V. GOVERNANCE

LEGISLATION APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

RULES OF ORDER
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
May 2013
Paragraph (¶) references are to the ***2012 Book of Discipline***
Portions in "quotations marks" are Disciplinary wording.

I. MEMBERSHIP

1) **Composition** – "The Annual Conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay speaking ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization and one young person between the ages of twelve and seventeen and one young person between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district… Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members." (¶ 32) Each church shall elect a lay member and an alternate lay member as outlined in Rule 3a. Additional lay members, as provided in Rule 6, shall be members under the lay equalization formula.

2) **Clergy Membership** – "The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge." (¶ 602.1)

a. "Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences, and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy." (¶ 602.1a)

b. "Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶602.b)

c. Associate and affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶ 602.c)

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d. Full-time and part-time local pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments; election of delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. (¶ 602.d)

3) **Election and Qualifications of Lay Members**

a. Lay members and one or more alternate lay members for each church shall be elected quadrennially at the regular meeting of the charge conference following the meeting of the general conference. "Both the lay members and the alternates shall have been professing members in good standing of The United Methodist Church for at least two years and shall have been active participants for at least four years next preceding their election, except in a newly organized church, which shall have the privilege of representation at the annual conference session." (¶ 251.2) There shall be no restriction as to the number of terms for which a qualified person may be elected a lay member or alternate lay member.

b. District youth and young adult representatives may be elected annually by the Ministries with Young People Team.

4) **Seating of Lay Members** – Lay members and alternate lay members shall take office as of January 1 following their election, and the term of office shall be for the ensuing quadrennium. If the regular meeting of a Charge Conference is delayed beyond the year of the meeting of the General Conference, the lay member and alternate lay members shall take office immediately upon election. If the office of lay member or alternate lay member of any church becomes vacant during the quadrennium, a replacement for the unexpired term shall be elected at the next regular meeting of the Charge Conference or at a special meeting thereof. Each District Superintendent shall provide the Conference Secretary with a correct list of lay members from charges within the district by January 15 prior to the first meeting of the Annual Conference in the quadrennium. It shall be to the lay members so listed that credentials shall be issued for seating at sessions of the Annual Conference.

5) **Lay Representation of a Local Church** – If the church's lay representative to the Annual Conference "shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, an alternate lay member in the order of election shall serve in place." (¶ 251.2) If there is no alternate lay member who can attend, another lay member or alternate lay member may be elected by the Charge Conference.

a. The pastor may request the District Superintendent to authorize a special session of the Charge Conference for the purpose of electing a lay member or alternate lay member. A special session of the Charge Conference requires the written consent of the District Superintendent in his/her absence, and at least ten days advance notice to its members. (¶ 250)

b. The pastor shall report to the District Superintendent and the Conference Secretary, in writing, the name and address of the elected lay member or alternate lay member.

c. Under no circumstances shall a person who is not duly elected as stated above be seated at sessions of the Annual Conference.

6) **Equalization of Lay Members –** "If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of

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the Annual Conference." (¶ 32) Members will be added in the order listed until the required number of additional lay members is reached. All terms will be for the quadrennium with the exception of category "i" below which shall be annually.

a. The following persons shall be named as additional Lay Members to Annual Conference:

i. The Conference Secretary, Conference Treasurer, and Conference Statistician, when persons elected to these offices are lay persons who meet the disciplinary requirements for Conference membership and are not otherwise elected.

ii. Elected Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

iii. Lay Chairpersons of the following agencies not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference: Council on Finance and Administration, Commission on Archives and History, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Committee on the Episcopacy, Board of Pensions, Board of Trustees, Board of Church and Society, Board of Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Commission on Camps and Conferences, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Commission on Communications, <u>and</u> Commission on the Ethnic Local Church.

iv. The past conference Lay Leaders not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference. This includes the former Northern New Jersey and Southern New Jersey Conferences as well as the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

v. Laity members of the Council on Finance and Administration not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

vi. Laity members of the Sessions Committee not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

vii. The District Presidents of United Methodist Women and District Presidents of United Methodist Men not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

viii. Lay Missionaries not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

ix. The District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

x. The co-secretaries of the Ministries with Young People Team, the Youth Service Fund Chairperson and one additional Youth and Young Adult from each District not otherwise elected as Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

b. Nominations for additional Lay members from local churches: In the year preceding the beginning of the quadrennium, the Laity Council shall solicit nominations for additional Lay Members from local churches through Administrative Boards or Councils. The Laity Council will receive the nominations and elect those who will serve as additional Lay Members for the succeeding quadrennium. Vacancies that occur during the quadrennium shall be filled by the action of the Laity Council.

