I. VISION AND MISSION

Our Vision

We are an annual conference of churches
growing in discipleship and ministry
for Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Annual Conference
is to make disciples for Jesus Christ
by equipping its local churches for ministry
and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church,
all to the glory of God.

The primary focus of our Annual Conference
is to identify, support, train and nurture
effective lay and clergy leaders to strengthen
local congregations for ministry in the world.

We are in mission and ministry in the name of Christ
for the transformation of lives and the redemption of the community;
that the hurting may be healed,
that the hungry may be fed,
that the lost may be found,
that the Shalom of God may come upon the earth.

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greater New Jersey Conference

John R. Schol, Bishop

Fourteenth Session of the
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
"A Future with Hope"
The Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ
May 30 – June 1, 2013

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I look forward to gathering with you for annual conference. Together we will praise God, celebrate ministry, worship, fellowship with one another, and conduct the business of the conference. Methodists have been conferencing since 1784 as a way to discern God's calling and ministry for the church. This annual conference we will pray and consider what is next for GNJ. What's beyond 2013, beyond our challenges, and beyond our present ministries. God has *a future with hope* for our congregations and ministry.

This annual conference, there are several important pieces of legislation that will shape our ministry to help us reach beyond our present experiences and explore God's hope for our ministry. Some of the legislation includes:

- A strategic plan developed by the strategic ministry task force and supported by PTT leadership
- A design for a mission fund campaign to support our Sandy Relief Ministry, ending deaths from malaria in Africa and supporting the mission and ministry of congregations in our communities
- A new conference center plan that will be presented by the trustees
- A plan for a new lay leadership academy to develop lay ministry

Significant time, listening, research and prayer has gone into the legislation. I encourage you to prepare for annual conference by reading the following material and praying for our annual conference session.

We will take one offering at the opening worship service on Thursday May 30 for two mission needs:

1. *A Future with Hope* Sandy Relief and Recovery Ministry. This ministry is assisting 25 congregations with rebuilding, repairing the homes of 300-500 low income, elderly and disabled home owners, and counseling those who are dealing with the after affects of Superstorm Sandy.
2. Imagine No Malaria will assist with bed nets, education and other strategies to end deaths from malaria which kills one woman or child every minute in Africa.

Your generosity will make a difference. We invite you to take an offering in your congregation in May and bring the offering with you. Please mark the envelope with your church name and address so that your congregation will receive credit.

This year our conference session will be back in Greater New Jersey. I celebrate the session committee's work on moving the conference session back to Greater New Jersey and to the shore that needs our support at this time. Come, open and expectant, hopeful and prayerful, searching and ready to engage in the journey.

In Christ,

John R. Schol

John R. Schol, Bishop

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JOHN R. SCHOL
Resident Bishop

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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Paul M. Maliel
Cape Atlantic

Varlyna D. Wright
Capital

Richard W. Nichols
Delaware Bay

Jisun Kwak
Gateway North

Robert E. Costello
Gateway South

Fran Lawrie Noll
Northern Shore

Wayne J. Plumstead
Palisades

Barbara A. Rambach
Raritan Valley

Steven G. Bechtold
Skylands

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CONFERENCE OFFICERS

John Cardillo
Treasurer and Director of
Administrative Services

David E. Wiley, III
Conference Secretary

Rosa Williams
Conference Lay Leader

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ORDAINED ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION

Christine N. Day

Cynthia Belsky Stouffer

Kee Young Yang

Robyne Marie Mayer

Sandra Jean Jenkins

Sharon Winner Burniston

Jonathan David Campbell

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ORDAINED DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION

Thomas Albert Lank

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COMMISSIONED AS PROVISIONAL ELDERS

Amarilys Gonzalez-Lopez

Jessica S. Stenstrom

Lori Beth Caulfield

Pamela Grant James

William M. Williams III

Woo Min Lee

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2013 RETIREES

DEACONS: Joanne Drane, Kathleen B. Morris

ELDERS: E. Randall Bean, Gregory Bruton, Joan DeSanctis, Robert Duncan Jr., Linda Hale, Hee Ryun Kim, John Koch, Sharon Ladd, Sang Kyoo Lee, E. Robin Mitchell, William T. Noll, Fred Price, Lanie Price, Wayne C. Richards, Edward Rusk, Donald Tabler, Robert W. Tomer, Richard Twidle, Ernest Williams, William Ziegler

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: William Hess, Charles D. Mitchell

LOCAL PASTORS: Elizabeth Ann Berry, James Craig, G. Mel Dunn, Thomas E. Fisher, Karen Popjes, Johnnie R. White

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