VII. ANNUAL REPORTS

Episcopal Address

The wind blows where it will, you hear the sound that it makes, but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

When stiff winds blow, United Methodists lean into the wind with Holy Spirit power. When Superstorm Sandy blew ashore, United Methodists called forth winds of renewal with courage, determination and hope.

UNITED METHODISTS ARE LEANING IN WITH COURAGE.
St. Peters Church in Ocean City, whose ground floor was flooded and uninhabitable, along with the Lacy Church, whose community was hard hit by Sandy, began to work with others in their area, serving hundreds of people daily with bottled water, flood buckets, food, clothing and day and night shelter. The Oasis Church opened its doors and began feeding and providing clothing to thousands of people. Even in the midst of the storm, these congregations pressed on with courageous ministry in the face of adversity.

UNITED METHODISTS ARE LEANING IN WITH DETERMINATION.
Saint Paul's Church in Bay Head became the community relief station providing food, services, and supplies not only for their community, but to communities all around them. Rev. William Williams and the people of Asbury Church in Atlantic City, along with Rev. Javon Caldwell, were determined that Sandy would not define their future, so they worked with others to organize a long term recovery group and developed a plan to rebuild homes and the community.

UNITED METHODISTS ARE LEANING IN WITH HOPE.
Wayne Jones and the conference relief team in the midst of providing relief have been serving as counselors and prayer partners for people who were deeply affected by Superstorm Sandy. Lou Strugala, Myrna Bethke, Aldersgate Church, Middletown Church, St. Johns Church in Hazlet have all served as chaplains and hosts to numerous volunteers who came to the coast from across the country. Hope is being reborn through prayer, pastoral counseling and radical hospitality.

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans not for your destruction but for a future with hope.

When the storms of life are raging, United Methodists lean into stiff winds with **HOPE**!

Today, we are living in times besieged by natural disasters and disasters of our own making. Superstorm Sandy, the Sandy Hook shooting, the Boston bombing, the Moore Oklahoma tornado, global poverty, environmental calamity, economic uncertainty, hunger – and, yes, even hopelessness.

We are not to turn away from the fierce oncoming winds but look **beyond** our present circumstances and see where God is leading us. But, when the winds are swirling all around us, how do we know which direction to lean into? We look to what the mission of our Church calls us to do – make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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God's plan for us could not be more simple, nor more crucial at this hour. We are to be a people seeking the transformation of lives and communities. And so,

1. We face the growing numbers of non and nominally religious by **connecting** creatively with the people in our communities;
2. We face the needs in our communities by increasing the **vitality** of our congregations;
3. We face disaster with **leadership** and volunteers;
4. We face malaria with **hope** and bed nets to end death;
5. We face poverty and violence by moving **beyond current ministry** with innovative God sized mission.

God calls us to press on to connect with the people in our communities whose hope may be shaken by the great challenges of our time. God calls us to share the good news that Jesus has made ALL of us his own! We are called to be hope for the future for such a time as this.

And there has never been a more important time for us to focus our ministry on making new disciples, growing vital congregations and engaging in God sized life-transforming mission. As we know, The United Methodist Church – our congregations, our conferences, and our denomination – is challenged like never before.

I want to talk with you about some of the challenges we have. I will share some numbers, metrics with you. But before I do, I want to say a word to those who have been calling for more accountability, goals, and metrics.

Numbers without names, fruitfulness without fellowship and results without relationships are not of God. I can't be any more clear and convinced of this. We are not about numbers; we are about people - making disciples, serving the poor, welcoming and receiving people as they are.

Let me also say that names without new people, relationships without results, fellowship without fruitfulness may not be of God. It is not an either/or but a both. We seek faith, fellowship and fruit. We want names and numbers of new disciples. We seek renewal, relationships and results.

Looking at our challenges, we may be out of balance focusing more on fellowship and relationships and not always developing the ministries that connect with new people, especially the non and nominally religious.

In the Greater New Jersey Conference, our challenges became clearer through a study of our historic trends and future projections. We found that over the last 10 years

Worship attendance declined by 20%
Professions of faith declined by 34%
Shared ministry collection rate declined 6%
Baptisms declined from 3,321 to 1,882

These are discipleship trends, discipleship declines.

The Historic Trends and 2030 Projections study indicates that if we do not change what we are doing right away, by 2030 we will have only 34,770 worshipers, down 12,981 worshipers and we will have 455 congregations, down 123 congregations.

These numbers are not the problem; they are symptoms of deeper spiritual challenges we face within our conference and congregations. The Strategic Ministry Task Force through its research and listening tours over the last two years found that United Methodists have difficulty embracing new forms of worship, new technologies for communication, and new models for ministry.

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Because we are not embracing change or not embracing it fast enough, there is a disconnect with the growing populations of non and nominally religious people in our communities. The Strategic Ministry Task Force found that we have five challenges that call us to change.

1. The first and most critical challenge for us is relevancy. We are not consistently connecting with people in our communities. Many of our worshipers are different from the people in their community. When congregations do not reflect the people in their community, over time they will decline and eventually discontinue. Congregations that do not connect with a relevant and compelling ministry are not sustainable. Congregations that differ from their community in any one or more of the following ways are likely already in decline – age, class, race, culture, music, vocabulary, and use of technology. Congregations that are not connecting with the growing legions of non and nominally religious will decline.

   We call pastors and lay leadership to identify the populations they are not connecting with in their community and develop relationships and ministries that capture their hearts and imaginations.

2. Our second challenge is diversity and inclusion. The Greater New Jersey Conference is one of the top five most diverse conferences in our denomination. We have reached this distinction by starting new congregations with emerging populations and grew multi-ethnic congregations. Yet, there is room to move beyond the progress we have made. Our African American, African, Asian, Hispanic, Filipino and other non Caucasian groups represents 20% of our membership, yet they are 50% of the population of Greater New Jersey Area. Diversity goes beyond ethnicity to include people of different races, classes, theologies, ages, sexual orientation, nations, disabilities, and people new to the faith. And we need to include more people of color in the leadership of our congregations and conference. When greater diversity and inclusion is needed and people resist, God's people are to lean into the challenge of prejudice and racism with Pentecost winds of diversity and openness.

   We call our congregations and conference to move beyond our present diversity and reach a more diverse population and to increase the diversity of our leadership.

3. Our third challenge is spiritual leadership that leads congregations to become more vital. We have committed and talented clergy and laity in Greater New Jersey.

   Still, shifts within our society call for a different way of leading today. The church cannot count on stability and status-quo. To meet the needs and opportunities of the rapid changes around us, we need leaders who are passionate, creative, risk taking and visionary. In our conference and congregations we need to:
   a. Call leaders with a heart for Jesus and develop them for spiritual maturity
   b. Call passionate leaders and develop them for growing vital congregations
   c. Call visionary leaders and develop them for leading change and resolving conflict
   d. Call diverse leaders and develop them for cultural competence
   e. Call younger leaders and develop congregations to support younger leaders
   f. Call creative and innovative leaders and develop them for ministering in particular contexts
   g. Call leaders with perseverance and develop them for fruitful ministry

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A heart for Jesus, passion, vision, creativity, desire to grow and learn, and perseverance cannot be taught.

We call the Board of Ordained Ministry and the nominations committees of the conference and our local churches to nurture, call and recruit new leaders with these qualities. We can equip them for ministry but we cannot instill these leadership qualities in new leaders. We will work with all of our present leaders to deepen your passion and creativity and support you as you grow your faith and leadership skills. When the need for new types of leadership emerges, Spirit winds guide us in new directions.

4. Our fourth challenge is the decline that many of our congregations are experiencing. Congregations are having a difficult time moving beyond their current ministry and reshaping their ministry for relevance, mission, diversity, inclusion and making new disciples. Overall, our congregations are not as vital as they once were. The Report, Historic Trends and 2030 Projections forecasts that 123 of our congregations will discontinue by 2030 if we do not address congregational vitality immediately.

   We call upon our superintendents, connectional ministries' team, conference leaders, clergy and lay leadership to stop investing in ministries and strategies that will not increase the vitality of our congregations.

   Vital congregations are making new disciples and engaging disciples in life changing and community transforming mission. In the face of church decline, we need to stop doing the things that do not lead to vital congregations and engage in ministries that grow vitality for making new disciples and transformative mission. Yes, there will be resistance that embraces the familiar and fears change, but it is critical for the sake of the Gospel to grow vital congregations. In the face of congregational decline and resistance to change, Spirit winds melt hardened hearts and lead us to new ministries and powerful mission.

5. Our fifth challenge is to engage in mission efforts that capture the hearts and imaginations of those in our mission field, the non and nominally religious. Today more than ever, people in general, and young people in particular, want to be a part of something missionally significant. Overall, our mission efforts are too small, they are not God sized. Repairing 300 to 500 homes of low income people is God sized. Raising $2 million to end deaths by Malaria is God sized. Rekindling a holy and bold mission that is worthy of God's time will take more than what we can do on our own. We need Holy Spirit fire and wisdom to reach the least and the privileged, the last and the first, the lost and the found.

   We call our pastors and superintendents to envision larger, more inspiring missional efforts and to inspire disciples to engage in God sized mission, both locally and globally. When stiff winds cloud our vision, Spirit winds are waiting to blow fresh God sized visions.

There are amazing examples right here in our own backyard of congregations and individual United Methodists who are leading beyond today's challenges and are leaning in with Spirit winds. They inspire us to reach beyond our challenges and become more like Christ.

WE ARE INSPIRED TO MAKE NEW DISCIPLES.

Two congregations in Trenton that were close to discontinuing a few short years ago, merged together and began to reach new populations in the community. They started a breakfast ministry

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that invites people from the margins, the poor, the homeless, and others to dine with them on Saturday mornings. Now their congregation has more than 125 in weekly worship. This year were started or further developed breakfast ministries in Camden, Atlantic City, Pleasantville and Asbury Park.

The Clinton Church which had two youth in confirmation several years ago, confirmed 22 new youth this past Pentecost. Their intentional ministry with youth is making new disciples. The conference also started a new Hispanic congregation through the Bound Brooke Church. Pastor Onay travelled with his family from Cuba to be the new pastor. They started an English as a second language class and are canvassing the community for new disciples. After six months, they are worshiping over 25 in worship.

Pastor Onay Lopez, I invite you and your family to stand so we may welcome you and thank you.

WE ARE INSPIRED BY VITAL WORSHIP.
St. Mark, Hamilton Square Church has four worship services, offering a variety of worship styles at different times each week. They are attracting more than 400 worshipers by being relevant to those in their community. A senior woman from the congregation came to one of the youth worship services where the music was pretty loud. The pastor worried what she might say. On the way out she smiled and thanked the pastor saying, “They were great…and they blew out both of my hearing aids.”

The Pearl River Congregation has been becoming more relevant in worship and have now grown to the place where they are moving from part time to a full time pastor this July. The Sharptown Church started a second campus congregation and are now worshiping at two sites. The second site has attracted 125 new worshipers in the past year. Kingston Church has enlivened worship with young adult leadership and has grown from 35 to 65 in worship; most of the new disciples are young adults. These are churches inspired by Spirit winds!

WE ARE INSPIRED BY NEW SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES.
Hope Church, which started 20 years ago, has had a number of vibrant ministries, and none more important than their developing disciples through small groups. Cherry Hill Korean Church which has been steadily growing has 77% of their congregations in small groups. Small groups are core to these two congregations’ discipleship ministry and has helped the congregations grow to more than 500 in worship. The New Jersey Emmaus Walk ministry has been instrumental in growing disciples and engaging them in small groups. This past year we started an Emmaus Walk for Spanish speaking disciples. These are churches inspired by Spirit winds! We are grateful for all of our congregations that are growing small group ministries.

WE ARE INSPIRED BY ENGAGING IN RISK TAKING MISSION.
The conference has sponsored several trips to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake there and this spring the Morrow Church has led two trips to Haiti. This congregation continues to go deeper in its support of mission in its community and around the world. The Union Church almost discontinued, but new leadership helped the congregation connect with its community.

Today the church has 20 different ethnic groups and a 30 voice multi racial, multi cultural choir that sings at community organizations, nursing homes and medical facilities. The Galilee Church started a new computer class for seniors and recruited youth to teach the classes. Intergenerational service projects are leading to new vitality. The congregation is the primary point of mission and ministry and we will be coming along side of our congregations to support them in risk taking

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mission. We become like Christ when we move into the community. We thank all of our congregations that are engaged in risk taking mission.

WE ARE INSPIRED BY GENEROUS GIVING.
Our Greater New Jersey Conference congregations are rising to the challenge by generously supporting ministry in your own congregation, and in the conference and the world. For the sixth year in a row you have made it possible to pay 100% of our General Church apportionments. The poor and the hungry, both physically and spiritually, from around the world thank you. You have grown the shared ministry collection rate by 2% in 2012, reversing a six year decline. We recognize these are challenging times for churches, and I pledge we will do all we can to keep funds in the local church, which is the primary place for mission and ministry. Thank you your generous giving.

Today we thank the Cape Atlantic and the Delaware Bay Districts who paid the highest percentage of their Shared Ministries. Also the Gateway South and Capital Districts had the largest percentage, over 7% increase for shared ministry. We are grateful for all of our congregations who are leading the way in generous giving.

Yes we have challenges but we also have inspiring signs of God's resurrection power through our ministry.

The answers to our challenges are not "quick fixes" or small changes or working harder on what we are already doing. It will require Holy Spirit transformation by the renewing of our minds and hearts as encouraged in Romans 12:1-2.

Here are key ministry actions and steps we need to take to move our ministry forward.

1. First, we will immediately work on our strategic plan, and with Holy Spirit guidance and power, use it to begin our turnaround. The proposed plan calls us to grow more vital congregations through which we will make more disciples and engage in life changing mission. I pledge to you, this plan will not sit on a shelf. In fact, in anticipation of the plan's passage, conference leadership set meetings in June and will begin working through the summer to start on the next steps outlined in the plan. Quarterly we will communicate with you about our progress and at each annual conference we will account for our fruitfulness. With your prayers, support and by working on each of the goals in your congregation, we will experience a renewed Wesleyan movement across Greater New Jersey. Working together on the plan, we will grow our percentage of highly vital congregations from 14% to 41%. A complete turnaround that will reverse the decline and engage the hearts and imaginations of the non and nominally religious.

   The wind blows where it wills, you hear the sound that it makes but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is going, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

2. Secondly, this July we will launch a new small church initiative beginning with three of our smallest congregations. Our aim is to reinvigorate discipleship and mission with a team of passionate and persevering young adult leaders. The congregations will reconnect with their communities, engage with the non and nominally religious, and grow the churches missionally. Our goal is to grow each congregation to 150 in worship. I believe in 10 years we will have 100 congregations participating in this initiative and we will add 10,000 new worshipers over time, $15 to $25 million dollars for mission and ministry, 400 new disciples a year and call and equip 10 new clergy a year for pastoral, extension and mission ministry.

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3. Thirdly, over the next five years we will repair 300 to 500 homes of the poor, disabled, and elderly impacted by Superstorm Sandy. We will engage 15,000 or more volunteers and raise $21 million, $7 million of which we have already raised. A God size vision for renewing our mission. Why do we do this? When people hurt, United Methodists heal; when people lose hope, United Methodists become a future with hope; when people do not have enough, United Methodists help.

