VIII. ANNUAL REPORTS

EPISCOPAL ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

My Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God for the privilege of standing before you now for the sixth time to deliver an episcopal address.

I stand before you praising our Creator God in and through the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, acknowledging the words of the Psalmist, who said, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits---" (Psalm 103:1, 2).

We are indeed grateful to our Creator God for several reasons. Some of them are

- We saw an increase in professions of faith in the year 2009 by seven percent from 2008.
- Our worship attendance had a healthy ratio to membership: 53%.
- We saw the launching of a Certified Lay Minister program and the Lay Missionary Planting Network.
- We had an increase in membership for both United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women in our conference at the end of 2009.
- Again, we saw a paying of the hundred percent of Shared Ministries to the General Church for the third year in a row.

Each year, as our Annual Conference convenes, we highlight a specific theme. In this quadrennium we have focused on words reflected in our church membership vows. When one unites in membership, he or she promises, "to faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness."[1] This year we focus our attention on what it means to participate in the ministry of **presence**. To that end, I want to reflect and explore with you, "What does it mean to be a sacramental presence of God as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?"

John Wesley gives us seven manifestations of how we live out the ministry of presence. Wesley's seven areas of socially responsible missions presence include: 1) the poor; 2) slavery; 3) prisons; 4) liquor; 5) politics; 6) war and 7) education.

The Poor

Wesley spent considerable time with the poor. Moreover, he set an example for early Methodists by giving away most of his money to help others. According to Lovett Weems,

> Even past the age of eighty [Wesley] spent five consecutive days in the middle of winter walking the streets of London from morning till evening ankle-deep in melting snow raising about a thousand dollars 'to clothe them that needed it most.' [Albert] Outler knows of no other person in Wesley's century who so identified himself with the English poor or whose identification was more heartily accepted by them.[2]

Wesley believed that poverty results from a misuse of community resources. He believed that God is the owner of all we have and that we are the stewards of these resources.

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[1] *The Book of Discipline of the The United Methodist Church 2008, Par.*217.6 (p.143).

[2] Lovett H.Weems, Jr., *John Wesley's Message Today* (Nashville: Abingdon press, 1982), pp 64-65.

Table of Contents

Slavery
John Wesley adamantly opposed slavery in any form. He did not mince words in his attack on slavery. It has often been noted that Wesley's last letter ever written was addressed to William Wilberforce, an English Member of Parliament, encouraging him in his fight to end slavery throughout the British Empire. His letter included these words, which were an indictment of slavery in the United States: "Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American Slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it."[3]

Prisons
A colleague of mine attended a conference on Methodist Theological Studies in Oxford, England. While there he was given a tour. His guide pointed out an old building that housed a prison in John Wesley's day. "Wesley visited here three or four times a week," said the guide to him and others. "Back then, people were put into prison not only for crimes committed, but also for being a debtor. Wesley not only visited prisoners, but also advocated on behalf of them." According to Lovett Weems, "He . . . knew the injustices of the criminal justice system, particularly toward the poor, and the severity of punishment."[4]

Weems makes note of the fact that "in Christian history . . . periods of renewal are characterized by concern for prisoners."[5]

Liquor
John Wesley also focused much of his attention of social responsibility on the sale and consumption of liquor.

It is important to remember the context of Wesley's England where grain liquor was consumed abundantly. For Wesley, besides threatening the health and well-being of individuals, the production of liquor "robbed grain that could feed the poor and took away money needed for other purposes."[6]

For this reason, the General Rules of the Methodist Societies "forbade drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors or drinking them."[7] The people called Methodists recognized that the misuse of liquor caused problems in the lives of individuals that affected entire families. Methodists shunned liquor so that they would not set a bad example for others who struggled with the use of liquor.

Politics
According to Lovett Weems, though Wesley always insisted that he was a religious leader and not a politician, he nevertheless spoke on affairs of state. "His political impact was always significant through pamphlets, tracts, and sermons."[8] Wesley sided with the King of Britain during the Revolutionary War, which caused strains with Methodists in America. Wesley was outspoken in reprimanding "the American colonies for severing the 'sacred ties' that bound them to England."[9]

Yet Weems points out that Wesley's conservative nature belies the "ultimate effect" of the Wesleyan revival. "People who had been given no significance by society heard a message of human dignity, worth, and freedom. They would never be the same! Also, leadership opportunities were theirs for the first time through their participation in the societies and as lay preachers."[10]

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[3] *Works of John Wesley*, Volume XI, p.74.
[4] Weems, *op.cit.*, p.67
[5] Ibid
[6] Ibid, p. 68
[7] Ibid
[8] Ibid, p. 68
[9] Ibid, p. 68
[10] Ibid

Table of Contents

War
Wesley believed very deeply that Christians should be advocates of peace. While there were, for Wesley, legitimate reasons why the government could engage in war, Christians should "be active peacemakers . . ."[11]

Education
The seventh area of socially responsible mission activity for John Wesley focuses on education. Wesley himself was educated at his mother's side from a very early age. The core value of education for people called Methodists is rooted in organized educational institutions. The Methodist Revival was born in a university!

As we reflect on the ministry of presence Biblically, spiritually, theologically, historically, and as people rooted in Wesleyan tradition, what does it mean to be a "sacramental" presence of God as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ filled with the power of the Holy Spirit for such a time like ours?

What does it mean to be a Church, i.e. people of God, in the present day, as we witness and partake in the liturgy of Holy Communion?

As we reflect on these questions, how can we contextualize and relate it simultaneously to our Biblical foundations, the ministry of Wesley, and to the four foci of our denomination? We need to find our answers to these questions by asking the larger questions:

- What can we do through our sacramental presence to develop principled Christian leaders for the Church and the world?
- What can we do through our sacramental presence to create new places for new persons and renew existing congregations?
- What can we do through our sacramental presence to engage in ministry with the poor?
- What can we do through our sacramental presence to stamp out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally?

Developing principled Christian leaders, not just for the Church, but for the Church and the world, is our primary task. We should be "recruit[ing] and develop[ing] dynamic new leaders, both lay and clergy, who are motivated to lead a church that seeks to achieve nothing less than transformation of the world through making faithful disciples of Jesus Christ."[12]

Development of not simply leaders, but principled Christian leaders, is not only a ministry of clergy or laity, but of both, and is the ministry of the entire Church. Leadership Development has no particular beginning or ending process. It is an ongoing process. The core value of education for people called Methodists is rooted in organized educational institutions and on the stress that we have placed on the individual persons receiving the liberating benefits of education in order to better develop in their faith.

The Methodist Revival was born in a university. We need to make sure that we are a people committed to academic excellence with a deep, deep commitment to our own spiritual undergirding with a holistic understanding of salvation for humanity. We, as a Church, cannot overlook the importance of funding our theological schools and seminaries so that our clergy do not come out with all consuming debt loads, so they may answer the historical question, "Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?"[13] with a resounding no."

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[11] Ibid
[12] *Four Areas of Focus*, booklet circulated at the Spring 2010 meeting of The United Methodist Council of Bishops, Columbus, Ohio, p.6.
[13] *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 2008, p.246.

Table of Contents

That (debt) is not the most important reason for us to fund theological schools and seminaries. The most important reason is that we may have educated clergy to lead us.
Clergy and laity, may we recommit ourselves as an Annual Conference, in a great partnership between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Laity Council and the Cabinet, to nurture, to train and to develop principled Christian leaders whose presence becomes a transformational presence in our churches, districts, Conference and the global world.

It is my belief that every year, every local church needs to offer a class – a membership, confirmation, or discipleship class. When I say discipleship class, I do not limit it to Bible study, though I know what a transformation it would make if every church had a *Disciple* Bible study. Rather, I mean small groups in our churches committed to deepening one's Christian discipleship. It could mean a prayer group, a study group; the list goes on.

As I travel across the Conference, I hear statements from clergy and laity such as, "Oh we did not offer a confirmation class because we do not have any youth to go to a confirmation class …" Where in the Bible or *The Book of Discipline* does it say, "Confirmation class is only limited to youth and young adults….?" Friends, all of us, all of us, including bishops, are on the road to perfection. I have not met a perfect Christian yet.

Over the last five years, we as an Annual Conference have now brought scholars, teachers, preachers, evangelists, and prophets to stimulate, challenge, and inspire us in our walk with Christ. We have also been studying books together. But the sad part is, in some of our churches, district resource days and trainings have not been announced and books are neither mentioned nor studied. On the other hand, our faithful clergy and churches that have read these books and made use of all the training resources are making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They are becoming stronger connectionally and missionally!

Churches, clergy and laity who have participated fully, I thank you, thank you, thank you, and wish I could come to your seats to give you a "Holy kiss and a Holy hug!"

When I was a district superintendent, someone made the comment that I probably went to bed with three things: my Bible, *The Book of Discipline*, and the apportionment list of churches. Now, my cabinet members often ask me about my fourth book, my red book, which has a current list of the local churches and pastors' spiritual vitality in terms of disciple making and worship attendance.

I say to you: Faithful churches and pastors, fruits of your faithfulness are showing. You are there in every area of our Annual Conference. You offer confirmation classes; you insure that you and members of your congregations take advantage of connectional opportunities such as District Resource Days, trainings and other learning and spiritual experiences; you respect our connection and the episcopacy and share the voice of the larger Church to broaden our sense of discipleship for the transformation of the world.

I am confused and saddened, however, by those churches which do not do this. How may I convince you that these things are far more important than personal benefits or salary concerns?

I was asked by a clergy colleague, "Bishop, may I make a case study of your appointment making? What can I say to my brothers and sisters about going to a church with a lower salary?"

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I lead this Conference on the basis of "No secrets, No surprises, No subversions." I have been clear and will repeat it again for those who seem to have not heard it. Salary and seniority are not a basis for an appointment; it is always about mission and disciple making. We primarily use the profiles that pastors and churches have submitted or updated each year to consider where a pastor is appointed.

When we approach disciple-making pastors to consider an appointment where there is a decrease in salary, they will sometimes inquire, "Tell me the graces you believe I have to transform this church and community." And having heard of this greater opportunity for disciple-making, the answer is, "I will go." To those of you who

Table of Contents

have said "yes" to such challenges and opportunities, I offer my deepest gratitude – and the deepest gratitude of the Church and our Conference.

Let us become the powerful circuit riders of the 21st century -- looking prayerfully at our history to understand clearly where we have been. Living fully in the present, acquiring those skills that will make us a more vital witness of Jesus Christ to a suffering humanity, and moving toward a future where the world is transformed by the love of God through our faithful, risk taking, Christ-centered ministry.

Clergy and laity, it is not about titles and salary; it is all about embodying Christ through our presence. Laity, as baptized Christians, the question that we need to ask is, "Are we a sacramental presence of Christ in everything we do?" It is painful that there are some churches -- now I am talking about churches, not pastors, that do not want to move forward, do not want to take risks, but do want to maintain the status quo and to preserve the endowments for a rainy day. We need to ask a question seriously and prayerfully, "Why has God given us the leadership of the Church for such a time as this? **Is God calling us to be "risk-takers . . . caretakers . . . or undertakers?"**[14] Adam Hamilton, in his recent book, "When Christians Get It Wrong" writes, "Some of the most insensitive, critical, judgmental, and mean-spirited people I've known claimed to be committed Christians"[15] He is making this comment in the context of David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons' book *UnChristian*,[16] where they state through their research that young adults outside the Church claim that Christians are judgmental, hypocritical, political, and insensitive.

"Creating new places for new people and renewal of existing congregations [can take place, only when] congregations are energized in the faith and eager to recapture the Wesleyan spirit of authentic Christian movement."[17] Watch out. The words here are "Christian movement," not "Institution." As I heard elsewhere, 'In an institution there is a place only for a few, whereas in a movement there is a place for everyone.'

What does it mean to us to be a Church of Jesus Christ, with a cross and flame in front of our buildings, to break the allegations against the Church as surfaced through the research of Kinnaman and Lyons?

Principled Christian leaders, both clergy and laity, who have recaptured the Wesleyan Spirit of an "authentic Christian movement," refuse to be merely pew-warming Christians. They are deeply committed to engaging in a ministry with the poor, not to the poor or for the poor, but "with" the poor**.** They do not stop at sending Christmas baskets or Easter Baskets to a few families. These leaders are Christmas, Easter and Pentecost people. They are moved, shaken, and agitated by the power of the Holy Spirit. They, like Wesley, are in ministry with the poor, fighting the causes that perpetuate poverty directly or indirectly through things such as modern-day slavery in various forms.

Unfortunately, many local churches do not share Wesley's vision concerning prisons. They believe that prison ministry is best done by the specialists, such as chaplains. This often leads to not being engaged in prison ministry at all. If we are to be faithful to our Wesleyan and United Methodist heritage, we will engage in a ministry of presence in local and county jails and state and federal prisons.

Now, more than ever, the 'ministry of presence' in prisons is needed not only to make visits, and offer comfort and hope, but to advocate for justice for the incarcerated population. Harmon Wray wrote a mission resource on this subject, which offers guidelines on how we can take our 'ministry of presence' into the realm of prisons in the 21st century. For Wray,

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[14] Found in 'illustration,' *Homiletics*, Volume 7, no. 4, October-December 1995, edited by Leonard I. Sweet, p. 22.
[15] Adam Hamilton, *When Christians Get it Wrong,"* (Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2010), p. 13.
[16] David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, *Unchristian: What a new generation really thinks about Christianity . . . and why it matters* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007).
[17] *Four Areas of Focus*, op. cit., p. 13.

Table of Contents

> Restorative justice advocates restitution rather than retribution; it is concerned neither with blame and punishment nor with forgiving and forgetting but with remembering, truth telling, repenting, forgiving, and healing. The goal of restorative justice is to change wrongdoers and, insofar as possible, to make wrongs right.[18]

As people called United Methodists, we are challenged to follow the example of John Wesley by engaging in a ministry of presence in prisons and with prisoners. When I was serving churches in Upstate New York, I knew several prison guards through my work in the community and through my teaching in the prisons. Many were Christians and despite earning a living and supporting their families through their work at the prisons, these same guards would also wonder why the state would provide education to criminals. A very sad commentary!

How else can we as disciples of Jesus Christ be promoters of restorative justice in transforming individuals and society?

As we continue our ministry with the poor in the second decade of the 21st century we, like Wesley, must fight against the elements in our society that perpetuate poverty and degrade the humanity of the people of God in various forms and shapes. Like John Wesley, we focus on and give attention to the social responsibility of the sale and consumption of liquor.

Today, there is rampant misuse not only of alcohol, but also so-called 'recreational drugs,' abuse of prescription medicines, and underage drinking. Lest we encourage socially irresponsible behavior, we would be wise to follow the example of John Wesley by avoiding the use of grain liquor and other drugs.

Doing ministry with the poor calls us to be the Christian spokespersons for the voiceless and marginalized people in society when war or faulty immigration policies degrade humanity by making the poor poorer. We as Christians cannot keep quiet when our international laws and corporations go to poor countries and exploit them without giving any respect to environmental issues or when the international headquarters of those companies don't follow certain rules and regulations. May I pause here to thank the pastors who read the Council of Bishops' letter "God's Renewed Creation – Call to Hope and Action" to their churches, and for the congregations who read it, and for those who studied it and for those who agreed with it and for those who expressed their concerns in a Christian spirit, thus calling for a dialogue with me. I am grateful for the dialogue with me and others that the letter encouraged among us as United Methodists.

Bishop Grant Hagiya, Resident Bishop of the Seattle Area, reminded the Council of Bishops in his prophetic sermon, that,

- "The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well fed, one-third is under-fed, and one-third is starving.
- "Nearly 1 in 4 people, 1.3 billion, live on less than $1 per day, while the world's 497 billionaires have assets exceeding the combined annual incomes of countries with 58% of the world's people.
- "In the last 10 years, 100 million children died from starvation and malnutrition. Those 100 million deaths could have been prevented for the price of 10 Stealth bombers, or what the world spends on its militaries in 2 days.
- "1 out of every 8 children under the age of 12 in the U.S. goes to bed hungry every night.
- "For the price of 1 cruise missile, a school full of hungry children could eat lunch every day for 5 years.
- "Statistics like these go on and on, numbing us beyond comprehension.
- One cannot help but notice the direct tie that militarism has on world poverty & hunger…."[19]

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[18] GBGM Website, http://new.gbgm-umc.org/missionstudies/restorativejustice/

[19] Sermon preached by Bishop Grant Hagiya, at the spring 2010 meeting of The United Methodist Council of Bishops, Columbus, Ohio.

Friends, there is no excuse for any nation of the world to deny education or safe sanctuary to children. Children born in this country should not have their parents taken from them because they have no proper documents, thereby making these children orphans and destitute. What if this was our own child or grandchild? Would we keep quiet? When powerful nations of the world have the ability to produce cruise missiles but their schools have no budgets to educate our children, if any state has more prisons than state universities, there is something wrong. As faithful Christians can we keep silent? May it remind us of the words of the late Rev.Dr.William Sloane Coffin who said, "It behooves us North American Christians to realize now what the German churches learned too late some [seventy] years ago: it is not enough to resist with confession; we must confess with resistance."[20]

Recently at the Council of Bishops, Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntambo of the North Katanga Area shared with us the negative impact of the killer diseases of poverty, HIV AIDS, and malaria. I commend you all for your faithful participation in raising money for Nothing But Nets and for your support for the Central Conference Pension Initiative. I cannot thank you enough for this. However, as people called United Methodists, we need to keep giving to the best of our ability and to recall these anonymous words which are in the spirit of our saintly brother and leader John Wesley, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

As I conclude my address may I share with you a vital piece of information that was shared at the Council of Bishops on behalf of the Connectional Table? Bishop John Schol, Resident Bshop of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, while making the report on behalf of the Connectional Table to the Council of Bishops, indicated that the measures of fruits of "planting seeds--celebrating the harvest," are seen in five areas: worship attendance, engaging people in mission, professions of faith, mission giving and small group ministries . . . [He also said] that every congregation at their 2011 charge conference will report the goal they have set for each of the five areas for each year of 2012 through 2015 . . . [These five areas are] worship attendance, disciples engaged in mission, professions of faith, mission giving, and spiritual/discipleship formation groups."[21] We celebrate the fact that we are all doing it and the statistics have proven our journey in this area. May we lead the way more powerfully and aggressively, so that the world may look at the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and say to us in the language of Acts, "They are filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13).

As we move in this direction, may I challenge you to undertake the following in your own ministry settings?

