

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022



*Deliver*

Luke 4:17-18

The Spirit of the Lord is on me  
and anointed me to bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**THE UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY**

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKBOOK ADDENDUM

MAY 23 - 24, 2022

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1 **Legislation**

2

3 **Church Closure**

4

5 Whereas in November 1979 the GNJAC covenanted with United Presbyterian – Methodist Hispanic  
6 Church of West New York, a federated church, in accordance with Par. 209 of the 2016 Book of  
7 Discipline; and

8

9 Whereas in November 1979 the GNJAC deeded the real property to the federated church in accordance  
10 with Par. 2548 of the 2016 Book of Discipline; and

11

12 Whereas the GNJAC has no claim to any personal property on the premises; and

13

14 Whereas the federated church congregation has voted to dissolve the federated church covenant  
15 agreement with GNJAC; and

16

17 Whereas Bishop John Schol and the Cabinet agree to dissolve the federated church covenant  
18 agreement;

19

20 Now Therefore Be It Resolved that:

21

22 1) GNJAC dissolve the covenant agreement with United Presbyterian – Methodist Hispanic Church of  
23 West New York, a federated church; and

24

25 2) GNJAC celebrates the ministry and mission partnership which it had with United Presbyterian –  
26 Methodist Hispanic Church of West New York for 43 years.

27

28 Submitted by: GNJ Cabinet

29

30 **A Call To Discernment And Renewal**

31

32 Whereas the church and the world are emerging from a very challenging season because of the COVID-  
33 19 pandemic that calls us to renew our commitment to the mission; and

34

35 Whereas the mission of The United Methodist Church (UMC) is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
36 transformation of the world, and the purpose of the Greater New Jersey Conference (GNJ) is recruiting  
37 and equipping transformational leaders that make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital missional  
38 congregations to transform lives, communities, and the world; and

39

40 Whereas GNJ, based in its commitment to the mission, is resourcing all GNJ congregations willing and  
41 ready to deepen faith, develop leadership, grow congregational vitality, and end the sins of racism,  
42 sexism, and exclusion; and

43

44

1 Whereas some of these key initiatives and resources include:

- 2 • A Journey of Hope Training and Planning - *learning, understanding, and growing to end the sin of*  
3 *racism.*
- 4 • Pathways – *visioning and planning for congregations that desire to grow in health and*  
5 *fruitfulness in their witness and ministry in the community. Areas of focus, include,*
  - 6 ○ Growing missional vitality – *training, planning, and coaching to develop and carry out a*  
7 *plan to grow any one or more of the following: discipleship system, worship, small*  
8 *groups, mission engagement, new disciples, and generosity.*
  - 9 ○ Sustainability – *understanding your congregation’s sustainability and how to strengthen*  
10 *your sustainability and financial capacity for mission.*
  - 11 ○ Organization – *training, planning, and coaching to shift the local church governance*  
12 *structure into a simplified missional leadership board.*
  - 13 ○ Hope Centers and Community Engagement – *understanding, planning, and engaging in*  
14 *community with the community.*
- 15 • Growing a vital mission congregation – *training, planning, and coaching to develop and carry out*  
16 *a plan to grow any one or more of the following: worship, small groups, mission engagement,*  
17 *new disciples, and generosity.*
- 18 • Sustainability – *understanding your congregation’s sustainability and how to strengthen your*  
19 *sustainability.*
- 20 • Organization – *training, planning, and coaching to shift the local church governance structure*  
21 *into a simplified missional leadership board.*
- 22 • Hope Centers and Community Engagement – *understanding, planning, and engaging in*  
23 *community with the community.*
- 24 • Leadership Academy – *training and coaching to develop the leadership capacity of*  
25 *congregations for vitality and fruitful witness and ministry in the community and the world.*
- 26 • Next Generation – *reaching and equipping the church to reach a new generation of younger and*  
27 *more diverse young people.*
- 28 • Gracious Conversations – *congregations seeking a facilitated conversation about theological, or*  
29 *political, or human sexuality understandings and differences within the congregation.*
- 30 • Conflict Resolution – *a facilitated process for congregations experiencing conflict about*  
31 *direction, mission, leadership, or programing.*

32  
33 Whereas our denomination has gone through several challenging years related to concerns of  
34 congregations and/or pastors disaffiliating from the UMC related to differencing views, understanding  
35 and attitudes regarding human sexuality; and  
36

37 Whereas, through *A Way Forward*, United Methodists of Greater New Jersey recognize there will be  
38 different beliefs, traditions, understandings, and attitudes relating to Christian faith and our  
39 understanding of human sexuality and will work with congregations recognizing their different beliefs  
40 and understandings, and remain united in our common mission; and  
41

42 Whereas some congregations and/or pastors may choose to disaffiliate from the denomination; and  
43 Whereas discernment and renewal are spiritual practices calling us to seek God’s wisdom for our future  
44 knowing *all things work together for good for those who love God and who are called for the purposes of*  
45 *God (Romans 8:28); and*  
46  
47

1 Whereas GNJ proclaims as one of its core values that Christ is the source of our faith, hope and unity.

2  
3 Therefore, be it resolved that GNJ recommits to its mission and strategic priorities, goals, and resourcing  
4 strategies to recruit and equip transformational leaders that make disciples and grow vital  
5 congregations for the transformation of the world.

