulting with other committees or individuals in the course of their reviews.**

14
15 Submitted by Daniel Gepford
16

17 **Address Rule 64 To Address Inclusivity in A Workable Way**

18
19 **Whereas** the nominations process has been modified in 2019 and GNJ will be facing another round of
20 nominations in 2023, so decisions must be made this year;
21

22 **Be it Resolved** Amend Rule 64 Nominations to read as follows:
23

24 In a year in which elections to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences are to be held, the Conference
25 Secretary shall open nominations for lay and clergy delegates on December 15 of the year preceding the
26 Conference Session. By Feb. 28th the Conference Secretary will published those nominations which are
27 received by Feb. 15th. The conference secretary will publish these nominations on the conference website
28 and by any additional methods of her/his choosing, there shall be a continued opportunity to place names in
29 nomination up until March 31st, particularly in order to assist the conference members in fulfilling our desire
30 to nominate a diverse and inclusive pool of candidates.... (rest of rule continues as originally written)
31

32 **Rationale:** The changes that were made in 2019 and the later proposal to codify those changes into the rules
33 creates an unsustainable burden for the office of the Conference Secretary. The Conference Secretary is an
34 administrative position and asking them to make policy judgments without any criteria is unreasonable and
35 unfair to the Secretary. This proposal sets an initial deadline as a “safe harbor” for everyone to know that
36 nominations received by that date will be widely publicized. However, it also provides more time for
37 nominations to be received in the event that anyone feels there are deficiencies in the pool that exists on
38 February 15th.
39

40 Submitted by Creed Pogue
41
42

1 **Proposed Amendment to Rule 19(B), Regarding Pre-Conference Review of**
2 **Legislation**

3
4 **Whereas**, the Rules have included various provisions for review of proposals to the Annual Conference, prior
5 to action by the Annual Conference on them;

6
7 **And whereas**, the Rules currently provide for no specific process for such referral and review;

8
9 **And whereas**, effective review would be facilitated by clear time periods and process for such review, this
10 proposal clarifies procedures for such review, and sets reasonable time periods to allow for the completion
11 of such review.

12
13 **Be It Resolved That:** In Rule 19(b)(i) after “received by the Annual Conference offices by”, delete “the first
14 business day in March” and insert “January 31”.

15
16 At the end of Rule 19(b)(i), insert: “Such submissions shall be made through the Conference website or by
17 such other means as the Conference Secretary may establish. The Conference Secretary shall promptly refer
18 all such submissions to CORR and COSROW for review for explicit or implicit bias. The Conference Secretary
19 shall also promptly refer proposals and recommendations that affect the Conference Rules to the Rules
20 Committee, and proposals and recommendations that affect the budget or finances of the Conference to the
21 Committee on Finance and Administration, for their review.

22
23 CORR and COSROW, the Rules Committee, and CF&A shall have two weeks after such referral to conduct a
24 review and submit any recommendations and/or proposed changes. Any such recommendations and/or
25 proposed changes shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary and copied to the person(s) or
26 organization originally submitting the proposals or recommendations.

27
28 Such persons or organizations shall then have ten days to submit any revisions to be included in the Pre-
29 Conference Workbook.”

30
31 In Rule 19(b)(ii), delete “March 1” and insert “January 31 (or such other deadline as the Conference
32 Secretary may establish)”.

33
34 **Rationale:** The Rules have included various provisions for review of proposals to the Annual Conference,
35 prior to action by the Annual Conference on them. This proposal clarifies procedures for such review, and
36 sets reasonable time periods to allow for the completion of such review. **Nothing in this proposal would**
37 **prevent CORR or COSROW from working together in their reviews, or from engaging or consulting with**
38 **other committees or individuals in the course of their reviews.**

39
40 Submitted by Daniel Gepford

41
42

1 **Resolution in Support of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through**
2 **Separation**

3
4 **Whereas**, a diverse group of United Methodist leaders, called together by the late Bishop John Yambasu and
5 presided over by the renowned attorney Kenneth Feinberg, negotiated an agreement (the Protocol of
6 Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, hereafter the “Protocol”) providing for an amicable and
7 orderly separation of The United Methodist Church (hereafter “UM Church);
8

9 **Whereas** irreconcilable differences among the people of the UM Church have created a stalemate leading to
10 declines in church membership, average worship attendance, financial support, and mission vitality;
11

12 **Whereas** the UM Church’s very public dispute has tarnished the reputation of the Church catholic;
13