7) **Lay Membership** – "The lay members of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license,

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ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the committee on investigation." (¶ 602.6)

8) **Seated Without Vote** – The following shall be seated without vote in the Annual Conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: student local pastors, lay missionaries regularly appointed by the Board of Global Ministries in fields outside the United States, and the Conference Chancellor "if not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference" (¶602.10) The following shall be invited to attend the Annual Conference, without voice or vote, on the same financial basis as members of the Annual Conference: spouses of deceased clergy members, persons not officially eligible for appointment who have been assigned by the District Superintendents between sessions of Annual Conference as pastors in charge with the intention of appointment or reassignment for the ensuing conference year, and persons to be presented for consecration as Diaconal Ministers or ordained as Deacons or Elders. Staff and clerical personnel necessary for the conducting of the Annual Conference Session shall attend at conference expense.

9) **Attendance of Members** – "It is the duty of every member and all probationers and local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions and furnish such reports in such form as the *Discipline* may require. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the board of ordained ministry." (¶ 602.8)

II. ORGANIZATION

10) **Presiding Officer** – The Resident Bishop shall preside over the Annual Conference, or "in case of inability, arrange for another bishop to preside. In the absence of the bishop, the Conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a President pro-tempore from among the traveling elders. The President Pro-tempore thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except ordination." (¶ 603.6)

a. The Presiding Officer shall see that all business pertaining to the Conference shall be brought forward and conducted in a proper manner, according to the provisions of the *Discipline* and Rules for the Conference.

b. The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to the right of appeal by any member of the Conference.

c. The Presiding Officer shall appoint all committees and officers not otherwise designated to the Nominating Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Conference.

d. The Presiding Officer shall appoint an elder to preside at the Conference during any temporary absence.

11) **Conference Secretary** – At the session following the General Conference, the Annual Conference shall elect a Secretary to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. The Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet, shall present the nomination. Term of office shall not exceed two consecutive quadrennia. "In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference." (¶ 603.7) Term limits of Rule 58a. shall apply.

a. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Conference, authenticating by signature all acts of the Conference.

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b. The Secretary shall handle all notification and communications directed by the Conference.

c. Unless otherwise directed, the Secretary shall handle all other matters that normally come under the Secretary's responsibility.

d. The Secretary shall have the responsibility for editing, publishing and distributing the Journal, Yearbook and Minutes of the Annual Conference.

e. The Secretary shall nominate a staff for election by the Conference.

12) **Conference Statistician** – At the first session following the General Conference, the Annual Conference shall elect a Statistician to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. "In the case of a vacancy in the interim of the sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference." (¶ 603.7)

13) **Conference Treasurer** – The "annual conference, on nomination of its council on finance and administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the quadrennial session of the general conference or jurisdictional conference, or at such other times as a vacancy exists, elect a conference treasurer/director of administrative services. If a vacancy shall occur during the quadrennium, the council shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference." (¶ **619**)

14) **Conference Chancellor** – The Annual Conference may designate as Chancellor a layperson who is a member in good standing of one of the local churches or a clergyperson who is a member of the Annual Conference in the Episcopal Area, and who is a member of the appropriate bar or bars in the Episcopal Area. The chancellor, who shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference, shall serve as legal advisor to the Bishop and the Annual Conference. (¶ 603.8)

15) **Conference Parliamentarian** – There shall be a Parliamentarian at each Plenary Session of the Annual Conference. The Bishop shall select the Parliamentarian(s).

16) **Rules of Order Committee** –

a. There shall be a standing Rules of Order Committee of eight (8) members, four (4) clergy and four (4) lay, nominated by the Committee on Nominations. The Conference Parliamentarian, if not already a member, shall be an ex-officio member of this committee with vote.

b. The Committee shall present the Rules of Order for adoption at every annual and/or special Conference Session, prior to the consideration of any business.

III. BUSINESS PROCEDURES

17) **Roll Call** – The Conference Secretary shall take the roll of all members of this Annual Conference, both clergy and lay, by card registration while the Conference is in session, and the attendance shall be recorded in the Journal. Upon registration, members shall receive a name badge stating: name, church or position, and privileged status of voting.

18) **The Bar of the Conference** – The bar of the Conference shall be fixed at the beginning of each Annual Conference on motion of the Secretary. All members of the Conference, lay and clergy, must be seated within the bar of the Conference to have the privilege of the floor and to vote. Other persons shall be seated outside the bar of the Conference as indicated by the ushers.

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19) **Pre-Conference Reports and Recommendations** –

a. Reports –

i. There shall be a Pre-Conference Workbook which shall contain, insofar as possible, all reports of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams to be received and adopted by the Conference Session as the official reports of these organizations and, subject to editorial corrections, shall be printed in the Journal.

ii. All reports submitted to the Conference Session but not included in the Pre-Conference Workbook shall be received and acted upon by the Conference Session and, subject to editorial corrections, be printed in the Journal.

iii. No reports or recommendations of any Conference agency excepting the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Committee on Nominations, and then only with the consent of the Bishop, shall be acted upon unless (1) it shall have been included in the Pre-Conference Workbook or (2) it shall have been distributed in printed form to all Conference members at least twenty-four (24) hours before presentation to the Conference or (3) the Bishop grants permission to the chair of the agency requesting to present a report or recommendation without this twenty-four (24) hour notice.

b. Recommendations -

i. The Pre-Conference Workbook shall contain, insofar as possible, all recommendations of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams to be received and acted upon by the Annual Conference, and printed in the Journal.

ii. All recommendations not included in the Pre-Conference Workbook shall be received and acted upon by the Annual Conference, and printed in the Journal.