   The wind blows where it wills, you hear the sound that it makes but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is going, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

4. Fourthly I invite you to pass and work with us on the Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. We seek to raise an additional $7 million for our Sandy Relief ministry, $2 million for Imagine No Malaria, and $3 million for mission through our congregations in their communities. We have already raised $1.7 million of this goal through our congregations. We will work together each step of the way to have a successful campaign through your congregation. But this is more than just money. It is about restoring hope for Superstorm battered people. It is about ending the death of children from Malaria in Africa. It is about important and urgent mission right in our communities. Through this campaign we will also raise the spiritual level within our congregations. Money is important but spiritual health is essential to the well being of the mission. This is not a capital campaign, but a spiritual campaign. Therefore we will work with you to organize and implement a campaign that will grow worship attendance, involve more people in small groups, and engage more people in community mission. We will raise $12 million dollars by God's grace and we will increase the faith of our people.

   The wind blows where it wills, you hear the sound that it makes but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is going, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

5. Fifthly, in the fall, to coincide with our Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign, we will launch the Hope Campaign all across Greater New Jersey in collaboration with United Methodist Communications. This campaign builds on the Igniting Ministries Campaign and it will raise the visibility of our congregations in their communities. It will include mission actions and advertisements in every district. This campaign will engage thousands of people in our communities for hands on mission service and help our communities know that when people hurt, United Methodists heal, when people are in despair, United Methodists claim a future with hope, when people don't have enough, United Methodists share, when people feel isolated, United Methodists offer open hearts, minds and doors.

   The wind blows where it wills, you hear the sound that it makes but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is going, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

Challenging times call for big visions, bold actions and courageous disciples. This is no time to shrink behind our challenges. The journey is long and I invite you to share in the journey.
In the midst of our challenges, together let us press on to the high calling that is before us. Let us not look back, but join together to run the race, to be the church of Jesus Christ -- vital, restored, forgiven, connecting the Gospel with those at the center and the margins, those in our pews and the nonreligious in our communities. Press on for the journey is long. Hope on for the journey is

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long. Sing on for the journey is long. March on for the journey is long. Pray on for the journey is long.

John R. Schol, Bishop
May 30, 2012

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER'S REPORT

As we come to the end of this first year of the new quadrennial, I think -- what a year this has been! Our conference has faced challenges and blessings from God! As Christians, we know change and old things must fade away and we must develop new ways and new habits to grow spiritually. We are like a river flowing through a canyon, the longer we do things the same way, the more deeply it becomes ingrained and the harder it is to change. Sometimes knowing the changes that we need to make is not enough; we also need to know how to make those changes. I thank God that to become a mature Christian is a process of growth.

My year began last July at the Jurisdictional Conference with changes in our episcopal leadership. We began immediately to celebrate the eight years we had with Bishop Devadhar and to prepare and welcome our new episcopal leader, Bishop John Schol, in September. Bishop Schol began immediately with his faith conversations with the New Jersey Annual conference Clergy and Laity leaders!

In October, with three other members of the Laity Council, we flew out to the Adam Hamilton Leadership Institute. This was an excellent educational opportunity and provided numerous topic and workshop choices to attend. The Institute and members of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection role-modeled radical hospitality, inclusiveness and how churches can be vital where they are planted by using the means God provides; you can change to be what He wants you to be! Adam Hamilton had a way of providing motivation, guidance and encouragement to all of the persons attending the conference. We departed from the Institute thinking that all that is left is for a person to be committed and determine to follow God's will and diligently act on the decision to make disciples for Christ.

By the time of Bishop Schol's installation, he had visited six of the nine districts. Immediately after his installation, New Jersey was hit and impacted by Super Storm Sandy. He completed all nine district visits even after the advent of Sandy. I was grateful to be able to attend all nine laity evenings with the Bishop and am also grateful for the Bishop's leadership in planning for recovery and raising funds to assist those who were most affected by the storm. Churches, clergy and laity of the conference demonstrated church in its purest form by reaching out, feeding, clothing and providing shelter to those in need. Our churches shined brightly during the darkest hours of Sandy!

In January we were off to Nashville for the 2013 Quadrennial Training Event. The purpose of this event was to re-member, re-cognize and be re-newed as apostles and leaders for the transformation of the world. Annual Conference Teams had opportunities to learn and practice skills for adaptive leadership and hear stories of adaptive learning, and to discuss issues of identity, purpose and current realities of the church.

In February a team from our conference met with other conferences in Forth Worth, Texas to develop strategies to grow vital congregations. This group is committed to meet twice a year for

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two years to share what is working and discuss innovative ways for churches to grow disciples. I am very excited about this work and potential benefits for us.

The Laity Council has discussed many strategies to prepare us for changes that must come. One of the new events this year was the "Celebration of Lay Ministry" The primary agents of God's mission in today's world are the laity of the United Methodist Church, you and me. The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment of Christ's outreaching love. Lay members of the United Methodist Church are, by history, called to be active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every lay person is called to be in mission. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and for the United Methodist church to fulfill its mission. This celebration recognized persons or groups in the local church that have been creative and innovative in transforming lives and making disciples for Jesus Christ. This event was postponed due to another snow storm but the rescheduled event was well attended.

The Laity Council presented plans to the Annual Conference for making principal leaders for the future in a proposal for an annual Laity Leadership Academy with a resolution for conference financial support . The Laity Leadership Academy's first event will be held in September of 2013 with a series of workshops and presenters to enhance the leadership skills of the laity.

We continually encourage laity to lead by advocacy and role modeling, celebrating partnership, spiritual growth and educational opportunities. We must be clear about our hope for the future and find better ways to live out the priesthood of all believers as we develop our vision. Let us be challenged to accomplish our dreams. "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory…." Ephesians 3:20

Rosa Williams
Conference Lay Leader

A Future with HOPE

Sandy Relief Case Statement

Introduction
In the face of Superstorm Sandy, we see Jesus. Mathew 25

Superstorm Sandy was the most destructive storm New Jersey has ever experienced. It left 2.7 million New Jerseyans without power, 253,000 households sustained damage and tens of thousands of homes were uninhabitable. Sandy disrupted or discontinued thousands of jobs and impacted tens of thousands of people's lives. A storm this size calls for many partners working together to bring relief and recovery to New Jerseyans. The United Methodist Church, through its 600 congregations in the Greater New Jersey Conference and its 30,000 churches across the United States, will collaborate with other relief agency partners to *rebuild a future with hope.* Jeremiah 29:11

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For more than 200 years, The United Methodist Church has been meeting human needs around the world. Through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) we have earned an A rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy. Our relief and recovery efforts will collaborate with civic, business, faith-based and governmental groups to rebuild homes, lives and communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Response

Through its nonprofit organization, *A Future with Hope,* United Methodists will focus on four areas – relief, repair, rebuild and renew.

We meet immediate human needs following a disaster. During the **RELIEF** phase Provided we

- more than 50,000 meals
- Provided day and night shelter for more than 5,000 people
- Distributed more than 11,000 cleaning buckets, more than 3,000 health kits, tons of clothing and other material supplies such as non-perishable food, heaters, blankets, etc.
- Assessed community needs and "mucked" out nearly 2,000 homes

We work with community residents, non-profit organizations, churches and local, state and federal agencies to assess damage and **REPAIR** homes, particularly for the elderly, disabled and low income whose insurance and other agency support does not cover all of the damages. We will utilize more than 20,000 trained volunteers under the supervision of professionals to repair 300-500 homes.

Repairing homes is essential and so is **REBUILD**ing the social fabric of a community. Bringing a sense of normalcy involves more than hammers and nails. It is community building. We will work with three communities to provide asset based community building strategies to develop local leadership and strengthen community organizations. This may also include repairing community centers and churches.

One of the harshest results of Superstorm Sandy will be the emotional and spiritual toll it has on people's lives. We will **RENEW** as we provide counseling and case management for more than **1**,000 families over several years to help children, youth, parents/adults renew their hope and faith for the future.

A Future with HOPE, a nonprofit organization

The relief, repair, rebuild and renew work will be overseen by a nonprofit organization, *A Future with Hope.* Its board, made up of community, religious and business leaders from across the State of New Jersey will oversee the relief and recovery work of United Methodists as we collaborate with civic and faith based partners who seek to build a future with hope.

Goals

1. Distribute 10,000 cleaning buckets to clean flooded homes – exceeded (more than 11,000)
2. Distribute 1,000 health kits to families – exceeded (more than 3,000)
3. Provide day and/or night shelter for 3000 people – exceeded (more than 5000)

4. Distribute food, clothing and basic supplies to 10,000 people - exceeded
5. Provide case management for 500 households to help them access the necessary resources and information for people impacted by the storm
6. Provide counseling for 500 individuals and families impacted by the storm
7. Repair 300-500 homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy, focusing on the elderly, low income families and those with disabilities, particularly when there are not sufficient resources to complete repairs. Repairs have started on six homes.
8. Recruit, train, house, feed and coordinate 15,000 - 20,000 volunteers, 5,000 of whom will be youth and young adults over four years from New Jersey and across the country to repair homes and staff programs for children, youth and their families
9. Raise $23 million in financial donations
10. Acquire and manage $50 million of in-kind supplies and volunteer services for rebuilding hope in New Jersey

Recovery Projects and Programs

1. Case Management – Core to recovery work is case management. The Disaster Case Manager serves as a disaster survivor's primary point of contact, assisting individuals in coordinating necessary services and resources to address the individual's complex disaster recovery needs in order to re-establish normalcy. Disaster Case Managers rely on the individual needing help to play an active or lead role in their own recovery. Case Managers advocate for the individuals they assist, in collaboration with Long Term Recovery groups, to help them obtain resources they need to recover. *A Future with Hope* will hire six case managers through our resources and we will partner with state sponsored case management. FEMA estimates that approximately 3,000 families will need case management. We will collaborate with all organizations who provide case management through county and community long term recovery groups to align our repair and long term recovery work with state-wide case management.

2. Volunteer Recruitment, Training and Deployment – We are blessed with a Nation-wide network of volunteers. We will recruit, train and deploy 20,000 volunteers during the next 3-5 years. Volunteers are essential to filling the gap between a low income homeowner's resources and what it will take to repair their home. We will use the following to recruit, train and deploy volunteers:

    a. Volunteer Groups - We will recruit volunteers from our connectional network of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIMs), United Methodist Youth, college campuses and other faith based groups. We will establish a volunteer hospitality team that will orient and train volunteers and ensure their stay is an experience that benefits both the people they help and the volunteers themselves.

    b. Hosting Sites – We will adapt four church buildings into volunteer hosting sites where volunteers may sleep, shower and be fed. We will also use a United Methodist Camp to host volunteers. We will be able to host 300 or more volunteers a week.

    c. Generation Restoration – We will recruit and deploy at least 5,000 youth and young adults from New Jersey and across the Nation. Our objective is to engage young people in the restoration of New Jersey to be a witness to the Nation of how young people are making a difference in the world. It will also be an opportunity to shape young people for mission, ministry and service. We will

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convert two church parsonages to be young adult community houses. In each house there will be 3-5 young adults. Two of the young adults will be responsible for recruiting young adults from college campuses and churches. The other young adults will be employed as case managers and project coordinators. We will provide community building, supervision and support for these two young adult communities. The young adults will also connect with several congregations assisting in worship and congregational leadership. Additionally, special young adult weeks will be planned during Spring Break and the summer. Additional programming will be developed which will connect young adults from around the country during the week they are in New Jersey. This will include an evening concert, a beach afternoon, and opportunities for young people to explore mission, ministry and service.

3. Repairing Homes – We will use 20,000 volunteers to repair up to 500 homes of the low income, elderly and disabled. Teams of 5-7 volunteers will work on a home. We estimate, on average, it will take seven teams over seven weeks to repair a home. A paid construction manager will oversee the repairs of 4-5 homes at a time. The construction manager will be experienced in construction and will ensure quality workmanship.

4. Community Building – A number of communities have been severely damaged and we will employ the Communities of Shalom asset based model to organize residents and community leaders to rebuild the community fabric and institutions within their communities. This will include leadership development, community development, employment, business development and human services development. The United Methodist Church has been a leader in establishing this initiative in 300 communities within the United States, Haiti, Ghana, Ireland and Zimbabwe.

5. Counseling – we will contract with therapists to provide trauma and grief counseling to individuals and families as necessary.

Budget

Four to five year relief and recovery budget to rebuild a future with hope. One hundred percent of the funds given to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund will be used for direct relief and recovery efforts. Overhead and administration costs such as office space, accounting, and support services will be underwritten by The United Methodist Church.

Income

Four to five year income recovery budget

United Methodist Churches from around the world $13,920,000

- GNJ Sandy Relief Support from Churches - $7 million – anticipated
  $1.5 million already raised
- United Methodist Committee on Relief - $3.8 million – granted
- United Methodist Volunteers
  13,500 x $220 = $2,970,000 ($120 for food and housing and $100 toward construction materials. Does not include the full number of volunteers because some will be students or lower income and unable to pay most or the entire amount)
- Church grants from United Methodist Agencies - $150,000
  $60,000 already raised another $60,000 requested

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Grants

• Corporate Sponsors	$1,000,000
• Foundations ($2.1 million granted)	$4,500,000
• State Grants	$1,000,000
• Individuals	$1,200,000
Income Raised and Projected (presently $7,460,000 raised)	$21,620,000

Expenses

A four year recovery budget to repair 300-500 homes, community building in three communities, and social service support

• Volunteer recruitment, training, housing and coordination	$4,010,000
o 20,000 x $250 per volunteer - $5 million	
• Construction materials and supplies	$14,608,000
o 400 homes X $31,000 = $12.4 million	
o 20 churches and community centers X $100,000 = $2 million	
o storage & tools = $331,000	
• Community building programs for children, youth and communities	$900,000
o 3 communities x $300,000	
• Case management and temporary grants	$2,100,000
• Counseling support	$225,000
Total expenditures	$21,843,000

A Future with Hope Board of Directors

- John Bishop, business executive, serves on local and international boards, disaster early responder
- Dr. Vivian Bull, President, Drew University
- Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahn, Sr. Pastor Arcola UMC in Paramus New Jersey and Chair of the National Korean American Caucus
- Honorable Michael Chagares, Federal Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Rev. Chris Heckert, Pastor of Morrow Memorial UMC in Maplewood, lead communications for the world wide United Methodist Mission and Disaster Response Agency that provided services in 130 countries
- Rev. Dr. Regina Hendrickson, Sr. Pastor St. Andrew's UMC, Cherry Hill, NJ
- Dr. Wilbert Mitchell, Executive Director, Respond, Inc. Camden, NJ
- Dr. Patricia Morton, Director at W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience at Rutgers University, and social entrepreneur
- Bishop John Schol, oversees the 580 United Methodist Churches of New Jersey
- Bobbie Ridgely, Director, A Future with HOPE, Inc. Sandy Recovery Program
- John Cardillo, Treasurer, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

GNJ SANDY RELIEF FUND

The GNJ Sandy Relief Fund will serve as the primary channel of fundraising within the bounds of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, as well as direct conference to conference partnerships. This fund will directly support the efforts of A Future with Hope project. 100% of all funds raised through the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund will go to benefit those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief will serve as the primary channel of United Methodist contributions outside of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. UMCOR will also provide assets other than funding to assist the efforts of A Future with Hope project, including consulting and a network of volunteers. 100% of each gift given to UMCOR through The Advance will go to its intended mission or ministry.