14 **Whereas**, the Protocol has been endorsed by nine major advocacy groups representing different sides of the
15 conflict, including Africa Initiative, The Confessing Movement, Good News, Mainstream UMC, Reconciling
16 Ministries Network, UMAction, UMCNext, Uniting Methodists, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association;
17

18 **Whereas** the members of the team that negotiated and produced the Protocol included eight active Bishops
19 of the UM Church, including past and current Presidents of the Council of Bishops (Gregory Palmer, Kenneth
20 Carter, Cynthia Fierro Harvey, and Thomas Bickerton); and,
21

22 **Whereas** the Protocol’s implementing legislation has been submitted to the Commission on General
23 Conference by several annual conferences pursuant to ¶ 507 of The Book of Discipline of the United
24 Methodist Church.
25

26 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference hereby supports, and urges
27 its General Conference delegates to vote for, the passage of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace
28 Through Separation when said legislation comes before the next General Conference session; and,
29

30 **Further, be it resolved** that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference urges its agencies and leadership to
31 work through matters of local church separation because of issues of conscience with the same grace as
32 envisioned in The Protocol.
33

34 **Rationale:** The irreconcilable differences in the UM Church have undermined the health and vitality of local
35 churches. The differences also threaten the effectiveness and existence of its various general boards and
36 agencies. The very public debate over our differences has also tarnished the reputation of the Church
37 catholic. While other Protestant denominations facing a similar situation have engaged in rancorous and
38 costly civil litigation over property and assets, our hope is to end our dispute in a spirit of reconciliation and
39 grace as we part ways from one another. The Protocol provides a way for the people of the UM Church to
40 act with integrity as we bless one another to live out our different visions of ministry. This resolution, while
41 not binding, indicates the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference’s support for the plan negotiated by a
42 diverse group of UM Church leaders called the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.
43
44

1 Other conferences have adopted similar resolutions, including Baltimore-Washington in our own
2 Northeastern Jurisdiction by a 76% vote; "progressive" Conferences such as Rocky Mountain with 86% and
3 California-Pacific with 64%; as well as "traditionalist" Conferences like North Georgia (also the largest
4 Conference in the USA) with 65% and Northeast Texas with 82%. The Protocol is the only proposal for
5 moving us forward with strong support across The United Methodist Church.
6

7 Submitted by Creed Pogue
8

9 Integrity of the Annual Conference Journal

10

11 **Whereas** the Book of Discipline Para. 606 *Records and Archives* mandates that “the Annual conference shall
12 keep an exact record of its proceedings according to the forms provided by the General, jurisdictional, and
13 central conferences.”
14

15

15 **Whereas** the resident bishop and conference secretary officially certified the records of the reports and
16 proceedings in the 2020 journal as being “a correct and complete report”,
17

18

18 **Whereas** the 2020 Conference Journal did not record the daily proceedings correctly and completely on two
19 significant items- to be referenced below- and therefore this raises questions and/or doubts about the
20 integrity of the report.
21

22

22 **Whereas** to be specific, a series of questions of law raised during the first day of the conference pertaining to
23 a property - the parsonage of the Belmar United Methodist Church, that the resident bishop claimed he had
24 purchased from the Belmar United Methodist Church.
25

26

26 **Whereas** the question of law was submitted to the conference secretary in writing as follows:
27

28

“Question of Law

29

In reference to the resolutions “Trustees Enabling Resolutions” and “Church
30 Closures”, what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD
31 paragraph 2506.1. and 2702.1.c. in the case of acquiring the property of closing
32 church, the First UMC of Belmar, by the resident bishop who has to approve “to sell,
33 transfer, lease or convey any real or personal property for such price and at such
34 time” that is in violation of the federal, state, and local laws as conflicts of interest?
35

36

Further, what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD
37 paragraph 2506.1. and 2702.1.c. in the case of closing of the First UMC of Belmar
38 with a scheme of acquiring the property by the resident bishop who has to approve
39 “to sell, transfer, lease or convey any real or personal property for such price and
40 such time” that is in violation of the federal, state, and local law as conflicts of
41 interest?
42

43

Further, what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD
44 paragraph 2512.6 in the case of the procedure of any and all transaction of the
45 residence of the resident bishop of the GNJUMC at the property of the Belmar UMC,
46 that the board of trustees has not been disclosed to or approved by the GNJAC as
47 mandated by the paragraph 2512.6?”
48

48

1 **Whereas**, the above questions of law had been omitted in the record of the daily proceeding, page 162, of
2 the 2020 conference journal and replaced by a second set of questions of law submitted on the second day
3 of the conference which were stated as follows:

4
5 “Question of Law Gyuchang Sim raised a Question of Law:

6 1. Question of Law of nepotism. In reference to the resolution of Nepotism in the
7 preconference booklet, what is the application, meaning and effect of BOD
8 paragraph 2702.1.c. in the case of the employment of the resident bishop’s spouse
9 at A Future with Hope, Nehemiah Properties, and the GNJ conference office where
10 the bishop has a direct supervision to the positions of the organizations as a CEO of
11 the GNJUMC and/or a trustee of the organizations such that is in violation of the
12 federal, state, and local laws as conflicts of interest and/or nepotism?