20) **Printed Program** – The printed program as contained in the Pre-Conference Workbook shall be the official program of the session of the Annual Conference, subject to necessary modifications by the Chairperson of the Session Agenda Subcommittee.

21) **Official Journal** – The printed Conference Journal, signed by the Presiding Officer and the Secretary, shall be the official Journal of the conference.

22) **Copy for the Journal** – All copies for publication in the Conference Journal shall be in the hands of the Editor of the Journal by the close of the Conference Session. Exceptions to this rule shall be at the discretion of the Editor.

a. All actions of the Conference shall be printed in the Conference Journal except when, by specific action of the Conference, the Editor of the Journal and the author of the action shall be empowered to edit the contents of a given action. Rationales, preambles or supporting statements shall not be printed except in the case of complimentary resolutions.

b. Memoirs shall be limited to five hundred (500) words.

c. Addresses delivered to the Conference Session shall not be printed in the Conference Journal, except for those of the Bishop, the District Superintendents and Conference Lay Leader(s). A motion to so print shall be out of order unless prior permission to make the motion shall have been received in writing by a committee composed of the Secretary of the Conference, the Editor of the Journal, the Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Chair of the Conference Sessions Committee and the Dean of the Conference Cabinet.

23) **Distribution** – The Journal shall be distributed according to the following formula:

a. One mailed paper copy for each surviving spouse of clergy or laity member in the year the Memorial is printed in the Journal at no cost.

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b. One paper copy each to conference officers, agency chairpersons, and general and jurisdictional agencies as required by the *Discipline*.

c. One mailed paper copy upon request to retired clergy and survivors at no cost.

d. A CD-ROM copy of the Journal shall be mailed to active clergy, laity and local churches at no cost.

e. Paper copies of the Journal for active clergy, laity and churches shall be mailed upon request for a $10.00 fee.

f. All Annual Conference reports will be made available on the conference website.

g. Clergy and Lay members may have the option of declining to receive a CD-ROM.

24) **Copyright** – In order to protect its directories and contents from unauthorized use, the Conference Secretary shall copyright the Journal on behalf of the Annual Conference.

25) **Mail Ballot -** In an emergency situation as declared by the Council on Finance and Administration, a mail ballot may be taken of the Annual Conference. All members of the Annual Conference immediately preceding the emergency will receive ballots. The vote will be confidential with the outside envelope requiring the signature of the member.

IV. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

26) **Order of Precedence of Motions** –

a. Not debatable

Privileged

Fix time at which to adjourn (when privileged)*#

Adjourn (when privileged)

Take a recess (when privileged)*#

Raise a question of privilege

Call for the orders of the day

ii. Subsidiary

Lay on the table (2/3)

Previous question (2/3)

Limit or extend time of debate (2/3)

b. Debatable

Postpone to a certain time

Commit or refer

Amend

Postpone indefinitely

Main motions

* Can be amended; the others cannot be amended. (from *Robert's Rules of Order*)

\# Is privileged only when other business is before the Conference. (from *RRO*)

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27) **Main Motion** – A main motion is a proposal that the Conference take certain action, or that it express itself as holding certain views. Any member may make a motion.

28) **Motions Which Are Not Debatable** – The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

a. To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference.

b. To suspend the rules. (2/3 vote)

c. To take from the table.

d. To call for the previous question. (2/3 vote)

e. To reconsider a nondebatable motion.

f. To limit or extend the limits of debate. (2/3 vote)

g. To call for the order of the day.

29) **Precedence of Secondary Motions** – If any one or more of the following motions are pending, the order of precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

a. To fix the time at which the Conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment or it may be laid on the table.)

b. To adjourn.

c. To take a recess.

d. To order the previous question.

e. To lay on the table.

f. To limit or extend the limits of debate.

g. To postpone to a certain time.

h. To commit or refer.

i. To amend or substitute.

j. To postpone indefinitely.

30) **When a Second is not Required** – The following do not require a second, pursuant to latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order.*

a. To raise a question of privilege.

b. Question of order.

c. Objection to the consideration of a question.

d. Call for the order of the day.

e. Call for the division of the question.

f. Call for the division of the Conference (for voting).

g. Call for the motion to reconsider.

h. Filling blanks.

i. Nominations.

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j. Leave to withdraw a motion.

k. Inquiries of any kind.

l. Presentation of a report or recommendation by a Conference agency.

31) **Division of Question** – Before a vote is taken, any member has the right to call for the division of the question as the member indicates, if it is subject to division. If no member objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the Chair, not waiting for a second, shall put the division to a vote.

32) **Tabling Related Motions** – No motion that adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. If they are laid on the table, such motions carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere or which adhere to them.