- Read faithfully the book by Mike Slaughter, *Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus,* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010).
- Constantly nurture, develop faithful principled Christian leaders at every level of the Church, District and Conference. Claim the study on "Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities" approved by the annual conference in 2008 and apply them to every level of the Conference and let us celebrate it!
- Engage in ministry with the poor by visiting prisons, food pantries, and by boldly asking our youth groups to embrace the B1Campaign "one being, being one," a campaign which emerged as a result of a seed sown in a sermon preached at one of the youth weekends at the shores of Ocean City.
- In doing everything we can in partnering to stamp out the killer diseases of poverty and by improving health globally; by boldly partaking in the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign of our denomination.

May I prayerfully request and challenge you to speak to your friends at church and other places encouraging them to participate in this campaign by requesting them to text the word 'malaria' to 27722. This will allow them to give a $10.00 donation to our malaria initiative . . . and save a life. If you may recall in my last

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[20] William Sloane Coffin, Credo, (Louisville, Westminister John Knox Press, 2004) p.139.

[21] Presentation made by Bishop John Schol, "Planting Seeds—Celebrating the Harvest: Setting goals to align our ministry within the congregation, the annual conference and the general church," given at the spring 2010 meeting of The United Methodist Council of Bishops, Columbus, Ohio.

Table of Contents

Episcopal Address, I challenged our annual conference to raise at least a half million dollars for "Nothing But Nets." Imagine No Maleria Campaign is an extension of the "Nothing But Nets" campaign. Thank you, thank you, thank you! As of today you have raised more than $200,000. Additionally, tonight may I beg you and your churches to save every penny, nickel and dime that remain as change in your pockets as you retire at the end of the day. Bring it to our 2011 Annual Conference as our contribution towards buying a plane for the North Katanga Annual Conference, our partner with whom we are mutually in mission. I pray we may contribute at least $100,000 to help North Katanga Annual Conference to go to places which are impossible to go by road so that they may deliver nets to prevent malaria and to participate in other ministry and mission initiatives in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I love you and appreciate you for who you are and thank God for the grace which is allowing me to journey with you at such an exciting moment as this.

Will you kindly join me in a version of a Franciscan Benediction that Brian McLaren uses at his "Everything Must Change" gatherings, which I have copied from his website?[22]

> May God bless us with discomfort
> At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
> So that we may live from deep within our hearts.
>
> May God bless us with anger
> At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations
> So that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.
>
> May God bless us with tears
> To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,
> So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and
> To turn their pain into joy.
>
> And may God bless us with just enough foolishness
> To believe that we can make a difference in the world,
> So that we can do what others claim cannot be done:
> To bring justice and kindness to all our children and all our neighbors who are poor.
> Amen.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar
June 2, 2010

[22] Brian D. McLaren website, http://www.brianmclaren.net/archives/blog/a-franciscan-benediction.html

Table of Contents

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Dear Bishop and Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

It is truly my humble privilege to present this report on behalf of the entire appointment Cabinet at this 11th session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. I would like to thank our Bishop, Sudarshana Devadhar, for his 6 years of service as a faithful, spiritual and pastoral servant for all God's people in this Annual Conference and beyond. I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to all the administrative assistants who have been working diligently and faithfully in the Bishop's office and in all 9 district offices. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every staff and extended cabinet members in the conference office who have helped all conference-wide churches in various circumstances and situations. Our liturgy of thanksgiving would not be complete without recognizing our spouses, family members, and friends who faithfully support our ministries.

"There is a time for everything and a season/purpose for every activity under heaven."

W. Sibley Towner writes in the New Interpreter's Bible commentary, "The first item on the list, 'a time to be born, and a time to die' in verse 2 is clearly out of human hands, but the rest involve human choices." Please, hear me once again. We choose neither a time to be born nor a time to die because they are in God's control. However, the rest of the time, we can make choices. We can choose whether to plant or to uproot. We can choose to weep or to laugh. We can choose to tear down or to build.

We, District Superintendents, live and serve basically in two major seasons; an appointment making season and a church conference season. During this appointment making season 2010, Bishop and cabinet made 80 new appointments without counting the TBAs on the appointment list. Our appointment season begins with a cabinet retreat in December with all the information that was gathered during the church conference season. We spend days and nights to fulfill this special God's appointment making ministry through and in spite of us. We sing our theme song, "Spirit of the Living God," over and over again whenever we lift the pastors and the churches up to begin the appointment making process. We pray several times before and after Bishop's final decision on each and every appointment.

We keep focusing on each individual pastor's effective gifts and talents that will serve well for the mission and ministry of the local church by using the pastors' and churches' profiles during the entire appointment making season. We continuously hope and pray that all pastors who will move into new churches and communities will work faithfully and diligently to bear much fruit for our connectional and disciple making ministry.

Our appointment making season is almost over. However, our journey doesn't end here. All District Superintendents lead Transitional Workshops for all churches that will have appointment changes. We also follow up on the transition during the church conference season in the fall and the winter. Since our Bishop has arrived at our Annual Conference, our church conference has become a "Thanksgiving" service where we bring the fruits of our ministry for the year as the congregational sacred offering. Our individual church conference has made a very positive impact on the lives of our churches for the last 6 years. We still have many challenges to overcome in our ministry. We still need to move onto the perfection of our Shared Ministry Giving so that we don't have to sacrifice any part of our planned ministry each year.

As our founder John Wesley believed that we can attain the Christ-like perfection with God's help, we believe that we can make a 100% Shared Ministry Giving Annual Conference with God's help and our making the right choices in our ministry. We truly celebrate the fact that we were able to pay 100% to the General Church in the denomination for the third straight year.

<u>This is a time to celebrate!</u> We celebrate various and unique ministries that have been strengthening our ministry in various districts:

Table of Contents

Capital District has a Community directed program for control and elimination of river blindness in the Democratic Republic of Congo dedicated by Princeton UMC. Seventy youth in grades six through twelve from Medford UMC and Epworth UMC participated in B1, the United Methodist Church sponsored annual hunger awareness event. Bishop Felton May is working with Turning Point UMC and the city of Trenton.

Cape Atlantic District: Freedom School at Hamilton UMC in Atlantic City provides extra education for children in the city. The OASIS congregation is reaching out to the community in Pleasantville. Solar panels at St. Paul's UMC in Port Republic have been installed.

Delaware Bay District: Appointment of an associate pastor to begin a new congregation as a multi-site campus of the Sharptown UMC. The development of an Emergent Worship Service at the First UMC in Vineland to reach out to younger adult groups.

Gateway North District: The Urban Project under the leadership of Bishop Felton May to revitalize the ministry in the city of Newark. El Redentor Church's laity work with the pastor to start an ESL class in Elizabeth Street ministry to the undocumented each Saturday morning.

Gateway South District: Last year, Clergy and Laity of Camden Youth Ministry Initiative offered a six-week camp program in the city and they will offer two six-week programs this year.

Northern Shore District: There was a new church start in Barnegat. Pastor Eric Hall organized a fun, family day for the community. 200 adults and 300 children attended. Each child received a bag of ladybugs to release in their own gardens. "Change the world, one ladybug at a time."

Palisades District: There are fast growing English ministries in various Korean United Methodist Churches. First UMC in Ridgefield Park received some 30 new Hispanic members into the congregation. The Korean Community Church in Englewood is sponsoring a Hispanic and a Korean-Chinese congregation with the leadership of very dedicated lay leaders and Pastor Koo Yong Na. This church's wonderful ministries are indebted deeply to someone who planted a seed long time ago – Rev. Dr. Hae Jong Kim.

Raritan Valley District: New Providence UMC is offering Re-employment Seminars for those who have lost their jobs due to this challenging economy.

Skylands District: Rockaway UMC undertook numerous events that made strong connections with the surrounding communities and has received tremendous responses from the people. One of the significant reasons to celebrate is, "They have never done it this way before."

We also celebrate our various efforts that have been made to strengthen the leadership of clergy and laity in the Annual Conference: 21st Century Leadership Training; training pastors for New Church Starts; Natural Church Development; training Coaches for Clusters; Certified Lay Ministry Training; Lay Ministry Planting Network Training, etc.

<u>This is a time to build.</u> This is a time to build our ministry together.

Last March, we had, as a District Resource Day speaker, Rev. Paul Nixon, who authored the book, "*I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!*" Who would want to lead a dying church? However, the sad reality of our ministry is that some churches don't even realize that they are dying slow deaths.

Dick Wills, in his book "Walking to God's Dream," shares eight areas to explore to help you determine if you or your church is dying a slow death. Ask yourself if any of these are true of you or your church:

- You or the church values conservative decisions (You don't spend money, don't take risks, etc.);
- You avoid deep spiritual change;

Table of Contents

- You explain away or ignore external criticism;
- There are only short term, day-to-day operating procedures (no clear and compelling vision of what can be and will be with faith in God);
- The pastor and leaders focus on management, not leadership;
- People have a sense of hopelessness;
- There are needed changes that no one is willing to make;
- Failure to make needed changes is undiscussable.

"Are you or your church dying a slow death?"

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18, KJV) During the church conference season, I frequently ask a question when I meet with S/PPRC, "What is the vision of your church for the coming year?" It is sad to hear, from time to time, "Oh, we only need to wait until our pastor either retires or moves." I am not trying to blame our pastors for dying a slow death in some churches. Even one church is one too many if we allow any church of Jesus Christ to die a slow death because of our leaders' unwillingness to provide visions and to make the visions come true. As we hear from Dick Wills, we need to take risks to make deep spiritual changes and to be more committed and effective leaders to serve the people of God in this 21st Century.
Here are some suggestions that we can work on together to make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

1) Brothers and Sisters in Christ, please make prayerful discernments when you bring the Nomination Reports to the coming church conferences. Our ministry is all about leadership. We need to place the right leaders who can bear good fruits in various areas of our local churches' ministries. Dan Glover and Claudia Lavy suggest, "Careful selection will go a long way toward preventing damage caused by unequipped ministry leaders who lack an understanding of servanthood." First Timothy 3:1-12 outlines the qualities of the servant leaders who must be: trustworthy; self-controlled; hospitable; of sincere character; able to direct others; moral and ethical. (Deepening Your Effectiveness, p. 212)

2) Let us take some risks to make a paradigm shift to provide spiritual nurturing to our children, youth, and young adults. So many churches have been complaining about sports games on Sunday mornings. How long are we going to keep complaining and talking about it? We may have to offer some spiritual nurturing programs on any evening or late in the afternoon on weekends when we have less conflict with other events in town. We need to be open-minded to embrace those who may live in different life styles and cultures in this age. Can we be really welcoming churches of Jesus Christ when we fail to embrace the "clothing" or shall I say "lack of clothing" that our youth find fashionable?

3) Let us throw away our spiritual arrogance and practice the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. We still have serious problems with leaders who do not promote our Annual Conference and District sponsored equipping and empowering programs to the leaders in the local congregations. It is obvious that only growing leaders can grow the churches.

4) Let us recommit ourselves to make deep spiritual changes. Dick Wills assures us, "Personal change precedes organizational change. You cannot share what you do not have." (*Walking to God's Dream*, p. 78) Jesus invites us to "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." (Luke 5:5) It may be an idea to revisit the place where the first disciples struggled to clarify their call to be fishers of people and recommitted themselves to be more effective and faithful laborers in the vineyard of Jesus Christ.

It is a special blessing to our Annual Conference that we have a good team-spirited working relationship between the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry. It was my personal privilege to accompany our Bishop, Dean of the Extended Cabinet, Rev. Varlyna Wright, Chair of the BOOM, Rev. Steve Bechtold, and

Table of Contents

brothers and sisters who were ordained by the Bishop for the last 5 years to the "Holy Land Pilgrimage 2010." We could not have made it without the dedicated partnership of BOOM. Whatever it takes! This is a time to put our boats into the deep water and let down our nets for a catch.

Last but not least, I want all of us to refocus on the clergy and laity training programs for new church starts. We already have a second "wave" of trainees who are willing to respond to this unique call to start new churches. Last fall, we had Bill Easum as a speaker for our District Resource Day. He stated, "If we do not start new churches that are 10% of the total of The United Methodist Churches in this country each year, we will be an extinct species sooner or later." What a shocking and challenging statement!

Before I became a District Superintendent, I was working on the Doctorate in Ministry program with a theme, "How Can We Help a Local Congregation to Say Gracefully, 'We have run our race faithfully and it is a time to finish.'" It is so true that there are some churches that cannot or will not make disciples of Jesus Christ due to various given circumstances. There are some churches where their missions and ministries are all about keeping the church doors open. This may be a time to reexamine this journey of maintaining the building and to turn all the passion, energy, and resources toward new church starts before it's too late. It may be painful, but we need to make the right choices.

Our Harvest Mission Fund that supports new church starts, clergy and laity training programs, revitalization of the urban ministry, are available only because of those courageous and dedicated sisters and brothers in Christ who said gracefully, "We have run our race faithfully and it is time …." Their decisions became cornerstones to build new churches around the Annual Conference.

Our three rookie District Superintendents are already going into their third year of service. They appreciated the unique team-spirited ministry of the Cabinet. Our seasoned district superintendents offer our gifts of calm presence in the life of the Annual Conference. We are still frustrated by the seven deadly sinful words, "We've never done it this way before," that we hear from one place to the other.

This is a time that the cabinet sends off our brother Bob Scott and welcomes Barbara Rambach as a new sister around the Cabinet table. We will continue to talk, sing, pray, and walk this journey toward God's dream. Would you join us in making God's dream come true? "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We cannot transform the world unless we are willing to be transformed first. May God bless us all, God's faithful SERVANTS! Amen.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Bishop Devadhar, Mrs. Devadhar, Dean of the Cabinet, Cabinet members, Extended Cabinet, visiting Bishops and Conference Dignitaries (i.e. Nicola Mulligan), Laity Council and all Laity and Clergy in this Congregation today, I bid you a hearty Holy Conferencing greeting.

I would like to thank Bishop Devadhar for this marvelous opportunity to be in partnership with him in the name of Christ. I offer special thanks today to Rev. Richard Nichols who served as Cabinet Representative to the Laity Council. Rev. Nichols is always available and always willing to help us.

Many thanks also to Rev. Varlyna Wright, Conference Staff Advisor, whose advice and guidance have been invaluable to me and the Laity Council.

As the Bishop reminded all of us in this Congregation yesterday, as members of the United Methodist Church, we took vows to support our churches with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. This year we are celebrating, Disciples transforming the world through our Presence. Joe E. Pennel, Jr. in his book, "The Gift of Presence", wrote, "The gift of presence is rooted in the belief that the living Christ is present with us and with those who suffer. Those who desire to give and help, need simply to bear witness to

Table of Contents

the Christ who is already present." Pennel goes on to use the example of the Good Samaritan to show how we as followers of Christ should respond to those who suffer.

In contemplating what it means to be the Body of Christ--to be God's presence amidst pain and suffering in this world I looked at James 1:27 which further instructs us about what our response should be to suffering in this world. James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: To look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." The emphasis of James' letter is to stress the importance of good deeds in the life of every believer and that we must have faith that manifests itself in the action of good deeds.

The Laity in the Greater New Jersey Conference are not just hearers of God's word, but doers. All over this Conference, we are God's hands and feet and eyes and ears, helping those who suffer. In his Episcopal Address yesterday, the Bishop asked us what sacramental presence have we exhibited for the Glory of God. Bishop, I am so glad that you asked.

In Developing Principled Leaders – Former Conference Lay Leader Jay Brown took on the enormous task of researching and putting together a proposal for the Greater New Jersey Conference to start a Certified Lay Minister's (CLM) Program. On June 27, we expect to graduate 29 of the smartest, most dedicated, well trained, principled leaders who make up the first class of CLM Graduates in our Conference. These students have participated in a grueling 10 weeks of training, study and examination, taught by the finest clergy and lay people in our Conference, including the Bishop who taught a class on *The Book of Discipline*.

Dr. Doug Ruffle our Congregational Development staff person began to train Lay Missioners in a program in partnership with Path One Team of the General Board of Discipleship. In this program, he is preparing to train principled leaders for new church starts.

Other examples of Laity being God's hands and feet in our Conference are:

- Wesley UMC Bible Breakfast Ministry with children and youth.
- Park Avenue-St. John Bible Café.
- Hamilton Memorial UMC in Atlantic City is starting with the young. They are running a program this summer for children called the Freedom School. They have started early to train principled leaders in their church.
- Rock of Ages Youth Ensemble at Park UMC in Bloomfield with 25 teenagers in a beautiful choir that mimics the Diversity of our Conference.
- Simpson UMC training smart, dedicated principled leaders through their Spanish Speaking Lay Speaking classes.

Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

- Orange UMC is feeding hundreds of hungry people in the park.
- Lay people working with the pastor at El Redentor church in Linden to start an English as a Second Language Street Ministry to the undocumented each Saturday morning. Kean College students are being recruited and trained to teach summer Bible School.
- Sharptown UMC Prison Ministry
- Chatham UMC and South Orange-Vailsburg are working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network welcoming the homeless to live in their church.
- The Bus-Stop Ministry at Park Avenue St. John, East Orange, where Pastor and Laity sit between bus stops daily to minister to the people and MENISTRY (men's ministry) teaching young men the art of construction and restoring of homes.
- Food Pantries in Irvington UMC, Calvary UMC-Kearny, Verona UMC, Trinity UMC in Rahway, Union City Emanuel, Caldwell UMC-Soup Kitchen, Park Avenue-St. John Daily Bread Pantry, El Redentor, Grace UMC, Claire Memorial, UMC in Green Village.
- The Community Garden at Hilton UMC.

Table of Contents

In reaching out to those who suffer and are less fortunate than us, Laity along with our clergy partners are helping to transform the world and are making Disciples for Jesus Christ by our "Presence" in the world.

Care for the suffering in this world is not left as an option for us as Christ followers. Every Christian is bound to be God's presence to those who suffer. But James reminds us that Charity without purity would be of no use. We, as Christians, must also walk in the way of Holiness, "without which no man or woman shall see the Lord".

We must be in the world but not of it. We must, as we are God's Presence, do everything to the Glory of God.

Now, it is rather obvious that I have not mentioned anything about what our young people are doing. Well, Greater New Jersey, from what I have seen across this Conference, our young people are perfectly capable and anxious to speak for themselves. And, as the leader of the Laity, I would like to hear from them. Therefore, I have yielded 5 minutes of my allotted time to Melodie Jillson from Tuckerton United Methodist Church. Melodie serves as Co-President with Albert Ramirez of Manasquan United Methodist Church of the Youth and Young Adults. Melodie, welcome to the podium!

"The Gift of Presence: A Guide to Helping Those Who Suffer" Joe E. Pennel, Jr. Abington Press, Nashville, Tn.; The Holy Bible, New International Version, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Oh.