The Greater New Jersey Conference *of* The United Methodist Church, the 580 United Methodist Congregations will serve as the organization the underwrites the administrative overhead for *A Future with Hope* and provides volunteers and loans administrative staff to *A Future with Hope.*

A Future with Hope Campaign

A Mission Fund to rebuild and renew lives, communities and congregations in Greater New Jersey and Around the World

During a challenging time, Jeremiah wrote to God's people: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord…to give you a future with hope.* –Jeremiah 29:11

(1) Superstorm Sandy was the most destructive storm New Jersey has ever experienced and was the second largest storm in the history of the United States. It left 2.7 million New Jerseyans without power and left thousands of homes uninhabitable and thousands of jobs disrupted or discontinued. Within our family, Superstorm Sandy damaged 113 church properties and made five churches and seven parsonages uninhabitable. Many are wondering what does the future hold.

Working together, we will build a future with hope as we repair homes and rebuild communities.

(2)In Africa, a superstorm of malaria is ending the life of one person every minute, usually a child. It is changing the social and faith landscape in Africa. Deaths by malaria ended in the United States and can happen in Africa as we work together. Working with global partners, we have already decreased the death rate, but it is still far too high.

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Working together, we will build a future with hope by helping to end deaths by malaria.

(3)In the midst of Superstorm Sandy our congregations are also experiencing stiff winds. Church decline and connecting with the people in our communities has put us on an unsustainable path. In the last 10 years, we lost 20% of our worshipers, and we are making 34% less disciples. Our resources are not sustaining our congregations, but throughout GNJ we have congregations that are growing or are preparing to grow. Many are wondering how we will grow for the future.

Working together, we will build a future with hope as we grow vital congregations across GNJ.

A Call for Three Miracles

Superstorms and disease wreck homes, change communities, disrupt lives and cause death by wind, floods and malaria carrying mosquitoes. We are convicted that God wants to work through the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey to bear hope and healing throughout our local and global communities.

Jesus told his followers, *be my witnesses in Jerusalem (their own community), in all Judea and Samaria (the region), and to the ends of the earth (globally).* Jesus recognized the mission of making disciples and transform the world is a local, regional and global mission. GNJ is calling all of its disciples to be a witness in their community, throughout our region and around the world. We are being called to raise funds and engage in your congregations mission in the community where you find yourself, in our region as we raise funds and volunteer to bring relief and recovery to those impacted by Superstorm Sandy, and globally to help end deaths by malaria. God wants to use us to do great ministry by demonstrating to the world that disciples of Jesus Christ can do great things, God sized visions during challenging times. These miracles are within God's reach through us as we serve and give together.

The First Miracle – *Spirit winds blowing back Sandy winds* – Campaign Goal, $7 million

In the midst of stiff winds we are setting a big holy audacious goal of raising $21.8 million to repair, rebuild and renew lives, homes and communities by repairing the homes of the low income, disabled and elderly people. Our total budget includes:

Income

Four-five year income recovery budget:

- From United Methodist Churches within the GNJAC and from around the world:
  - GNJ Sandy Relief Support - $7 million, $1.5 million already raised $7,000,000
  - United Methodist Volunteers--13,500 volunteers x $220 = $2,970,000
  - (Volunteers contribute $120 per week for food and housing and $100 toward construction materials. The total does not include the full number of volunteers because some will be unable to pay the full amount)
- From United Methodist Boards and Agencies:
  - United Methodist Committee on Relief - $3.5 million – anticipated
  - Church grants from United Methodist Agencies - $150,000 (granted)
- From other sources:
  - Corporate Sponsors $1,000,000
  - Foundations ($2.1 granted) $5,000,000
  - State Grants $1,000,000
- Individuals $1,200,000

Total anticipated income	$21,820,000

Expenses

A four-year recovery budget to repair 300-500 low income, disabled and elderly homes, community building in three communities, and social service support

6. Volunteer recruitment, training, housing and coordination	$4,010,000
a. 20,000 x $250 per volunteer - $5 million	
7. Construction materials and supplies	$14,608,000
a. 400 homes X $31,000 = $12.4 million	
b. 20 churches and community centers X $100,000 = $2 million	
c. storage& tools = $331,000	
8. Community building programs for children, youth and communities	$900,000
a. 3 communities x $300,000	
9. Case management and temporary grants	$2,100,000
10. Counseling support	$225,000
Total expenditures	$21,843,000

Of the $21,843,000 we seek to raise $7 million through this campaign of which we have already raised $1.5 million.

A Second Miracle – *Spirit cures ending malaria –* Campaign goal $2 million

The United Methodist Church is working with global partners to help end deaths by malaria. Conferences all across the United States have been participating, with donations or pledges of almost $40 million toward our $75 million dollar goal as a denomination. Greater New Jersey has already raised $250,000. Our fair share is $1.75 million.

Our own challenges in Greater New Jersey from Superstorm Sandy should not hinder our attention on the larger and worldwide mission work of the church; like ending malaria. This is an opportunity for GNJ to demonstrate what God will do through us and demonstrate that a God-sized vision can be reached with GNJ disciples with God-sized hearts.

A Third Miracle – *Spiritual renewal of congregations through local mission* – Campaign goal $3 million

We are faced with new challenges as GNJ congregations, because we are not making new disciples as we once did. We are faced with challenges to reach new generations of believers, starting new immigrant congregations and engaging in transforming mission in our communities. By realizing this third miracle the GNJAC will support congregations to raise funds for revitalization and mission in their own communities. The conference will also assist congregations to identify revitalization and mission projects and set fundraising goals for those projects. Of each dollar raised by a congregation, 25% will remain with the congregation for its mission and ministry project identified through the campaign. The conference will do everything it can to help congregations meet their goals.

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A Future with Hope - Mission Fund

Why a mission fund campaign at this time?

If not now…when?

- God has called us for such a time as this
- People and communities hurting from Superstorm Sandy need us
- Children are dying of malaria
- We need strong vital congregations in our communities to reach new believers

What makes this Campaign so special?

This campaign will change lives and congregations because it will:

1. Focus on raising the spiritual and discipleship climate within our conference and congregations by creating materials for daily devotion, and small group ministry, and faith development.
2. Train congregations and their leaders in the area of stewardship, small group leadership, Bible study, faith sharing, and mission engagement in the community.
3. Assist congregations to grow worship, professions of faith, small groups, outreach and giving to mission.
4. Grow the number of vital congregations throughout the conference.
5. Raise the needed funds for our United Methodist witness as we work with others to rebuild New Jersey after Superstorm Sandy.

How Will We Resource Congregations for a Successful Campaign?

To engage fully in the *A Future with Hope* Mission Campaign, a congregation will receive at no charge:

- Resources, materials and training to help interpret and involve the congregation in the campaign.
- A consultant that will work with the leadership of your congregation to achieve its goals.

How will all this work?
The GNJAC will work with every congregation by inviting congregations to participate in a three-year campaign. The conference will assist congregations with consultants to support individual church campaigns.

How will these three miracles happen?

- Prayer will be the foundation of the campaign.
- 579 Churches giving - $12 million ($7 million for Sandy, $2 million for malaria, $3 million for congregational revitalization. This equates to approximately $75 per worshiper per year for three years)
    - 20 churches giving $30,000 a year for 3 years = $1,800,000
    - 60 churches giving $20,000 a year for 3 years = $3,600,000
    - 99 churches giving $10,000 a year for 3 years = $2,970,000
    - 100 churches giving $4,000 a year for 3 years = $1,200,000
    - 150 churches giving $3,500 a year for 3 years = $1,575,000
    - 150 churches giving $2,000 a year for 3 years = $900,000
    - Total 579 churches giving = $12,045,000

For

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- *Sandy Relief and Recovery* - 500 homes repaired for low income, elderly and disabled families, 20 church properties rebuilt, 20,000 volunteers housed
- *Imagine No Malaria* – 150,000 children's lives saved
- *Vital Congregations* – 10,000 new souls reached

***All funds already given by a congregation to the GNJ Sandy Relief Fund will be counted toward their campaign goal.*

Where do we get the nerve to try something so bold?

- God is in the miracle business and God has a plan for raising funds.

King David gives us a prime example of raising the funds for God sized miracles. Here are some of the principles incorporated into raising funds for the Temple, as we find recorded in I Chronicles 29. It is still valid for us today.

> King David said to the whole assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great; for the temple will not be for mortals but for the Lord God. So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones, and marble in abundance. Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, and for all the work to be done by artisans, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?" Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly. Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. -1 Chronicles 29:11

How does this model apply to us?

David's generosity as witnessed in 1 Chronicles 29 and his passion can be witnessed in Psalm 132, where he describes a drive so strong for providing a Temple for God that he will not even take a nap until it is accomplished. The people will not surpass their leaders in either passion for the project, or in a financial sacrifice to support it. Leaders cannot "sit this one out" when it comes to a major funding project. Once people see the passion and commitment of their leaders, they will give even more generously.

We will follow the model of 1 Chronicles 29 which is a modeling process.

1. The bishop will make a pledge to the Future of Hope Mission Campaign
2. The Cabinet and key conference leaders will make their pledge to the campaign
3. Lead gifts from large donors will be sought
4. The pastors will be invited to make a gift
5. Lead churches will give

   Through these first five lead gifts, we anticipate raising as $4 million dollars.
   Once the people see the generosity of their leaders, the people will give generously.

6. Churches will be invited to make pledges to the campaign

When will the Campaign begin?

Timeline:

- May 15 – Bishop and Mrs. Schol make their pledge
- May 21 – A mission celebration dinner is held in which the cabinet and conference leaders make their pledge
- May 30, Annual Conference – Initial donations and pledges are announced toward the campaign
- June – Pastors make their pledges
- June – second week of September training of local church leaders for the campaign and conference-wide promotion
- October 1 – November 30 congregations conduct their campaign using the same process of the pastor, church leaders, and large donors in the congregation announce their gifts culminating in the congregation making its pledge. We will use the Consecration Sunday model for soliciting gifts within the congregation.

Africa University

Africa University is deeply grateful to the Greater New Jersey Conference for leading by example in giving to the Africa University Fund (AUF). Thank you, Greater New Jersey, for your 104% investment to the AUF in 2012. In total, 27 annual conferences met 100% of their asking. Other annual conferences also increased their support and overall giving to the AUF reached a new record of 93.35%.

By consistently giving at 100%, the Greater New Jersey Conference has provided financial aid for needy students, vital teaching tools, and a great learning environment. Your gifts ensure that Africa University has dedicated faculty to inspire, train and nurture a generation of new leaders. More importantly, these contributions allow the university to plan with confidence, knowing that it can rely on the church's ongoing investment in the AUF to meet its day-to-day and operational expenses. Greater New Jersey has also supported the university's life-changing outreach to orphans and children in great distress.

Going forward, we urge you to continue to invest in the AUF at 100% of the asking, or higher. Demand for an Africa University education is growing. More than 1,200 qualified applicants sought admission in August 2012. The university had space for only about 400 freshmen. Currently, women account for 52% of the total enrollment, which stands at 1,386 students. In addition, 25 African nations are represented in the student body.

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Scholarships and financial aid grants are vital to access. More than 90% of the students at Africa University need assistance—scholarships, financial aid grants and work study—in order to pay their tuition and other fees. For the vast majority, a direct or endowed scholarship award made possible by your generosity is their only means of attending university.

Throughout 2012, the 20th anniversary celebrations highlighted the crucial role that Africa University is already playing in the life of our global church. The Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya, for example, is superintendent of the Zambia Provisional Conference and a member of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church for 2013-2016. Africa University graduates serve as directors on general agency boards and in regional leadership roles. Across Africa, more than 4,700 graduates are helping to eradicate hunger, poverty, disease, conflict and hopelessness.
Africa University's full potential is not yet realized. For every graduate, there are hundreds of gifted persons who are praying for a chance to be equipped to serve. That's why Africa University is doubling its efforts to raise scholarships and develop more online distance learning programs. With your gifts and prayers, you have helped to establish an extraordinarily effective ministry. Help us to grow this ministry in ways that will continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform communities.

Thank you. Please pray without ceasing for your Africa University. Changing Africa: Learning here. Living here. Leading here. Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.
James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Boston University School of Theology

What a Year! I am dazzled by the achievements of our faculty, students and staff here at Boston University School of Theology in 2012. This has been a year of deep reflection as we underwent the BU Academic Program Review and the United Methodist University Senate Review. Both reviews went very well and revealed vital strength in our faculty, students, and administrative staff. This has been a year for celebration - our largest ever incoming class, excellence in teaching and learning, and a vibrant community life.

Some highlights from the previous year were:

- Reaching into the greater community through service days, "vocations vacation," seminary singers tour to Florida, and contextual internships.
- Building up intentional living communities for students: Theology House, Green House, and Mason Terrace.
- Enhancing spiritual life through weekly worship, reading retreats, winter retreat, daily morning prayer, and small groups.
- Creating a "greener" school with: 26 green offices, Carbon Rally Challenge, expanding programs for composting and recycling, and now a 2013 renovation to create a green community center.
- Hosting Lowell Lecture Series on "Restoring Civil Discourse," featuring Dr. Virginia Sapiro, Bishop Melvin Talbert, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, and Chief Justice Barbara Smith (Chickasaw Nation).
- Traveling with seminar groups to Ephesus (Turkey) and to Israel and Palestine. Advancing communication through a new website, the launching ofSTH Connect, and production of webinars and video resources.

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This has been a year for strengthening master's education and reviewing doctoral programs. It has also been a year for deepening relations with faith communities, service agencies, and global research initiatives, as we seek to intensify STH's contributions to our fragile world.

Thank you for being a friend of Boston University! We welcome your stories, suggestions, and support for us. STH is on a mission, and we especially covet your prayers for our people and our work. We are praying for you!

Yours with gratitude,
Mary Elizabeth Moore

CAMP YDP

CAMP YDP continues to offer the residents of the north side of Paterson pre-school, after-school and summer camp programs. During 2012 we experienced many changes. We said good bye to our long time Executive Director, Maria Benevides, and welcomed Latanya Johnson as our Director. We had a significant decrease in all of CAMP's registrations, parents left with over $30,000 owed to CAMP, and the Board of Trustees had to become involved in the day to day activities of CAMP. Finances have been difficult, but with a loan from a private company we have been able to pay our bills and meet payroll, and the day-to-day running of CAMP is under the guidance of the director.

The closing half of 2012, and the beginning of 2013, has seen CAMP recovering. With considerable help from Counsel to CAMP, we have been able to recoup some of the debt from parents. Our registration is increasing and we have begun to add enrichment programs to the after-school program. Many of these enrichment programs will be incorporated into the summer program. We have introduced incentives and are actively seeking students so that our enrollment can reach the 153 students for which we are licensed. By the end of 2013 we expect to achieve these goals.

Barbara McFarquhar, First Vice President
Camp Board of Trustees

Camps, Conferences and Retreat Ministries

The past year has been a time of great challenges and exciting change for the camping ministries of the Greater NJ Annual Conference. We began 2012 with an almost completely new Board, hardly any staff and very limited resources. During a February Board retreat we hired the professional consulting group of Run River Enterprises to work with us as interim Executive Director and help us learn to function as an effective Board. Since then we have hired a full-time Camp Director at the Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery, and as of this writing, are looking for a full-time Camp Director for the Aldersgate Center. It is our hope that with two full-time Directors we will be able to grow the ministries of both facilities and more faithfully serve the needs of the Greater NJ area.

2012 was a year of recovery and growth. Participation increased and we are working to bring more children and youth to our camps at Aldersgate Center and Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery

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this year. We continue to offer summer camps for children and youth at both facilities with a focus on providing scholarships for children in need. Last summer saw a return of the children from Paterson with CAMP YDP reconnecting to our ministry, and the ongoing support of CUMAC-ECHO. We also provided support for our inner-city ministries in Newark and Camden and partnered with The Neighborhood Center. This year and beyond we plan to grow this area of camping and retreat ministries by strengthening existing relationships as well as building new partnerships.