6  
7 Be it further resolved that GNJ set as a priority for the next year as a time of *discernment* and *renewal* to  
8 assist congregations in discerning God’s missional calling and move forward with their ministry emerging from  
9 the pandemic; and

10  
11 Be it further resolved that GNJ will in addition to its missional priority, inform and assist any  
12 congregation seeking to disaffiliate utilizing the principles, and process set forth in paragraph 2553 of  
13 the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (BOD), related to congregations considering a  
14 change in relationship to the UMC and GNJ, and the several Judicial Council rulings including but not  
15 limited to 1379, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424 and 1425 concerning separation from the UMC, as  
16 follows:

- 17  
18 1. Discernment Process – the cabinet will develop and carry out an up to 6-month discernment  
19 process with any church considering disaffiliating from the UMC (Judicial Council Ruling  
20 1425).
- 21 2. Vote to Disaffiliate - following the discernment process, a Church Conference will be held to  
22 vote on disaffiliation. A 2/3’s approval vote is required to disaffiliate (paragraph 2553 and  
23 Judicial Council Ruling 1379).
- 24 3. Connectional Covenant – if the congregation votes to disaffiliate by a 2/3’s vote or more,  
25 the cabinet will develop a connectional covenant for disaffiliation. A connectional covenant  
26 is not a legal agreement, but a promise between GNJ and the disaffiliating congregation, and  
27 if disaffiliating to a denomination, with the receiving denomination that outlines how all  
28 parties will respect, honor, and treat one another during the disaffiliation and for five years  
29 following the disaffiliation (Judicial Council Ruling 1424).
- 30 4. Congregation Due Diligence – the disaffiliating congregation will perform all the necessary  
31 research and submit all the necessary documents and information required by the GNJ  
32 Board of Trustees to draft the Disaffiliation Agreement.
- 33 5. Disaffiliation Agreement - the GNJ Board of Trustees, with the advice of the GNJ cabinet,  
34 treasurer, benefits coordinator, the chairperson of CFA, DCM and chancellor, will draw up  
35 an agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the disaffiliation, including the effective  
36 date of disaffiliation and local church’s obligations (payments/liabilities due, etc.), that will  
37 be memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement between the annual conference and  
38 the trustees of the local church, in consultation with the local church Administrative Council,  
39 acting on behalf of the congregation’s members. (Paragraph 2553 and Judicial Council ruling  
40 1379).
- 41 6. Annual Conference Approval – the annual conference at its regular annual session votes to  
42 ratify the disaffiliation agreement. A simple majority approval vote is required to approve  
43 the terms and disaffiliation (paragraph 2553 and Judicial Council ruling 1379).
- 44

1 Be it further resolved that GNJ communicate to any congregation seeking to disaffiliate that it has until  
2 December 31, 2023, to pay for and complete all the items in the term sheet to disaffiliate. (Paragraph  
3 2553, BOD).

4  
5 Submitted by:  
6 The GNJ Cabinet  
7 The GNJ Board of Trustees  
8 The GNJ Connectional Table  
9

10 NOTE: Further information is available on the GNJ website at [www.gnjumc.org](http://www.gnjumc.org) about each of the  
11 ministries and resources above and are included in the information section of this addendum.  
12

### 13 **The St. John UMC Fund**

14  
15 Whereas the 2020 Annual Conference Session by more than 90% approved A Journey of Hope Plan and  
16 legislation (Plan); and  
17

18 Whereas a part of the legislation created a \$1 million St. John UMC Fund (Fund) for the preservation of  
19 the St. John UMC Native American property including the burial ground; and  
20

21 Whereas the Plan also included deeding discontinued or abandoned United Methodist Church property  
22 to Lenni Lenape Tribe (Tribe) that once belonged to the Tribe before they were relocated to a  
23 reservation in the Pinelands; and  
24

25 Whereas the Board of Trustees are seeking further guidance and funding to transfer the land to the  
26 Tribe; and  
27

28 Whereas CFA approved adding \$300,000 to the St. John UMC Fund (bringing the total to \$1.3M) using a  
29 portion of the 2021 operating budget surplus to facilitate the costs associated with the transfer of land,  
30 addressing the funding concern from the Board of Trustees;  
31