33) **Motions After Speaking on a Pending Question** –

a. A member may make a motion after a speech, although strict parliamentary practice requires motion to be made and seconded before a speech is made so the Conference may determine if it wishes to hear the matter. A courtesy second is usually forthcoming in this conference.

b. No member who has spoken on a pending question shall at the close of the speech have the right to call for the previous question, to move for indefinite postponement, or to lay the motion on the table.

34) **Previous Question** – To move the previous question is to move that the vote now be taken on the motion or motions pending.

a. When moving a previous question, a member shall indicate to what such action applies if any secondary motion or motions are pending. If the member does not so indicate, the chair may regard it as applying only to the immediate pending question. This vote shall be taken without debate and if, in the judgment of the chair, two thirds (2/3) of those present vote for its adoption, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motion to which it applies.

b. It shall not be in order to move the previous question in cases involving character or Conference relations.

35) **Reconsideration of a Question** – A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time during the prevailing session if offered by a member who voted with the majority. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is not debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated.

36) **Suspension of Rules** – The application of any of the provisions of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Conference.

37) **Motions and Resolutions are to be Written** –

a. All motions, resolutions and reports shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, properly signed by the movers thereof.

b. Motions made on the floor shall be written on forms provided by the Secretary.

38) **When a Motion is in Possession of the Conference** – When a motion is made and seconded, or a resolution introduced and seconded, or a report presented and/or read before the Conference, or stated by the Chair it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference. But any motion may be withdrawn or altered by the mover with the consent of the Conference at any time before voting has commenced.

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39) **Amendments and Substitutions** –

a. Only one amendment to an amendment shall be in order.

b. It is in order to move a substitute for the main motion. In such case, the Chair shall proceed to perfect the original motion. When the main motion has been perfected, the Chair shall state the question on the substitute. If the substitute is adopted, it shall replace the original main motion and become the main motion. The Chair will then state the question on the (new) main motion. The new main motion can be amended only by addition. If the substitute does not carry, the Chair shall state the question on the original main motion as it has been perfected.

40) **Order of Amendments** – When a main motion, report or resolution is under consideration, only one amendment and one amendment to that amendment are permissible. While there can be only one amendment of each degree pending at the same time, any number of amendments can be offered in succession. A substitute and one amendment to the substitute may be offered while amendments of the first and second degree are pending. The permissive order then is: 1) main motion, 2) amendment, 3) amendment to the amendment, 4) substitute, and 5) amendment to the substitute. The voting in this order is 3, 2, 5, 4, 1. If the substitute becomes the main motion, it shall be treated as such.

41) **Appeal** – An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be taken without debate, provided that after the Chair shall have stated the reason for the decision, the appellant may give the grounds for the appeal. (¶ 51)

42) **The Question of Consideration** – The question of consideration may be raised by any member upon the presentation of any matter that shall be deemed irrelevant, unprofitable or contentious, and shall be decided without debate by majority vote. This applies only to the main motion.

43) **Method of Voting** – Voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise ordered by the Conference. It shall be in order for any member to call for a vote by ballot or by count on any question before the Conference, and, if the call be sustained by one-third (1/3) of the members present and voting, a vote shall be taken as called for.

44) ***Robert's Rules of Order*, Supplemental Authority** – In any parliamentary situation not covered in these Rules of Order, the Conference shall be governed in its action by the appropriate provisions of the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

V. SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR

45) **Securing the Floor** – Before speaking in debate or delivering any matter to the Conference, a member shall raise a card provided for the purpose of gaining recognition. When the member has been recognized by the Bishop, the member shall proceed to a designated microphone. Before speaking, members shall state their name and local church or affiliation.

46) **Limitations on Debate** –

a. The chairperson of the agency that originated the report or recommendation(s) shall present them as the main motion before the plenary session, and shall have five (5) minutes for comment, except as provided under h) below.

b. If there is a (are) minority report(s) or recommendation(s) from members of the agency, a representative shall be allowed five (5) minutes for a presentation.

c. All debate on the floor of the Conference shall follow the principle of alternate debate, that is, a speaker for, then a speaker against. When no speaker on the side opposed to the last speaker is ready, the President may recognize one who desires to speak on the same side as the prior speaker.

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d. No person shall speak more than once on the same question without permission of the Conference, except as provided under g) below.

e. No person shall speak more than three (3) minutes at one time without permission of the Conference, except as provided under a) or h).

f. The initiator of the main motion shall in all cases be entitled to three (3) minutes to either

i. oppose the motion to lay the report or recommendation(s) on the table.

ii. close the debate before the report or recommendation is voted upon.

g. An agency presenting Special Reports at the direction of the Conference shall have sufficient time as determined by the Sessions Committee to present such reports and recommendations.

h. Except for non-debatable motions, no report or motion shall be put to the question without the opportunity having been given for at least two (2) speeches for and two (2) speeches against the pending question. After two (2) speeches pro and two (2) speeches con and provided no secondary (subsidiary, privileged or incidental) motions come to the floor and no other member seeks the floor to speak on the pending question, the question shall automatically be put to the question.

j. The motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the pending question until opportunity has been given for at least two (2) members to speak on each side of the pending question.