Ressie Fuller, Esq., Conference Lay Leader

AFRICA UNIVERSITY THRIVING IN ZIMBABWE

Africa University has many stories to tell – to the nations of Africa, and the world.

During Zimbabwe's economic and political struggles of recent years, United Methodist-related Africa University continued to educate leaders for all of Africa. For a time in 2009, it was the only institution of higher education in Zimbabwe open for classes. We celebrated our 3,000th graduate with the 2009 graduating class.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, our 1,100 students represented 28 African countries. We have a substantial waiting list of students eager to attend on campus or through our emerging distance-learning curriculum.

For all of this, we thank God for the prayers and support of United Methodists. In 2009, annual conferences contributed more than $2 million to the apportioned Africa University Fund. That represents 86 percent of the $2.5 million goal set by the 2008 General Conference.

United Methodists' support for Africa University creates opportunities for Africans to help Africans. Our graduates are living out the United Methodist vision for the Four Areas of Focus:

Leadership: The Rev. Tolbert Thomas Jallah, Jr. is a prime example. A graduate of AU's Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance, the former advisor to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is now Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in West Africa.

Global Health: Bigi Ruhigita, a nurse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, earned her master's degree in Public Health at AU. She returned to the Congo to work in a 50-bed clinic she and her siblings founded in honor of their father.

Ministry with the Poor: Isaiah Njimbu, a 2006 graduate, returned to Lubumbashi, DRC, to find many children orphaned because their parents died of AIDS. In response, Njimbu started the Child Action Initiative, a nongovernment organization. Today, this ministry still thrives.

Table of Contents

Church Growth: The Rev. Daniel Mhone was instrumental in establishing 28 local churches in the newly-established Malawi (Africa) Missionary Conference. He credits Africa University for increasing his capacity as a pastor.
In December 2009, we joyfully celebrated the inauguration of Bishop David Kekumba Yemba and professor Fanuel Tagwira as the University's third Chancellor and Vice Chancellor.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila praised the University's dedication to Africa at our annual seminar commemorating former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Every annual conference is vital to the success of the dream that has become Africa University. Your support educates leaders in theology, agriculture, social sciences, health sciences, peace and justice.

Grace and peace,

Jim Salley
Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

We greet you in friendship, thanking God for your leadership of the church's ministry. Many of you have given prayerful support to the Boston University School of Theology (STH) during the past year, and we thank you. You encourage us as partners in mission and in the pioneering work that has marked our particular mission in the past year. Thanks in large part to many of you, we have traveled the country, heard your hopes for the future, and launched many new initiatives.

What has happened during this year?

- Student enrollment increased in 2009-2010 over the previous year. Our dynamic student body has led STH efforts to respond to the people of Haiti, to enhance the School's sustainability work, and to create new forms of theological dialogue among people with diverse perspectives on God and God's creation.
- The Seminary Singers have revived the annual choir tour tradition, singing their way from Northern Virginia to Connecticut.
- Travel seminars have studied in Cuba and Ephesus (modern Turkey).
- The STH faculty published eight books in the past year, and they were honored with two book prizes, two teaching awards, one promotion to a Boston University endowed chair, and one leadership award.
- Professor Anjulet Tucker joined our faculty in 2009, bringing her expertise in Sociology of Religion and her specialized study on Black Pentecostal churches.
- Professor Dana Robert is delivering major addresses around the world in 2010 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The School will also celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Truman Collins Chair in World Christianity and Mission, sponsoring special events in Fall 2010 and soaring efforts to raise funds for the Chair, thanks to an anonymous challenge grant of $420,000.
- Co-directors of Contextual Education, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Parsons, are expanding STH partnerships with local churches, service agencies, and faith-based communities, helping us extend the breadth and depth of our work in contextualizing theological education.
- The ATLAS for Alums Program now provides free online ATLAS Access to all STH alums, enabling them to utilize over 140 journals in their ministries! Please email Maggie Keelan, Development Officer, for the user name and password to ATLAS: mkeelan@bu.edu. We are grateful to the Lilly Foundation for supporting this outreach.

Table of Contents

- We are on the road, striving to increase our presence in United Methodist Conferences around the country. Please hold us accountable to this and let us know if you would like a representative from the School to visit in the future!

What is coming?

- The new Master of Divinity curriculum will be launched in September 2010. The focus is "Faith Engaging the World," and the goals are to prepare spiritually-centered, prophetic, intelligent, practical religious leaders who can contribute to renewing and transforming the church and the world.
- Three faculty searches are underway: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Chair in Ethics or Homiletics, and positions in Religious Education and the History of Christianity.
- The STH People's History Project is expanding. This is an ambitious endeavor to record oral histories of alums from all eras, particularly the 1950s and 1960s. Contact the Alumni Office if you are interested in sharing your story with us: (617) 353-2349.
- The School has created a bold strategic plan to guide the coming years. The plan is to strengthen support for students, renovate degree programs that educate future leaders, enhance faculty excellence in teaching and research, and support research and continuing education to strengthen the Church.
- The School begins a specialized, one-year Master of Sacred Theology program for military chaplains in Fall 2010, responding to their increasing needs to address issues of ethics, trauma, and conflict transformation.
- We are renovating our physical space: the famous ping pong table is back! Classrooms are becoming "smart" with technology, art displays are multiplying, and the first floor has been remodeled for hospitality and comfort. On the near horizon are plans to renovate the basement into a community Center, replace light fixtures and windows for energy-efficiency, and improve the handicap accessibility of our building.
- We are developing partnerships with Africa University and two Korean Universities through Student Exchange and Faculty Exchange programs.
- Plans are underway for more work in continuing education, including onsite events and distance education opportunities. Our new work will include efforts to make our new certificate programs more widely available. We presently offer the academic certificate requirements for United Methodist Certification in Evangelism, Spirituality, and Sacred Music.

We celebrate our graduates and friends in your conference and our colleagues in ministry throughout the United Methodist connection. We hope to hear from you in the coming year and to build significant partnerships. Our relationship with you is vital for our learning and for our service in this world of many needs. We pray for you and invite you to pray for us as well!

Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

GREATER NJ UNITED METHODIST CAMPING MINISTRIES, INC.

The 2009 camping season was an exciting one and this summer promises to be even better, packed full with awesome opportunities for campers of all ages.

Our mission is to: Inspire, Explore, and Ignite a new and deeper relationship with Jesus through nature with the Greater NJ United Methodist Camping Ministry.

Summer camp is a great way for children and youth of the GNJAC to continue to grow spiritually. Each camp is well-planned by a camp director who specializes in the week's focus and is Bible based. In addition to

Table of Contents

promoting spiritual growth, camping allows young people to make new friends while having fun and exploring God's natural world.

Several new camps are offered this summer. At Aldersgate "A Wesleyan Way of Living" will promote spiritual growth as campers get a glimpse of Methodist history and learn John Wesley's three simple rules: Do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. At Pinelands, new camp offerings include "Field Hockey Transformation" - a training camp for players of all skill levels led by Judy Goldstein, who has 22 years experience, and "Sailing the Big Boats".

The Counselor-in-Training Program has been condensed into a two-week Leadership Training Camp event called "Path4Teens(tm) Leadership Camp" and will offer attendees new skills. It begins at the Pinelands Center, but will include training time at the Aldersgate Center as well.

Other exciting additions include the new Community Service Camp opportunities as that will be spread throughout the summer at both Pinelands Center and Aldersgate. There will be awesome family camping opportunities Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend at both camps.

There is much to celebrate in the world of GNJ Camping Ministry. As some camps have been forced to close their gates due to a lack of funds, Pinelands Center and Aldersgate are flourishing and debt-free. Last season there were over 500 campers, up from the previous season.

Both camps still have staff positions open for the 2010 camping season. If you know any young people, ages 18 to 24, that have completed at least one year of college and would make excellent Christian role models for children, please help them connect to the camps. Interested applicants can contact Pinelands Center or Aldersgate Center directly. There are also volunteer positions available on a weekly basis.

If summer camp isn't your thing, remember Pinelands Center and Aldersgate for your church retreat needs.

To see a full offering of camp opportunities visit us online at www.gnjumcm.org.

Jessica Stenstrom for GNJUMCM

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world,* **Candler School of Theology** continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Our distinctive commitment to both *inspiring minds* and *empowering ministry* enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International

Table of Contents

Initiatives, led by Dr. David Jenkins, and received several grants related to international engagement. Through one of these, Candler partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc. to send seven student interns to Mozambique, Indonesia, and the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2009. Other grants are assisting Candler in initiating a national conversation on best practices for internationalizing theological education. In spring semester of 2010, Dr. Wesley de Souza, Arthur J. Moore associate professor in the practice of evangelism, team-taught a distance education class in real time with a professor and students at a seminary in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the first collaboration of its kind at Candler. The March 2010 visit of Roman Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service, the highest federal award a college or university can receive for its commitment to community engagement.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program, directed by Dr. Alice Rogers, continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with bold initiatives to advance our mission. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid each year. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was $4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than $2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students. We also established Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills. In March, we hosted our second annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler. Last year, 75 percent of the participants in Leadership Candler joined us as students in the fall. Finally, Candler has raised more than half of our $60 million capital campaign goal.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund. Established by Frank and Helen Sherman of Jacksonville, Florida, the Sherman program has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Candler’s student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity, 62 the Master of Theological Studies, 25 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations. This year we welcome two new faculty: Dr. Greg Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling, who joined us in fall 2009, and a fellow United Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Arun Jones, who joins us in fall 2010 as the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism. Candler also has produced *A Thrill of Hope*, a church resource DVD for Advent that offers a fresh take on the Christmas story, uniting art, scripture, and commentary by members of Candler's faculty. Watch a preview on our website, www.candler.emory.edu.

Table of Contents

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROJECT

The Christian Outreach Project completed 27 years providing no-cost home repairs to persons in need. For many participants sharing their faith with the home owners was one of the most rewarding aspects of the project.

Over 100 youths and adults from across the conference formed 17 work crews doing repairs such as roofing, general carpentry, handicap accessibility and painting. Through a generous grant from Parish and Community Development we were able to provide intentionally inclusive scholarships to introduce the program to new participants.

The Christian Outreach Project operates as a NJ Nonprofit corporation with 501(c)(3) recognition from the IRS. We relate to the Greater NJ Annual Conference through an annual resolution of relationship.
The following persons serve on our board of directors:

1. Jeffrey Spelman – Chair Person
2. Rev. Steven Bechtold – Vice Chair Person
3. Joseph Sikora – Treasurer
4. Paulette Harland – Secretary
5. David Kihm – Executive Director
6. David Brown
7. Doug Bull
8. Linda Diffley
9. John Edwards
10. Janet Fischlein
11. Kate Hanley
12. Erica Munoz
13. Brenda Wheeler-Ehlers

Please visit our website to learn more about our program at www.christianoutreachproject.org.

Jeffrey Spelman, COP Board Chair

Table of Contents

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Since our last Annual Conference, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns has been hard at work in having a presence in the Greater New Jersey area.

On the Christian Unity side of our work we thank God for our Full Communion Agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and we are in dialogue on how to have a state-wide celebration. Please look for more details about this celebration which will take place near World Communion Sunday of this year. We are also honored to be working with Bishop Devadhar in planning a 100th celebration of the Ecumenical movement. Rev. Jessica Campbell attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2010, the Committee will send two persons to the workshop, this time in Tampa, Florida. In addition to this we have been active with the New Jersey Council of Churches and have been present at various ecumenical gatherings and events across the state. At Annual Conference last year, we presented Christian Unity awards to the Covenant United Methodist Church for their Ecumenical Free Meals program and to Lytle Hoover for his ecumenical work in the Cherry Hill Area Food Pantry. We look forward to presenting Christian Unity Awards again at this Annual Conference.

We have also been working hard on the interreligious/interfaith concerns portion of our Commission. We have held interfaith dialogues at five of the District Days of Learning this year. At these district events we have held interfaith dialogues in the sessions and then encouraged congregations to host dialogues in their own settings. Our hope is that in time congregations will be engaged in various interfaith ministries across the state. We continue to support the work of the Interfaith Dialogue Center and strongly recommend their Abraham's Table luncheons which are advertised in the Digest and are held all over the state.

Our goals for the coming year are: to have a presence in the remaining four District Days of Learning, to support the Bishop's nominee to attend the 2011 World Methodist Council, to continue finding creative ways we can work with the ELCA in our full Communion agreement, to expand our ecumenical and interreligious ministries, and to find new ways to help local churches engage in expanding ecumenical and interfaith ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
The Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns Committee

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Board of Church and Society has worked to follow its four-year plan which is to help local churches in their role as advocates, supporters and activists for social justice.

The first part of our goal is to help individuals and churches on how to be involved. We are planning Public Theology Advocate (PTA) training in May, 2010 to fit this goal. All of our churches should be involved in some type of social justice work, but individuals and churches may not know why we are called into that role, therefore we are having workshops at each of the Districts Days of Learning related to our Social Principles. We have worked with two districts already and have set plans to work with three (3) districts in 2010, two (2) districts in 2011 and two (2) districts in 2012.

Issues we are working on in this quadrennium relate to environmental justice, housing, immigration, education, employment, health, the prison system and the reduction of violence. We are working with an organization called First Friends that works with people who have been detained. We also continue to work with churches to

Table of Contents

do energy audits. This year, we plan to work on issues related to health.

Secondly, a major responsibility of the Board is to review and approve Peace with Justice Grants. In 2009, we gave four (4) grants which related to ministries for homelessness, immigration, hunger and family advocacy.

Finally, we would like to see all our churches become more involved in social justice issues within their communities, the US and worldwide. We will work to make people aware of this responsibility through workshops, speakers, articles and activities.

Cynthia Ann Kent, Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

During the past year the Congregational Development Team sent five clergypersons to the New Church Planter Leadership Institute in Richmond, Virginia. It also gave support so that two new church planters, the Reverend Jerry Ruff (appointed as of 7/1/10 to the second campus new church start for Sharptown UMC) and Rev. Erik C. Hall (appointed to "Barnegat Anew" in Barnegat, NJ) could attend Basic Training for new church planters (often referred to as "Boot Camp"). It also made arrangements so that Rev. Hall had the services of a coach (the Rev. Jeff Bills).

In the area of revitalization, the Team continued to encourage engagement in the Natural Church Development (NCD) process. 85% of Greater New Jersey United Methodist churches that have completed a full cycle of NCD have improved both qualitatively and quantitatively. The PTT endorsed the use of NCD as well as the written resource, *Roadmap to Renewal*, as two tools for revitalization of existing churches. A network of coaches is in place in the annual conference to help local churches engage in these processes for revitalization.

The team approved the funding for two new church plant initiatives: 1) Barnegat Anew for a total of $90,000 for calendar year 2010; and 2) Sharptown UMC's second campus for $70,000 for calendar year 2010.

As part of the fulfillment of the directives of the 2008 approved "**Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities,"** the team completed the first round of training in a Coach Certification Program for the Annual Conference. It also began implementation of Revitalization Clusters in each of the nine districts of the annual conference. For a fuller report on the implementation of the goals set forth in the "Study on Effectively fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities," please see the report submitted by the Primary Task Team.

The Congregational Development Team continues to support the Conference by securing up-to-date demographic information through "Link 2 Lead." It supports the Conference in carrying out its primary focus by encouraging and supporting the development of new and established congregations. It reports to the Primary Task Team and supports the work of the Congregational Development Coordinator in his or her responsibilities to resource the development of a Conference-wide plan for planting new churches. The charter for this team was adopted at the 2006 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. Membership of the team is composed of one representative from each of the District Boards of Church Location and Building as well as five "members at large." Readers of this report are encouraged to visit the congregational development website of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to learn of the various resources available for the local church (www.yourchurchcangrow.org).

Dr. Douglas Ruffle, Team Coordinator of Congregational Development
Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell, Chair of the Congregational Development Team

Table of Contents

CUMAC/ECHO, INC.

CUMAC/ECHO, Inc., an extension ministry of the United Methodist Church and the largest feeding program in Passaic County, NJ has successfully completed the busiest year of our ministry to date. High unemployment and rising costs of living have brought a steadily increasing number of people to our doors in Paterson. Throughout 2009 our food pantry provided assistance for over 31,000 individuals: a 26% increase from 2008. While this high number represents an upsetting increase in food insecurity, it also signifies a great victory, because with your incredible support we were able to distribute over 1.8 million pounds of food to those suffering from hunger!

In addition to giving bags of groceries to over 2,600 families each month, we've worked tirelessly to curtail the rapid growth of food insecurity in our state and have redoubled our efforts to address the root causes of hunger. In recognition of the obvious link between unemployment and hunger, we've increased our participation in WorkFirst New Jersey, providing close to 21,000 hours of job training for people seeking employment. We've increased participation in our After School Program, giving quality one-on-one tutoring to 30 youth from one of Paterson's poorest performing schools, with the firm belief that a quality education is one of the surest tools with which to break out of poverty.

We have made incredible strides forward as a leader in anti-hunger efforts and have expended a phenomenal effort this year working to end childhood hunger, which is at an all-time high in New Jersey. In 2009 we were blessed to work with Governor Corzine on critical state-wide responses to food insecurity; to open discussion with our mayor and superintendent of schools regarding collaborative anti-hunger efforts in our city; and to work at the forefront of campaigns to garner support from congressional representatives for emergency feeding measures.

This has been a busy year, and we could not have gotten through it without your steadfast support. In 2009 close to 60 United Methodist Churches and over 20 United Methodist Women groups contributed money to our mission of feeding people and changing lives, ensuring that we were able to keep our doors open while many other pantries were forced to close. Collectively United Methodist Churches and affiliate groups held close to 600 collections: supplying food, clothing, shoes and grocery bags to our ministry.

Church groups from all over New Jersey have spent countless hours in our warehouse helping to inventory and sort food, clean out freezers and cooler boxes, assemble household donations, and paint and upgrade various areas of the facility. You've supported our events by teeing off at our golf outing and bidding at our auctions,- and have graciously included us in your own church functions. Through your collecting power, we've substantially increased the scope of our seasonal giving programs, providing backpacks and school supplies to hundreds of eager students in August and giving over 1,100 gifts to some of Paterson's most vulnerable children in December. Even the UMC youth force has acted as staunch supporters, collecting loose change, grocery bags, Girl Scout cookies and aluminum can pull tabs for our feeding efforts.

Poverty and hunger are a real and terrifying threat for many of New Jersey's residents.