32 Therefore, be it resolved that the Fund may be used to:

- 33 1. Preserve the St. John UMC building and burial ground located at 680 Fordville Rd, Bridgeton, NJ,  
34 08302, as a historic United Methodist Church site and cultural center,
- 35 2. If and when the St. John UMC closes, pay for the utilities, operations and upgrade of the  
36 buildings and grounds,
- 37 3. Transfer buildings, grounds and cemetery together of discontinued or abandoned United  
38 Methodist Church within the boundaries outlined in the Plan as is and so that the Tribe has the  
39 right of first refusal (UMC Church Transfer);

40 Be it further resolved that the Fund shall be administered by five Stewards (Stewards) with the following  
41 stipulations:

- 42 1. The Annual Conference Session upon nomination of one member each by the St. John UMC  
43 Charge Conference, GNJ Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM), Conference Board  
44 of Trustees (with property maintenance and preservation skills), Council on Finance and  
45 Administration (with budgeting and fund management skills), and Cabinet. If St. John UMC  
46 should ever be discontinued, CONAM shall then nominate two Stewards,

- 1        2. The Stewards shall have an interest and commitment to Native American culture and history,  
2        completed A Journey of Hope training, and demonstrate a willingness to be a steward of the  
3        Fund and steward the St. John UMC property if the congregation discontinues,
- 4        3. The nominations of Stewards shall be overseen by the GNJ nominations committee who shall  
5        arrange the nominees in classes and present the nominees to the Annual Conference Session for  
6        election,
- 7        4. Interim vacancies may be appointed by the Connectional Table until the next Annual Conference  
8        session elects to fill the vacancies. The Connectional Table shall receive a new nominee for  
9        appointment from the group which has an opening; and

10 Be it further resolved that the Stewards administer the Fund so that it perpetually:

- 11        1. Preserves the St. John UMC and grounds as a historic and cultural site,
- 12        2. Transfers discontinued or abandoned UMC property in the designated area; and

13 Be it further resolved that the Stewards allocate funds using the following parameters:

- 14        1. Up to a maximum of \$65,000 per UMC Church Transfer when such a transfer is deemed will  
15        occur only when the Tribe agrees in writing to the term sheet approved by the GNJ Board of  
16        Trustees. The maximum of allocated funds will increase at 2% per year for inflation, and may be  
17        used to transfer property to the Tribe to provide for transfer fees, mitigation of environmental  
18        concerns, address municipality, county and state requirements, debt to non GNJ entities, and  
19        perpetual care funds when a cemetery is being transferred,
- 20        2. Up to \$5,000 per year through 2029 may be used for St. John UMC property for signage, United  
21        Methodist historic land markings, and other items for historic preservation. After 2029, the  
22        Trustees may allocate up to a 5% of the Fund's amount on January 1 of that year for UMC  
23        Church transfer costs and the preservation, care, operation, and maintenance of the St. John  
24        UMC property as a historic United Methodist Church site and cultural center (St. John UMC  
25        Expenditures) during that year,
- 26        3. If more than 5% is needed in any given year after 2024 for UMC Church Transfer costs and/or St.  
27        John UMC Expenditures, the Stewards may appeal to the GNJ Council on Finance and  
28        Administration (CFA) to request additional money from the Fund, concurrently submitting  
29        evidence of how after incorporating the requested draw the fund model shows sufficient  
30        resources to ensure the perpetual preservation of St. John UMC building and property, as well  
31        as the ability to continue to transfer property to the Tribe. CFA shall review the proposal and  
32        model for perpetual care and approve or deny the request.

33 Be it further resolved that the Fund description be rewritten as follows.

34

35 St. John UMC Fund (Fund), funds the following:

- 36        1) the preservation of the St. John UMC building and burial ground located at 680 Fordville Rd,  
37        Bridgeton, NJ, 08302, as a historic United Methodist Church site and cultural center,
- 38        2) the maintenance of the St. John UMC Native American burial ground, and
- 39        3) provides funding to support the return of UMC church property in Cumberland County and the  
40        Eastern portion of Salem County including church property along the Delaware River to the  
41        Lenni Lenape Tribe (Tribe). St. John is the fifth oldest Native American United Methodist Church  
42        and the oldest in New Jersey.

1 The Stewards will be advised of discontinued or abandoned property on Lenni Lenape land within the  
2 boundaries outlined in the Plan and then shall offer a term sheet drawn up by the Board of Trustees  
3 according to A Journey of Hope Plan and legislation to the Native American Nanticoke Lenni Lenape  
4 Tribe through the Tribal Council. If the Tribe declines the property, the Board of Trustees shall sell the  
5 property according to The Book of Discipline and GNJ legislation.