13
14 2. Further, what is the application meaning and effect of BOD paragraph 2702.1.c.
15 in the case of appointing a son of the resident bishop, to the Christ Church Jersey
16 City, which the GNJUMC has approved its redevelopment of the church property by
17 the Nehemiah Properties, where the spouse of the resident bishop was hired and
18 served as a director, and the resident bishop who supervises the business of such
19 projects in the GNJUMC as a CEO.

20
21 3. Further, what is the application, meaning and effect of BOD paragraph 2702.1.c.
22 in the case of employment of a daughter-in law of the resident bishop as a director
23 at the Drew School of Theology where the resident bishop of the GNJUMC is a
24 trustee and has a privilege to recommend up to three trustees every year to the
25 university board of trustees and the employment of trustee’s family member is in
26 violation of the bylaws of the university, the article II and section 4, as conflicts of
27 interest and in violation of the federal, state, and local laws as conflicts of interest
28 and/or nepotism?

29
30 Following an explanation by GNJ Chancellor Lynn Caterson, which in part stated that
31 the Book of Discipline says that one person cannot submit a request for declaratory
32 decision and that declaratory decisions can only be presented on matters that have
33 already been discussed, Bishop Schol stated that these were not questions of law
34 but requests for declaratory decision which a bishop may not rule on and therefore
35 ruled them out of order. But Bishop Schol shared his personal story surrounding the
36 Belmar property and then provided the opportunity to vote on them as requests for
37 declaratory decisions and send them to the judicial council. Bishop Schol gave Mr.
38 Sim the opportunity to speak to the matter. The conference then voted and did not
39 approve sending them to the judicial council in a vote of 129-400.”
40

41 **Whereas** the second set of questions on conflict of interest was, indeed, ruled out of order by the bishop
42 without any further discussion or following procedure and the record of the daily proceeding says,
43

44 “Question of Law:

45 Gyuchang Sim submitted a Question of Law as it relates to the Nepotism Resolution.
46 Bishop Schol said this will be processed according to the Book of Discipline. Black
47 Lives Matter Legislation: Bishop Schol realized we had not taken a final vote on the
48 Black Lives Matter Legislation. The Conference voted, and it was passed in a vote of

1 372-34. Motion to Extend the Session: A motion was made to extend the ending
2 time of Conference to 2:30 p.m. to complete the work of Conference. It was
3 seconded. The conference voted and the motion passed.
4

5 Nepotism Resolution Gyuchang Sim presented his Nepotism Resolution and moved
6 for its acceptance. It was seconded. The conference voted, and it did not pass.
7 CLOSING Bishop Schol gave thanks for all who participated in Annual Conference. He
8 thanked Rosa Williams, the Conference Lay Leader, for her years of service and Bob
9 Dietz for his dedicated work to CFA as both had finished their terms.
10

11 Following up on the Question of Law submitted earlier by Mr. Sim, Bishop Schol said
12 it was determined to be out of order as it was already resolved earlier in the session.
13 He adjourned the meeting saying, "Leave as friends in Christ with a renewed mission
14 for what God has in mind for us." Bishop closed with prayer."
15

16 **Whereas** this matter of addressing the inaccurate reports in the 2020 annual conference journal was
17 brought up during the last adjourned session of the 2021 annual conference as a point of order, this matter
18 was not properly recognized, dealt with, or referred to the secretary of the annual conference.
19

20 **Whereas** the record has been recently changed after I challenged the record as reported in the conference
21 journal, and stated that I would bring this discrepancy in the conference journal record to agencies beyond
22 the GNJAC if a correction to the journal record was not made, i.e., the Council of Bishops, Jurisdictional
23 conference, the Commission on Achieve and History, the GCFA, etc.
24

25 **Whereas**, I was contacted by the Director of Connectional Ministries, Eric Drew, and he told me that he
26 would be handling the matter instead of the conference secretary.
27

28 **Whereas**, following communications and consultation between the two of us, the record was amended to
29 correct the original misreporting in the page 162 of the 2020 journal as follows:
30