47) **Representation of Committees** – When the chairperson of a Conference agency is not in harmony with a report or recommendation adopted by the agency, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to the agency. The agency may then elect one of its members to represent it in the presentation of the report or recommendation in Conference. If the committee fails to elect such a representative, the chairperson may designate a member to represent the committee.

48) **To Limit or Extend Debate** – To move to limit or extend the limits of debate is in order at any time, except when a member has the floor.

49) **Interrupting the Speaker** – No one shall interrupt a member who has the floor except for a breach of order, a misrepresentation, a departure from the question, to direct the attention of the Conference that the time has arrived for a special order of the day, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

50) **Questions of Privilege** – All requests to be recognized for matters of privilege must be made in writing to the Conference Secretary. They shall state the reason for the request to address the conference and the purpose of the request. The requests will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Conference Lay Leader, Conference Secretary, and the Chair of Conference Sessions. The committee shall recommend to the Presiding Bishop whether or not to recognize the requestor for the purpose of presenting the matter of privilege. The Presiding Bishop shall have sole authority in receiving and acting upon the recommendation of the committee.

51) **Announcements, Courtesy Presentations and Distribution of papers** –

a. Announcements of matters of information to the Conference shall be submitted on the Announcement Authorization Form to the Conference Secretary before the conclusion of the plenary session prior to the plenary session when the announcement will be made unless it is an emergency matter which may be submitted as soon as possible after the matter is known.

b. Courtesy Presentations are speeches during a plenary session by a person not a member of Annual Conference or by a member as a matter of courtesy. They shall be handled in the following manner:

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i. Spread across the agenda for plenary sessions, there shall be a total of no more than one hour of time for special presentations of a promotional or informational nature.

ii. These presentations are not questions of privilege, but courtesies extended in the interest of the Conference.

iii. Requests for agenda time for such presentations shall be made of the Chair of the Agenda Committee, preferably not less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

iv. Decisions as to the distribution of this time are the responsibility of the Chair of the Agenda Committee in consultation with the Bishop, Conference Secretary and the Chair of the Annual Conference Sessions Committee.

v. There shall be a time limit of five (5) minutes for each such presentation.

vi. During reports and presentations that are on the agenda, in accordance with these Rules of Order, those committees, boards, agencies and programs that are reporting may request non-members be permitted to address the conference as part of the presentations.

c. Papers or other materials for general distribution anywhere in the areas set for Annual Conference (including the dining area) must be submitted in sufficient time [but at least one full plenary session in advance] for the Sessions Team Chair to review and approve the distribution which will then occur one plenary session after the approval. The Chair will decide on the time, place and manner of distribution.

52) Privilege of the Floor for Lay Members of Conference Agencies – Laypersons not members of the Conference but currently serving on Conference agencies shall have the privilege of the floor without vote.

53) **Lay Officers of a Conference Agency** – Any Lay Officer of any Conference agency, who is not a lay member of the Conference, shall have the privilege to move and defend the report of the group such Lay Officer represents, without vote.

VI. NOMINATIONS

54) **Representation** – The Committee on Nominations will abide by ¶ 610.5 of the *Discipline* in its efforts to provide diversity and recommended representation of one-third clergy, one-third lay women, and one-third laymen on all Conference agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils and teams. In order to aid the Committee on Nominations in its work, it is requested that any member of the Conference who has a personal preference to serve on any particular agency communicate such personal preference to the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations on the appropriate form prior to January 1. The Committee on Nominations will receive and consider the request but cannot guarantee any nominations. All nominations from the floor must be submitted on forms supplied in the pre-conference mailing or secured from the Chairperson of Nominations prior to placing the name in nomination. The signatures of the nominator and nominee must be on the form or it will be declared invalid. Nominations will not be accepted for membership on agencies appointed by the Bishop or any agency whose by-laws define the nomination and election process.

55) **Chairpersons** – The Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, all chairpersons for agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils and teams. All terms shall be for the quadrennium. The Committee on Nominations Chairperson shall alternate between a clergy member and a lay member each quadrennium. The exceptions shall be those provided in the *Discipline*, the Conference structure, or the by-laws of Conference agencies.

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When a vacancy occurs between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee shall nominate a replacement and the Primary Task Team shall confirm the replacement for the balance of the Conference year. The Conference Nominating Committee shall submit a nomination for chairperson to be elected for the balance of the quadrennium at the next session of the Annual Conference.