Superstorm Sandy provided a unique opportunity for us to open the doors and resources of our facilities to relief and recovery efforts in NJ. Pinelands Center has hosted AmeriCorps and other storm recovery volunteers and will be hosting more groups over the next few years as relief efforts transition to recovery and rebuilding. Aldersgate Center's older van has been made available for UMCOR transportation and both facilities may serve as temporary housing as more needs assessment and rebuilding continues.

The Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery serves as a Retreat Center year-round and this year for the first time hosted with great joy the Hispanic Walk to Emmaus. We hope to grow our Retreat ministry at both facilities with a focus on providing support for our United Methodist clergy and families.

We thank God for the close relationship between the Greater NJ Conference and our camping ministries and pray that we will continue to provide opportunities for people to experience the wonders of God's creation in the wide outdoors as we seek to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Chair, and Creed Pogue, Vice-Chair

Candler School of Theology

Candler School of Theology prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant 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. As one of seven 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 metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.
Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 478, with 365 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 30 the Master of Theology, 18 the Doctor of Theology, and 15 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 10 percent international, and 50 percent women. Half of MDiv students are United Methodist, with forty-three denominations represented in all programs. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 27, with 58 percent under thirty.

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Candler remains steadfastly committed to making theological education financially feasible, dedicating nearly $5 million to financial aid. Eighty percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 66 percent of tuition.

Construction preparations for the second phase of the Candler's new building got underway at the end of 2012 thanks to an extraordinary gift of $15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation. The new building, which will house Pitts Theology Library, community space, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel, will be completed in late spring of 2014 in time for Candler's Centennial Celebration. Candler's phase one building was named in memory of Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake, in honor of its generous financial gift.

Candler had an excellent presence at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa. In addition to my attendance, Associate Dean Anne Burkholder took a class of 20 students so they could learn firsthand about United Methodist governance. Assistant Dean Mathew Pinson and Dr. Alice Rogers attended as delegates, and the Candler Singers, directed by Barbara Day Miller, performed at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry reception and the plenary session.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 19 academic exchanges with theology schools across five continents and 15 countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, this year's travel seminars included the Middle East and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to Zimbabwe, Peru, and Israel.

Our public events supported our commitment to strengthen the church by offering opportunities for clergy and lay people to hear fresh, new voices. Last fall we hosted Christian activist and bestselling author Shane Claiborne for two major addresses, "Jesus for President" and "Resurrecting Church," with nearly 1,000 in attendance. Our Spring Conference, "The Singing Church," gathered experts to lead an exploration of the best practices and emerging trends of congregational song.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its 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 advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

We are proud to report that from last Annual Conference until April of 2013 we have:

- Met twice in person-once in the fall and once in January and once over a Conference call in April
- Faithfully attended Ministry Team meetings and Primary Task Team Meetings

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- Sent a United Methodist Representative to the Episcopalian Diocese Annual Meeting
- Sent 4 people (2 clergy and 2 lay) to attend the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Ohio to be trained to serve our Conference and their congregations
- Actively participated in the New Jersey Council of Churches. Participating in their theology discussion groups, Issues and Actions Day, attending their Annual Dinner and more
- Creating a new Annual Conference Display and brochure to better equip the Conference and its local churches to do Interfaith and Ecumenical work well
- Presented 3 Bishop's Awards for Christian Unity at the 2012 Session of the Annual Conference and have prepared to present 2 awards for the 2013 Session.
- Remained actively involved in the World Methodist Conference, World Council of Churches, Religions for Peace, USA and the denominations office of Christian Unity

Our plans for the remainder of the quadrenium include:

- Creating an Interfaith Bus Tour
- Participating in the District Days of Learning with two topics: a discussion of the book Allah: A Christian Response and Ecumenism for the Local Church
- Continuing our work with New Jersey Council of Churches, World Methodist Conference, World Council of Churches and the National Workshop on Christian Unity
- Continuing to seek and promote Ecumenical work by presenting Bishop's Awards for Christian Unity

As a committee we would like to suggest that pastors and laity prayerfully consider strengthening partnerships with their Evangelical Lutheran Church of America neighbors. The ELCA is in a Full Communion agreement with the United Methodist Church which is an exciting sign of the unity we share in Jesus Christ. We chose not to have the Annual Conference legislate this matter but we do submit it in our report for your prayerful consideration. How, in the spirit of unity, might you and your congregation partner with an ELCA congregation to share in mission, witness, Table and Word? We hope that you will look into the agreement at www.elca.org and then searching for two excellent documents called "Confessing our Faith Together" and "Building a Relationship". We firmly believe that studying these documents and living out the partnership in your community can and will be a blessing to the whole Christian witness.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam,

Rev. Jessica Campbell, chair with the following committee members:
Sung Hoon Ahn, Mary Bode, Jeffrey Canter, James Craig, Vijaya Kumar, Donnie Mitchell, John Wesley Morrison, Federico Quezada, Grace Rapp, James Rixon, Sugandh Salvi, Wendy Whiteside

Board of Church and Society

INFORM….INFORM….INFORM has been the motto for the Board. There are many issues/training events out there that people and churches need to be aware of and to be involved with especially in the area of social justice issues. There are many issues that the Board could work on but we have decided to continue to work on Immigration/Detainee issues. We have also looked at the environment issue of fracking in our state as well as Peace issues. In the future, we plan to work on Prison Reform/Ministry.

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We were excited to have had a workshop on the Social Principles at all of the District Days of Learning's. This has encouraged more churches to be involved with the Peace with Justice Sunday as well as recruiting more Public Theology Advocates (PTA's) in the local church. The PTA training was held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at St. John's UMC in Hazlet, NJ with seventeen (17) participants. We hope that through this involvement, more churches will be involved in their communities regarding social justice issues and that they will apply for the Peace with Justice grants to assist them. In 2012, two Peace with Justice grants were given.

Each year, we have a resource table at Annual Conference to share resources. We also hold a Luncheon with a Speaker to speak on an issue related to our Conference and State. Last year, we were honored to have Rev. Heidi Kugler as our speaker. She is United Methodist from our Conference and is the Assistant Chaplaincy Administrator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons located in Washington, DC. She shared with us issues relate to Prison Reform and how individuals and churches could be involved. Because of that concern is so strong in our state, the Board decided to make it an issue to work on for this next quadrennium.

We also feel that September 11 needs to be seen as a day of Peace. A Resolution was passed last year at Annual Conference asking Churches not to have meetings on that day but to instead be with their communities. If entities of the Conference were holding an event on that weekend, we encourage them to include a component on Peace building.

For us as a Board to learn more about how to help our churches regarding justice issues, we have sent people to Washington DC for training and advocacy meetings; as well as global health related to No More Malaria. We also sent a group to a poverty information event in PA. There are many more issues that we need to be aware of and we as a Board will continue to inform…inform…..inform.

Cynthia Kent, Chairperson on behalf of the Conference Board of Church and Society

Communications Committee

The GNJAC Communications Committee has three main responsibilities: providing additional communications support for the conference staff throughout the year, guiding the A/V team for the annual conference sessions, and resourcing local congregations for effective communications. With help and leadership from Heather Fullerton, Conference Media Specialist, we have been active on all three of these fronts.

We provided assistance with video, photography, and reporting at Bishop Devadhar's farewell service, Bishop Schol's installation service, the All-Clergy Pre-Lenten Gathering, and after Superstorm Sandy. We also migrated the *United Methodist Relay* to the conference website from a stand-alone site where it has resided for the past several years.

Working together with the annual conference A/V team led by Jack Shaw, we secured a new contract with a single vendor for audio, video, lighting, and live-streaming. This new contract has major advantages for the conference with only a small increase in overall cost: first, it allows us to continue working with our dedicated volunteer video team while providing appropriate professional support; and second, it gives us access to upgraded technology without having to make a capital investment of tens of thousands of dollars.

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We believe effective communications – both internal and external – is a crucial element of church vitality. We led communications workshops on two District Days of Learning and hope to be present in every District Day in 2014. In addition, our budget for 2014 calls for us to host two day-long training events and begin a new grant program to help churches either launch or retool their websites. During the 2013 interim period, we have a limited number of small $500 grants available for churches with needs in this area. For an application, please contact Ginny Kaiser (gkaiser@gnjumc.org). We are also preparing a set of recommendations around content management systems and hosting services for churches looking to upgrade their websites.

I want to thank Heather Fullerton, all the members of the communications committee, the annual conference video team, and everyone who has taken pictures, written stories, or consulted with us for their great work during the year. If you have an interest in this ministry area, particularly in web or graphic design, social media, video, photography, journalism, or print media, I'd love to hear from you at revjoemo@gmail.com. New team members are always welcome.

Rev. Joe Monahan
Chair, Communications Committee

CUMAC

CUMAC –a large outreach mission of the GNJAC, operating in Paterson, NJ- provides food for up to 200 people a day. Everybody who comes through our door has their own unique story, their own hardship. However, one recent story has acted as a particular reminder of why our work is so critical. Two months ago a man came into our pantry on a quiet day with tears brimming in his eyes as he explained he hadn't had anything to eat in over four days. He told us that the previous night he was so desperate he picked food out of a dumpster behind a restaurant, fighting cockroaches for crumbs leftover from patron's meals. Needless to say, this bug infested food made him very sick and he came to us that day disheartened and miserable.

Some of our regular volunteers comforted him, offering the gentleman a place to sit and relax while others found him a prepared meal. Once he was fed, another staff member came in with bags of food for him to take home so he wouldn't go hungry again. While we hope we'll never see the gentleman again, that this was just a glitch in his path and that he'll fall on better times, thanks to your incredible support our pantry will be here for him and for every other person who comes to us in need of compassion, comfort and support.

Sharing food in our pantry

In 2012 our pantry provided food for 28,285 individuals. Our depot provided transportation, storage and shared food resources for a burgeoning network of smaller feeding programs. So many agencies are struggling to meet growing need, it has been a blessing to be able to lend support to 55 smaller missions working to feed the hungry and minister to the poor. Thanks to our incredible donors and volunteers, CUMAC's depot took on a few unexpected projects this year: filling two local libraries with children's books to promote literacy, and sorting and shipping medical supplies for mission work in Sierra Leone.

Throughout 2012, our Pathways to Work program provided 12,822 hours of comprehensive job training to 217 individuals working toward gainful employment. This past fall, we proudly said

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goodbye to four participants: two who moved from our thrift shop to jobs in retail, and two who built upon their time working in our warehouse to find employment as warehouse support staff.

Pathways to Work participants with fresh bread for clients

This past year our community collections provided holiday gifts, Easter baskets and backpacks full of school supplies to just under 2,000 area children living with serious illness, in shelters or with other hardships. The excitement and joy on the children's faces were priceless; our heartfelt thanks to everybody who worked to bring these kids cheer.

Our Community Closet, which provides disaster relief at no cost, as well as low income shopping for our community, saw a very busy year. In addition to countless pairs of shoes, gloves, scarves, and winter jackets given away, it helped 95 families recover from fire, flooding and other disaster.

When hurricane Sandy hit with such great force and destruction, CUMAC focused efforts on helping communities throughout New Jersey. We received trucks full of items from as far as Vermont, New Hampshire and Pittsburgh. We borrowed a second warehouse to house supplies and worked with volunteers every day for months to organize and get items to communities hit by the storm. CUMAC was able to connect and share with a network of UMC's working along the devastated shore line to help families and individuals work through crisis and toward recovery. Resources continue to pour in and we continue to send supplies where churches or organization need them.

CUMAC and Lowe's Moving Co. staff in front of a shipment of supplies from Vermont

Christmas gifts being shared at a party in Union City

Our mission came full circle with our after school program, the Tutoring and Literacy Center. TLC offers a safe haven, academic enrichment, guidance, field trips, homework help, literacy intervention and, the supportive environment that children need in order to learn to make positive social decisions and life choices. Through our comprehensive academic program, it is our hope and belief that students will gain the education and skills they need to break the chains of poverty and live healthy, secure lives.

In October 2012, one of CUMAC's Tutoring and Literacy Center's (TLC) teachers was checking a 5th grade student's Math homework. All of the answers were complete and correct, except for an "Explain your Answer" question at the bottom of the page. The teacher asked the student if he had forgotten to do the question. The child replied "No. Can you read it to me?" After a few minutes of trying to get the student to read aloud, the teacher realized that at 12 years old, the young boy could not read a single word or even recognize over half the letters in the

Drew University intern, Tyler, painting with a TLC student

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alphabet. Immediately, the teacher contacted the child's mother and school. Now he is getting extra literacy help at TLC and the attention he needed at school. He is well on his way to becoming a success story. At CUMAC's TLC, this academic year there are 15 other children awaiting their chance to become a success story as well.

Thank you to all GNJUMC for being the hands and feet for Christ to feed people and change lives. We depend on your steady donations and financial gifts to run our programs, support staff, operate trucks, keep freezers running, and respond to special needs in our community and beyond.

Thank you for continuing to support through financial donations and service to those in need. We hope you'll continue to work with us to grow our mission and build new partnership. Please spread word of our work to feed people and change lives, share this report with your friends, families and congregants; like CUMAC on facebook and share our mission with your network. Bring a delegation from your church, or from a neighboring church, for a tour or volunteer day. ***Call us at 973-742-5518, e-mail us at info@cumacecho.org, visit us on the web at www.cumacecho.org or on social media www.facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople and www.twitter.com/cumacfeeds. We'd love to tell you more about our feeding efforts.***

Submitter: Rev. Patricia Bruger
Ph: 973-742-5518 Fax: 973-742-5118 info@cumacecho.org

Disability Inclusion Ministry

Our committee has been working with representatives from the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conference to create a worship and workshop event for local church leaders to "equip the saints" for ministry. The event, What If the Church Was a House of Prayer for ALL People is scheduled for April 20th and the Rev. William Gaventa is the keynote speaker. Workshops included Christian Education, Trustees, Pastoral Care & Outreach and Deaf Ministry. Our committee has provided sign language interpreters to the Annual Conference and added real time captioning last year.

We have added resources to the Media Center. We have tried to lift up accessibility concerns for conference meetings and events. We have lifted up the use of the UMC Accessibility Audit as a way for the conference and local congregations could consider how to make us truly "Open." We will continue to do so.

Grace and peace,
The Rev. Jacqueline M. Burgess, Chair

Disaster Response Committee

This past year has been one that has challenged our team and our ability to put forth a continued response to the disasters that have come to our shores.

In mid- 2012 we were still responding to the need to render help in the aftermath of Irene. Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) were heading into the Paterson area continuing to help with cleanouts.

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Throughout the conference area there were and have been numerous training sessions for ERT certification. This has continued into 2013 with over 300 individuals trained to serve on an ER team. The CDRC has also sponsored training for the use of chainsaws.

Many of these team members, together with teams from other conferences became fully engaged in response to Superstorm Sandy. This response came in teams working on home clean-outs, serving meals, offering assistance in various ways. Additional trainings were held to help in the assessment process of damaged homes. We offer our praise and thanks to all those individuals and churches that stepped forward to bring assistance to our neighbors.

To help in organizing the relief effort several of our districts now have ERT coordinators who are working to help plan and organize mission opportunities for each district. We recognize the desire to help by so many of our members. By bringing these volunteers together and coordinating their efforts on a district level, we can sustain the recovery for the coming months and probably years to come.