31 "Question of Law Bishop Schol explained that Gyuchang Sim had submitted
32 legislation, an amendment to the Trustees report and Questions of Law, and all were
33 related to nepotism as referred to in the Pre-Conference Workbook, page 40.
34

35 The conference secretary read the following Question of Law from Mr. Sim:
36 "In reference to the resolutions "Trustees Enabling Resolutions" and "Church
37 Closures",
38 what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD paragraph
39 2506.1. and 2702.1.c. in the case of acquiring the property of closing church, the First
40 UMC of Belmar, by the resident bishop who has to approve "to sell, transfer, lease or
41 convey any real or personal property for such price and at such time" that is in
42 violation of the federal, state, and local laws as conflicts of interest?
43

44 Further, what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD
45 paragraph 2506.1. and 2702.1.c. in the case of closing of the First UMC of Belmar
46 with a scheme of acquiring the property by the resident bishop who has to approve
47 "to sell, transfer, lease or convey any real or personal property for such price and

1 such time” that is in violation of the federal, state, and local law as conflicts of
2 interest?

3
4 Further, what is the constitutionality, application, meaning, and effect of BOD
5 paragraph 2512.6 in the case of the procedure of any and all transaction of the
6 residence of the resident bishop of the GNJUMC at the property of the Belmar UMC,
7 that the board of trustees has not been disclosed to or approved by the GNJAC as
8 mandated by the paragraph 2512.6?”

9
10 Discussion followed to ascertain if this was a Question of Law or a call for a
11 declaratory decision. Following an explanation by GNJ Chancellor Lynn Caterson,
12 which in part stated that the Book of Discipline says that one person cannot submit a
13 request for declaratory decision and that declaratory decisions can only be presented
14 on matters that have already been discussed, Bishop Schol stated that these were
15 not questions of law but requests for declaratory decision which a bishop may not
16 rule on and therefore ruled them out of order. But Bishop Schol shared his personal
17 story surrounding the Belmar property and then provided the opportunity to vote on
18 them as requests for declaratory decisions and send them to the judicial council.
19 Bishop Schol gave Mr. Sim the opportunity to speak to the matter. The conference
20 then voted and did not approve sending them to the judicial council in a vote of 129-
21 400.”

22
23 **Whereas** the pages 165 and 166 in the 2020 conference journal have been corrected as follows:

24
25 “2020 AC Journal, Daily Proceedings page 165

26 Amendment: Peter Dewes moved to amend the legislation to have line 30 to say,
27 “To tell and to listen to.” It was accepted as a friendly amendment. Rev. Vanessa
28 Wilson accepted the amendment. Moment of Privilege Bishop Schol addresses the
29 issue of racism in our country. He shared that racism is a sin, and we should all work
30 together to end the sin of racism. Closed Churches – Unfunded Liabilities Priority of
31 Monies from Closed Churches for Retiree Health Care Rev. Bob Costello spoke about
32 the two resolutions he presented, ‘Closed Churches – Unfunded Liabilities’ and
33 ‘Priority of Monies from Closed Churches for Retiree Health Care’ and why he feels
34 retiree health insurance is important. He expressed his trust in CF&A and withdrew
35 his legislation.

36
37 Question of Law Gyuchang Sim submitted a Question of Law as it relates to the
38 Nepotism Resolution. The conference secretary read the following Question of Law
39 form Mr. Sim:

40 “Question of Law on nepotism.

41
42 In reference to the resolution of Nepotism in the preconference booklet, what is the
43 application, meaning and effect of BOD paragraph 2702.1.c. in the case of the
44 employment of the resident bishop’s spouse at A Future with Hope, Nehemiah
45 Properties, and the GNJ conference office where the bishop has a direct supervision
46 to the positions of the organizations as a CEO of the GNJUMC and/or a trustee of
47 the organizations such that is in violation of the federal, state, and local laws as
48 conflicts of interest and/or nepotism?

1 Further, what is the application meaning and effect of BOD paragraph 2702.1.c. in
2 the case of appointing a son of the resident bishop, to the Christ Church Jersey City,
3 which the GNJUMC has approved its redevelopment of the church property by the
4 Nehemiah Properties, where the spouse of the resident bishop was hired and
5 served as a director, and the resident bishop who supervises the business of such
6 projects in the GNJUMC as a CEO.
7

8 Further, what is the application, meaning and effect of BOD paragraph 2702.1.c. in
9 the case of employment of a daughter-in-law of the resident bishop as a director at
10 the Drew School of Theology where the resident bishop of the GNJUMC is a trustee
11 and has a privilege to recommend up to three trustees every year to the university
12 board of trustees and the employment of trustee's family member is in violation of
13 the bylaws of the university, the article II and section 4, as conflicts of interest and in
14 violation of the federal, state, and local laws as conflicts of interest and/or
15 nepotism?"