56) **To Fill Vacancies** – All members of agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils and teams shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee unless otherwise provided for in the *Discipline*, by Conference structure, or by by-laws of Conference agencies.

a. When vacancies are to be filled, the Committee on Nominations shall present one or more names for each position to be filled. Preference shall be given to members of the Annual Conference. Nothing herein shall exclude additional nominations from the floor of the Conference. All nominations from the floor must be submitted on forms supplied in the pre-conference mailing or secured from the Chairperson of Nominations prior to placing the name in nomination. The signatures of the nominator and nominee must be on the form or it will be declared invalid.

b. Vacancies that occur between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled until the next regular Conference Session by the original nominating authority unless otherwise specified in the *Discipline*.

c. When a person duly nominated and elected to any Conference agency does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the agency, it shall be the responsibility of the chairperson to attempt to contact that person by mail or telephone with a view to activation or resignation. The chairpersons shall report in writing annually to the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations regarding contact with all non-participants and the results of such contacts. This information shall be provided by January 31 of each year.

57) **Elections** –

a. The report of the Committee on Nominations shall be distributed in the Pre-Conference mailing and/or the packet received at the seat of the Annual Conference. The report shall be presented without reading. Upon adoption of a motion to close nominations, the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations shall move the election of all nominees whose elections are uncontested.

b. When the number of persons nominated exceeds the vacancies on an agency or when more than one person is nominated for a specific office, there shall be a written ballot listing only those persons where a contest exists. The ballot will be taken at a time subsequent to the election in a) above. The ballot shall be spread, collected and tallied by tellers selected by the Conference Secretary, who shall report the results listing only those elected. Election shall be by a majority of those voting. Lacking a majority, there shall be another ballot listing only those receiving 25% or more of the votes.

58) **Quadrennial Agencies**

a. An elected member of a conference or district committee, board or agency shall be eligible for not more than two consecutive four year terms unless specified otherwise in the Book of Discipline. Service of two years or more in filling an unexpired or vacated position shall be counted as a full four year term. For this purpose, annual conference to annual conference shall be considered one year, regardless of the actual dates of the conferences.

b. Persons elected by the Annual Conference to serve in an affiliated organization* may serve in accord with the by-laws of the organization in which they are elected to serve, except that

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no term of office may exceed five years. All persons elected or reelected to serve in an affiliated organization shall be elected in accord with the Annual Conference rules on nomination and election.
*An affiliated organization is one that wishes to maintain a connectional relationship with the United Methodist Church through the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

c. Members of the Annual Conference who are voting members of a general agency shall serve as ex-officio (with vote) members of the corresponding annual conference agency or its equivalent structure **(¶¶610.6, 710.4 and 710.6)**.

59) **Quorum** – The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting of a Conference agency, board, commission, committee, council or team shall constitute a quorum.

60) **Limitations of Service** – No person shall be elected to more than two conference agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils or teams, except for persons who are ex-officio members by virtue of an office or as a member of a general agency.

61) **District Superintendent Voting** – A District Superintendent regularly assigned to any Conference agency by the Cabinet shall have a vote in that agency, and only the District Superintendent so assigned shall have the right to vote, except where the *Discipline* provides otherwise.

VII. PETITIONS AND ELECTIONS TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

62) **Petitions to General Conference** – All petitions to General Conference shall be presented as prescribed in ¶ 507 of the *Discipline*. Petitions for endorsement by the Annual Conference to General Conference will only be considered in the year in which General Conference delegates will be elected.

63) **Nominations** – The Conference Secretary shall provide for the receiving of nominations during the month of March of a year in which elections to General and Jurisdictional Conference are to be held. Each nomination shall be submitted on one side of an 81/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper or by electronic means designated by the Conference Secretary. On the bottom of nominations for Lay Delegates shall be the names of two Lay Members of the Annual conference making the nomination. On the bottom of nominations for Clergy Delegates shall be the names of two Clergy Members in Full Connection (elders or deacons) making the nomination. Additional nominations may be made by two Lay Members or two Clergy Members respectively in the Lay and Clergy Sessions. Nothing herein shall preclude the right of members to write on their ballots the names of persons who have not been nominated. At the session of the Annual Conference immediately preceding the General Conference, time shall be allowed during the clergy and laity sessions to nominate for election to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

a. When nominations are closed, nominees may address their respective sessions for no more than two minutes each.

b. Speeches regarding any clergy or lay members with intent to support a nomination shall be out of order after voting has started. No speeches will be in order during the plenary session regarding election of delegates, once the voting has started. Voting is held to have started when the motion setting the time for balloting is made from the floor.

64) **Balloting** – The Conference Secretary shall announce the number of clergy delegates to be elected. A like number of lay delegates will be elected.

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a. The first ballot shall be taken at a time set by motion from the floor after the Secretary's announcement.

b. Balloting shall be by electronic or mechanical means.

c. The Secretary shall announce a Chief Clergy Teller and a Chief Lay Teller, and two lists each of clergy and lay assistants.

65) **Voting –** All members, lay and clergy, must be within the bar of the Conference to be eligible to vote.

a. Before each ballot, the President shall announce the number of delegates each ballot shall elect. To be effective, a ballot must list the exact number of names of lay or clergy delegates to be elected.

b. The intent of the voter shall be allowed regardless of mistakes in spelling.

c. Where there is more than one member with the same family name, the Christian name or identifying initials shall precede the family name.

d. A majority of valid votes cast shall be necessary for election.