The fight against hunger is occurring all over our state, and so many of you are crucial to your own local food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. It is so gracious of you to recognize CUMAC's feeding efforts in addition to those occurring in your own communities. As a food pantry that distributed over 450,000 bagged meals to our own clients and a food depot that provides for close to 60 smaller feeding programs, it takes an incredible support base to guarantee that critical food supplies find those in need. We are blessed that you've been with us every step of the way as we work to feed people and change lives. **Thank you for all that you do.** However, I must ask you to push yourself further, because we're facing some of the greatest obstacles we ever have had and we need you now more than ever.

Table of Contents

According to a recent study conducted by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, about 138,500 different people in our state receive emergency food assistance in any given week, and this number is expected to continue to rise. While this trend is startling, it doesn't adequately convey the pain and injustice of hunger, of working long shifts on an empty stomach, watching your children go to sleep without dinner, and making the difficult choice between paying to heat your home or feed your family. We at CUMAC recognize the deeper suffering that food insecurity creates for each of our clients and are dedicated to alleviating the burden of hunger and poverty for all who come to us.

Call us at 973-742-5518, e-mail us at info@cumacecho.org, or visit our website at www.cumacecho.org. We'd love to tell you more about our feeding efforts and how to help and to hear how you're involving yourself in the fight against hunger.

Above all else, always remember that *you* play an instrumental role in our work. We, at CUMAC, are at the frontline of caring for those most in need in our community, but it is only through your tireless work and dedication that we are able to reach as many people as we do. Ending hunger is a daily struggle and it takes continuous effort, but together it is possible. Every prayer, every can of food or jar of peanut butter, every pair of shoes or bag of clothes, every gift given is a symbol of God's love for people who all too often feel alone. We look forward to a continued partnership as we work to make the world a better, more secure place for all of God's children.

Reverend Patricia Bruger, Executive Director

DREW UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to again share with you my ministry at Drew University as Director of the Chapel & Religious Life/ University Chaplain. This is my fourth year in this full-time appointment, and my work continues to evolve and grow as I come to know the community, its needs, desires and concerns, better and become better equipped to address them. I report directly to the Dean (soon to be announced upon the retirement of Dean Maxine Beach) of Drew Theological School and to the new Dean of Student Life and Campus Affairs, Sarah Waldron.

I have several basic responsibilities which I continue to try to approach creatively and with new energy and excitement. As Director of the Chapel, I schedule, develop and implement three midday worship services each week, primarily for the theological school community at Drew. I also offer a Sunday evening emerging worship experience geared towards younger students both in the college and the theological and graduate schools. I offer spiritual guidance and counseling to students, faculty and staff, as well as provide clergy leadership for major campus-wide events such as baccalaureate, convocation and commencement, memorial services, weddings, etc. I convene the Religious Life Council which involves the student leaders of our seven religious student organizations who meet frequently in order to brainstorm, share ideas and information, and create interfaith events.

This year, I became the advisor to the Spirituality Theme House, an interfaith house committed to learning about and sharing the uniqueness and commonalities among the religious traditions represented by its residents. I also serve on several university committees, including the University Senate, the Diversity Committee, and the Executive Board of the University Staff Association. I work closely with the University's centers for Religion, Culture and Conflict and Civic Engagement. I would estimate my total student contact each week at approximately 2 – 300 students, including one-on-one and group activities. My faculty/staff contact would increase that number by about 50 people per week.

Beginning last year, I had the opportunity to begin to connect the Drew faith community with life beyond campus. I was asked in the fall of 2007 to join a new interfaith organization in Newark called the Coalition for

Table of Contents

Peace and Hope. We came together following a summer of escalating violence in the city to see how we could, as a faith-based coalition, help to address a culture of gang violence and poverty. Through this Coalition, I have become active with an organization designed to mentor young women at risk called 9 Strong Women. I am attaching a narrative regarding this organization for your review. This organization received the Drew Center for Civic Engagement award for the Creative Civic Engagement Project of the Year in 2009, and currently involves about ten women Drew students in mentoring and tutoring. This program will soon be chartered as a Shalom Site under the Shalom Initiative now housed at Drew. As a member of the executive board of the Shalom Initiative, I was also the worship leader at the national Shalom Summit held in South Carolina last October.

My dissertation project is progressing. My project is a narrative analysis project currently entitled "Gen M Women and Friendship: The Form and Function of Friendship in the Millennial Age." I expect to complete this dissertation this coming fall and to defend it in April of 2011.

I continue to be actively involved in conference activities. I serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry, and sit on the Executive Committee of the BOM as the Coordinator for Clergy Mentors. For the last two years, I have sat on the Sessions Committee of the GNJAC as Worship Chair. I have also been named to the NEJ Clergywomen's Consultation Task Force and will be working on the design team for the Clergywomen's NEJ Gathering in 2011, and at the Global Gathering in 2012. My home church charge is Chatham United Methodist Church. This year, my husband and I taught confirmation class and confirmed six young people as professing members of the UMC in January. I also occasionally participate in leading worship.

Again, I appreciate always the support of the CBHEM as well as the General Board, and of our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. Please let me know if you require additional information.

Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett

THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
Of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

The Educational Society offers loans and scholarships toward education of members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference who are called of God to full-time Christian service. Scholarship recipients are enrolled in an accredited theological seminary or graduate school, demonstrate a worthy level of academic achievement and economic need, and agree to serve at least five years full-time in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. Loan recipients are enrolled in an accredited college, seminary, graduate school or Course of Study.

In 2009 the Educational Society of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference fulfilled its stated purpose by awarding a total of $45,500 in scholarships to ten students and granting loans totaling $4,000 to two students.

Also this year, at our fall meeting, the Educational Society approved changes to our by-laws to clarify our identity as an agency of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and to clear-up legal ambiguities that may have put the Society and its members at risk. Last year the Educational Society turned over administration of its funds to the Conference Treasurer who now receives all funds for deposit and issues checks upon request from The Educational Society. Some of the changes in our by-laws reflect this change in operations.

The Educational Society is supported by local churches, friends of the Annual Conference, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference itself, and the repayment of loans. Effective communication of our mission to the Annual Conference, responsible investment of principal, and recovery of delinquent accounts are goals of the Educational Society toward better stewardship of this ministry. Greater support by local churches and individual members can help ensure that we continue to have well-educated, effective, spirit-filled clergy to

Table of Contents

serve our Annual Conference. However, at this time, very few churches support the Educational Society. And yet, if each church were able to support the Educational Society with only one dollar per member, we would be able to support our future pastors in such a way that they would not have to acquire crippling debt in order to get the necessary training to serve our congregations effectively as pastors.

Emil Winkelspecht
President

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON

Although 2009 was a poor year for the economy as a whole, the conference collection rate only slipped about 1% and churches particularly affected by reductions in Wall Street bonuses paid in early 2009 accounted for that and more. In 2009 a record number of our churches, 388 in all, paid 100% of their shared ministry fund allocation. We are grateful to the churches of the Conference for their wonderful stewardship under trying circumstances.

Conference committees, boards and agencies were prudent with their expenditures and the income from Conference investments recovered substantially, with the result that we ended the year with a total surplus of $2.1M. Since the minimum surplus we are required to maintain by Conference legislation is about $1M, the Council felt that the use of about $384,000 from the Conference surplus to pay our General Church Apportionments was appropriate. As a result, for the third consecutive year, our Conference was on the list of conferences that paid 100% of their general church apportionments for the year. We are one of only 14 conferences that paid 100%. After this and other year-end transactions, our surplus remains at about $1.7M.

We thank the Bishop and Cabinet for their leadership in achieving these results and we thank all those in the local churches whose hard work made these results possible.

Other items of note from our activities this year:

1. The listing of those churches that achieved 100% payment of their Shared Ministry allocation in 2008 was published, and the payment percentages of all churches in 2008 was also published. Also published was the listing of disciples made for the year. These efforts to recognize the achievements of our churches will be continued.

2. As announced at the 2008 Annual Conference, we have agreed with the Cabinet that our formula should not include membership as part of the basis for allocation of the Conference Shared Ministry budget. We have been working on this during this year and are proposing elsewhere a new formula for your consideration at the 2010 Annual Session.

3. As the result of the continuing efforts of the Bishop and Cabinet, all but one of the churches receiving supplemental or equitable compensation paid 100% of their Disciplinary Obligations. We thank them for their hard work. We are sad to report that we discontinued, in accord with conference legislation, the supplemental compensation payment to the one church that did not pay 100%.

4. Financial training has again been provided to all districts through our participation in the District Days of Learning and a separate series on completing the statistical reports. The emphasis in the District Days of Learning this year was on clergy taxes. We continue to have churches running afoul of the IRS through misunderstanding of these requirements.

5. Investments performed well in 2008, regaining nearly all the previous losses. (By early 2010, all previous losses had been recovered in our investment portfolio.) Our portfolio is well diversified

Table of Contents

and we were able to continue the policy of providing 4% cash flow to the various organizations that depend upon these funds for their work. We also anticipate that we will be able to continue this 4% level in 2010.

6. The project to get all churches properly incorporated is continuing. Efforts are being made with the NJ Council of Churches and certain legislators to make it easier to change from a Chapter 15 incorporation to a Chapter 16. If successful, this will reduce the cost and difficulty of accomplishing this task.

7. The on-line entry of each church's annual report continues to go well. The GCFA has been able to provide us with a number of reports not readily obtainable with our previous system. The information is confidential and each church has a unique password.

8. Information has been obtained and distributed to our local churches about the requirements for I-9s for all local church employees. Every church is asked to note that "all employees" includes the pastor(s) and that every church is expected to have an I-9 for their pastor.

The Conference CF&A wants to thank Bishop Devadhar, the Cabinet and the Program Staff for their continuing support and encouragement. We also want to thank John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, and his staff for their hard work and support.

John Bishop, President

REPORT ON GCFA ACTIVITY IN 2009

The Financial Services Committee reviewed all General Church Board and Agencies spending plans for 2010 and approved same. The primary elements of the review are to determine that the spending plans conform to the budget approved by the 2008 General Conference and that unreasonable reserves are not being accumulated.

The Audit Committee received and extensively discussed with the external auditor the report of the audits of all general church boards and agencies. In general most boards and agency audits did not disclose any unusual problems or major weaknesses in internal control. There are two agencies where the audit findings resulted in a recommendation to withhold funds until problems found were corrected.

The Legal Affairs Committee is responsible to determine when general church funds should be provided to assist in legal proceedings of annual conferences or local churches. This support is to be limited to matters of denominational significance. A task force was formed to assist the committee to establish a policy as to what kind of matters are of denominational significance. Lynn Caterson of GNJAC was a member of the task force.

During the year we reviewed several requests and did provide some funding for issues involving the defense of the trust clause and also for some issues involving the rights of a church to provide social services, lodging and meals to the poor.

The Legislative Committee has begun the process of determining legislation that should be brought by GCFA to the 2012 General Conference.

I was also a member of a small task force to assess GCFA's reserve requirements and to recommend uses for those reserves. There is an obvious tension between the desire to hold adequate reserves to meet emergencies and the need for money to do God's work. This was the first organized effort to assess those tensions.

John Bishop, Member
General Commission on Finance and Administration

Table of Contents

GLOBAL MINISTRIES, CONFERENCE BOARD OF

"A church in mission is a sign of God's presence in the world". This sentence from *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* clearly defines who we are as the church of Jesus Christ. Mission is an integral part of all aspects of Christian life and mission belongs to God.

The General Board of Global Ministries has developed 4 goals to guide us in the mission field.
1) Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.
2) Strengthen, Develop and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities.
3) Alleviate Human Suffering
4) Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace.

The GNJAC GBGM Conference Board is working closely to interpret the above goals according to the needs of our conference and local churches. This year the Board did some restructuring and we are trying to make each committee have enough members who are dedicated to the cause. The Russia Initiative is going strong by rethinking their strategies and developing new plans by facing existing situations and providing nurture, witness and doing ministry with the poor. The Special Needs Committee is also doing some creative work by doing a presentation at the Annual Conference.

This year we are proud to have one of our young persons, Bethany Amey, serve as a US-2 Missionary in a Methodist Mission called Gum Moon in the West.

I am glad that I was once again able to represent our Conference at the annual Conference Board of Global Ministries gathering from 7-9th October '09 in White Plains which was hosted by the New York Annual Conference.

This year the Conference Board of Global Ministries gave out our annual Community Outreach Grants to mission projects in our conference that are doing some incredible mission and ministry. At our Annual Conference we raised funds for the North Katanga partnership which will be distributed to much needed projects through conversations with their Bishop and the Area Executive Robert Kabyla Mpoyo.

The Haiti earthquake in January 2010 hit home when we lost two well-known servants of God, Rev. Sam Dixon and Rev. Clint Rabb, from the GBGM in New York. Many churches and volunteers offered help and support and are still continuing to offer their support in the mission to Haiti. As soon as some state of normalcy is established there, VIM teams can be sent to build and restore God's peace in this country once again.

The GNJAC welcomed missionaries who were itinerating in our Conference and have developed some new covenant relationships with them. There is much more work to be done and we will continue to be the church that God has called us to be.

I am thankful for the participation and support of all the members of the Board and Rev. Lyssette Perez for her guidance.

Anna Thomas
Chairperson

HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINSTRY, BOARD OF

Table of Contents

In 1 Corinthians 16:9, Paul declared that he needed to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost because *a wide door for effective work had opened to him*. Like Paul, in 2009 the Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry also had wide doors of opportunity open up to it.
As an illustration, last year we reported that one of our foci was to massage and energize the possibility of providing a new endowment/ scholarship that would lead to additional financial resources to offer our Greater New Jersey students. Some conversation with conference members who are interested in this endeavor has begun. God answers prayers!

In addition to the aforementioned, Goal 2 was met: The Board developed plans to recognize our 2009 scholarship recipients via a scholarship dinner. This goal came to fruition when fifteen (15) GNJ scholarship recipients, accompanied by family and church members, were honored at the Francis Asbury Manor in Ocean Grove. Each student briefly articulated the effects of the United Methodist Church upon their life. After each presentation, Bishop Devadhar and members of the BHEM made presentations to the honorees.

Along with that, Carolyn Pendleton, chairperson of the Board, was honored as the 2009 recipient of the Francis Asbury Award, which was presented at Annual Conference. Several campus chaplains supported by GNJBHEM were in attendance to share about the work they do on the college campuses. The event was well attended. We plan for this to become an annual recognition.

The Board continues to keep open dialogue with our campus chaplains. There appears to be quite a bit of positive activity and energy on the campuses we financially support. The Board's endeavor is always to continue strengthening the ties between us as the chaplains move toward promoting a United Methodist presence on the campuses. As the opportunity arises and the door swings open, we hope to make a campus visit to each of the four supported schools. The GNJBHEM extends its appreciation to the chaplains for their work.

We were blessed to have been able to lend financial support to the following chaplains: Rev. Ellen Little, Rutgers University; Rev. Tanya Bennett, Drew University; Rev. Warren R. Brandt, Rockland Community College and Rev. Keith Brewer, Wesley Foundation at Princeton.

Special gratitude is extended to all of the local churches that remain steadfast in your giving on UM Student Day. Your support allows the Board to offer one of our students the Merit Award. Thank you. Board members remain available for church visits to make presentations or to respond to any questions that might arise. The doors of opportunity continue to swing open and we are ready to pass through.

Carolyn Pendleton, Chairperson

GREATER NEW JERSEY HISPANIC/LATINO PLAN

The National Hispanic / Latino Plan Implementation Team in Greater New Jersey, has carried out several tasks since last Annual Conference:

- Developed and approved a Ministerial Strategic Plan for the quadrennium which includes an action plan and funds for all our goals.
- Developed a common 2010 Calendar for activities concerning the Latino churches in our Conference.
- Organized and conducted a Lay Missionaries and Pastors Encounter with the objective of recruiting church planters to serve the new Hispanic churches to be opened as well as the new Hispanic/Latino ministries to be opened in churches of other ethnic background and language in areas of growing Latino population.
- Provided grants for clergy and laity to participate in the Emmaus Walk in their primary language, with the objective of developing a task force of clergy and laity able to participate as team members in an

Table of Contents

Emmaus Walk in Spanish language for the benefit of the Latino churches in our area. five clergy and ten Laity have already benefitted with the grants, and two more clergy will benefit in September.

- Provided scholarships for 4 youth to participate in Taizé and Mission of Peace activities.
- Strengthened the connectional relationships among the Hispano/Latino clergy by providing the financial resources for pastors and spouses to attend a two-day Retreat, in collaboration with the Hispanic Caucus. Twenty pastoral couples attended the Retreat. Pastors who were single were also part of the activity.
- Provided a Natural Church Growth and Evangelization Workshop, with an attendance of 40. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize churches with new approaches to the task of being in mission in the world.
- Organized the Annual Hispanic Leadership Award at Aldersgate U.M.C. with an attendance of 375 persons from 20 churches plus the Bishop and Cabinet of our Conference. The meal was served by the clergy as a reminder of their role as servant leaders in their local congregations. Bishop Juan Vera of Puerto Rico was the keynote speaker in this opportunity and dedicated laity, adults, youth, and children were recognized by their churches and congratulated by our Bishop.
- Organized two workshops in Finances and Stewardship that will take place in September and October of the current year.
- Obtained the Microsoft License for the installation of Microsoft Software in all our Hispanic/Latino churches.
- Applied for a Matching Grant for the years 2010-2013. We will secure $75,000 from GBGM to fund our Conference's vision for Hispanic/Latino ministries for three years. The Bishop, the Cabinet, and the Primary Task Team have been supportive of our project and we will meet with GBGM in June to develop a plan for the period that the funds will be available to us.

We are grateful for the opportunity of serving our Conference and our Hispanic/Latino ministries. We would like to recognize the work of Rev. Lyssette Perez as the staff person relating to our Team during all this period. We also thank all who were a part of this effort and made it possible.

Rev. Manuel Sardiñas and Mrs. Jazelys Adorno, Co-Chairs

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES

The Lay Speaking Ministries is a group of laity equipped to serve as disciples in our local churches. It is not just about filling-in when the minister is unavailable. Lay Speaking Ministries' classes train our lay people in the areas of mission, prayer, Bible study, Sunday school classes, accountability, visitation, stewardship, witness, committee meetings, worship and giving the message during worship. Lay Speakers are ready and willing to accept many types of leadership roles within our churches.

In the summer of 2009, seventeen lay speakers participated in the School of Missions' training as their recertification for Lay Speaking.

Last fall's Certified Lay Speaker classes involved 309 lay speakers from across the Conference. The training experience was titled "You Can Preach".