16 Bishop Schol said this will be processed according to the Book of Discipline.
17

18 Black Lives Matter Legislation Bishop Schol realized we had not taken a final vote on
19 the Black Lives Matter Legislation. The Conference voted, and it was passed in a
20 vote of 372-34. Motion to Extend the Session A motion was made to extend the
21 ending time of Conference to 2:30 p.m. to complete the work of Conference. It was
22 seconded. The conference voted and the motion passed.
23

24 Nepotism Resolution Gyuchang Sim presented his Nepotism Resolution and moved
25 for its acceptance. It was seconded. The conference voted, and it did not pass.
26

27 CLOSING Bishop Schol gave thanks for all who participated in Annual Conference. He
28 thanked Rosa Williams, the Conference Lay Leader, for her years of service and Bob
29 Dietz for his dedicated work to CFA as both had finished their terms.
30

31 Following up on the Question of Law submitted earlier by Mr. Sim, Bishop Schol said
32 it was determined to be out of order as it was already resolved earlier in the session.
33 He adjourned the meeting saying, "Leave as friends in Christ with a renewed mission
34 for what God has in mind for us." Bishop closed with prayer."
35

36 **Therefore,** be it resolved that the GNJAC affirms the necessity for the reporting in the journal of the annual
37 conference, when presented as certified, to in fact be "a correct and complete report" of its proceedings.
38

39 **Be it further resolved** that the 2022 GNJAC thanks the Director of Connectional Ministries, Eric Drew, for
40 correcting the mistake and having it replaced with the true and correct record in the Journal of the annual
41 conference and thus maintaining the integrity of the record in order to make it a more faithful, correct, and
42 complete record of its proceedings.
43

44 **Be it further resolved** that the 2022 GNJAC request the conference secretary to review the process of how
45 and why the official reports of the daily proceedings in the 2020 conference journal misrepresented and
46 misrepresented the above referenced issues.
47

1 **Be it further resolved** that the Conference secretary report the findings of the review to the 2023 session of
2 the annual conference, with recommendations on how the integrity of the reports in the conference journal
3 can be enhanced and proceedings be more accurately reported so that they will be a complete and correct
4 record of our work together.

5
6 **Rationale** The 2020 conference journal, originally published after the 2020 conference session, contained a
7 report of the daily proceedings pertaining to two sets of questions of law that I raised on the first day and on
8 the second day of the conference. I believe that what was originally reported in the journal was not “a
9 correct and complete report”. I believe that subsequent events, leading to the corrections that have been
10 made, supports me in my belief.

11
12 The original version of the 2020 GNJAC journal, certified on page 166 by Bishop Schol and Conference
13 Secretary, Rev. Shelley Smith, as “a correct and complete report”, reported a set of questions of law that I
14 raised on the first day, pertaining to the Belmar UMC’s parsonage, that bishop Schol claimed he had
15 purchased from the Belmar UMC. Discussion of these questions was delayed to the second day and those
16 questions were replaced by a second set of questions of law raised during the second day. The second set of
17 questions pertained to the perception of conflict-of-interest concerns on the part of the actions of the
18 bishop.

19
20 The misreporting and misrepresentation not only violated the rules and order of the UMC but also threaten
21 the integrity of the conference journal which requires that it shall correctly report the exact proceedings of
22 the annual conference for the examination by the jurisdictional conference as per BOD Para. 606. 1 and the
23 official record of the annual conference to the denominational agencies: GCFA, the Commission on Achieve
24 and History, the UMCom, etc.

25
26 In response to my concern regarding the record of the 2020 conference journal, I received a response from
27 GNJAC Director of Connectional Ministries, Eric Drew who said that he would handle the matter instead of
28 the conference secretary. I believe that the fact that the record was ultimately amended to correct the
29 original misreporting in the 2020 Conference Journal is significant.

30
31 I believe that the above referenced before and after quotations from the original and amended reporting
32 does in fact indicate that there indeed was a problem that needed to be addressed and corrected. I
33 appreciate Eric Drew’s part in this corrective action.

34
35 This resolution, if passed, will affirm that the GNJAC agrees that the integrity of the conference journal
36 requires that it be always be a true and correct recording of our conference proceedings. It requests that the
37 Conference Secretary to do a review and analysis of what went wrong in this case and why; and also
38 requests her to bring recommendations and/or suggestions to the 2023 session on how to better ensure the
39 integrity of the conference journal.

40
41 Submitted by Gyuchang Sim
42