6

7 Submitted by:

8 GNJ Board of Trustees

9 GNJ Council on Finance and Administration

10 GNJ Cabinet

11 GNJ Connectional Table

12 GNJ Committee on Native American Ministries

13

14

15

1 **Informational**

2 **Connectional Covenant**

3 Between

4 \_\_\_\_\_ Church (Disaffiliating Congregation) and its predecessor congregations and  
5 The denomination it joins \_\_\_\_\_ (Affiliating Denomination) (removed if the church  
6 does not join a denomination)

7 and

8 The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ) and its predecessor bodies

9  
10 We are the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12). While made up of different parts, together, we seek to  
11 bring honor and glory to God. While from time to time, the body of Christ divides and multiplies, we are  
12 still connected through Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:12-17).

13  
14 This Connectional Covenant (Covenant) offers the opportunity for all to honor God, respectfully discern  
15 a path forward, disaffiliate and identify opportunities for continued collaborative ministry and missional  
16 engagement.

17  
18 **Ministries and Missional Engagement after Disaffiliation**

19 Laity, clergy, and congregations are encouraged to continue to share in one another’s ministries,  
20 programs, and outreach. This includes, but is not limited to, the following ministries.

- 21 • Seasonal special services during the Christian year.
- 22 • Sacraments, as permitted by one another’s denominations.
- 23 • Presiding at weddings and funerals as permitted by one another’s denominations.
- 24 • Fellowship, Bible studies and outreach ministries.
- 25 • United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith and NextGen activities.
- 26 • Volunteer mission projects
- 27 • Volunteers in Mission
- 28 • Youth programs
- 29 • Pulpit exchanges
- 30 • Joint programs to end the sins of racism, sexism, and exclusion

31  
32 **Communication**

33 Honoring one another as beloved children of God, and for the sake of our common mission of making  
34 disciples of Jesus Christ, the Disaffiliating Congregation, GNJ and the Affiliating Denomination, and their  
35 leadership, pledge not to disparage or undermine one another’s ministries through any internal or  
36 public communication media or outlet. (Mathew 28:19, John 13:35)

37  
38 GNJ will state the following message in any public information related to the Disaffiliating Congregation

39  
40 *The \_\_\_\_\_ congregation after prayer and discernment has (become an independent*  
41 *congregation or affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ (Affiliating Denomination).*  
42 *The churches and leadership of GNJ pray God’s blessing upon the \_\_\_\_\_ congregation and*  
43 *look forward to opportunities to serve God together for the benefit of the community.*

1 The Disaffiliating Congregation and the Affiliating Denomination it joins will state the following  
2 concerning disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church or GNJ.

3

4 *The \_\_\_\_\_ Church after prayer and discernment has (become an independent*  
5 *congregation (or affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_ denomination).*

6

7 The Disaffiliating Congregation is welcome to share its ministry and future vision and mission.  
8 In speaking with the press regarding the disaffiliation, the Disaffiliating Congregation is only to  
9 use the above statement.

10

11 **Reunification**

12 While we find ourselves in a season of difference, it does not need to define the future. GNJ remains  
13 open to the work of the Holy Spirit and future reunification (Revelation 7:9).

14

15 In Christ,

16

17

18

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative from Disaffiliating Congregation

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

20

21

22

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative from Affiliating Denomination

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

24

25

26

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop John R. Schol, Resident Bishop, GNJ

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

28

29

30

31

32

1 **Disaffiliation Terms Worksheet**

2  
3 Pursuant to ¶2553 in the *Book of Discipline*, the GNJ Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the GNJ  
4 cabinet, treasurer, benefits coordinator, the chairperson of CFA, DCM and chancellor, have identified  
5 the following required actions/items for local churches seeking disaffiliation from The United Methodist  
6 Church (UMC).

7  
8 **Due Diligence**

9 The disaffiliating congregation will perform all the necessary research and submit all the necessary  
10 documents and information required by the GNJ Board of Trustees to draft the terms sheet.

- 11  
12 1. The time, date, and location of the disaffiliation vote.  
13 2. The method(s) used to announce the special church conference to church members.  
14 3. The disaffiliation resolution voted on by the church conference and the votes for and against for  
15 each vote.  
16 4. Copy of the official minutes of the meeting.  
17 5. Present Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (if there are any bylaws in addition to the Book of  
18 Discipline).  
19 6. The names and contact information of all current trustees and other fiduciaries of the church.  
20 7. Copies of deeds for all owned property.  
21 8. Copies of mortgages and other liens against the church entity and real property.  
22 9. Appraisal of all local church properties performed by an appraiser certified by the New Jersey  
23 State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.  
24 10. Balance sheets for the past three years.  
25 11. Profit and Loss statements for the last three years.  
26 12. All monthly or quarterly bank and investment account statements for the last three years  
27 except funds invested through the GNJ Foundation.  
28 13. Statements for all mortgages and other debt incurred or loans made.  
29 14. Audit reports for the last three years.  
30 15. If the local church has any endowments, trusts, memorials or restricted funds, a copy of all  
31 underlying trust documents, contracts, or wills that restrict the use of such funds; and if there is  
32 a related entity, such as a cemetery or preschool, please also provide items (5-14), above, for  
33 such entity.  
34 16. Notarized certification that the disaffiliating church has no pending lawsuit, charge, complaint  
35 or other action against GNJ.  
36 17. A standard title search process is completed by a licensed title company in the state where the  
37 real property resides for all real properties that will be released to the disaffiliating church.