This spring 125 local church leaders took the Basic Lay Speaking classes including eight who participated in our Spanish speaking class held at Asbury UMC in Long Branch.

Table of Contents

A Youth Lay Speaking Ministries weekend was also scheduled this Spring at the Pinelands Center in Browns Mills. Erica Munoz, the Conference Children, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, led the training.

In January, I attended the Annual Conference for Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries in Philadelphia. During the Conference we learned about the PATH1 Program from Benar Agtarap from the GBOD and Lay Witness Mission from Rev. Dr. Frank Billman from Aldersgate Renewal Ministries. While our conference is one of four conferences involved in Path1 to initiate church starts, I feel strongly that we should bring the Lay Witness Mission program to the Conference to help existing churches reignite the flame of discipleship. Both of these initiatives will put our Lay Speaking Ministry group into action.

In conclusion, over the course of the last year, nearly 450 lay people from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have completed some level of training in Lay Speaking Ministries. This was all made possible through the efforts of our dedicated District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries, who without question, are some of the most devoted and faithful groups of disciples with whom I have ever been involved. I thank God for the opportunity given to me to be a part of this group.

Mark Halverson
Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Leadership Development Team made progress completing the tasks assigned to us by the Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities Task Force. We have coaches working with cluster churches for revitalization in all nine districts. Spiritual gift inventories were administered to all Lay Leaders and Certified Lay Speakers for identifying the next and future leaders for our conference. This information was given to the Conference Nomination Committee. We selected the book, *Roadmap to Renewal*, as the core curriculum for developing healthy congregations.

The first Certified Lay Minister training will have 30 students graduating in June 2010. We are in the process of planning CLM classes in two more districts in September.

Twelve adults traveled to Taizé in October 2009 and a second trip is being planned for October of 2010.

We continue to work cooperatively and in partnership with the Conference Board of Ministry, Laity Council, Lay Speaking Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Team, Congregational Development Team, District Superintendents and the Bishop.

We praise God for what has been achieved and look forward to what God has for us in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emmanuel De La Paz, Chair

MULTI-ETHNIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Multi-Ethnic Coordinating Committee of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC) has been blessed this year in implementing its goals in alignment to the mission of the United Methodist Church, “To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

As it has been from the previous year, the Committee receives, reviews and approves Multi-Ethnic Grant Applications/Requests from local churches in the conference that promote programs which establish, develop

Table of Contents

and enhance the multi-ethnic ministries in the local churches for outreach, evangelism and mission for the community on an annual basis. The Committee received 8 grant applications from eight churches in 2009, and the committee awarded five (5) grants for a total of $14,000.00 (see Table A below).

Table A: Grants Awarded for 2009

Dist.	Church	City	Program	Request	Grant
GN	Springfield Emanuel UMC	Springfield	Redevelopment Plan	6,000	4,000
NS	Cedar Grove UMC	Toms River	Overseers	4,500	0
NS	Cedar Grove UMC	Toms River	Amachi/Prison Ministries/Immigration	4,500	3,500
GS	Asbury UMC	Woodlynne	Summer Day Camp	2,000	2,000
NS	First UMC, Asbury Park	Asbury Park	Jr./Sr. High Youth Ministry	1,500	1,500
NS	Christ UMC	Lakewood	Breaking Boundaries	6,000	0
CA	Salem UMC	Pleasantville	Impact of Hope	5,000	3,000
GN	First UMC, Montclair	Montclair	Comm. on Religion and Race	5,000	0
				Total	**14,000**

The Committee follows the criteria set forth in the application and awards the churches that have completely submitted and fulfilled the requirements for the application. The ministries funded must at least meet one or more of the primary foci: congregational development, leadership development, ministry with the poor and global health. Churches receiving the Multi-Ethnic Grants are requested to submit progress reports of their ministries to the Committee for accountable discipleship.

The Multi-Cultural Annual Celebration held October 10, 2009 was a big success. As quoted from the November, 2009 issue of Relay magazine: *"The October 10th event at First Church, Toms River, was a joyous festival of faith celebrating the many cultures that make up The United Methodist Church in the Greater New Jersey Conference. Over 450 people shared in the evening of worship and praise, food and entertainment characterized by the unique flavors, customs and costumes of the diverse ethnic strains found among GNJ United Methodists. Under the leadership of Conference Ministries Team Coordinator Lyssette Perez, and Judy Colorado, lay member from Emanuel Church, Springfield, the Multi-Ethnic Coordinating Committee lined up the event that included scripture in 14 languages, singing and dancing that was enjoyed by the multi-generational, multi-cultural audience"*.

The purpose of the Multi Cultural Celebration is to hold it annually to be attended by the local churches in the conference to celebrate our diverse cultural heritage and gather together for worship, fellowship and cultural festivity. The event was truly a testament of the many gifts and graces we have as United Methodists here at GNJAC. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Multi-Ethnic Coordinating Committee
Team Leader: Judy Colorado

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC

I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you."

How comforting and reassuring it is to know that God loves us. We also know He loves the people of Camden and sends many of them to the Neighborhood Center for us to serve and care for each day. For the most part, the people we minister to are poor, hungry and homeless, or in danger of becoming homeless. As God's

Table of Contents

ambassadors and your "national mission" in one of the poorest cities in the United States, we seek to serve the community with programs that not only touch physical needs but, most importantly, their spiritual needs.
During the past year, the Neighborhood Center has had to make some difficult decisions with regard to meeting the expenses of running the Center. For several years, we hosted the Bright Beginnings Preschool for the City of Camden. At the end of August 2009, Camden took their children back into the public school system so that the City Public Schools would have sufficient number of children to qualify for funding from the State of New Jersey. As a result, we, along with several other agencies in Camden, lost that funding. However, a positive result of losing the Preschool is that we have been able to add another Day Care Class where the children may now be given Bible lessons along with their academic instruction in the alphabet, reading, numbers, colors, shapes, music and drama. It is encouraging to us to know that parents have chosen the Center because they want their children in a loving, nurturing Christian environment.

For over 97 years, the Neighborhood Center has reached out to the people of Camden by providing programs for all ages. Today, we continue to minister to the needs of those who come to us through our Infant/Toddler and Child Care Classes, After School, Summer Enrichment Program, Senior Adult Programs and Emergency Food Services. Currently we are in the process of starting a Junior Teen Girls Club and plan to add a Junior Boys Teen Club in the near future. While we are near capacity for Infant/Toddler, Day Care 1 and 2 and After School, with more resources we could hire another teacher and expand, for we have some room to grow. Last year, our Emergency Food Services Programs served 27,066 Soup Kitchen Meals and 6,300 Emergency Bagged Food Meals.

In 2009, our Summer Enrichment Program averaged 59 children per day during the eight-week program. One of the counselors shared the following with us:

> "During our Summer Enrichment Program on July 30th in the afternoon, while the children were playing ball, jumping rope and having a good old time, it started pouring down rain. The harder and louder the rain got, the counselor could see the concern on the children's faces. They became worried about their parents being able to pick them up. Without being coached, two of the children said, "Let's pray." The children formed a circle, held hands and began to pray. While we know that all things happen in God's time, it was, however, only a few minutes later that the rain slowed down and their parents were able to pick them up safely. The children "cast their cares upon Jesus" because they learned He cares for them".

I want to thank all of you who support the ministry of the Center. We appreciate your choosing to be partners with us through your gifts of time, resources and prayer. If you or a group in your church would like to visit the Center and learn more about the work, please call: 1-856-365-5295.

Timothy Humeniuk
Executive Director

ORDAINED MINISTRY, BOARD OF

As we enter into the second year of this quadrennium, the Board of Ordained Ministry has been hard at work in redesigning some of our current programs and planning ahead for new initiatives to meet the ever-changing needs of ministry in the Greater New Jersey area. Our work is done with great care and abundant prayer as we seek God's will for the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ through our Annual Conference by working with persons in the process of answering God's call on their lives to be in ordained, licensed, and certified ministries. While there are many "housekeeping" responsibilities that the board cares for, the primary focus of our work is the development and support of effective clergy leadership in the Annual Conference for today and for the future. The rapidly changing nature of our culture makes it even more imperative that our conference has leaders who are visionary, well-grounded theologically, emotionally, and spiritually, with a passion for sharing the Gospel within the rich diversity with which we are blessed in the Greater New Jersey Area. Our conference

Table of Contents

needs leaders, both clergy and laity, who are not satisfied with the status quo, who are looking to do ministry in new and creative ways, who will challenge every church in our Annual Conference to be in a mission and not a maintenance mode. Within this broader task, it is the Board of Ordained Ministry's specific charge to recruit, enlist and support persons in certified, licensed, and ordained ministries.

This requires new strategies for recruitment. Effective recruitment requires a commitment across the conference not only to create a culture that encourages and invites persons to explore God's call on their lives, but to create an atmosphere whereby a person will find encouragement and support to do the ministry to which God has called her or him once she or he has responded to that call. Our Recruitment Committee is working on a training event with Lovett Weems of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership for our Board and the DCOM is focused specifically on this issue. Additionally, we are working on putting together resources and future training for the BOOM and DCOM to better understand the particular needs of leadership for new church starts and racial/ethnic churches, two areas that are crucial for the health and growth of our annual conference. The Board is also undergoing a review of the licensing school for Local Pastors with an eye towards a new model that will more effectively meet the changing needs of our conference.

We have set a high standard of excellence because the Church of Jesus Christ deserves nothing less if we are to fulfill the vision that Jesus Christ gave to us in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This has meant that at every level of the process, from the Staff Parish Relations Committee through the DCOMs and the conference board, careful discernment must be a priority so that persons may respond to God's call on their life in a way that most effectively utilizes their gifts and graces for ministry. The Board has been developing guidelines to help Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees work with persons who are asking for their Church Conference approval. It is our plan to have this available by the 2010 Annual Conference Session. Training has been provided for candidacy mentors in the new on-line systems developed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In addition, the board has been in conversation with the Cabinet to partner in the training and on-going support for persons in cross-cultural appointments. We have likewise been in conversation with the Cabinet, as well as the Council on Finance and Administration, around immigration issues so that we might more effectively help persons respond to their call for ministry in the church.

The nine district committees have been doing an excellent job in working with candidates and guiding them through the process towards licensing and preparation for ordination. We will be working with the DCOMs throughout this year to clarify their responsibilities in the Certified Lay Ministers program so that all the districts will be on the same page. With our first class of persons currently in process, it is important that this be in place so that persons may be certified and available for assignment as needed.

One of our responsibilities as a board is the promotion and administration of the Ministerial Education Fund. In this past year, the Board has increased its funding for the Bishop's Convocation as the attendance at this event among clergy has been increasing. We have also provided funding for all those in the Residency in Ministry program for provisional members to attend the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. In January, the Board co-sponsored with the Bishop, a Holy Land Pilgrimage for persons ordained in the past quadrennium and their spouses, providing a 1/3 scholarship for the newly ordained clergy who participated. In all, 50 persons took this spiritual pilgrimage with Bishop Devadhar. As we look to the future, we are hoping to increase the ways in which we can strengthen the on-going professional and educational development of all our clergy to meet the challenges of this new century. The support of the MEF apportionment by our local churches makes these opportunities possible, and we thank all those churches who have made this a priority.

I want to thank the entire Board for their diligent work and extraordinary effort in accomplishing the tremendous task that is required of them each year. Preparation for our retreats alone requires reading between 1200 and 1500 pages of written work annually submitted by candidates, in-parish/in-ministry site visits for all candidates coming for full membership, plus work that each person does on the task force or board committee to which she/he is assigned. It is often a thankless task that requires days away from family and church, but our Board members are devoted servants of Jesus Christ who have taken these responsibilities on with devotion and joy. A special thank you goes to our registrars, program coordinators, Orders/Fellowship chairs, cabinet

Table of Contents

members and board officers who comprise the Executive Committee. They not only care for their particular area of concern, but are often the catalysts for planning new initiatives and programs of the Board. It is a joy to work with this extraordinary group of laity and clergy who comprise the Board of Ordained Ministry. I am honored to serve among them.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven G. Bechtold, Chairperson

PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS, BOARD OF

The Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) is authorized by *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* to contribute to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of clergy and their families, as well as other church workers and lay employees of the United Methodist Church. Working with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Board endeavors to implement and interpret national and conference policy.

Pensions

Pre-1982 Pension Plan
The 2011 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment will be $583 per year of service. The pre-1982 pension program is fully funded and in a strong position.

CRSP/MPP and CPP
The General Conference's pension plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) -- a hybrid of defined benefit and defined contribution approaches -- took effect in 2007. For 2010 churches pay CRSP at 15.5% of clergy plan compensation and for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) at 3% of fulltime clergy's plan compensation, totaling 18.5% of plan compensation. For less than full time clergy, the CPP rate is 3.4% of Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) for ¾ time and ½ time and at 4.4% of DAC for optional coverage (1/4 time and leave status).

The rates of remittance for the Clergy Retirement Security Program / Ministerial Pension Plan (CRSP/MPP) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) declined from last year's rates to 88.8% and 88.6% respectively – continuing to remain short of the 2003 remittance rate of 94% and 95%. A significant portion of churches continue to struggle with the issue of **financial integrity**, with 17% unable to pay these bills on time. Below is a summary of 2009 remittances:

Type	Remittance Rate	2009 Shortfall	# of Churches Paying < 100%	% of Churches Paying < 100%
CRSP	88.8%	$369,644	100	17%
CPP	88.6%	$70,032		

To maintain clergypersons' participation in CRSP and CPP, the Greater New Jersey Conference fully pays delinquent church accounts using funds from the Reserve Account at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. We are increasingly concerned that some churches are not fully meeting their obligations.

By 2009 year end the cumulative amount owed was $1,049,000 on CRSP/MPP and $258,000 on CPP – a total of $1,307,000, an increase of 25% over the cumulative shortfall at the end of 2008.

We thank those churches that maintained faithful stewardship, paying 100% of their obligation. Churches with arrearages on 2002 - 2008 CRSP, MPP & CPP bills have achieved some progress. Thanks go to our district superintendents, to Alexa Taylor, Pensions Coordinator, and to Betty LaSalla, Local Church Financial Liaison,

Table of Contents

for the Conference's continuing efforts to collect past due balances. More than $170,000 of prior years' shortfall was collected in 2009.

However, the balances owed have grown so large that the Cabinet has started a trial program with five churches to create self-development plans for reaching self-sufficiency over a four to five year period. If predetermined goals are met during the period, a portion of payments for health insurance, disability, pastor's pension and building insurance will be permanently waived.

Retirement Seminars
The Board sponsored two retirement education sessions held at St. Mark United Methodist Church on March 4-5, 2010: a pre-retirement seminar, *Ready to Retire* for those anticipating retirement within five years, and a *Destination: Financial Security* Seminar focusing on younger pastors. More than sixty persons attended. Presentations by Peter Hang of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and by Conference staff provided valuable guidance to assist retirement planning. We extend special thanks to Donna Hough for organizing these events and to St. Mark UMC for their gracious hospitality. Thanks also go to Barbara Gruezke, Health Insurance Coordinator and Alexa Taylor, Pensions Coordinator for their presentations and support.

Health Insurance

In 2009 Health Insurance again presented significant challenges to the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Our Cigna Health Insurance took care of a number of very serious medical problems, mostly from active clergy, and paid out several million dollars more than the Conference paid in premium during 2009. As a result of this experience, Cigna proposed rates for 2010 that were more than 80% higher than the 2009 rates. Assisted by consultants from Willis HRH, the Board sought quotes from several other health insurance companies and negotiated an increase of only 40% with HealthFlex, the Health Insurance plan sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The benefits under HealthFlex are the richest plan they provide, and the physician network is the same Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO network that we had in 2008. The HealthFlex rates are locked in until 2012. To mitigate the sudden effect of such a large increase, the Cabinet, Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) and the Board developed a plan to spread the 40% premium increase over the next three years, using reserve funds in the meantime to subsidize the amount billed to the local churches.

Premiums and Remittances
The following chart shows church premium rates for 2010.

Healthcare Insurance Premiums for 2010	
Employee	$8,225
Employee & Child(ren)	$13,252
Employee & Spouse	$16,606
Employee & family	$16,935

The Board thanks all churches that fully paid their health insurance premiums in 2009. Overall, churches paid 88.6% of the total $4,571,737 health insurance billings, a decrease from the 2008 rate of 90.2%. The 2009 shortfall was approximately $523,474. By 2009 year end the amount owed from prior years had been reduced by $92,804; however, the cumulative amount owed on health insurance bills had increased from $563,170 to $851,400. Churches failing to fully pay their premiums burden all churches, resulting in higher premiums.

Thanks go to Conference/BOPHB Treasurer John Cardillo and Health Insurance Coordinator Barbara Gruezke and the district superintendents for continued strong efforts to collect health insurance arrearages.

Changes Required by HealthFlex

Table of Contents

The Board arranged for HealthFlex representatives to conduct educational workshops in several locations throughout the Conference to provide opportunity for clergy and lay to learn the details of the HealthFlex coverage and to ask questions about the Plan. The Board and the Conference staff have made concentrated efforts to provide communications directly to participants to ease the transition to HealthFlex. In addition to direct communications, the Health Insurance Guidelines included with these 2010 Conference Reports and Recommendations have been updated to conform to HealthFlex eligibility requirements. One particular change is noted in the next paragraph.

As a result of the contract with HealthFlex, which requires all clergy under full-time appointment to a local church to participate in the HealthFlex plan, the Board, with the concurrence of the Primary Task Team, rescinded the Opt-Out provision effective January 1, 2010. To cover the amount HealthFlex bills the Conference, churches with full-time clergy are required to pay a minimum of the Employee Premium per each full-time clergyperson plus any additional premium required for dependents covered. In 2010 thirty pastors formerly opted out of the plan enrolled in the plan; 10 full-time appointees remain outside the plan.

Annuitant Health Care Liability
As of the end of 2009 the Financial Accounting Standards Board FAS 158 liability for annuitant healthcare costs in the amount of $55 million was posted to the Conference balance sheet, a liability amount more than double all Conference assets, without corresponding fund assets to offset it. This liability is the estimated present value of the future costs of annuitant healthcare.

Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund
In 2002-2003, recognizing the growing magnitude of annuitant healthcare costs, the Board, together with the Centenary Fund, representatives of CFA, the Cabinet and the Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS), developed a plan for a long term Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund to begin to offset the liability and to ensure that retirees continue to enjoy conference-paid health insurance. The Fund was initiated by the 2003 GNJ Annual Conference and earmarked exclusively for healthcare costs for annuitants to cover higher costs expected in future years. The plan for the Fund involves an 8-9 year period during which excess pre-1982 retirement funds would be used to pay CRSP defined-benefit requirements and comparable funds from churches would be used to create this permanent retiree health fund. This is a critical initiative, since it is clear that the Conference cannot continue to fund retiree health insurance on a cash basis out of the Conference Budget.