66) **Counting and Reporting –**

a. When the ballot report is ready, the Secretary shall ask the President to announce the results. The business of the conference may be interrupted to do so. The results will be displayed before the next ballot is taken.

b. If necessary, another ballot shall be taken in like manner, and so on, until the proper number of delegates has been chosen.

67) **Qualifications –**

a. Clergy Delegates – The *Discipline*, ¶ 35 (Article IV), permits any active or retired member of the Annual Conference in full connection to be eligible for election to the General or Jurisdictional Conferences.

b. Lay Delegates - The *Discipline*, ¶ 36 (Article V), asserts that lay delegates shall be elected "without regard to age, provided that such delegates shall have been professing members of the United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in the United Methodist church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the Annual Conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional Conferences."

68) **Reserve Delegates –** Three reserve clergy delegates and reserve lay delegates shall be elected in like manner after the regular delegates have been elected.

VIII. CONCERNING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

69) **Budget –** The Annual Conference shall adopt at each Annual Session a budget for each of the following: Clergy Support, Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other Apportioned Funds. These budgets become effective for the fiscal year beginning on January 1st following the session. Apportionments of these budgets shall be sent to the several churches as soon after the session as is feasible.

70) **Apportionments –** The Conference Shared Ministry Budget shall be divided annually among the churches of the Conference according to a formula recommended by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and adopted by the Annual Conference. Following adoption, the formula will remain in effect until such time as changes are recommended by the CF&A and

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adopted by the Annual Conference. The formula shall be outlined on a Shared Ministry data sheet, which shall be distributed to the churches as soon as practical after the end of each year's annual conference, but in no event later than the end of the fiscal year.

71) **Prior Action by Council on Finance and Administration** – Every motion, recommendation, resolution or other legislative act having to do with budgeting, apportionments, allotments or expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration. After adequate time is allowed for investigation and study, the council shall report its recommendation to the Conference. This report shall be received before such legislation may be acted upon by the Annual Conference.

a. No agency or member of the Conference shall commit the Conference financially for the support of programs within or beyond the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference without first obtaining the approval of the Annual Conference after study and recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration, and not until funds are available or have been allocated to meet such commitments.

b. Any person or agency requesting an emergency offering should contact one of the Team Coordinators, who will present the matter to the Cabinet and the Council on Finance and Administration. Any funds received as a result of such an offering will be held by the treasurer and administered by a task force established by the Cabinet for that particular appeal.

72) **Time Limit on Submitting Budget Requests** –

a. Requests for inclusion of an item in the Clergy Support Budget and/or the Administrative Costs of the Annual Conference Budget to be acted on by an Annual Conference shall be submitted to the Treasurer's office by the third Monday of January preceding the date of the Annual Conference, except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

b. Requests for inclusion of an item in the World Service Budget and/or the Conference Benevolences Budget to be acted on by an Annual Conference shall be submitted to one of the Team Coordinators by February 1st preceding the date of the Annual Conference, except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

73) **Amending Allotments** – An agency shall not attempt to amend its allotment in a proposed budget submitted to an Annual Conference unless it has previously presented an appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration at a meeting held preceding the date of the Conference.

74) **Increased Asking by Amendment** – In amending a proposed budget on the floor of the Annual Conference, no item shall be increased above the amount originally requested by the responsible agency in its asking to the Council on Finance and Administration, except when the consent of both the agency and the Council has been obtained.

75) **Proper Use of Budgeted Funds** – No agency of the Conference shall spend budgeted funds for any purpose other than the general purpose for which the funds were originally requested, unless the consent of the Council on Finance and Administration and the Ministries Team has been obtained for such a reallocation. An expenditure item shall be budgeted in the year when it is expected to be spent, and it shall be spent only in the year in which it is budgeted. When uncontrollable circumstances warrant, an emergency request may be directed through the Ministries Team to the Council on Finance and Administration for a budget adjustment.

76) **Financial Appeals to the Churches** – Any agency planning to send a communication or appeal to the churches requesting contributions to any agency or fund shall first submit its proposed communication or appeal to the Council on Finance and Administration. The Council shall ascertain if the procedure is in accord with existing legislation, and shall make certain that remitting instructions are correct. Any contribution received by the Conference Treasurer in

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response to a communication which has not been cleared as herein provided shall be credited automatically to World Service and Conference Benevolences through the remitting church.

77) **Customary Draft** – When presented and endorsed, the customary draft from the United Methodist Publishing House shall be turned over to the Conference Treasurer for pensions for clergy of the central conferences.

78) **Bonding** – All persons who hold or disburse conference funds shall be bonded in such amounts as may be deemed wise by the Council on Finance and Administration.

79) **Fiscal Year** – The fiscal year shall coincide with the calendar year. All payments to be credited to a given fiscal year shall be in the hands of the Conference Treasurer not later than the following January 10th. All local church financial reports shall be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer by a deadline to be announced annually.