38  
39 Requests for additional information will be made as needed.  
40  
41

1 **Required Payments**

2  
3 Unless a different date is specified, the disaffiliating congregations must satisfy the following payments  
4 before the disaffiliation date and/or not later than December 31, 2023.

- 5  
6 1. Any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to the disaffiliation date, as well as an  
7 additional 12 months of apportionments.  
8 2. Any unpaid GNJ billings for the present calendar year, as well as all unpaid billings in previous  
9 years.  
10 3. Any GNJ grants received in the present calendar year, and the past two calendar years.  
11 4. All unfunded pension liabilities as identified by Wespath and apportioned by the GNJ Board of  
12 Pension and Benefits.  
13 5. All unfunded retiree health care liabilities as apportioned by the GNJ Board of Pension and  
14 Benefits.  
15 6. All BSA settlement contributions as apportioned by the GNJ Council on Finance and  
16 Administration (CFA).  
17 7. Any outstanding loans as identified by GNJ Loan Board; CFA or the GNJ Board of Trustees.  
18 8. For congregations that disaffiliate, and their appointed pastor(s) remain(s) in the UMC, the  
19 estimated clergy compensation including housing and benefits for 18 months and maximum  
20 moving expenses for two moves per individual. If an appointment is identified for the impacted  
21 pastor by June 30, 2024, any unused portion from this item will be reimbursed to the  
22 disaffiliating congregation by August 1, 2024  
23 9. All property and congregational transfer costs including GNJ legal fees.  
24 10. All court costs and GNJ legal fees related to disaffiliation or suits related to disaffiliation of the  
25 church.  
26 11. A Missional Transitional Support that will be assessed by multiplying the three-year average of  
27 the total amount of all cash, bank balances, investments, endowments, and reserves by the  
28 percent of the votes against disaffiliation during the Church conference vote.  
29 12. A \$3,500 administrative fee to defray the cost of the discernment and disaffiliation guides that  
30 will be used by the GNJ cabinet and the board of trustees to facilitate the process. Any unused  
31 portion of the administrative fee will be reimbursed to the disaffiliating church by or no later  
32 than 10 days after the disaffiliation date.  
33 13. Any other fees and costs identified by the GNJ Board of Trustees including but not limited to the  
34 determination that a contribution is in order related to the congregation's real property. These  
35 may vary per case.

36  
37 **Other Actions/Items Required by the Disaffiliation Date**

- 38  
39 1. Disaffiliating Church will cease all use of "United Methodist," the Cross & Flame insignia, and  
40 any other intellectual property of the denomination and Annual Conference, including the  
41 removal of all signage containing the same.  
42

- 1           2. Disaffiliating Church will cease to use, and will ensure that any affiliates of Disaffiliating Church  
2           which have been included in the group tax exemption ruling shall cease to use, any and all  
3           documentation stating that Disaffiliating Church is included in the denomination’s group tax  
4           exemption ruling administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The  
5           United Methodist Church, with the exception of finalizing year-end financial documents and  
6           reporting related to Disaffiliating Church. Disaffiliating Church and any of its affiliates which have  
7           been included in the group tax exemption ruling will be removed without notice as of the  
8           Disaffiliation Date.
- 9           3. Disaffiliating Church will indemnify and hold harmless to the fullest extent permitted by law,  
10           including reasonable attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, GNJ, its officials, employees’ agents,  
11           successors, and assigns, from all claims and/or lawsuits, known or unknown, asserted or that  
12           may ever hereafter be asserted against GNJ arising out of and/or related to the disaffiliating  
13           church.
- 14           4. Disaffiliating Church will take all steps necessary to [close and/or dissolve any legal entities and  
15           to settle, liquidate, or transfer all assets and obligations of such entities, or to establish any new  
16           legal entities, or to modify its current organizing documents,] as needed to effectuate its  
17           disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church to the satisfaction of GNJ.
- 18           5. Upon the completion of all of their respective obligations herein, GNJ and Disaffiliating Church,  
19           for themselves and their agents, representatives, members, trustees, employees, successors,  
20           attorneys, and assigns, hereby fully and forever covenant not to sue each other, and release and  
21           discharge each other, and their current and former trustees, officers, representatives,  
22           employees, and assigns, in both their official and individual capacities, from any liability for any  
23           and all causes of action and claims, including any statutory or common law cause of action, tort  
24           or contractual claims, any claims for attorneys’ fees, expenses and all other damages, whether  
25           known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, which GNJ or Disaffiliating ever had, now has,  
26           hereafter may have or claim to have against any of the above-named entities or persons in any  
27           way arising out of their relationship with each other.
- 28           6. The disaffiliating church will hold harmless and indemnify GNJ from all claims, demands, costs,  
29           expenses, lawsuits, or other claims of whatever nature arising out of or related to acts or  
30           omissions involving the disaffiliating church and/or its officers, trustees, and representatives.
- 31           7. The disaffiliating church may continue to sponsor benefit plans from the General Board of  
32           Pension and Health Benefits to the extent permitted by federal law, and provided that  
33           disaffiliating church has not expressly resolved that it no longer shares common religious bonds  
34           with The United Methodist Church.