As of December 31, 2009, the Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund held a balance of $5,069,873 after transferring $352,722 to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account to avoid a negative balance in that account at year-end. In 2009 approximately $2,383,777 came into the Contingency Fund (representing the 2% clergy and staff salary contributions toward the cost of their health insurance) plus the Centenary Fund's annual contribution (in excess of $200,000, separate from their $100,000 contribution directly to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account), and the designated funds to create a permanent retiree health fund. In 2009 the Conference also received $188,000 from the Center for Medicare Services in Medicare D reimbursements.

Clergy Wellness Initiative
In January 2008 a Clergy Wellness Task Force was formed in response to the GBOPHB report on Denominational Health. Clergy health nationwide has been found to be significantly less well than the normal population. GBOPHB has asked each conference to support clergy and their families to improve their health and wellness, for their own sakes and so that Christ may be more fully served. The Wellness Task Force is comprised of representatives from each district, as well as other interested experts.

The Clergy Wellness Task Force met throughout 2009, transitioning its leadership from co-chairs Deborah Kauffman and Don DeGroat to co-chairs Linda Ross and Deborah Kauffman.

With the 2010 change of Conference health care insurance company from Cigna to the General Board-sponsored HealthFlex Plan, the Wellness Task Force will be working in coordination with HealthFlex to take

Table of Contents

advantage of the strong wellness programs available through HealthFlex, in particular the Virgin Health Miles walking program which offers financial incentives to participants.

The Board Itself

The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits endeavors to serve the Conference and the needs of those in ministry. There will always be much to accomplish, especially in the challenging field of health insurance. Christ strengthens us to meet these challenges and we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire our actions.

The current leadership is Donna Hough, Secretary; Rev. Carlton Bodine, Vice-Chair; and Eleanor Hartley, Chair.

Eleanor S. Hartley
Chair

PRIMARY TASK TEAM

The Primary Task Team (PTT) received and acted on the final report of the Study Structure Taskforce received on September 26, 2009. The study identified a redundancy in our structure and staff.

It was recommended and approved to establish an Executive Committee and to repurpose the PTT.

The Executive Committee (7-9 persons) was chosen by the Bishop from among the members of the PTT in consultation with the Conference Lay Leader. These persons were chosen based on their ability to do balcony / learning work and to have the skills to make clear decisions (chosen by skills over position). This group does not include conference team coordinators or program staff. The Executive Committee was established with the primary task of recommending goals for the conference to the PTT. It was also asked to review our current staffing and make recommendations to the PTT.

The PTT purpose was redefined as a place to communicate and affirm goals, educate leadership of changing trends, communicate clear and measurable short term goals around the resources of staff programs, training, dollars and prayer, and to provide for accountability of the Executive Committee and conference leadership.

At the November meeting the PTT approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to move to a single Director of Connectional Ministry (DCM), responsible for management of the program staff. Varlyna Wright was named leader of the program staff and beginning July 1, 2010 will be the Interim (12 month) DCM. We also approved the recommendation to eliminate the positions of Ministries Team Coordinator, Leadership Development Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator as of July 1, 2010.

We are in the process of reviewing Conference board and agencies responsibilities and accountability as well as setting conference goals based on the four areas of focus established by the 2008 General Conference.

1. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
2. Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations.
3. Engaging in ministry with the poor.
4. Stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

The PTT adopted the recommendation of the Executive Committee to establish the full implementation of the Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities as the Goal of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in response to the foci calling for creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations.

Table of Contents

The Study also fulfills a portion of the foci calling for developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.

PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COMMITTEE

2010 Insurance Renewal:

The 2010 insurance renewal process resulted in a $158,750 premium increase, or 7.6%, versus the expiring policies. The increase in premium is attributable to increases in the insurance coverage, not a rate increase. Most policies continue to be provided by Mercer Mutual Insurance Company. The Insurance Committee, through broker Sovereign Insurance, investigates the insurance marketplace for attractive alternative products in advance of each insurance policy renewal. Mercer continues to offer the best value proposition to GNJAC for its' insurance needs.

GNJAC has been insured by Mercer since the 2005 policy period. The loss experience for GNJAC has been very favorable since 2005, and premiums have been reduced each year. 2010 premiums are 25% lower than 2005 premiums.

Property insurance levels have increased 20% or $200 million since 2005. Each year, the Insurance Committee reviews the insurance policies and requests coverage improvements. Mercer has granted a number of coverage enhancements since 2005 - most at no additional cost to GNJAC.

It is important to note that GNJAC has been a profitable insured for Mercer Insurance Company. The Insurance Committee believes there is value in the continuity of our insurance program with Mercer. The built-up value of the business relationship with Mercer will help our program withstand the infrequent large loss that is inherent in the GNJAC exposures, such as the $8.5 million fire loss in 2004.

Workers Compensation:

Workers Compensation premiums were reduced from $272,000 to $262,000 due to the favorable loss experience over the past four years. GNJAC loss experience is 32% better than the average for all churches in the State of New Jersey. The GNJAC workers compensation insurance program saves over $225,000 annually versus the cost of churches insuring individually.

Automobile Insurance:

The Insurance Committee continues to make available a voluntary automobile insurance program for church-owned vehicles. The premium cost is slightly lower than 2009. Each church has access to this insurance facility and pays the premium cost for any vehicle insured.

Church Arrearages and Collections:

For year ended 12/31/09, collection of current year premium lagged year earlier collections by 1%. Conference staff is diligent in collection efforts, and attributes the slight deterioration in results to the timing of church payments received as well as to the general malaise in financial conditions. Progress continues in collecting prior year premiums outstanding. However, the aggregate uncollected premium has grown from $686,000 last year to $ 896,000 in 2009.

Claims Experience:

Table of Contents

Since the inception of the GNJAC Insurance Program in March, 2002 the ratio of losses to premiums is about 69%. During the last five years with Mercer Insurance, the ratio of losses to premiums is less than 34%.

Loss Prevention:
The insurance Committee is committed to helping churches minimize the number and severity of injuries and damage. We continue to follow up on insurer recommendations made to 281 churches. The recommendations

involve correcting conditions that might cause injury or property damage. 167 churches have completed the recommended corrections, and an additional 74 churches continue to work toward correcting conditions.

However, there are 81 churches that have not yet responded in any way to as many as seven follow-up letters. The lack of a response sends a negative message to the insurance companies, to the detriment of the group program.

The Insurance Committee understands that financial limitations may preclude complying with some of the recommendations. However, we are concerned about injury or property damage that might result from known unsafe conditions. The complete lack of a response from 81 churches sends a negative message to the insurer that reflects poorly on the other GNJAC churches. We recommend that the 81 non-responding churches address each of the recommendations, even if they are not able to comply at this time.

Parity Implementation:

The Parity Implementation Plan approved at the 2007 Annual Session continues to be implemented according to the original plan. In 2008, 2009, and again for 2010, the Insurance Committee has funded parity relief from Insurance Committee fund balances.

Surplus:

The Insurance Committee endeavors to complete each policy year with a positive fund balance. The accumulated surplus is used to cover uncollectible premiums, fund cash flow in order to pay insurers timely, pay deductibles, and fund parity relief. Surplus is also potentially needed to offset future rate increases and uninsured/underinsured defense costs and losses as prescribed by The Cabinet.

Important Additional Message:

The Insurance Committee strives to provide affordable, comprehensive property and liability insurance. There are certain types of insurance that are NOT provided by the Conference Program. Four notable examples of which require action on the part of the individual churches are:

FOREIGN LIABILITY In light of the recent disasters in Haiti and Chile it is important that the churches understand if any such event were to occur while they have members on a church mission trip outside of the United States there is no coverage under the current policy. A separate policy needs to be purchased by the church that would provide protection for medical payments, emergency evacuation and repatriation.

FLOOD INSURANCE The Insurance Committee reminds those churches that are located in a flood zone to obtain the appropriate flood insurance coverage.

NEW YORK (only) DISABILITY INSURANCE The State of New York requires that each New York church maintain disability insurance for employees. New York will impose fines upon your church for failure to carry the required insurance.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE Underground storage tanks, in active use or not, pose a risk for significant

Table of Contents

TANKS financial loss to churches. In some cases, financial responsibility laws require bonding or insurance

The Insurance Committee has communicated these issues to the individual churches on several occasions. We encourage each church to take advantage of the assistance available through Sovereign Insurance (800-222-4478), the Conference Insurance Program's broker.

William M. Mayo
Chair, Insurance Committee

QUADRENNIALS GOAL FOR THE PRIMARY TASK FORCE

For the Second Foci:
NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE AND RENEWING EXISTING CONGREGATIONS

"Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities"

This report provides an update to the 2008 approved "Study on Effectively Fulfilling our Missional Responsibilities (see pp. 340-346 of the GNJAC 2008 *Journal and Yearbook).*

The goals and objectives of this report address specifically two of the four foci of our denomination:

1. **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.** The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. That includes women and people of color the world over. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for lay people who are in ministry in countless ways.
2. **Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.** If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.

The report also underscores the four points of the Wesleyan quadrilateral:

We sought grounding in Scripture. Jesus gave us the parable of the Mustard Seed (Mt. 13:31-32) that envisions even the smallest of seeds growing into the greatest of shrubs becoming a tree where birds nest in the branches. The Great Commandment (Mt. 22:34-40) centers our plans for mission and ministry in our passion for God and love of neighbor. The Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20) challenges us to actions that make disciples of Jesus Christ. These Scriptures speak to us of passionate love for God and neighbor in the context of God's Reign. Our love of God and neighbor spurs us to share the good news of Jesus Christ inviting those not yet part of a community of faith into a relationship with God through Christ.

We sought grounding in experience. This is a missional focus. *Experience* tells us that many of the churches in our annual conference have had difficulty reaching new people for Christ. The language of the resolution to which the original Report responded refers to "certain" churches that "struggle" to fulfill their missional responsibilities. In fact, in 2007, 210 of our churches received **not one person by profession of faith**, which represents more than one out of three of our churches. 100 of these churches also paid less than 100% of apportionments.

Table of Contents

Our mission field, however, is large. Of the more than 9 million people living within the bounds of our conference, it is estimated that only a third are active participants in a community of faith.[23] According to the Pew Charitable Trust's "Religious Landscape Survey" published on February 25, 2008, on a given Sunday, only 11.7% of the population of New Jersey attends any mainline denominational church.

We sought grounding in our tradition. Our United Methodist *The Book of Discipline* (para. 123) states that "faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries in the church be shaped by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ." We remember John Wesley's efforts to reach people for Christ through open air preaching. We remember our U.S. heritage of organizing local churches into circuits. We affirm the following core beliefs that emerge out of our tradition:

- That it is our mission to make and multiply disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world
- That it is our mission to reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people for Jesus Christ
- That all congregations in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have the potential to grow and multiply like mustard seeds
- That all of the Greater New Jersey Conference is our parish
- That we need to focus on a few key areas to increase our impact
- That faithfulness to the Gospel results in fruitfulness for God's Reign

We sought grounding in reason. Careful analysis of recent history in our conference causes us to be reluctant to adopt church mergers as a strategy to make disciples. Merged churches tend to lose the equivalent number of members of the smaller merging church within six years. In our study for effectively fulfilling our missional responsibilities, we present a conference-wide strategy for new church plants and revitalization for struggling churches.

In looking at the resolution, we felt the need to define what was meant by "certain churches." We understand the term "certain churches" to mean those that are not healthy or vital. This led the Task Force to ask: What is a vital/ healthy church?

We believe that healthy, vital churches live out of a clear sense of mission, understanding what it means to be healthy or vital and are actively measuring and ensuring vitality in a way that includes all four of the following areas:

I. Is the Church forming/making new disciples for Jesus?
   a. What is the church-defined process for initiating disciples?
   b. How is the church mentoring/ growing these disciples? (i.e. Bible studies, training, challenging)?
   c. How many "New Christians" has the church received in the past 3 years (e.g., 5% of membership has been received by profession of faith)?
II. Is the church meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the "hurting world" locally and globally?
   a. How much has the church contributed to Advances, UMCOR, etc. (& shared giving)?
   b. What is its Mission budget?
   c. What Community services projects is the church engaged with?
III. Is the church financially viable?
   a. Have apportionments been met and growing?
   b. Has it met full financial obligations (e.g., salaries, insurance, etc.)?
   c. Is the church able to provide new ministry initiatives to meet new needs?
IV. Is the church participating in the Connection?

[23] The 2008 "People Area Study" by The Percept Group estimates those with no faith commitment at all to be 36.7% and those that are "somewhat involved" to be 31.3%. The same report indicates that 31.8% of the population within the bounds of our conference are "strongly involved with their faith." The sources for the report come from Percept, Claritas and the U.S Census Bureau.

Table of Contents

a. Is it participating in Annual Conference and district activities, including District Resource Days?
b. Is it reaching to and/or planting other United Methodist Churches or faith communities?

Summary of Recommendations

The Task Force formed to engage a "Study on Effectively Fulfilling Our Missional Responsibilities" underscores the responsibility of every local church to be the instruments for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As stated in The United Methodist Book of *The Book of Discipline*, "The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs."[24] This report is offered as a plan of action to give support and encouragement to local churches so that they might better fulfill their missional responsibilities and thereby best deploy the human and financial assets at their disposition. We present first, in summary form, the recommendations we bring to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. We follow this abbreviated list with a fuller account of the details involved. Thus, we recommend that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference . . .

1. Adopt the goal of starting at least one new church plant per year.
2. Form "Revitalizing Clusters" in each of the nine districts.
3. Establish recruiting goals for leadership development.
4. Equip laity and clergy for cluster and healthy church leadership.
5. Provide opportunities for youth and young adults to participate in mission trips globally and locally.
6. Invest in the education of youth and young adults for both college and seminary.
7. Provide lay speaking programs for youth.
8. Institute a Pilot Program for Growth for churches not receiving new members by profession of faith.

Implementation of the Recommendations

I. New Church Plants
   a. We post updates on recommended locations for new church places on the web. See http://yourchurchcangrow.org/414
   b. We have put into place a system for identifying, training, assigning, and supporting new church planters.
      i. As part of this strategy, the Congregational Development Team in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet sends potential church planters to a "New Church Planter Leadership Institute" each fall.
      ii. This is followed by Assessment interviews to discern the readiness of a candidate to deploy as a church planter.
      iii. The Congregational Development Team forwards three names to the Cabinet for consideration of new church plants in a given year.
      iv. Once appointed, the Congregational Development Team assigns a trained and certified coach to the planter and registers him or her for Basic Training (New church planter "Boot Camp") and enrollment in the New Church Planter ministry track of the School of Congregational Development (held each Summer).
      v. Presently there are 12 clergy New Church Planters in our "Planter Pool."
   c. In addition, the GNJAC has partnered with the denomination's "Path One Team" to provide training in new church planting to laity through the Lay Missionary Planting Network (LMPN). We anticipate that the first class of LMPN will be completed by the end of 2011.

II.

[24] Paragraph 201.

Table of Contents

III. Revitalizing Clusters As An Alternative to Mergers

a. Recognizing that we have many churches that are geographically close and in high need mission areas, we recommend to the AC that each district superintendent identify and consult with at least one such cluster of churches to discuss a program of sharing gifts and graces through working together to expand and enrich ministry opportunities in the larger community.

b. Progress on REVITALIZATION CLUSTERS:

i. ***Gateway South***:

1. Francis Childs UMC: Collingswood—Jay Brown, lay pastor, pt -- Lead Pastor for Cluster
2. Embury UMC: Collingswood—Rev. Champion Goldy—retired elder and former DS, pt.
3. Westmont UMC—Rev. Anna Wright—retired elder. Audubon UMC—Rev. Walter Jesuncosky—elder, ft
4. **Coach**: William Wilson
5. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.

ii. ***Skylands:***

1. Lower Berkshire Valley, Nancy Robinson - Local Pastor,
2. Teabo UMC, Terry Perkins - Local Pastor -- Lead Pastor for Cluster.
3. Port Morris, Judy Todt - Local Pastor
4. **Coaches**: Jennifer Cho and Jack Scharf
5. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.

iii. ***Palisades:***

1. Paterson: Madison-Park Epworth (Howard Sterling).
2. Paterson: Paterson Ave (Howard Sterling).
3. Paterson: Christ (Betty Horne) -- Lead Pastor for Cluster.
4. Paterson: Trinity (Iriada Ruiz De Porras).
5. Totowa (Carletta Aston).
6. **Coach**: Dave Wiley
7. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.
8. ***Gateway North*** - is currently working on a Greater Newark Region Strategy with Bishop Felton May.

iv. ***Northern Shore Cluster Churches:***

1. Neptune: Hamilton UMC, Pastor: Joel Hubbard
2. Neptune: West Grove UMC, Pastor: Larry Oksten -- Lead Pastor for Cluster.
3. Neptune City: Memorial City UMC, Pastor: Gene Erickson.
4. **Coach**: Myrna Bethke.
5. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by July of 2010.

v. ***Capital.***

1. Hightstown – Heidi Bak (as of 7/1)
2. Allentown – George Zigich
3. Windsor – Dwight Sweezy.
4. Cranbury – Ron Sager
5. **Coach**: Jim Gleason or Tom Lank
6. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.

vi. ***Raritan Valley.***

1. Conklin UMC, South River: ½ pastor, Pastor Lorraine Priestly-Smith.
2. Sayreville ¼ pastor, Pastor Sandra Jenkins

Table of Contents

3. Trinity UMC, Highland Park: Full time pastor, Rev. Janice Sutton
4. Coaches: Bruce La Penta and/or Robert Cook. We anticipate that this cluster will be formed in 2010 and work completed by June of 2011.

vii. ***Cape Atlantic.***

1. Egg Harbor Twp: Zion, Pastor: David Schumacher.
2. Egg Harbor Twp: Asbury: Pastor Lou Strugala – Lead Pastor for Cluster.
3. Pleasantville: Salem UMC (Rozelia Mathews).
4. Northfield: Good Shepherd UMC (Jim Rixon).
5. Coach: Doug Rea.
6. Cluster has been formed with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.

viii. ***Delaware Bay.***

1. Newfield UMC, (Howard Marshall) – Lead Pastor of the Cluster.
2. Malaga UMC (Peter J. Broomall, Sr.)
3. Minotola UMC (Thomas M. White)
4. Plainville UMC (William S. Sutton)
5. Piney Hollow UMC (James H. Gilliard).
6. Coach: Carol Davies
7. Cluster has been identified with anticipated completion of work by the end of 2010.