The CDRC has also led training sessions during some of our District Days of Learning regarding the formation of a church disaster plan and how to bring planning information to the families of our church and communities. This training is available to be brought to your church through your CDRC District Coordinator.

We offer our thanks to the Bishop for his leadership throughout these past months. The recovery phase of Superstorm Sandy is going to be for the long term. Working together with the Bishop, the conference staff and the many individual volunteers we will be able to continue to build a future with hope.

Wayne Jones
Disaster Response Coordinator

Drew University Theological School

Drew Theological School, deeply rooted in its United Methodist heritage, is a place that empowers its students to conceive and implement dynamic ministries. Drew offers the MDiv, MA, MAM, STM, DMin, and PhD degrees, as well as certifications in Camp and Retreat Ministry, and Spiritual Formation. Academically rigorous and spiritually engaging, Drew develops religious leadership prepared for these ever-changing times. Drew welcomes people of all faiths, but we are particularly interested in building up the United Methodist ethos that is part of our historic Wesleyan heritage. **Drew offers 100% tuition scholarships to all United Methodists who meet all admissions requirements and have a 3.2 undergraduate GPA or higher.**

In June 2012, I was pleased to welcome to Drew's campus representatives from 8 of the 13 United Methodist seminaries, staff members from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, one Bishop, and representatives from three annual conferences. We hosted the first annual conference on Theological Education and Clergy Health co-sponsored by the Center for Clergy and Congregational Health and Wholeness at Drew and the Center for Health of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This three-day conference addressed issues of the current poor state of clergy health in relationship to Theological Education in order to begin to understand the impact of seminaries on

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students' health.

It was also my pleasure to host the September 2012 Theological Conference at Drew entitled, *The Future of Christian Spirituality and Interreligious Interaction* in honor of Dr. Pyun, Sun Hwan. Over the course of the three days, an array of speakers from the U.S., Korea, and other countries engaged attendees and one another on topics such as "Interreligious Dialogue Versus Interreligious Theology," "The Future of Comparative Theology," and "Interreligious Theology, Liberation, and the Church."
It was also a great pleasure to welcome alumni/ae back to campus for the Tipple Vosburgh lectures in the fall. This year's topic was "Faith, Race, and Politics" which provided opportunities to hear the voices and visions of activists, scholars, and church leaders responding to this unique and timely dilemma.

Creative, cutting-edge, inclusive, multi-cultural, social justice ministry is part of the legacy of Drew, and I am proud to be associated with it! Below are just a few other ministries that make me proud to be associated with Drew.

Building up the United Methodist Connection
I have enjoyed meeting Bishops and many Boards of Ordained Ministry to convey our desire at Drew to be a resource to the entire denomination. I am particularly pleased that Drew is hosting a January Term class taught by UM Bishops. This past January, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware Conference, taught a class entitled, *Topics in Pastoral Care: Disabilities and the Church.* Her class led worship recently in chapel and shared just how

important this course was in forming a compassionate, inclusive and prophetic vision for the church. In January of 2014, Bishop Jane Middleton will teach a class on Ministry and Health.

United Methodist Liaison at Drew
The Rev. Jeff Markay continues to work with our UM students by introducing them to the leaders and resources within our denomination. He helps them navigate the process toward commissioning and ordination as well as with issues of discernment. We have monthly UM Lunches to meet with bishops, and leaders of the general agencies, conferences and connection.

United Methodist Deacon Liaison at Drew
We are also grateful to have the Rev. Susan Worrell as the Deacon Liaison on campus who shares resources and wisdom with those hearing a call to the Ministry of the Deacon in the UMC.

Bishop in Residence: Bishop Ernest Lyght
It was with great joy and excitement that I announced the appointment of Retired Bishop Ernest S. Lyght as the Bishop-in-Residence at the Theological School beginning March 1, 2013. I anticipate this appointment to continue until 2015. In this position, Bishop Lyght will teach and mentor students and be a presence on campus.

National Shalom Ministry of the UMC
Communities of Shalom, now in its 6th year at Drew, completed its curricular redevelopment of ShalomZone Training, which is now available through a cadre of certified national and regional trainers under the leadership of national director, the Rev. Dr. Michael Christensen.

Center for Clergy and Congregational Health and Wholeness

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In October 2012 Dean Ginny Samuel made a presentation to members of the AUMTS (Deans and Presidents of the 13 United Methodist Seminaries) about the state of clergy health. She was accompanied by a staff person from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Anne Borish, and together they invited AUMTS members to participate in the longitudinal study. While there was a unanimous support for this study, thus far Drew and Duke Divinity School are the two participating seminaries. We expect that more seminaries will join the study in the coming years. This collaborative effort will support efforts to make needed changes in the structures and programs of an MDiv degree to encourage and support students' attention to their own health and well being.

In February we launched the Seminary to Ministry longitudinal study in partnership with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This study will track MDiv students during their time in seminary and for the first five years in ministry. Results of the survey will be helpful to faculty in its revision of the MDiv curriculum as it informs them about the realities of student health and well being while they are at Drew.

We at Drew look forward to working with the good and faithful people of the UMC as we forge deeper friendships in the shared ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

For more information about Drew, please visit us at: www.drew.edu.

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan
Dean, Drew University Theological School

Educational Society

For more than one hundred and fifty years, the Educational Society has been assisting men and women of New Jersey, called by God to full time Christian service, in their pursuit of a theological education. By providing scholarships and loans to persons preparing to serve in Christian ministry, our conference is investing in the future of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Scholarships are awarded to candidates for ordained ministry matriculated in an accredited theological seminary or graduate school approved by the United Methodist Church University Senate (UMCUS) who are members of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC), or clergy of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference not eligible for Ministerial Education Funds who are engaged in continuing education at an accredited graduate or theological school approved by UMCUS.

Interest free loans are available to men and women preparing for full time Christian service, matriculated full or half time in an accredited college, seminary, or graduate school, including Course of Study, approved by UMCUS. Applicants must be a member of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

In 2012 five scholarships totaling $22,000.00 were awarded and six loans totaling $18,000.00 were granted. The Board of Directors of the Educational Society, ten clergy and ten laity, determine the distribution of scholarships and loans annually.

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The Educational Society is supported by the repayment of loans, interest earned on early endowments, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and contributions from local churches and individuals. Contributions may be made through the Conference Advance # 622. What a wonderful opportunity for the local church to affirm the ministry of pastors who have benefited from Educational Society assistance by "paying it forward" through contributions to Conference Advance #622.

Jo D. Malessa, President

Council on Finance and Administration

The economy of New Jersey continued to improve in 2012 with record personal incomes and retail sales reported by the media. Media also reported that total wealth in New Jersey has recovered to previous highs. That improvement helped to translate into improved giving with the result that our conference collections increased about 2%. 371, or 65%, of our local churches paid 100% of their shared ministry allocation. We are grateful to the churches of the conference for their continuing stewardship efforts.

As in prior years, committees, boards and agencies were prudent in their spending and the income from conference investments continued their recovery with the result that we ended the year with a total surplus of $1.6M. Since the minimum surplus the conference is required to maintain is a little over $1M, the Council felt that the use of an additional $19,000 from the conference surplus to pay our full general church apportionments was appropriate.

For the sixth year in a row, our conference was one of the conferences that paid 100% of their general church apportionments. .

We thank the Bishop, Cabinet and Program Staff for their leadership and we thank our local churches for their faithful stewardship and hard work, all of which make these results possible.
Other items of note from our activities this year:

1. Recognition of those churches that paid 100% of their Shared Ministry asking was made via listing in the Relay.

2. The new Shared Ministry asking formula eliminating membership as a factor by which to apportion the Shared Ministry budget was approved by the 2010 Annual Conference and implemented. The full implementation is progressing and churches thus far seem to be able to handle the change in their individual asking well.

3. In accord with conference legislation, and with the leadership of the Bishop and Cabinet, all of the churches receiving equitable or supplemental paid 100% of their Disciplinary Obligations.

4. Financial training has again been provided at the District Days of Learning. Emphasis was on the housing allowance as well as other matters of broad interest. A compendium of previous years' training materials was also provided to attendees.

5. Conference investments performed about as well as the market in general 2012. At this point, our investments have recovered all losses from the 2008-2009 market dive. Our

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portfolio is well diversified and we continue to provide 4% annual cash flow to all funds and investors. We will continue the 4% payout in 2013.

6. On line collection of the data for statistical reports continues to go well. Errors have been much reduced with the new system and local churches have been much better able to meeting reporting timetables. We thank the local churches for being willing to work with the new system.

7. We have sent information to all local church treasurers about credits available from the Federal Government for health care expenditures. Churches who have reported their results indicate they are receiving cash credits of $3,000 to $6,000. The CFA felt that many churches did not apply for the credit to which they were entitled in 2010 so we authorized the Conference Treasurer and his staff to assist any local church by preparing the application for the credit when requested based upon the data provided by the local church. We believe this has resulted in additional credits being received by the local churches of our conference. We have continued this program into 2013.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration wants to thank Bishops Devadhar and Schol, the Cabinet and the Program Staff for their continuing support and encouragement during 2012. 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

GCFA Activity in 2012

The Financial Services Committee reviewed all General Church board and agency spending plans for 2013 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, are within the forecasted receipts 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. The reports on UMC General Boards and agencies audits did not disclose any unusual problems or major weaknesses in internal control.

The Committee on Legal Responsibilities has the disciplinary responsibility to protect the UMC and its mark, the Cross and Flame. In this connection, it has a fund to be used in related proceedings of annual conferences or local churches. This support is to be limited to matters of denominational significance. A definition of denominational significance was recommended by a separate task force, recommended by the Committee and adopted by the GCFA.

During the year we reviewed several requests and did provide some funding for issues involving the defense of the trust clause and also of the rights of local churches to conduct religious services in non-traditional settings. We also denied several requests for funding.

The Committee on Legal Responsibilities participated in a number of legal briefs supporting the trust clause or its equivalent in other denominations. Many denominations are having issues with breakaway congregations that want to take their building and endowments with them as they leave the mother denomination. They mount all sorts of legal theories in support of their perceived ‘right’ to do so. They claim their deeds don’t give the mother denomination control,

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they change their documents and deeds to delete all references to the mother church, etc. None of these steps have been successful. All decisions thus far have supported the mother denomination. Basically, the courts have held that if has looked like a duck and quacked like a duck, it was and still is a duck and must conform to the rules of ducks.

GCFA has been spending some time learning how to do its work with a new and smaller Board (21 vs. 41 previously). It is going well and most Board members prefer the new arrangement.
I am personally involved with an effort to have administrative services provided on a shared basis among the general boards. Payroll and benefit services have been integrated successfully into a shared service and more sharing of services is under discussion

John Bishop, Member
General Commission on Finance and Administration

Garrett Evangelical

In 2013, Garrett-Evangelical celebrates 160 years of creating skilled, bold, and articulate leaders for the church, the academy, and the world. We remain committed to our core purpose: to know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, help others know God in Christ.
Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Last fall the seminary welcomed 107 new students, raising total fall enrollment to 390—the third consecutive year of increase. The average age of the entering Master of Divinity student is 31. Fifty-one percent are women. The ethnic/racial profile is 52% white; 20% black; 5% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino. Thirteen percent of the students are international.

More than 30 religious traditions, four continents, 12 countries and 32 states are represented in the student body. Two hundred twenty-four students are United Methodist. Thirty-four additional students come from other Pan-Methodist denominations.

Garrett-Evangelical's commitment to making seminary education affordable is reflected in the awarding of more than $2 million in institutional financial aid to students each year. The seminary as created the Linked in Ministry Scholarship program. This 100 percent scholarship is awarded to the first student admitted to Garrett-Evangelical from his/her United Methodist annual conference who maintains a 3.3 GPA or above and who is a registered candidate for UMC ministry.

In January, Garrett-Evangelical completed a successful campaign to fund the Rueben P. Job Endowed Chair in Spiritual Formation. One of the first chairs in spiritual formation among Protestant seminaries, the award is named in honor of Garrett-Evangelical's distinguished

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alumnus Rueben P. Job, retired bishop of The United Methodist Church. The position is a legacy to Bishop Job's lifelong work and will ensure that Garrett-Evangelical continues to prepare well-formed spiritual leaders for many generations.

Garrett-Evangelical has long been at the forefront of Protestant seminaries in this area. The seminary proposed the curriculum structure for United Methodist certification in spiritual formation, formally adopted by the denomination in 2000. Since the, Garrett-Evangelical has adopted a specialized Master of Arts degree in spiritual formation and evangelism as well as a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction.
Funds now are being received to permanently endow the Rueben Job Institute in Spiritual Formation. Information about the Institute can be found at <http://ruebenjobinstitute.org>.

Dr. Dwight Judy, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Formation, retired at the end of 2012. He continues to serve the seminary and church through his work as Director of the Institute.

Several initiatives to support clergy and lay education are under way. During the spring semester, fifteen academic classes were offered in an online format, some with a continuing education option. During the next several months, new programs—online, on campus, and in congregational settings will begin.

Plus is a first-of-its-kind cooperative executive education program of Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The two-year leadership certification program for seminary graduates and other professionals in ministry includes eight days of seminars led by experts in non-profit leadership.

Intersection is an innovative continuing education opportunity incorporating readings, online presentations by seminary faculty, and reflection on contemporary issues of life and ministry, providing an intersection of academic studies with the concern for practical ministry. Topics range from theology, biblical interpretation, and church history to ethics and the church in society. Continuing education credit is available. Additional information is available at http://www.garrett.edu/intersection.

The expanded Doctor of Ministry program offers four tracks of study: Congregational Leadership, African American Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Direction, and Mission in the Contemporary United States. The Garrett-Evangelical DMin program is also a portal to the Association of Chicago Theological School's (ACTS) DMin program in preaching.

Garrett-Evangelical serves over 550 students in degree-related courses, certificate programs and the summer Course of Study School. We encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large.

Philip A. Amerson, President

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

This year, as newly elected members of the Conference Board of higher education and campus ministry for this new quadrennium, all the board members have been actively engaged in getting

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acquainted with the important responsibilities of the board. Among them, the board believes that supporting campus ministry is one major responsibility as our denomination emphasizes.

According to the website of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry:

"Campus Ministry is the official presence of The United Methodist Church on the college and university campuses of the world. We are called to share with our campuses the transformational nature of Christ in a way that raises up a new generation of thoughtful, articulate Christians who care about making the world a better place. While this calling looks and feels very different across our campuses, it is central to our identity and it compels us to provide intentional collegiate ministries that call out to this emerging generation."

Following the guideline of the GBHEM, the Board continues to lend financial support to Rutgers University, Rockland Community college, and Wesley Foundation at Princeton. In addition to them, the Board is happy to report to have decided on supporting the campus ministry at Centenary College this year. There are other local churches that are located near colleges considering starting a new ministry on campus. The Board encourages more churches to be involved in developing ministries with young students.

In addition to the support for campus ministry, the Board awards various GNJ scholarships to many young students in need. Scholarship information has been supplied via on-line GNJ Digest to help people aware of the eligibility requirements and timelines. It is our goal to increase the scholarship fund with the help of local churches so that more young people can be supported in their pursuit of higher education.

Pauline Kang, Chairperson

Lay Servant Ministries

The name of the Lay Speaking Ministries program has been changed by the General Conference! Our ministry is now called the *Lay Servant Ministry* and we're excited about the change. Being Christ's hands and feet here on earth is what disciples are meant to do. Lay Servant Ministry fits our call to ministry and helps others better understand our mission. Lay Servant Ministry 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 Servants are ready and willing to accept all types of discipleship roles within our churches.