35  
36  
37  
38  
39

1 **St. John UMC Fund Procedures**

2  
3 **Procedures for Allocating Funds**

- 4
- 5 1. The St. John UMC Fund (Fund) funds St. John UMC's located at 680 Fordville Rd, Bridgeton, NJ,  
6 08302, as a church building and historical site and cultural center, the maintenance of the St.  
7 John UMC Native American burial ground, and provides funding to support the return of  
8 discontinued or abandon UMC church property in Cumberland County and the Eastern portion  
9 of Salem County including church property along the Delaware River to the Native American  
10 Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Tribe (Tribe) through the Tribal Council. If the St. John UMC is  
11 discontinued or abandoned, funds shall be used for repairs, maintenance, and preservation of  
12 the St. John UMC property including the burial ground.
  - 13 2. The Fund is to be invested through The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Greater  
14 New Jersey.
  - 15 3. Funds are to be administered by the St. John UMC Fund Stewards (Stewards) as elected by the  
16 Annual Conference. Five stewards shall be nominated by one each from the St. John UMC  
17 Charge Conference and the following GNJ entities: Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and  
18 Administration, CONAM, and Cabinet. If St. John UMC is discontinued, CONAM will nominate  
19 two persons. The nominations shall be overseen by the GNJ nominations committee who will  
20 arrange nominees in classes and present the nominees to the Annual Conference Session for  
21 election. Interim vacancies may be appointed by the Connectional Table until the next Annual  
22 Conference session. The Connectional Table shall receive a new nominee for appointment from  
23 the group which has an opening. In addition to administering the Fund, if St. John UMC is ever  
24 discontinued as a United Methodist Church, the Stewards are to work with the Tribe, to care,  
25 maintain and preserve St. John as a historic church building and Native American Cultural  
26 Center.
  - 27 4. Any funds used for the preservation and maintenance of St. John UMC must be approved by  
28 four of the five voting Fund Stewards. The funds may be allocated by the Stewards for the items  
29 outlined below.
- 30

31 Maintenance and Repairs

- 32 a. Repairs, maintenance, and upkeep of the interior and exterior of the buildings and grounds.
  - 33 b. Repair and replacement of mechanicals, roof, windows, and siding.
  - 34 c. Weatherization and energy efficiency.
  - 35 d. If and when the congregation ceases, the Stewards shall ensure the payment of utilities, items a,  
36 b, and c, and a part time maintenance person or contract for maintenance and care of the  
37 property.
- 38

39 Preservation and Interpretation of the History of St. John UMC and the Lenni Lenape Tribe

- 40 a. Historic furnishings and repair of furnishings and artifacts.
  - 41 b. Display cases for artifacts.
  - 42 c. Signage that promotes and communicates about the history and traditions of the Church and  
43 Lenni Lenape Tribe.
- 44