IV. Leadership Development

a. Intentional Recruitment Recognizing that there is an impending crisis of leadership due to the anticipated shortage of pastoral leadership given the number of retirements in the next 10 to 15 years and the need to revitalize and start new congregations, We recommend the annual conference establish the following goals:

i. The Board of Ordained Ministry recruits persons from seminary, college and HS. BOOM may seek assistance for this task from the Leadership Development Team. *We anticipate that a plan of action will be articulated by June 30, 2010.*

ii. Through the ministry of the Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team (**CYYAMT),** the Conference provides:

1. a Youth and Youth Worker Leadership Training Event (F.U.E.L.—Faith Unites Every Leader), which occurs yearly.
2. Provides two Adult Youth Worker leadership trainings per year.
   a. In 2009 the focus was on 'developing a mission statement for youth groups.'
   b. 2010 the focus is on 'Developing a small group ministry among youth in the local church.'
3. Targeted Communication to youth and youth workers is transmitted via *the edge* (an electronic newsletter) and a page in THE RELAY as well as www.faithgarden.com website. There is also a CYYAMT Facebook page.

iii. The Leadership Development Team[25] and Laity Council help pastors and laity identify the next leaders (youth and up) within their local church**.**

1. **CYYAMT** offers training for youth as lay speakers.
2. The Leadership Team, in consultation with the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, will complete a comprehensive plan by June 30, 2010.

iv. The Commission on Equitable Compensation continues to look at how to make pastors' salaries attractive for recruitment. **A ten-year plan to increase salaries was presented to the 2009 Annual Conference.**

b. Assessment for effective lay and clergy leadership. We recommend the annual conference establish the following goals:

[25] Lead Team for this task

Table of Contents

i. Identify gifts and talents for turning around an existing congregation and/or planting a new one. **The Congregational Development Team published on the GNJAC website a listing of gifts and talents needed for turn-around and new church plant leadership. See** http://yourchurchcangrow.org/413/ for the list.

ii. The Leadership Development Team and the Board of Ordained Ministry* employ or develop an assessment tool and process for the selection of pastors for the creation of healthy churches. **Task will be completed by December 31, 2010.**

iii. The Leadership Development Team and Laity Council* employ or develop an assessment tool and process for the selection of lay leaders (diversity of age, gender, ethnicity), and potential (next leaders) for the creation of healthy churches. A Spiritual Gifts inventory was administered to all certified Lay Speakers and Lay Leaders.

iv. The Leadership Development Team annually evaluates the effectiveness of the assessment tool, process and personnel. **A Plan of Action will be articulated by the end of 2010. The Leadership Team will include updates on this evaluation in their report to the annual conference.**

c. Equipping laity and clergy leadership. We recommend the annual conference establish the following goal**s:**

i. The Leadership Development Team is to provide core curriculum along the areas defined in our definition of healthy churches so that churches engaged in revitalizing efforts can follow a process. Included in this curriculum will be the development of a holistic Christian Education plan for churches.

1. The Leadership Development Team chose, as core curriculum for a healthy church either to engage the Natural Church Development process or the process outlined in the book, *Roadmap to Renewal*.
2. They anticipate making a recommendation regarding holistic Christian Education, and as it applies to children, youth and young adults the Leadership Development team will be in consultation with the Children, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (Erica Munoz) by June 30, 2010.

ii. The Board of Ordained Ministry is to provide on-going support and encouragement for persons gifted (as identified in b) for cluster, new and turnaround ministry. **A plan for providing such support will be in place by June 30, 2010.**

iii. **CYYAMT** provides opportunities for youth and young adults to participate in mission trips globally and locally, including a continuation of Taizé Pilgrimage and Mission of Peace journeys. **Every year both Taizé trips and Mission of Peace journeys take place under the leadership of Erica Munoz. Funding has been provided by UMW, Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team (CYYAMT), special offerings at Annual Conference, and individual churches and conference committees. In addition, youth participate in the Russia Youth Initiative, Christian Outreach Project, and local church mission trips.**

iv. The Board of Ordained Ministry invests in their education for both college and seminary. **A plan for providing such support to be in place by June 30, 2010.**

v. The **CYYAMT** offers a lay speaking program for youth and, beginning in the summer of 2010, will offer a Lay Speaking Course for Young Adults. The CYYAMT is writing the curriculum for the latter.

V. Institution of Pilot Program for Growth We recommend the annual conference direct the following pilot program **with churches that have no Profession of Faith new members in the past (3) years** and are not involved in a Revitalizing Cluster. Those in the pilot program will complete a Revised Profile that includes measurable benchmarks with a timeline to begin a process of evaluation and improvement.

a. DS identifies at least one and no more than 5 churches or 10% of churches in District (that have no Professions of Faith new members in the past three years and who aren't involved in a cluster) to focus on for evaluation. *Identification of such churches to be completed by June 30, 2010.*

Table of Contents

b. Identified churches choose one of the following with the assistance of the Congregational Development Team (CDT) or they choose to enter a Paragraph 213 process under the leadership of their District Superintendent:
   i. Engage the "Natural Church Development" process with the assistance of a trained coach.
   ii. Engage the process outlined in the book, *Roadmap to Renewal.*
   iii. Action Plans from NCD or a Ministry Action Plan (MAP) as outlined in *Roadmap to Renewal* will be completed within a year of initiating the process.
   iv. Two years for implementation.
      1. Performance results reported to DS and CDT particularly 'leading indicators' (i.e., what is happening to reach goals) at least twice per year (**April 1 and October 1)**.
      2. CDT monitors and adjusts pilot as necessary to increase likelihood of fruitfulness.

c. Congregational Development Team, in collaboration with the Cabinet, meets with Paragraph 213 Committees to coordinate evaluations within the definition of healthy churches (above) in their recommend action plan. Each DS informs CDT upon the formation of a Paragraph 213 Committee so that coordination of evaluation measures can take place within the first month of said Committee's work.

d. CDT continues to track progress on all those congregations who have participated in a transformation project (e.g., clusters, pilot program for growth, etc.) over 5 and 10 year windows. Recognizing the need that financial resources may be required to effectively implement sections of these findings and recommendations, the Stewardship Team will develop appropriate funding responses.

VI. The Congregational Development Team developed a formal system for the training and certification of coaches to support Pilot Program churches, Revitalization Clusters, Youth and Young Adult Ministry and New Church Planters. Here are the 20 certified coaches trained so far:

a. **Certified Coaches in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.** *The following people have completed all requirements and have received a coach certification certificate. We have the confidence that they are well trained and have been thoroughly assessed with the proven skill sets to engage in individual or group coaching.*
   i. Palisades: Rev. Dr. David Wiley, Rev. Dr. Paul Kim.
   ii. Cape Atlantic: Rev. Lou Strugala and Rev. Doug Rea.
   iii. Gateway North: Rev. Jeff Markay.
   iv. Raritan Valley: Rev. Robert Cook*, Janet Stafford*, and Bruce LaPenta.
   v. Gateway South: Rev. Helen Rainier, Rev. William Wilson, and Rev. Jeff Bills.
   vi. Delaware Bay: Rev. Carol Davies*.
   vii. Skylands: Mr. Jack Scharf (laity) and Rev. Jennifer Cho*.
   viii. Capital: Mr. Jim Gleason (laity)* and Tom Lank.
   ix. Northern Shore: Rev. Myrna Bethke*.
   x. Conference Staff: Rev. Varlyna Wright*, Rev. Erica Munoz*, Rev. Dr. Douglas Ruffle*.
   xi. *=Trained as Mentors for next group of coach trainees.

b. **A Second Round of Coach Certification Training will commence in the first half of 2010 with completion by the end of 2010.**

VI. Overall Coordination of the Plan. We recommend that upon adoption of this Resolution, the Bishop assign responsibility to a person or group for overall oversight of this Plan. *This assignment has been given to the Rev. Brian Roberts, Senior Minister of St. Peter's UMC, Ocean City, NJ.*

Respectfully Submitted,
The Task Force for the "Study on Effectively Fulfilling Our Missional Responsibilities"

Table of Contents

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The team met during the year with two main objectives. First was to review the conference plan to handle retiree health insurance premiums. We are happy to report that the plan is on track to result in the ability of the conference to pay the cost of retiree health insurance well into the future.

Second was a review of the Joint Planned Giving Program between the Annual Conference and United Methodist Homes. Again, we are happy to report that the program has been generally well received with our representative being invited into many local churches during the year. Some churches have already benefited from charitable giving resulting from this program.

John Bishop, Chairman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Trustees held a reorganization meeting on June 29 following the 2009 session of Annual Conference during which Doug Strickland was welcomed as a new member along with the return of Frank Kowar and Darryl Duer. The officers elected by the Board were:

President:	Mark H. Earl,
Vice-President:	Marian B. Munson,
Secretary:	Jim Graef.

In his role as Conference Administrative Director, John Cardillo serves the Board as Treasurer. District Superintendent Renee McCleary serves as Cabinet liaison to the Trustees.

Property liaisons assignments are the following:

Conference Office	John Cardillo, Jim Graef, Lou Strugala
Episcopal Residence	Renee McCleary, Lou Strugala
District Parsonages	
Capital District	Darryl Duer
Cape Atlantic District	Doug Strickland
Delaware Bay Parsonage	Vicci Hahn
Gateway North	Jim Graef
Gateway South	José Pimentel
Northern Shore	Sunghee Park
Palisades	Marian Munson
Raritan Valley	Frank Kowar
Skylands	Bob Kluthe
Other Properties	
St. Phillips Ministry, Paterson	Frank Kowar
Mays Landing (lot)	Rupert Hall
Swedesboro (Lot)	Jim Graef

Table of Contents

The parsonage in Oaklyn has been sold to the Ferry Ave UMC in Camden as per the terms of the resolution adopted by the 2009 Annual Conference.

Options for conference office space are being investigated. The Conference Office Study Team, comprised of laity and clergy from the conference, continues to study the needs with the intent to provide a full report for the 2011 Annual Conference Session.

The following are closed churches which are in process of being sold:
First UMC, Highlands, NJ
Friendship UMC, Landisville, NJ
Solomon Wesley UMC, Blackwood, NJ
Kinnelon UMC, Kinnelon , NJ.

The former Wrightstown UMC is currently under lease to an independent Christian congregation that maintains the property and provides income to the Conference. In conversation with the Cabinet and the Congregational Development Team Coordinator it was determined not to sell the property at this time with the expectation that Wrightstown might prove to be a location for a new church start.

In January 2010 the sale of the Nyack church building and related properties was finalized after a complex four-year saga.

The task of maintaining the Episcopal residence and district parsonages requires a great deal of time and care to balance financial resources and prioritize needs as we seek to protect the value of the properties and care for the needs of our Bishop and District Superintendents.

We express our gratitude to Bill Mayo and his committee for their capable leadership of the Property Insurance Committee which is a subcommittee of the Conference Trustees.

For another year the people of New Brunswick United Methodist Church and Pastor Greg Young have provided exceptional hospitality to us for our bi-monthly meetings. We are extremely grateful.

In service for Christ,

Mark H. Earl

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Last year's report mentioned that the Greater NJ United Methodist Men were going to be like Peter "getting out of the boat" to make disciples and nurture men in the local churches and throughout our districts.

Going forward, the UMM will still be getting out of the boat, but also will be catching men so God can clean them. The song "I Catch "Em, God Cleans 'Em" says it this way:

> "He said, I catch 'em, God cleans 'em.
> I bait the hook with the love of the kingdom.
> I've been called to be a fisher of men.
> I catch 'em, God cleans 'em.
> Heaven knows He saves every soul that believes Him.
> I reel 'em in and He washes away their sin."

In order for the UMM to get out of the boat, catch men and have God do HIS thing in men's lives, getting into the local church and district is our mighty sea to conquer. The UMM have been getting wet, maybe only knee deep. The number of churches chartered with the National UMM has declined nationwide and also in our conference from 49 to 33 according to the General Commission of the UMM from Nashville.

Table of Contents

Numbers and statistics sometimes don't give a clear picture. This is true in this case. The UMM in our local churches are getting wet for our Lord. Many of our churches have groups of men that meet for prayer, fellowship, worship, breaking bread and communion together. Praise God.

Just like when we go fishing, there are days we don't catch anything, but when we do, what a story we have to tell. This is the way with our local churches. There are stories to tell and over the next year, the plan is to share those stories through the UMM link on the conference web site. We all then can see how the men in our conference are making disciples, nurturing them and have them turn over their lives to Jesus Christ.

Over the past year the Conference UMM sent monies to Nothing But Nets and the Haiti Relief from the profits of the United Methodist Night at the Phillies. The UMM also participated in several District Days of Learning along with being involved in Amachi, scouting ministries and other mission projects through the local churches.

Re-organizing the district UMMs is a priority and is under way. This will be done utilizing the assistance of the district lay leaders and district superintendents, thus creating a stronger men's ministry throughout our conference.

If your church would like to have a UMM conference officer attend your local meeting or help you set up a men's ministry, please contact Rick Walker @ 856-939-2152 or walkerrn@comcast.net.

Many thanks to our Bishop for his prayers, support and guidance of the UMM.

Mark 6: 7
"And He called twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two"

We, the men of the United Methodist Church, are HIS disciples in today's world.

Men, let's go fishing.

Rick Walker, President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Faith. Hope. Love in Action - The theme for the 18th UMW Assembly. We, of the Greater NJ, strive to do that in every activity that we do. As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to share faith, hope, and love. United Methodist Women are women of faith. We work to put our faith into action by way of the love we show and by bringing hope through the mission activities in which we participate.

Mission is part of the United Methodist Women's PURPOSE. As United Methodist Women, we have heard Christ's call to participate in God's mission. We are committed to participate in mission, both near and far. The thrust of our work has always been to be in mission to women, children, youth – frequently among "the least of these." The nearly 700 UMW units in our Conference show their commitment to mission through various fundraisers throughout the year in order to meet our undertaking and commitments to global and to support local *(glocal)* missons. To this end we are proud to report that our Conference met our pledge to Women's Division. As of this writing, $296,027.85 has been sent to Women's Division. These monies supported efforts to support local, national and international ministries. Support for the Neighborhood Center in Camden, the only national mission in NJ, local missions, i.e. CUMAC/ECHO of Paterson, CAUSE (Christian Approach to Urban/Suburban Encounter), Hudson County, Ranch Hope, Alloway are examples of local and Conference-wide mission projects. In response to UMCOR's call for emergency Health Kits to Haiti and now to Chile, one UMW member has delivered 8,000 health kits to Mission Central depot, in Mechanicsburg, PA as of this writing.

Table of Contents

We expand our concepts of mission as we participate in the Cooperative School of Christian Mission. We are grateful that the Annual Conference is a co-sponsor and supporter of these schools. With two school locations we are able to provide an annual educational opportunity for mission ministry for churches throughout the Conference. We are proud to offer geographical and spiritual growth studies, as well as a topic of general interest and a Conference study. Spanish and Korean language classes are also offered.

Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and education were offered at the September Retreat, "*Filled with the Spirit and with Power*. The Fall meeting in October, "*Connecting with Christ in the Mind"* and the Spring meeting, "*Foods from the Bible"* in April were very well attended. These were great opportunities for the members to be in fellowship, to worship, for spiritual growth and to learn about social issues that affect women, children and youth. Over 100 GNJ UMW joined the nearly 10,000 women from all over the globe for the 18th quadrennial UMW Assembly in St. Louis, MO, April 30-May 2. Assembly 2010 was a "time for United Methodist Women members to celebrate, energize, educate and equip themselves for God's mission in God's world" according to the vision statement from Women's Division.

We are grateful for the support of the Annual Conference and for all that the women of our conference do at the local, district and conference levels. We pray for your continued support as we put into action our faith, love and hope.

Millie A. Grey, President

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"Spirit Led, Renewing the Church
For the Mission of Jesus Christ in the World!"

How can seminary education help to renew the Church? By blending theological and biblical study with mentoring, classroom learning, spiritual growth and practice! This is what we do at United, and it is making a difference!

United Theological Seminary is committed to the purpose of renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world! We invite your prayers and participation in this renewal and this purpose! The seminary has been serving Christ and the Church for 139 years, but our offerings are designed to meet the needs of today's followers of Jesus and Church leaders:

- A recently revised 78-hour Master of Divinity curriculum!
- A growing number of online and blended courses!
- New Doctor of Ministry degree focus groups and mentors!
- Deep learning opportunities for clergy and laity!
- Emphases in Church Renewal, African American Ministry Studies, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministries!
- Appreciative theological reflection on the central doctrines and beliefs of the Bible and the Christian faith!
- Spiritual formation in a variety of cultural contexts, including local and international communities!
- A technologically advanced, fully accessible, state-of-the art campus!
- A youthful, diverse, widely published faculty committed to the Christian faith!
- Friendly and helpful staff and students!
- A UM matching scholarship program!

Enrollment at United is growing steadily and **we invite you to call, visit or sign up for a class** that meets your needs! For more information, contact admissions@united.edu.

Table of Contents

Thank you for your prayers, partnership and service in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT PRINCETON

This is currently my eighteenth year as Chaplain of the Wesley Foundation at Princeton University where I am also a Fellow of Mathey College and frequently appointed to the faculty as a Lecturer in both the Department of Religion and the University Center for Human Values.

The mission of the Wesley Foundation is to extend the presence of the United Methodist Church to the academic setting of Princeton University in order to meet the special needs of students for spiritual formation, intellectual inquiry, and service to others. The Wesley Foundation either promotes or sponsors Christian education classes, worship services, fellowship gatherings, Bible studies, prayer meetings, discussion groups, service projects, off-campus retreats, mission trips, regional and national student conferences, and pastoral care. The ministry of the Wesley Foundation is accountable to the Board of Trustees of the Wesley Foundation, the Deans of the Chapel and the Office of Religious Life at Princeton University, and the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the Greater NJ Annual Conference.

There are two different fellowship groups that meet weekly. The Graduate Christian Fellowship meets each Tuesday evening all year long (except the week between Christmas and New Year's) for worship, Bible study, monthly faculty speakers, announcements, sharing and prayer, snacks and fellowship. There are also two small groups that meet each week, a men's group and a women's group. I meet with the four student leaders of the Graduate Christian Fellowship every other week on Tuesday evenings before the large group meeting. There is a weekly lunch and informal conversation on Friday for graduate students. Service projects and social activities are also regular activities of the Graduate Christian Fellowship. The Undergraduate Fellowship Group meets each Thursday evening during the regular academic year for pizza and other snacks, Bible study, and sharing and prayer. I regularly participate with students from the Wesley Foundation in many special worship services in the University Chapel throughout the year including opening exercises, the Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion, and the Seven Last Words from the Cross on Good Friday.