The requirements for Lay Servants will continue much as those for Lay Speakers. All Local Lay Servants and Certified Lay Servants must successfully complete continuing educations courses at the rate of one every three years. For most Lay Servants, those courses are classified as Advanced Lay Servant courses which have traditionally been offered in all districts every fall with additional coursed augmenting the program in the spring and summer months. All Lay Servants must participate in our continuing education program. Information about these requirements can be found in the Lay Servant section of the Conference website or by contacting your district director of Lay Servant Ministries.
Another requirement is that each Lay Servant submit a Lay Servant Ministries Annual report to your Church Conference with one copy being maintained in your church office and the other

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going to the District where additional copies of each annual report will be sent on to the Conference office and your District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

The General Conference also established another designation for the Lay Servant Ministries called *"Lay Speaker"*. The requirements for the new designation of "Lay Speaker" are that the lay person will be a Certified Lay Servant, will have successfully completed selected courses of study for the Lay Speaking position, will be recommended by the Lay Servant's pastor and will have been examined by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. No past "Lay Speakers" in the Conference will be grand-fathered into this new position, however, those Lay Servants currently serving churches as pulpit supply will be allowed to continue until such time as an adequate number of Lay Speaking courses have been offered in each of our Districts. For further information about the new position of Lay Speaker, please find the information on the Conference website or contact your District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

In the summer of 2012, eighteen lay servants participated in the School of Missions training as their recertification as Lay Servants and five of our laity successfully completed a Basic Lay Servant course taught in Spanish in the Gateway North District.

Last fall's Advanced Lay Servant classes involved 194 lay servants from across the Conference. The training experience was titled "Accountable Discipleship".

This spring over one hundred of our Conference laity took the Basic Lay Servant classes and another 70 Lay Servants took the Caregiving Ministry classes that were held at four of our United Methodist Homes locations.

In February, I attended the Annual Conference for Directors of Lay Servant Ministries in Nashville along with Northern Shore District Director Althea Deuchar. During the Conference we learned about how our new name change is impacting the ministry of the Laity in other Conferences around the country. We worshipped, prayed, listened, discussed and celebrated the ministry of the laity through the Lay Servant Ministries program.

Over the course of the last year, nearly 400 lay people from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have completed training in Lay Servant Ministries. This was all made possible through the efforts of our dedicated District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries, who without question, are one of the most devoted and faithful groups of disciples with whom I have ever been involved. I thank God for the opportunity that has been given to me to be a part of this group. Please find the following list of District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries; contact information for our Lay Servant Ministries Team can be found on the Conference website.

Cape Atlantic District– Robert Fore and Heidi Hibbs
Capital District – Terri Pagani
Delaware Bay District – Conni Lape
Gateway North District – Judy Colorado
Gateway South – Naomi Walker
Northern Shore – Althea Deuchar
Palisades – Mildred Ojoye
Raritan Valley – Alice Bennett
Skylands – Cara Quick

Mark Halverson, Director of Lay Servant Ministries

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Board of Ordained Ministry

The members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are deeply dedicated to the work of discernment. We walk alongside persons in the candidacy process and persons under appointment as they seek changes in their status; we offer support amid the cultural and denominational dynamics which make ministry both rewarding and challenging; and we are ever attending to changes in the many processes for which we offer care.

The year has included updated training for District Committees on Ministry, Candidacy Mentors. Group Mentoring, and Clergy Mentors. In all of our work, we continue to be attentive to issues of clergy effectiveness, clergy wellness, intercultural competency, and recruitment of young adults.

The 2012 Book of Discipline brought several modifications to the journey for those seeking to serve the church, among them an "Orientation to Ministry" and a focus on group candidacy mentoring:

When a person enters the candidacy process, he or she is assigned to a candidacy mentor, who serves as a guide and companion along the prescribed course of discernment. With the 2012 Book of Discipline, *group candidacy mentoring* is offered as the new norm, acknowledging the unique ways in which persons are cared for, guided, and encouraged, when part of a group. Group mentoring lifts up the power of community, and builds covenantal relationships at the start of the journey. It is our hope that this process will also permit swifter entry into the candidacy process, as clusters are formed with regularity.

Additionally, at an early stage in candidacy, persons are now required to attend an *"Orientation to Ministry"* event, at which the candidate is in dialogue with deacons, local pastors, and elders, thus exploring the distinctive functions of each role and how they interact with one another. This event, overseen by the Chair of the Order of Elders, the Chair of the Order of Deacons, and the President of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, provides essential insight into the ways in which our church is structured for ministry, and it builds relationships as it assists a person in discerning the nature of his or her call. Two such events will have taken place prior to the Annual Conference session.

Another dimension of our work this year has been the reconfiguration of the Local Pastor Licensing School. Historically, we have been part of the NEJ Licensing School, which offered a two-week intensive summer experience. Over the years, Jurisdictional participation has dwindled, and candidates have found the two week commitment difficult to fulfill and absorb. We have established a new four-weekend module, which will still offer the 84 contact hours required for completion of the licensing studies. In the years to come, it is anticipated that the four weekend modules would be completed before the Annual Conference session.

This year we affirmed a "Clergy Evaluation" tool for use by Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committees, based on the Clergy Effectiveness document approved by the Annual Conference in 2011. This new evaluation instrument endeavors to align assessment with the standards that the Annual Conference has named as vital for effective ministry, and we anticipate that it will yield important insight and guidance for the strengthening of ministry.

I thank the members and officers of the Board for the swift and steadfast manner in which each has taken on new responsibilities as this quadrennium has unfolded, and together we are indebted

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to Lida DeNardo in the Conference Office, whose stellar administrative support is of immeasurable value and is profoundly appreciated.

Collectively, we understand that we are responding to a sacred calling to engage in discernment, be attentive to the movement of the Spirit, and celebrate what God is doing in our midst. It is our privilege to serve God's Church in this way.

Shawn Callender Hogan
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

Pension and Health Benefits

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.

PENSION

Pre-1982 Pension Plan

The 2013 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment is $607 per year of pre-1982 service. The 2014 Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 annuitant payment will be $619. The pre-1982 pension program continues to be fully funded and in a strong position.

CRSP/MPP and CPP

The General Conference's pension plan, Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a hybrid of defined benefit and defined contribution approaches which took effect in 2007. For 2013 churches pay CRSP at 15.5% of clergy plan compensation and for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) at 3% of full time 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 3/4 time and 1/2 time, and 4.4% of DAC for optional coverage (1/4 time and leave status).

The 2012 General Conference enacted changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Effective 1/1/2014 for all contributions going forward, the CRSP Defined Benefit component will be reduced from the current 1.25% of DAC to 1.0% of DAC. Under the CRSP Defined Contribution component, contributions will be reduced from 3% to 2% of clergy plan compensation and, in addition, match up to 1% of compensation if clergy contributes 1% of UMPIP. Contributions previously made will not be affected by this change and benefits paid upon retirement will be based on the previous formula for all benefits accrued prior to 1/1/2014. Any benefits accrued from that date forward will be based on the new formula.

Additionally, the General Conference changed the participation requirements from all clergy under appointment to only clergy under full time appointment. Clergy appointed to less-than-full-time (3/4 and 1/2-time) are eligible based on the decision of the Annual Conference after approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board has voted to include those clergy appointed to less-than-full-time (3/4 and 1/2 time) appointments in CRSP. For clergy appointed to 1/4 time appointments, a vote of the Board has made UMPIP available as

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a pension option for those clergy. Please contact Alexa Taylor, Pension Coordinator, for more information on this option. These changes require Annual Conference approval.

The rates of remittance for the Clergy Retirement Security Program/Ministerial Pension Plan (CRSP/MPP) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) remained approximately equal to last year's rates – continuing to remain significantly short of the 2003 remittance rate of 94% and 95%. Fourteen percent of churches were unable to pay these bills on time. Below is a summary of 2012 remittances:

Type	Remittances Rate	2012 Shortfall	# of Churches Paying < 100%	% of Churches Paying < 100%
CRSP	88.5%	$375,740	83	14%
CPP	88.5%	$69,779		

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 concerned that some churches are not fully meeting their obligations and with the resulting decrease in the Reserve Account.

By 2012 year-end the cumulative delinquent amount for years prior to 2012 was $1,406,000 for CRSP/MPP and $317,000 for CPP - a total of $1,723,000, a decrease of $203,000 - ten percent under the cumulative shortfall at the end of 2011.

We thank those churches that maintained faithful stewardship, paying 100% of their obligation. We also appreciate the continuing efforts of our district superintendents, Alexa Taylor, Pension Coordinator, and Betty LaSalla, Local Church Financial Liaison to collect the past due balances. More than $135,000 of the 2002-2011 shortfall was collected in 2012.

Because the balances owed had grown so large, in 2008 the Cabinet 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. Currently there is one church remaining in the plan; they have met their specified goals through December 31, 2012.

The Strategic Transformation Project was brought for vote to the 2012 Annual Conference. It was approved and 10 churches were designated by the Cabinet to participate in this project. The 10 churches will not be required to pay any billable items and Shared Ministry apportioned funds for 2013.

Retirement Seminars

As in years past, the Board sponsored two retirement education sessions held at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Hamilton on March 14 and 15, 2013. The first day was a pre-retirement seminar for those anticipating retirement within five years, and second a seminar focusing on financial planning for younger pastors. Sixty five persons attended. Presentations by Peter Hang of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, a Social Security representative, and Barbara Gruezke, Insurance Coordinator, provided valuable guidance to assist retirement planning. Special thanks to Donna Hough for organizing these events and to St. Mark UMC for their gracious hospitality. Thanks also to Alexa Taylor, Pension Coordinator, and Barbara Gruezke for their support.

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HEALTH INSURANCE

For 2012, the Board continued health insurance under HealthFlex, the health insurance plan sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Health insurance again presented significant challenges to the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The benefits the Board chose are the richest plan HealthFlex provides, and the physician network is Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO. The Board has completed a plan developed in conjunction with the Cabinet and Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) to phase in the 40% premium increase over 2010, 2011, and 2012, using reserve funds to subsidize the amounts billed to the local churches.

Effective January 1, 2013, HealthFlex discontinued the plan selected by the Board. This plan did not have a large enough group to remain viable. Therefore the Board has selected the richest plan offered for 2013. Unfortunately this brought with it some reductions in benefits including higher co-pays and deductibles. In an attempt to lessen the impact of this change, the Board has increased the contribution to participants' Health Reimbursement Accounts for 2013. These accounts, which can be used for qualifying medical expenses (such as co-pays and deductibles), had up to $1000 contributed effective January 1, 2013. This adds to any remaining balance from the up to $500 contribution made in 2012. These funds do not expire and are accessed through a MasterCard branded debit card.

Premiums and Remittances

The following chart shows church premium rates in effect for 2013. These rates reflect a Cabinet- requested blended rate for all categories, which the Board has been moving toward for several years, so that health insurance premiums are not a factor in determining clergy appointments.

Health Insurance Premiums for 2013	
Employee	$16,000
Employee & Child(ren)	$16,000
Employee & Spouse	$16,000
Employee & Family	$16,000

The Board thanks all churches that fully paid their health insurance premiums in 2012. Overall, churches paid 87% of the total $5,375,273 health insurance billings, consistent with the 2011 remittance rate of 87%. The 2012 shortfall was approximately $681,606. By 2012 year end, the amount owed from years prior to 2012 had been reduced by $233,989; however, the cumulative unpaid health insurance bills had increased to $2,131,629 owed for years prior to 2012.

Churches failing to fully pay their premiums burden all churches and result in higher health insurance premiums for all. Thanks go to the Conference/BOPHB Treasurer John Cardillo, Health Insurance Coordinator Barbara Gruezke, and the Cabinet for their continued efforts to collect health insurance arrearages.

The Board and Conference staff have continued their efforts to ease the continued transitions in healthcare. The Health Insurance Guidelines included in these 2013 Conference Reports and Recommendations have been updated.

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Annuitant Health Care Liability

As of the end of 2012 the Financial Accounting Standards Board FAS 158 liability for annuitant healthcare costs in the amount of $61.9 million was posted to the Conference balance sheet. This liability is the estimated present value of the future costs of annuitant healthcare. The Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund described below has been set up to address this large liability over time.

Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund

In 2002-2003 the Board, recognizing the growing magnitude of annuitant healthcare costs, 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 that begins to offset the liability and 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 premium costs expected in future years. The plan for the Fund involves a multi-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 a 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, 2012, the Annuitant Health Insurance Contingency Fund held a balance of $6,807,493 after transferring $321,939 to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account to avoid a negative balance in that account at year-end. In 2012 approximately $1,868,501 came into the Contingency Fund (representing the 2% clergy and staff salary contributions toward the cost of health insurance) plus the Centenary Fund's annual contribution (in excess of $300,000, separate from their $100,000 contribution directly to the Annuitant Health Insurance Account). Also in 2012, the Conference received and deposited into this fund $258,000 for Medicare Part D subsidies through HealthFlex from the Center for Medicare Services.

The Board Itself

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits endeavors to serve the Conference and the needs of those in ministry. There continues to 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.

Current leadership is Rev. Paul Zorn, Chair; Rev. Carlton Bodine, Vice-Chair; Donna Hough, Secretary.
Paul Zorn, Chair, GNJAC Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Poverty Task Force

Poverty Reduction Recommendations were made on June 2, 2012 to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to develop strategies and collect data for the next five years to reduce poverty in its conference by “Ministry With the Poor” creating programs that address root causes, educating its members to facilitate understanding of poverty and its debilitating effects on families and persons and coordinating sustainable ministries that change lifestyles and transforms by:

- Developing conference wide educational programs and expertise to address poverty for each District.
- Develop a databank of essential resources of all agencies, interfaith programs related to “Working With the Poor.” Programs that provide health care, education and shelter, that

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will be accessible and shared throughout the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference based on the principle of sharing and cooperation.

- Coordinating current ministries with the poor in ways that it not only provide a meal, clothing and places to sleep for a person marginalized by poverty, but seeks to provide recovery and resources to move persons to a means of self-support.
- Develop partnerships and relationships with other agencies such as affordable housing, health care, local businesses, and educational institutions as a vocational resource to move homeless persons into the workforce.
- Develop and coordinate a program for post incarcerated young offenders to assist and support re-assimilation into society in a positive way (Restorative Justice)

The initial activities to accomplish goals were initiated in September 2012 with the help of John Cardillio and the conference staff in creating a resource booklet that is now on line for local churches to use to identify resources in their county that can be shared with parishioners. This booklet is far from complete with goals to be able to add all of the local church ministries that are involved in this type of ministry as a means of sharing resources and identifying locations. Educational sessions have been carried out at all District Days of Learning, providing an overview of poverty in the USA and in New Jersey , as of today 112 participants have attended sessions and 49 persons has signed up to participate in Ministry with the Poor. Next phase is to work on the development of district committees. A committee will be developed in each of the nine districts to address the uniqueness of the problems of poverty that they may face in that district. We are faced with many variations of poverty and hopefully they will be address by the district committees in a way that is most effective for their district. The district will be able to move at their own pace to address identified goals.
We have also began to look at forming partnership with other groups in "Ministry With the Poor" such as joining the group known as "Fighting Poverty by Faith." We will also assess the cost to initiate the Circle Model. The Poverty Taskforce seeks to be intentional in reducing poverty. Creating coordinated church communities that nurture every person as loved by God so they may reach their potential.

Rosa Williams, Chairperson

Primary Task Team

The Primary Task Team met on September 22, 2012 and April 6, 2013.