1 Transfer of Property and Land

- 2 a. Up to \$65,000 per UMC Church Transfer on an increasing basis at 2% per year (see the St. John  
3 UMC Fund financial model) may be allocated per church closure. If the Stewards feel there is  
4 insufficient funding to fund the transfer of several church properties in a year, the Stewards may  
5 lower the amount available per church to transfer land each year. The Fund may be allocated by  
6 the Stewards for the following purposes:
- 7 i. Transfer costs for both GNJ and the Tribe.
  - 8 ii. Address and remediate any environmental issues as required.
  - 9 iii. Address any state, county or municipality required expenditures to transfer the  
10 property.
  - 11 iv. When the transfer of property to the Tribe includes a cemetery, perpetual care funds, if  
12 needed, are to be a part of the \$65,000. The amount needed for perpetual care funds is  
13 determined by using the state guidelines for these funds. If the discontinued or  
14 abandoned church has perpetual care funds and those funds are sufficient to meet the  
15 state guidelines, then use of any of the \$65,000 will not be necessary for perpetual care  
16 of the cemetery. However, if the discontinued or abandoned church either has no such  
17 fund, or the fund does not meet the state guidelines, then the needed additional  
18 monies to meet the guidelines shall be used as part of the \$65,000 allocated for  
19 transferring that particular church property for use by the Tribe to care for the  
20 cemetery.
  - 21 v. Pay debt or encumbrances for non GNJ debt or encumbrances. Any GNJ debt shall be  
22 forgiven.
- 23 5. The Stewards are to make disbursements as outlined above and are to follow and update the  
24 model associated with the Fund. While there may be worthy goals and plans by St. John UMC, or  
25 GNJ representatives, or the Tribe, the Fund must be available in perpetuity for the purposes of  
26 the Fund and the Stewards are to manage the Fund so that there will always be appropriate  
27 funding to preserve the St. John UMC property. While the model is a guideline, it is to be  
28 administered so that there is continual growth of the Fund's corpus after 2025. Market  
29 fluctuations will impact the corpus in any given year, but the Stewards have the ultimate  
30 responsibility to grow the corpus to keep up with inflation and provide funding for the  
31 preservation of St. John UMC building and grounds and the transfer of land. The model is  
32 currently based on 2% increases in the cost to transfer and an average of 7.5% investment  
33 return for the Fund which will need to be updated on an ongoing basis to be realistic. Further,  
34 after year 2024, the fund should avoid using more than 5% of the fund in any given year.
- 35 6. The Fund is a designated fund of GNJ, and if at any time the Fund is no longer needed for its  
36 intended purpose, the Annual Conference session may redirect the funds.

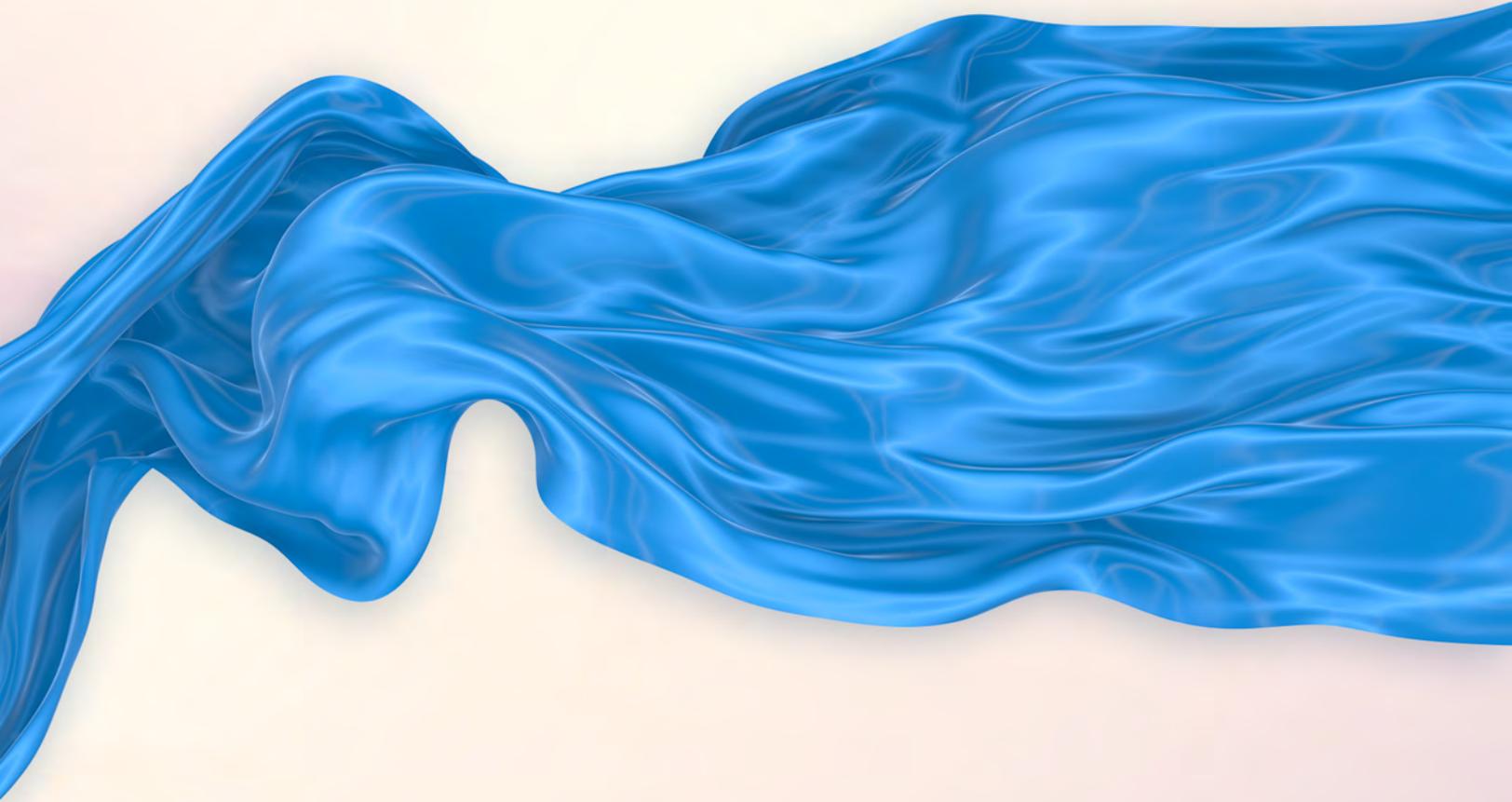
37 **Procedures for Returning Property to the Lenni Lenape Tribe**