I have been an active member of Princeton United Methodist Church for the past seventeen years. Working with college and graduate students in campus ministry at Princeton University is a very challenging and rewarding vocation. I am extremely grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

Dr. B. Keith Brewer, Chaplain

Table of Contents

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seated in the nation's capital, centered in Christian faith, Wesley Theological Seminary prepares over 1,000 students annually, representing more than 25 denominations, to become exemplary teachers, preachers, and leaders in the world. In 2009, the Seminary welcomed the largest and youngest class in its history; a trend that we welcome and look forward to supporting in the years to come.

A Capital Seminary – This year Wesley continues to grow its landmark programming at Mount Vernon Square (MVS), an innovative venture in contextual theological education located in downtown Washington, DC. At MVS, Wesley hosts both Masters and Doctor of Ministry courses, largely focusing in urban ministry and public theology, as well as ongoing workshops and brown-bags for the student, resident and commuter communities. Mount Vernon Square is home to Wesley's urban intentional community, a group of students who are committed to living in community and focusing on social justice service. Also located at MVS, is Wesley's Urban Fellows program, which in 2009 welcomed its first class of Urban Fellows chosen for their dedication and leadership to ministry in the complex systems of the inner city. Learn more about Wesley and The Partnership at Mount Vernon Square at www.wesleyseminary.edu/mvs.

A Proving Ground for Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development - Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership has led a ground-breaking year in developing strategic tools for ministry. The Center launched a new online tool, called the Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory (LPLI), to help clergy grow as effective leaders. The LPLI is a 360° leadership assessment instrument that provides pastors with valuable feedback on 75 criteria of effectiveness in ministry. Learn more at www.lpli.org. LCCL is also piloting a number of peer learning groups for pastors and congregations, including the popular Lewis Fellows program for outstanding young clergy. Information about many other Lewis Center resources and program, including the free electronic newsletter *Leading Ideas*, can be found at www.churchleadership.com.

A Global Investor - Wesley provides a diverse range of programs for clergy and lay leaders, whether on campus or online. The Wesley Ministry Network, a special outreach of Wesley Theological Seminary that focuses on lay adult education, is now also offering online courses in an exciting partnership with the Institute for Discipleship. Each course features streaming video segments and on-line discussions with fellow students and experienced WMN teachers. Also in 2010, WMN's Wesleyan Studies Project is releasing new courses in Methodist History, Doctrine and Evangelism, which include video lessons by more than 50 scholars from 11 countries. Learn about future classes at www.wesleyministrynetwork.com and www.beadisciple.org.

In the fall of 2009, Wesley welcomed Carla Works, as Instructor in New Testament, Joseph Bush as Director of the Practice of Ministry and Mission Program and Carol A. Cook Moore as Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching. We were also excited to see Deborah Sokolove move into a new role as Director of the Luce Center for the Arts and Religion. This fall, we welcome Drew Dyson, as Instructor in Evangelism for the James C. Logan Chair in Evangelism. Expanded curriculum vitae and contact information are available online.

Wesley's Masters programs curricula offer specializations in Urban Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Emerging Ministries as well as opportunities in the arts, public policy, intercultural immersion and spiritual formation. These course options are buttressed with a rich array of opportunities via collaboration with the Washington Theological Consortium, a group of 18 partnering academic institutions along the Mid-Atlantic coast. A dual degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution is also possible through partnerships with American University's School of International Service. Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program extends these offerings through specialized courses that challenge pastors to grow as leaders in their specific ministry contexts. 2011 tracks include Church Leadership Excellence, Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community, and Spirituality and Story. United Methodist laity are also invited to explore our certification options in Youth Ministry, Christian Education, Children's Ministry and Spiritual Formation.

Wesley is pleased to offer a vital program of scholarship support for the next generation of church leaders. Interested persons are encouraged to contact our Office of Financial Aid to find out which options are suitable for their course of study and calling.

Table of Contents

Being Part of the Change You Hope to See - Wesley is a mission-minded community. As agents of creative, collaborative and scholarly practice, the members of Wesley's 2010 graduating class alone will minister to more than half a million people in the course of their careers. I welcome you to join them.

God's call is bold. *Your seminary should be too.* Meet us at www.wesleyseminary.edu.

President, The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

WILEY COLLEGE

Founded in 1873 in Marshall, Texas by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Wiley College is a historically black, primarily liberal arts, residential, co-educational, baccalaureate degree-granting institution affiliated with The United Methodist Church. Wiley College holds the distinction as one of the oldest historically black colleges west of the Mississippi River. This year marks Wiley College's 137th year of continuous service in higher education.

We here at Wiley College believe that education is the pathway to success and we are committed to ensuring that each and every student who enrolls here will leave our institution one step closer to excellence.

Committed to the principles of educational access and opportunity, Wiley College serves traditional and non-traditional students of diverse academic, social, geographic, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds who demonstrate a desire and potential for learning in a Christian environment that is sensitive to the myriad of student needs. In recognition of its covenant relationship with The United Methodist Church, the College affirms the ideal of social responsibility and seeks to contribute to the welfare and revitalization of the community in which it is located.

In this ever-changing global society, Wiley College continues to foster an environment that encourages and supports spiritual, ethical and moral development, an appreciation for the arts, global awareness, and true compassion and concern for the common good.

As President and CEO of this great institution, I extend heartfelt thanks to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for your continued support and commitment to our students. It is through your support and generosity that Wiley students are becoming creative thinkers, path builders and innovative ambassadors.
Despite the current economic downturn, I, along with the faithful members of the Board of Trustees, remain hopeful and optimistic about the future of this great institution. This past fall 2009, Wiley College exceeded its enrollment goal and welcomed a historic 1237 students to our campus. This student body is history-making not just for its numbers, but also its diversity. More and more, Wiley is becoming a beacon of hope for all young people looking to be intellectually and spiritually stimulated.

Without the support of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, Wiley College's beacon would be a little less bright. It is because of your sacrificial giving that our students and the Wiley College family will continue to "go forth inspired glorious deeds to do." * (*Wiley's Alma Mater)

Haywood L. Strickland, President

Table of Contents

Property & Liability Insurance - 12/31/2009

Balance Forward		**1,136,926**
Receipts:		
Interest Income	314	
Premiums from Churches	2,516,886	
Worker's Compensation	368,129	
Prior Year Receipts	101,551	
	2,986,879	
Disbursements:		
Insurance Premiums	2,159,231	
Auto Insurance	2,349	
Worker's Compensation	293,397	
Salary	26,794	
Claim Deductibles	69,643	
Other Expenses	399	
	2,551,814	
Change in Operation		435,066
Ending Balance 12/31/09		**1,571,992**

Ending Balance as of 12/31/09 is for Reserves for Uncollectible Premiums.

Table of Contents

Pension Accounts - Greater New Jersey Annual Conference							
	12/31/04	**12/31/05**	**12/31/06**	**12/31/07**	**12/31/08**		**12/31/09**
ASSETS							
1st Union Checking	0	0	0	0	0		
Due to GBOP				477,653	808,423		1,942,311
GBOP Deposit Account	2,768,239	2,708,432	2,912,443	2,865,915	1,580,944		1,479,663
Former SNJ - Bank of America	446,602	451,193	510,612	536,608	407,421		557,248
Accounts Receivable	473,626	462,791	493,706				
Total Assets	**3,688,466**	**3,622,416**	**3,916,761**	**3,880,175**	**2,796,789**		**3,979,222**
LIABILITIES							
Pension					0		0
Due to Conference	24,429	32,937	67,466	92,418	(200,626)		236,416
Total Liabilities	**24,429**	**32,937**	**67,466**	**92,418**	**(200,626)**		**236,416**
General Fund							
Balance Forward	3,488,168	3,544,350	3,837,607	4,152,529	4,349,982		3,900,214
Receipts							
Investment Income	40,970	17,547	18,566	20,424	21,464		13,375
GBOP Invest. Gain/(Loss)	103,604	190,548	340,393	243,848	(634,558)		287,127
GBOP Invest. Refund/Adj	(36,965)	(127,567)	(3,529)	4,521	266		4,532
UM Publishing Income	12,818	13,162	12,616	12,408	12,290		
Annual Conference Offering							4,488
Memorial Donations	0				380,782		(347,738)
Chartered Fund Income	0	829	387	650	428		
Pre-Retirement Seminar Income	540		460	625	680		610
Transfers from Account Close Outs		250,239					
Total Receipts	120,967	344,758	368,893	282,477	(218,647)		(37,607)
Disbursements							
Global Pension Trust	12,818	13,162	12,616	12,408	12,290		
Pensions - Moving Expense Reimb		12,913	18,276	22,418	30,965		13,031
Grants/Relief	36,770	16,875	19,322	16,223	16,347		14,626
Pre-Retirement Seminar Expense			213	1,009	1,015		
Adoption Grant	3,000						
Offering							4,488
Staff Expense	269	692	940	29	44,285		57,815
Pension Adjustment Expense				30,815	114,065		
Refunds				0	3,335		
Operating Expenses	11,928	7,859	2,604	2,121	8,819		19,068
Total Disbursements	64,785	51,500	53,971	85,024	231,121		109,029
General Fund Balance	3,544,350	3,837,607	4,152,529	4,349,982	3,900,214		3,753,578
Receipts - Disbursements	56,182	293,257	314,922	197,453	(449,768)		(146,636)
Stabilization Fund							
Balance Forward	200,454	200,454	0	0	0		0
Stabilization Fund Balance	200,454	0	0	0	0		0
Current Service Fund							
Balance Forward	(53,176)	(130,551)	(248,129)	(331,131)	(595,694)		(785,617)
Receipts							

Table of Contents

General Board of Pension Income							2,697,301
Staff Premiums				179,442			199,182
Conference CRSP Income	2,269,235	2,257,814	2,324,971	2,859,255	3,016,139		3,070,078
Conference CPP Income	903,254	902,984	912,871	608,674	574,513		574,210
Total Receipts	3,172,488	3,160,798	3,237,842	3,647,371	3,590,652		6,540,771
Disbursements							
Refunds/Adjustments							
Transfer to Fund 127 Retiree							1,729,539
Company Pension Expense							
Expense entry					2,451,024		2,697,301
GBOP Billing	3,249,863	3,278,375	3,320,845	3,911,934	1,329,551		1,328,314
Total Disbursements	3,249,863	3,278,375	3,320,845	3,911,934	3,780,575		5,755,154
Current Service Fund Balance	(130,551)	(248,129)	(331,131)	(595,694)	(785,617)		0
Receipts - Disbursements	(77,375)	(117,577)	(83,002)	(264,563)	(189,923)		785,617
Disability Fund							
Balance Forward	45,807	45,807	0	0	0		0
Disability Fund Balance	45,807	0	0	0	0		0
Emergency Relief Fund							
Balance Forward	3,977	3,977	0	0	0		0
Emergency Relief Fund Balance	3,977	0	0	0	0		0
Interest Reserve Fund							
Interest Reserve Fund Balance			27,897	33,469	(117,183)		(10,774)
Total Fund Balance	**3,664,037**	**3,589,479**	**3,849,296**	**3,787,757**	**2,997,414**		**3,742,805**

Table of Contents

Health Insurance Accounts - Greater NJ Annual Conference

	12/31/2008	12/31/2009
Assets		
Health Insurance Investments	400,495	2,708,599
Due from Conference	2,293,660	2,239,723
Total Assets	**2,694,156**	**4,948,321**
Liabilities		
Post Retirement Benefits	47,570,000	55,020,400
Total Liabilites	**47,570,000**	**55,020,400**
Actives Fund		
Balance Forward	**310,677**	**101,098**
(Receipts)		
Billing Non-Annuitants	4,427,926	4,185,229
Dist. Supt. & Staff Premiums	284,062	300,850
Staff Family Premiums	23,434	25,105
2% of Sal. Contrib.W/H fr Staff&DS's	29,245	31,949
Bank of America Investment Income	21,099	13,376
Total Receipts	**4,785,765**	**4,556,509**
(Disbursements)		
Non- Annuitants Premium	4,664,933	4,468,381
Adoption Support	0	
Incapacity Leave	3,745	
Other Expense		0
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	297,421	294,816
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	29,245	31,949
Total Disbursements	**4,995,344**	**4,795,146**
Receipts less Disbursements	-209,578	-238,637
Balance	**101,098**	**-137,538**
ANNUITANTS Fund		
Balance Forward	**0**	**0**
(Receipts)		
Shared Ministries for Annuitants	2,149,666	2,130,994
Billing for Annuitants over 65	69,716	68,612
Billing for Annuitants under 65	37,507	56,578
Medicare	219,726	188,030
2% Salary Funds Reserve Transfer	234,803	352,722
Total Receipts	**2,711,418**	**2,796,937**
(Disbursements)		
Annuitants Premium	2,652,961	2,765,816
Administration Expense	4,965	2,601
H.I.T. Coordinator	23,679	26,270
Adoption Support	6,000	
Consulting Agency Fee	23,813	2,250
Total Disbursements	**2,711,418**	**2,796,937**

Table of Contents

Reserve Fund for Retiree Health Ins.			
Balance Forward	**2,310,984**		**2,686,097**
(Receipts)			
Centenary Fund Additional Contribution	383,250		402,413
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	297,421		294,816
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	29,245		31,949
Misc Income			2,107,321
Total Receipts	709,916		2,836,499
(Disbursements)			
Transfer to Annuitants	234,803		352,722
Transfer to Reserve	100,000		100,000
Total Disbursements	334,803		452,722
Receipts - Disbusements	375,113		2,383,777
Balance	**2,686,097**		**5,069,874**

DENTAL Fund Balance Forward	**5,093**		**22,151**
Billing for Dental Insurance	80,012		67,276
Dental Insurance Premiums	62,954		62,850
Receipts - Disbusements	17,058		4,426
Balance	**22,151**		**26,577**

Post Retirement Fund Balance Forward	**-48,099,324**		**-47,570,000**
Current Year Transactions	529,324		-7,450,400
Balance	**-47,570,000**		**-55,020,400**

Interest Reserve Fund Balance Forward	**32,900**		**-115,190**
Current Year Transactions	-148,091		104,600
Balance	**-115,190**		**-10,590**

Total Fund Balance	**-44,875,844**		**-50,072,079**

Table of Contents

2009 Receipts Comparison
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

	Fd #	Funds	2007 Budget	2007 Dec YTD	2007 %Budget	2008 Budget	2008 Dec YTD	2008 %Budget	2009 Budget	2009 Dec YTD	2009 %Budget
Shared Ministry Funds	100	DO,ClergySup.,Admin	4,895,259	4,325,948	88.37%	5,037,103	4,317,036	85.70%	5,120,996	4,293,724	83.85%
	200	Admin. (Beginning 2005)	1,658,262	1,469,700	88.63%	1,877,477	1,640,479	87.38%	2,239,792	1,904,581	85.03%
	300	WorldService/Conf.Ben.	3,751,385	3,143,352	83.79%	3,898,364	3,154,774	80.93%	3,775,917	3,081,815	81.62%
	410	Black College	231,729	198,899	85.83%	229,160	197,133	86.02%	226,054	182,030	80.53%
	420	Africa University	53,560	47,704	89.07%	50,662	50,063	98.82%	50,593	44,197	87.36%
	430	Ministerial Education	580,415	486,825	83.88%	575,412	482,718	83.89%	566,640	442,989	78.18%
		Subtotal	**11,170,610**	**9,672,429**	**86.59%**	**11,668,178**	**9,842,203**	**84.35%**	**11,979,992**	**9,949,335**	**83.05%**
		Prior Yr. Shared Ministry		**68,069**			**35,727**			**878**	
Billing Funds		CRSP	3,022,008	2,778,065	91.93%	3,227,429	2,894,683	89.69%	3,307,015	2,937,371	88.82%
		2008 CRSP							326,573	68,947	
		Prior Year CRSP	457,209	81,190		611,520	121,456		486,103	63,761	
		Total MPP	**3,479,217**	**2,859,255**	**82.18%**	**3,838,949**	**3,016,139**	**78.57%**	**4,119,691**	**3,070,078**	**74.52%**
		Comp. Protection Plan	626,886	574,374	91.62%	617,007	552,216	89.50%	614,871	544,839	88.61%
		2008 CPP							64,123	17,012	
		Prior Year CPP	165,477	34,300		176,070	22,297		153,526	12,359	
		Total CPP	**792,363**	**608,674**	**76.82%**	**793,077**	**574,513**	**72.44%**	**832,519**	**574,210**	**68.97%**
		Property/Liab. Insurance	2,855,818	2,605,379	91.23%	2,796,274	2,493,582	89.18%	2,851,317	2,516,886	88.27%
		2008 P/L							300,264	70,887	
		Prior Year P/L Insurance	653,869	126,089		773,887	102,114		664,394	21,917	
		Total P/L Ins.	**3,509,687**	**2,731,468**	**77.83%**	**3,570,161**	**2,595,695**	**72.71%**	**3,815,975**	**2,609,689**	**68.39%**
		Health Insurance	4,829,715	4,591,559	95.07%	4,760,697	4,294,457	90.21%	4,571,737	4,048,263	88.55%
		2008 Health Insurance							459,457	98,044	
		Prior Years Health Insurance	325,094	60,543		666,032	102,862		530,314	40,327	
		Total Health Ins.	**5,154,809**	**4,652,103**	**90.25%**	**5,426,729**	**4,397,319**	**81.03%**	**5,561,508**	**4,186,635**	**75.28%**
		Workers Comp Insurance	378,056	354,409	93.75%	380,209	363,136	95.51%	392,399	368,129	93.81%
		2008 Workers Comp							15,776	2,350	
		Prior Years Workers Comp	18,741	12,302		18,463	3,657		13,260	2,500	
		Total Workers Comp Ins	**396,797**	**366,711**	**92.42%**	**398,672**	**366,794**	**92.00%**	**421,435**	**372,979**	**88.50%**
Total Shared Min. & Billing			**24,503,483**	**20,958,708**	**85.53%**	**25,695,767**	**20,828,390**	**81.06%**	**26,731,119**	**20,763,805**	**77.68%**
Special Giving			**0**	**758,770**		**0**	**913,532**		**0**	**654,774**	
GRAND TOTAL			**24,503,483**	**21,717,478**		**25,695,767**	**21,741,923**		**26,731,119**	**21,418,579**	

Table of Contents