The Executive Committee of the PTT met each month except August to care for emerging needs and decisions in a timely manner, and to reflect, project, and dream for the future. This is our first full year of living into the redefined structure.

During the past year we have:

- Honored Art Somers, whose foundation is continuing to sponsor urban ministries in partnership with Bishop May using Turning Point UMC in Trenton as a model.
- Granted five scholarships to attend the Engle Preaching workshop at Princeton.
- Granted one scholarship from the Fluctuating Needs of the Harvest Fund for an urban pastor to attend a recommended national training.
- Approved the funding of 4 persons from the Laity Council to attend the Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection.
- Offered prayers of benediction for Bishop Devadhar and prayers of welcome for Bishop Schol.

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- Studied the Vital Congregations report and become familiar with its important findings and statistics throughout the year to assist with balcony thinking as our annual conference seeks to live into what it means for us.
- Approved the expenditure of $10,000. from the Emerging Ministries Fund to pilot the "Acts 2 Communities" project which will target ministries with young adults.
- Approved the expenditure of $47,000. from the Harvest Mission Fund for the support of a youth and young adult worker through Asbury UMC in Atlantic City.
- Supported the Poverty Task Force as it trained and enlisted district teams to work on the issue of poverty locally. Received from the Task Force a bibliography of resources in our state.
- Met with representatives of the Five Year Strategic Task Force to hear about their progress and encourage them in their work.
- Approved a request from the Sessions Team to sign a contract with the Wildwood Convention Center to meet there for our Annual Conference session this year.
- Approved the request from the Nominating Committee to allow an additional post of Secretary to the Committee who could serve longer than one quadrennium, for the sake of consistency and history.
- Approved a disaster-response plan and budget to respond to the devastation from Superstorm Sandy and approval of the establishment of "A Future with Hope" corporation.
- Approved the expenditure of $5000. from Emerging Needs Fund to sponsor a meeting of Korean laity at First Korean UMC, Cherry Hill.
- Received a report from the Conference Center Task Force recommending that an alternative site be considered to house the conference offices due to significant concerns about the existing building.
- Received the reports of four members who attended the national leadership training on adaptive leadership.
- Elected those presented for service from the Nominations Committee:
    - Leadership Development Team, Chairperson: Christopher Heckert
    - The Board of Directors for "A Future with Hope"
        - Bobbie Ridgely – Director
        - John Cardillo
        - Christopher Heckert
        - Regina Hendrickson
        - Dr. Patricia Morton
        - Dr. Mitchell
        - John Bishop
        - Vivian Bull
        - Timothy Ahn
        - Michael Chagares
        - Bishop John Schol
    - Board of Discipleship, Chairperson: Donnie Mitchell
    - Disaster Response Team: Mark Earl (replacing K. Ambrose) and David Delaney (replacing H. Minnichbach)
    - Nominating Committee, Secretary: Janet Blohm
    - Commission on Archives & History: Nikolay Petrov, Christopher Anderson, and John Callanan

We will continue to strive to enable or conference to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the midst of a growing number of vital congregations as we move forward into our future with hope.

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Vicki Miller Brendler
Convener Executive Committee of Primary Task Team

Property and Liability Insurance Committee

2013 Insurance Renewal:
The 2013 insurance renewal process resulted in a $81,115 premium increase or 2.6% versus the 2012 costs. In 2011, Hurricane Irene damages and a large fire loss contributed to a 183% loss ratio for the property insurance. In 2012 Super Storm Sandy damages resulted in a Conference loss ratio of 113%. However, the Conference has been with Mercer Insurance Company for most of the coverage since 2004, and has an overall loss ratio of 78%. The Insurance Committee believes the long term relationship allowed the Conference to avoid a steep premium increase or an outright non-renewal of insurance. The wind deductible was increased from $1,000 to $5,000 for 98 churches that fall into the insurers wind hazard zone. Most carriers are now imposing percentage deductibles for wind zones, such as 3% of insured values, so the deductible increase is the better option for the Conference. In the event of a wind loss, the Insurance Committee intends to cover the increased wind deductible for affected churches from surplus funds. A notable feature of the 2013 renewal is a two year rate guarantee if the Conference maintains a 50% or better loss ratio in 2013. The insurer also agrees to cover up to 50% more than the declared property value of any church, providing a level of protection from unexpectedly high damage reconstruction costs.

In addition to the renewal proposal from Sovereign Insurance, the Conference insurance broker since 2002, the Committee issued a request for proposal from competing brokers. There were no insurers willing to match or improve upon the Conference's program from Mercer.

Workers Compensation:
Workers Compensation premiums were decreased from $352,991 to $310,212 due to a decrease in loss experience. The GNJAC workers compensation insurance program saves more than $200,000 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 8% lower than in 2012. Each church has access to this insurance facility and pays the premium cost for any vehicle insured.

Claims Experience:
As previously noted, the Conference loss ratio was very unfavorable for the 2011 and 2012 policy years due to three large loss events. The overall performance of the Conference churches remains better than average.

The Committee noted in last year's report:

"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"

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The Insurance Committee believes Mercer Insurance understands well the nature of the GNJAC loss exposures and reacted in good faith with the 2013 renewal after two consecutive unprofitable years.

Parity Implementation:
The Parity Implementation Plan approved at the 2007 Annual Session continues to be implemented according to the original plan. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and again for 2013, 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 deductible differentials, 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.

Summary:
The Insurance Committee encourages each church to take advantage of the assistance available through Sovereign Insurance (800-222-4478), the Conference Insurance Program‘s broker. We remind churches, particularly those located in a flood zone, of the need to purchase flood insurance, and Sovereign Insurance is prepared to help with that process. The Conference insurance program does not include flood insurance.

William M. Mayo
Chair, Insurance Committee

Sessions Team

A new venue, a new agenda and a new structure! Welcome to Annual Conference 2013 and a warm welcome to our new Bishop! With great excitement and anticipation, our Annual Conference venue moved back to New Jersey ~ from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania to Wildwood, New Jersey.

With members’ evaluations in hand, venue research, and with great care in accordance with our Sessions Resolution of 2012, the Executive Committee of the Primary Task Team has selected the Wildwood Convention Center as the new venue for 2013, 2014, 2015. Our sessions team is grateful for our many years of working with the Valley Forge Convention Center staff that became like old friends. They were cooperative and helpful in working with us. The years we met there were connectional, growing years where we came together as one conference creating new traditions and learning how to be with each other. After much research and negotiation, we are being welcomed to Wildwood ~ ocean, dune and do-wop! We look forward to this relationship being as fruitful as Valley Forge.

The agenda has been changed to be more flexible and user-friendly. It promises early evenings, time for much- needed fellowship and worship as well as taking care of the business of conference.

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We are also working with a new structure for Sessions where we welcome the conference staff to work alongside us and become part of the team. We thank Travelink who worked with us as our convention center-conference liaisons for the last decade. They were invaluable in teaching us how to plan this major event. With the support of the Wildwood Convention Center staff and the inclusion of our conference staff, the Sessions team is ready again to lay the foundation for a wonderful Annual Conference.

As always, we covet your input and ask that you respond online at the conference website to our evaluative process. Thank you for being a part of this gathering.

Upcoming Greater New Jersey Annual Conferences at Wildwood Convention Center:
Dates: May 29 - 31, 2014 and May 28 – 30, 2015

Reggie Albert, Sessions Chairperson

Commission on Status and Role of Women

It is with great joy that I have been able to serve as the chair of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). I would like to extend a special thanks to Rev. Theresa Hoover for her leadership and service during her time as the chair of COSROW. Our team and I have been working to reassess and clarify our mission by discussing how can we make a difference in the vitality of our conference and its local churches in this quadrennium.

I would like to share the good news that I, along with three members of COSROW, Dian Pacione, Joel Hubbard, Marilus Rodriguez, attended the Annual Conference Committee training offered by the General Commission of the Status and Role of Women from March 14 to 16 in Nashville, TN. It was an excellent opportunity for us to learn, share, and grow as we were exposed to an abundance of diverse resources and ideas. We are deeply appreciative of the powerful support we experience through connectionism.

The training included times of worship, lectures on the topics of theological framework, an overview of the United Methodist structure, and gender justice strategy by gifted leaders like Dr. Amy Jill Levine and General Secretary Dawn W. Hare. Workshops that focused on Sexual Ethics, Communication, Monitoring, and Gender Justice were offered and were followed by opportunities to fellowship and network with those from diverse conferences.

I would like to take a moment to remind you of the mission statement of COSROW:

> "Our mission is to challenge the United Methodist Church at all levels to work for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the denomination, including ordination of women, equal access to policy-making and recognition that Jesus Christ calls men and women alike to salvation, liberation, discipleship and service in church and society."

We are committed to serving as the eyes and ears in the Great New Jersey Annual Conference for this crucial work with the understanding that there is still much more to be done.

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Please visit our display table to obtain more information, receive a small gift, and to chat with us. Also, please visit our website, www.gcsrw.org, and enter your email address to subscribe to updates from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Keep us in your prayers as we strive to be more courageous in our work to bring justice and equality to the all persons.

Lastly, I would like to give thanks to our COSROW members for their faithful service: Joan Nerissa Buchanan, Joel Hubbard, Lela Ruth King, Gilbert Morris, Diane Pacione, Marilus Rodriguez, Marcia Roebuck, Janice Sutton, Patricia West.

Michelle Ryoo, Chair of COSROW

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Property & Liability Insurance - 12/31/12

Balance Forward		**1,969,436**
Receipts:		
Interest Income	3,942	
Premiums from Churches	2,510,076	
Insurance Rebates Churches	(394,640)	
Worker's Compensation	401,474	
Prior Year Receipts	104,313	
	2,625,165	
Disbursements:		
Insurance Premiums	2,600,400	
Auto Insurance	5,136	
Worker's Compensation	357,987	
Salary	34,944	
Claim Deductibles	34,337	
Other Expenses	2,084	
	3,034,888	
Change in Operation		-409,723
Ending Balance12/31/12		**1,559,713**

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

Pension Accounts - Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

	12/31/11	12/31/12	Variance
ASSETS			
A/R-GNJAC	1,972,544	1,711,751	(260,794)
GBOP Deposit Account	1,794,567	2,558,705	764,138
Pension Investments-BOA		305,129	305,129
Accounts Receivable			0
Total Assets	**3,767,111**	**4,575,585**	**808,474**
LIABILITIES			
Pension	0		0
Due to Conference	0	(0)	0
Total Liabilities	**0**	**(0)**	**0**
General Fund			
Balance Forward	4,554,208	4,941,340	387,132
Receipts			
Investment Income	(30,044)	24,750	54,794
GBOP Invest. Gain/(Loss)	(57,162)	34,330	91,492
GBOP Invest. Refund/Adj	2,469	5,803	3,334
GBOP CPP Premium Holiday	654,678	644,953	(9,724)
UM Publishing Income			0
Annual Conference Offering			0
Memorial Donations			0
Chartered Fund Income	529		(529)
GNJ Sandy Relief Fund-Transfer		(50,000)	(50,000)
Pre-Retirement Seminar Income	810	500	(310)
CPP Inter Fund Transfer-'010 & '011		(938,724)	(938,724)
Total Receipts	571,281	(278,387)	(849,668)
Disbursements			
Global Pension Trust			
Pensions - Moving Expense Reimb	26,824	34,751	7,927
Grants/Relief	5,659	5,731	72
Pre-Retirement Seminar Expense			0
Adoption Grant			0
Offering			0
Staff Expense	106,937	113,551	6,614
CBO Salary Expense	22,782	23,349	567
Pension Adjustment Expense	2,843	3,154	311
Refunds			0
Operating Expenses	19,104	30,275	11,171
Total Disbursements	184,149	210,811	26,662
General Fund Balance	4,941,340	4,452,142	(489,198)
Receipts - Disbursements	387,132	(489,198)	(876,330)
Current Service Fund			
Balance Forward	0	(1,212,293)	(1,212,293)
Receipts			
CPP Inter Fund Transfer-'010 & '011		938,724	938,724
General Board of Pension Income	1,305,135	2,693,487	1,388,352
Staff Premiums			0
Conference CRSP/ MPP Income	2,923,524	2,990,789	67,265
Conference CPP Income	533,666	563,404	29,738
Total Receipts	4,762,325	7,186,404	2,424,079
Disbursements			
Refunds/Adjustments			
Transfer to Fund 127 Retiree Health	1,305,135	2,187,125	881,990
Expense entry	3,341,120	2,473,068	(868,052)
GBOP Billing	1,328,363	1,313,918	(14,444)
Total Disbursements	5,974,618	5,974,111	(506)
Current Service Fund Balance	(1,212,293)	0	1,212,293
Receipts - Disbursements	(1,212,293)	1,212,293	0
Interest Reserve Fund			
Interest Reserve Fund Balance	38,064	123,443	85,379
Total Fund Balance	**3,767,111**	**4,575,585**	**808,474**

Health Insurance Accounts - Greater NJ Annual Conference

	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	Variance
Assets			
Health Insurance Investments-BOA	4,914,046	5,942,513	1,028,467
A/R-GNJAC	184,500	1,082,528	898,028
Total Assets	**5,098,546**	**7,025,041**	**1,926,494**
Liabilities			
Post Retirement Benefits	62,978,900	61,906,385	-1,072,515
Total Liabilites	**62,978,900**	**61,906,385**	**-1,072,515**
Actives Fund			
Balance Forward	**432**	**170,165**	**169,732**
(Receipts)			
Billing Non-Annuitants	5,091,154	5,082,856	-8,297
Dist. Supt. & Staff Premiums	397,959	460,624	62,665
Staff Family Premiums	31,614	31,747	132
2% of Sal. Contrib.W/H fr Staff&DS's	30,984	34,209	3,224
Incapacity from 127	404,397	545,790	141,392
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	1,000,000	399,998	-600,002
Total Receipts	**6,956,109**	**6,555,224**	**-400,885**
(Disbursements)			
Non- Annuitants Premium	6,402,924	6,222,841	-180,083
Consulting Fee	30,000	30,000	0
Other Expense		106	106
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	322,468	288,348	-34,120
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	30,984	34,209	3,224
Total Disbursements	**6,786,376**	**6,575,504**	**-210,873**
Receipts less Disbursements	169,732	-20,280	-190,013
Balance	**170,165**	**149,884**	**-20,280**
ANNUITANTS Fund			
Balance Forward	**0**	**0**	**0**
(Receipts)			
Shared Ministries for Annuitants	1,932,121	2,167,106	234,985
Billing for Annuitants over 65	65,077	56,931	-8,146
Billing for Annuitants under 65	86,410	85,855	-555
Medicare	270,048	258,073	-11,975
2% Salary Funds Reserve Transfer	257,357	321,940	64,583
Transfer from 127 Subsidy	631,833	249,998	-381,835
Total Receipts	**3,242,846**	**3,139,904**	**-102,942**
(Disbursements)			
Blue Cross - Premium Expense	3,084,705	2,981,966	-102,739
Administration Expense	12,266	9,245	-3,021
H.I.T. Coordinator	75,742	82,294	6,551
CBO - Salary	22,782	23,349	567
Adoption Support			0
Consulting Agency Fee	47,350	43,050	-4,300
Total Disbursements	**3,242,846**	**3,139,904**	**-102,942**
Receipts less Disbursements	0	0	0
Balance	**0**	**0**	**0**