- 38 1. The following is a list of "land return" churches whose original owners were the Lenni Lenape  
39 Tribe (Tribe), and whose boundaries are outlined in A Journey of Hope Plan legislation and have  
40 been agreed to by the Tribal Council, CONAM and the District Superintendent.

41 *Church names and locations are only to be listed with the Trustees and Stewards because a public listing*  
42 *may create unnecessary and harmful attention for the congregations and the work of superintending.*  
43 *Add church full name and address.*

- 1       2. When confirmed that a congregation is discontinued or has been abandoned, a projected date  
2       of the transfer is identified, and the Stewards offer the land to the Tribal Council. The  
3       Superintendent will notify the Board of Trustee Chairperson and the Chairperson of the  
4       Stewards who will contact the designated person of the Tribe carrying out GNJ's commitment to  
5       address past harm through the transfer of property.
- 6       3. The CFO/Treasurer on behalf of the GNJ Board of Trustees will develop the proposed term sheet  
7       for the transfer of the land to be approved by the GNJ Board of Trustees. The Term Sheet is to  
8       identify any deed restrictions and reversion clauses which shall be followed and shall include the  
9       entire property including but not limited to all land, buildings, and cemetery.
- 10      4. The Term Sheet shall be presented by the chairperson of the Stewards to the representative of  
11      the Tribe. The Tribe shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of the Term Sheet for due  
12      diligence and the GNJ Board of Trustees shall offer any assistance as needed.
- 13      5. The cost for transfer of the property is calculated based on the following.
  - 14          a. Up to \$65,000 per UMC Church Transfer on an increasing basis at 2% per year (see the  
15          St. John UMC Fund model) may be allocated per church discontinuance. If the Stewards  
16          feel there is insufficient funding to fund the transfer several church properties each  
17          year, the Stewards may lower the amount available per church to transfer land in that  
18          given year. The Fund may be used for the following purposes:
    - 19              i. Transfer costs for both GNJ and the Tribe.
    - 20              ii. Address and remediate any environmental issues as required.
    - 21              iii. Address any state, county, or municipality required expenditures to transfer the  
22              property.
    - 23              iv. When the transfer of property to the Tribe includes a cemetery, perpetual care  
24              funds, if needed, are to be taken from the \$65,000. The amount needed for  
25              perpetual care funds is determined by using the state guidelines for these funds.  
26              If the discontinued or abandoned church has perpetual care funds and those  
27              funds are sufficient to meet the state guidelines, then use of any of the \$65,000  
28              will not be necessary for perpetual care of the cemetery. However, if the  
29              discontinued or abandoned church either has no such fund, or the fund does  
30              not meet the state guidelines, then the additional needed monies to meet the  
31              guidelines shall be taken from the \$65,000 allocated for transferring that  
32              particular church property for use by the Tribe to care for the cemetery.
    - 33              v. Pay debt or encumbrances for non GNJ debt or encumbrances. Any GNJ debt  
34              shall be forgiven.
- 35      6. The Tribe has first right of refusal. If the Tribe declines to receive the property, the chairperson  
36      of the Stewards will report the decision to the GNJ Board of Trustees who will proceed with the  
37      disposition of the property according to The Book of Discipline and GNJ policies and procedures.
- 38      7. If the Tribe moves forward with taking possession of the land, once the Term Sheet is fulfilled,  
39      the Tribe shall take ownership and responsibility of the land.
- 40      8. For any of the identified churches on Native American Land that seeks to leave the  
41      denomination through prescribed procedures in The United Methodist Book of Discipline, a  
42      Reversion Clause shall be added to the deed at the expense of the disaffiliating church that shall  
43      state, "upon the sale or merger of the church with another congregation or denomination, the

- 1 property is to revert back to the Lenni Lenape Tribe with all encumbrances paid for by the
- 2 disaffiliated congregation and/or the denomination with which the church affiliated.”
- 3 9. A ceremony as appropriate may be conducted by the Tribal Council and an invitation may be
- 4 extended to United Methodists of Greater New Jersey.
- 5
- 6
- 7



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