Health Insurance Accounts - Greater NJ Annual Conference

Reserve Fund for Retiree Health Ins.			
Balance Forward	**5,179,583**	**4,938,992**	**-240,592**
(Receipts)			
Centenary Fund Additional Contribution	443,660	465,843	22,183
Transfer 2% Pastor Salary Contribution	322,468	288,348	-34,120
Transfer 2% Staff Salary Contribution	30,984	34,209	3,224
Investment Income	50,749	67,180	16,431
Misc Income	1,305,135	**2,780,648**	**1,475,513**
Total Receipts	2,152,996	3,636,227	1,483,231
(Disbursements)			
Transfer to Annuitants	889,190	571,938	-317,252
Transfer to Non Annuitants	1,000,000	399,998	-600,002
Transfer to Annuitants Incapacity	404,397	545,790	141,392
GNJ Sandy Relief Fund- Transfer		50,000	50,000
Transfer to Reserve	100,000	200,000	100,000
Total Disbursements	2,393,588	1,767,726	-625,862
Receipts - Disbusements	-240,592	1,868,501	2,109,093
Balance	**4,938,992**	**6,807,493**	**1,868,501**

DENTAL Fund Balance Forward	**21,761**	**19,863**	**-1,898**
Billing for Dental Insurance	65,473	64,811	-662
Dental Insurance Premiums	67,371	65,902	-1,469
Receipts - Disbusements	-1,898	-1,091	807
Balance	**19,863**	**18,771**	**(1,091)**

Post Retirement Fund Balance Forward	**-63,855,000**	**-62,978,900**	**876,100**
Current Year Transactions	876,100	1,072,515	196,415
Balance	**-62,978,900**	**-61,906,385**	**1,072,515**

Interest Reserve Fund Balance Forward	**37,417**	**-30,473**	**-67,890**
Current Year Transactions	-67,890	79,365	147,254
Balance	**-30,473**	**48,892**	**79,365**

Total Fund Balance	**-57,880,354**	**-54,881,345**	**2,999,009**

2012 RECEIPTS COMPARISON

	Fd #	Funds	2010 Budget	2010 Dec YTD	2010 %Budget	2011 Budget	2011 Dec YTD	2011 %Budget	2012 Budget	2012 Dec YTD	2012 %Budget
Shared Ministry Funds	100	DO,ClergySup.,Admin	5,120,996	4,322,711	84.41%	5,336,968	4,293,997	80.46%	5,518,306	4,598,112	83.32%
	200	Admin. (Beginning 2005)	2,383,075	2,141,337	89.86%	2,490,485	2,180,357	87.55%	2,622,060	2,318,995	88.44%
	300	WorldService/Conf.Ben.	3,775,917	3,119,919	82.63%	3,460,210	2,818,731	81.46%	3,435,585	2,881,203	83.86%
	410	Black College	226,055	186,471	82.49%	219,216	172,319	78.61%	210,809	167,975	79.68%
	420	Africa University	50,592	45,242	89.43%	49,062	43,073	87.79%	47,185	38,986	82.62%
	430	Ministerial Education	566,640	456,062	80.49%	549,557	419,286	76.30%	528,473	415,505	78.62%
		Subtotal	**12,123,275**	**10,271,742**	**84.73%**	**12,105,498**	**9,927,763**	**82.01%**	**12,362,418**	**10,420,777**	**84.29%**
		Prior Yr. Shared Ministry		**35,626**			**6,498**			**21,441**	
Billing Funds		CRSP	3,338,853	2,962,064	88.71%	3,283,859	2,896,814	88.21%	3,256,923	2,881,183	88.46%
		2011 CRSP							370,435	85,695	
		Prior Years CRSP	1,054,865	129,222		1,296,471	111,710		1,145,226	23,911	
		Total CRSP	**4,393,718**	**3,091,285**	**70.36%**	**4,580,330**	**3,008,524**	**65.68%**	**4,772,584**	**2,990,789**	**62.67%**
		Comp. Protection Plan	620,436	550,802	88.78%	615,613	542,964	88.20%	606,831	537,052	88.50%
		2011 CPP							67,900	15,723	
		Prior Years CPP	258,167	29,516		296,682	15,701		275,329	10,629	
		Total CPP	**878,603**	**580,318**	**66.05%**	**912,295**	**558,665**	**61.24%**	**950,060**	**563,404**	**59.30%**
		Property/Liab. Insurance	2,838,112	2,507,088	88.34%	2,833,167	2,480,041	87.54%	2,838,761	2,560,076	90.18%
		2011 P/L							341,244	82,193	
		Prior Years P/L Insurance	1,206,293	146,040		1,361,092	109,016		1,198,417	18,991	
		Total P/L Ins.	**4,044,405**	**2,653,127**	**65.60%**	**4,194,259**	**2,589,057**	**61.73%**	**4,378,422**	**2,661,261**	**60.78%**
		Health Insurance	4,994,435	4,408,241	88.26%	5,502,389	4,805,997	87.34%	5,375,273	4,693,667	87.32%
		2011 Health Insurance							694,872	136,820	
		P/Ys Health Insurance	1,368,251	96,020		1,849,496	178,750		1,670,746	97,169	
		Total Health Ins.	**6,362,686**	**4,504,260**	**70.79%**	**7,351,885**	**4,984,747**	**67.80%**	**7,740,891**	**4,927,656**	**63.66%**
		Workers Comp Ins	399,432	372,403	93.23%	421,200	396,510	94.14%	422,640	401,475	94.99%
		2011 Workers Comp							22,877	1,428	
		Prior Years Workers Comp	48,326	5,491		69,694	8,149		59,156	1,701	
		Total Workers Comp Ins	**447,758**	**377,894**	**84.40%**	**490,894**	**404,658**	**82.43%**	**504,674**	**404,603**	**80.17%**
Total Shared Min. & Billing			**28,250,446**	**21,514,252**	**76.16%**	**29,635,162**	**21,479,912**	**72.48%**	**30,709,049**	**21,989,930**	**71.61%**
Special Giving			**0**	**1,081,265**		**0**	**1,002,852**		**0**	**1,346,258**	
GRAND TOTAL			**28,250,446**	**22,595,518**		**29,635,162**	**22,482,764**		**30,709,049**	**23,336,189**	

Board of Trustees

The Officers of the Board are: Chairperson - Rev. Louis Strugala; Vice-Chairperson – James Graef; Secretary – Victoria Hahn The following Trustees serve as liaisons to the properties for which the Board is responsible: James Graef, Rupert Hall, Jr. The Rev. Hee Duk Lee, Fred Neske, Jose Pimentel, The Rev. James Ryoo, The Rev. Douglas Strickland, MaryBeth Scherer, Rev. Robyne Mayer and Rev. Reggie Bynum.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance/care of the following properties: the Episcopal Residence, nine District Parsonages, the previous Palisades District parsonage situated in Harrington Park, NJ, the building in Paterson, NJ from which St. Philip's Ministry serves, as well as the Conference Office building. Additionally, they oversee the actions needed to be taken in reference to churches and parsonages that have been "closed", representative of formal action taken prior Annual Conferences. Six cemeteries also under the care of Trustees, as are two lots: the first in Mays Landing, NJ and the second in Swedesboro, NJ.

Some items of note as a result of Trustee action taken during the 2013 Conference Year:

- The sale of the Solomon Wesley UMC to Fruit of the Spirit Ministries.
- The sale of the Moorestown Parsonage for $360,000.00
- In response to action taken at the 2011 Annual Conference, the Trustees will be presenting a Resolution to the 2013 Annual Conference for the approval to build a new Conference Office building.

The Trustees are privileged to work with and receive the cooperation of many individuals/groups throughout the Conference. We are grateful to Bill Mayo and the members of the Property Insurance Sub-Committee and the Board of Trustees for their leadership and assistance in controlling insurance costs. The counsel which is offered to the Board from Conference Chancellors Lynn Caterson, Esq. and Sandford Brown, Esq. is invaluable. John Cardillo, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, serves as Treasurer of the Board. As a result of his guidance and expertise in reference to the overall financial resources of the GNJAC and specifically the Funds which the Board oversees, the Trustees are better equipped to prioritize and responsibly address the needs of the various properties. Likewise, the work of the Board has been enhanced this Conference Year with the presence, as Cabinet liaison, of The Rev. Wayne Plumstead His dedication – his leadership - his interest in the matters of the Trustees, and particularly as they interface with the Conference in general, is very much appreciated. The Conference Trustees also are grateful for the opportunity to work more closely with Bishop Schol and the Cabinet during the course of this Conference Year.

The Conference Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to those members and friends of The United Methodist Church in New Brunswick for, yet again, graciously hosting its meetings during the 2013 Conference Year. They certainly practice "radical hospitality".

Rev. Louis Strugala, Jr., Chair

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United Methodist Women

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women continue to support **The Purpose** and the organized missions of being UMWomen. As of May the United Methodist Women became its own organization but supports the missions of GBGM. We are called to take action by being more practical, flexible and more intentionally integrating all the parts of our works. This includes being more prayerful, involved in study, active in service, promoting advocacy for women and children and youth issues. We work with the United Methodist men, young women, the Native American Women. This will draw us deeper in prayer and closer to supporting God's work around the world. We need to continue with our financial support and promote leadership development. Our Hispanic and Korean Networks continue to be strong and their memberships are growing.

The new UMWomen is to be more tech savvy. We are being asked to join the social network medias, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Pintrest, UMWonline, Skype and conference calls.

The nine districts from the Greater New Jersey UMW Conference worked together to support our pledge this year. This supported many local, national and global missions. We continue to support the Camden Neighborhood Center our only National mission project. The Neighborhood center will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. When Supper Storm Sandy destroyed Many NJ neighborhoods the United Methodist women responded with health kits and cleaning buckets for those in need.

This year we attended the North East Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Hersey, PA. The United Methodist Women petitioned Hersey Chocolates and was granted a meeting with their executives to discuss ending the use of child labor in their cacao fields. Hersey has listen and pledge to end the use of child labor by 2020. The UMWomen continue to petition Hersey Chocolates to end child labor before 2020 and to go 100 percent Fair trade in all of its products.

Social actions issue such as ending human trafficking and civil rights for Immigrants remain big issues of the UMWomen. They continue to petition their congressmen to seek action on these issues. They also practice "Going Green" and protecting the environment.

The GNJUMWomen continue to support young women by giving three scholarships to attend Taize. France. We also sent three young women to attend the "Limitless: Redefine Tomorrow" event.
These women are excited to support UMWomen . These women are active in school or working so attending a regular meeting is difficult at times. Skype has become another method to keeping in touch.
Being flexible is the new UMWomen. The new United Methodist Women are keeping Faith, Hope and Love in Action by its work with women, children and youth.

Marilyn Powell, President

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United Theological Seminary

Is God calling you or someone you know to the ministry of Jesus Christ? If so, we invite you to explore how United can assist you in fulfilling God's purposes for your life and how you can help others in this journey. Come and check us out in person or online at www.united.edu!

United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They are doing so because United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important or exciting?

In addition to expanding our service in the Midwestern US, United will continue to enhance its use of technology to deliver theological education in underserved regions in North America and beyond. United's hybrid/online UMC FLEX Master of Divinity degree was designed specifically to meet the requirements of the UMC for ordination and it is accessible anywhere with good Internet service. Our hybrid/online UM Course of Study is expanding each semester, along with UM Certification offerings.

What's new at United? Three new professors joined our excellent team of faculty in 2012 and a search is underway for yet another. United and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries have developed a new partnership, and we have piloted a new certification program focused upon ministries with persons with disabilities. Each year, United's doctoral program adds new mentors and focus groups for advanced ministry study.

Please let us know if you have questions about how we can best assist you or, if you would like to help make it possible for an American or international student to study at United.

Enrollment at United continues to grow, and we invite you to call or visit soon!

For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu.

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

Wendy J. Deichmann, President
www.united.edu

Wesley Foundation at Princeton University

This is currently my twenty-first year as Chaplain of the Wesley Foundation at Princeton University where I am also a Fellow of Mathey College and occasionally 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

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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 Campus Ministry of the Greater NJ Annual Conference.

There are two different fellowship groups that meet weekly on campus. The Graduate Christian Fellowship meets each Tuesday evening all year long 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 on Fridays. Service projects and social activities are also regular activities of the Graduate Christian Fellowship.

The Undergraduate Discussion 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, the Seven Last Words from the Cross on Good Friday, and Baccalaureate. Working with college and graduate students in campus ministry at Princeton University is a very challenging and rewarding experience. I thank God for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the lives of young people who are in the process of making important life decisions about their vocational careers, relationships, and values.

B. Keith Brewer, Ph.D.

Wesley Seminary

As a new residence hall rises on the home campus, Wesley is building an institution that fosters vital churches for the next generation. We have developed a vision for what the church of the future should be, and have become a new kind of seminary. More than a good graduate school, we have become like a research university dedicated to serving the church.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to expand its programs and the readership of the premier online resource for churches: *Leading Ideas*. Through the Center, we are administering three new programs funded by grants from the Lilly Endowment. One enables us to continue our Lewis Fellows program, an intensive post-seminary leadership training initiative for young clergy. Another will reach pastors, five to ten years beyond seminary. They will engage with thought leaders in Washington, D.C. on the subjects of courage, doing good well, generosity and well-being to help expand their field of vision and lead their churches to engage more effectively in their communities. The third program takes a hard look at the economic challenges facing future ministers. We will

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conduct research into our graduates' debt, analyze information about current compensation packages, and review the consequences of debt on the well-being of graduates. We will review our own economic and funding strategies and improve institutional practices while creating educational programs that better prepare future pastoral leaders as managers of personal and congregational finance.

Our extension campus in downtown Washington, D.C. at Mount Vernon Square is developing as a center for missional churches as we help churches turn inside out in mission evangelism, community transformation and public theology. Our work there is spiritually and physically centered on an intentional living community of students and of faculty and church partners ministering in the shadow of Capitol Hill. We are engaging in hands-on learning/serving experiences in urban communities through our Urban Fellows and Missional Fellows programs.

The biggest new development is the Heal the Sick Initiative (HTS) developed in partnership with three hospital systems and the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. In HTS, Wesley will be the catalyst and educational partner in the development of a pilot program of parish-based health care in the Baltimore-Washington-Northern Virginia Region modeled after several successful programs nationwide. The HTS will prepare ministry leaders to support their congregations in the development of health ministries which include care and support for their members' overall well-being, as well as care for their neighbors, particularly the poor.

Wesley is actively recruiting the kind of students who want to be Disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world at all levels of ordained and lay ministry. We have continued to increase financial aid while holding down the cost of tuition. We launched a new 36-hour Master of Arts degree in the fall which uses a flexible curriculum to enable students to acquire a basic theological education. Wesley has entered into two dynamic partnerships this year. The first is with the Center for Discipleship at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, and makes unique lay study courses developed by Wesley in its Wesley Ministry Network available to the public on a large scale. And, Wesley is now partnered with Pfeiffer University and Union Presbyterian Seminary to make it possible for United Methodist students to complete their Master of Divinity degrees at Union Presbyterian Seminary's Charlotte, NC campus.

Meanwhile, Wesley has become a truly global seminary so that we may serve the church where it is growing the most and that we might benefit from the spiritual vision and vitality of global Christianity. We completed the final two class terms of a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program for 14 West African leaders engaged in educating persons for pastoral ministry in Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Cameroon. And we began our sixth Global Asian D.Min. track. In addition, there are currently 22 international students from around the globe studying in Master's degree programs. And, we have established new relationships in China and India.

The coming year will bring more exciting changes to Wesley as we continue our efforts to develop strong and dynamic leaders for the church and the world.

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

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