80) **Audit** – The Council on Finance and Administration shall be responsible for arranging that a Certified Public Accountant shall audit the accounts of the Annual Conference. The Council on Finance and Administration shall publish a statement of Certification of each audit in the Journal.

IX. CONSENT CALENDAR

81) **Consent Calendar** –

a. The Conference Agenda Committee may present to the Annual Conference a proposed consent calendar, including those items which the Annual Conference may approve with one vote of approval by the Conference membership.

b. A written list of items on the consent calendar, including the name of the motion, name of the author, and page number in the Pre-Conference Workbook will be presented to all members of the Conference upon check-in at the Conference session.

c. The consent calendar list will include a space where Conference members may check any item(s) which they would like to see removed from the consent calendar.

d. To vote to remove an item from the consent calendar, Conference members must:

i. Check the item(s) they wish to see removed from the list, or

ii. Write in an item which has been added subsequently by Conference action.

iii. Print their name and church on the list, and sign the list.

iv. Bring the list to the Conference Secretary's table and give the list to the Conference Secretary or one of the Assistant Secretaries.

e. If any item on the consent calendar receives ten (10) or more such votes in favor of removing it from the consent calendar, that item will be removed and placed on the Conference agenda by the Agenda Committee.

f. All requests for items to be removed from the consent calendar shall be delivered to the Conference Secretary as early as possible, but no requests will be received within the last twenty-four (24) hours before the stated time of adjournment of the Conference session. During this last twenty-four (24) hour period, items may only be removed from the consent calendar by a ¾ vote of the Conference.

X. NOMINATION OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES

82) **Nomination of Episcopal Candidates -** The procedure for nomination of Episcopal Candidates to the Jurisdictional Conference as permitted by ¶405 of the ***Book of Discipline*** shall be as follows:

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a. The Bishop shall, before the ballot is taken, remind the Annual Conference of the eligibility requirements for election to the office of the episcopacy.

b. The Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall have the privilege to place the name of the person(s) they have endorsed for the episcopacy before the Annual Conference. Then the Bishop shall ask if there are additional nominations from the floor. If not, the Bishop shall call for a vote of the body. A majority vote will be sufficient for this person (these persons) to be recognized as the episcopal nominee(s) of the Annual Conference.

c. If there are additional nominations, the Bishop shall call for a written ballot following this procedure:

i. Nominees may each give a three minute speech. There shall be no seconding speeches.

ii. If any ballot contains the name of an ineligible person, that name shall not be tallied, but other names on the ballot shall be tallied.

iii. Conference members may vote for one to five* nominees. (*This number shall be determined by the number of bishops to be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference.) Those who do not wish to see anyone nominated may write the words "no one" on their ballot and the ballot shall be counted as cast.

d. Any person(s) being named on a majority of ballots cast shall be considered to be an episcopal nominee of the Annual Conference. Only the person(s) selected in the foregoing manner shall be deemed a Nominee of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

e. This procedure shall not foreclose efforts by individuals or groups in the Annual Conference to promote the candidacy for the episcopacy of other persons.

XI. RULES OF ORDER RESOLUTIONS

83) **Resolutions to change the Rules of Order –**

a. Any resolution or proposed change, by addition or deletion to the Rules of Order, with the exception of **VIII Concerning Financial Operations**, shall first be referred to the Committee on Rules of Order for its recommendation. The Committee shall submit its recommendation to the body prior to any action by the body. The initiator of any proposed change to be included in the Pre-conference mailing shall at the same time submit a copy of said proposed change to the chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Order. The Rules Committee may request a meeting with the initiator prior to the convening of the Annual Conference.

b. If the change is proposed at the site of the Annual Conference, it shall be referred to the Committee on Rules of Order and a report to the body will be made no later than the next plenary session.

XII. HOLY CONFERENCING PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

84) A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used at the Bishop's discretion to discuss petitions to General Conference regarding issues related to human sexuality or such other issues that would benefit from the discretion of the Bishop.

A special order of the day will be established to provide for holy conferencing. The special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

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1) Representatives of the two primary positions selected by the Bishop will each make a twenty-minute presentation.
2) Upon conclusion of the opening presentations, the Bishop shall bring the Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
3) Then ten minutes will be provided for delegates to share what they heard with their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
4) The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Delegates will then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. Sixty minutes will be allotted for this. No delegate may speak longer than two minutes. Each speaker will be notified when ten seconds remain of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a sentence at the expiration of their time. Then, that microphone will be cut off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until sixty minutes have elapsed or everyone who wished to be recognized had an opportunity to speak, whichever comes first. No subsidiary, privileged or incidental motions will be in order during this time of discussion.
5) The regular business of the Conference will then resume.

At a previously noted time during plenary session on the following session day, the petitions will be voted upon by secret written ballot. Thirty minutes will be allotted for this vote. No debate or motions will be in order at this time.

XIII. HOLY CONFERENCING PROCEDURE FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

85) A procedure to facilitate holy conferencing shall be used at the Bishop's discretion to discuss proposed Constitutional amendments coming from the General Conference.

A special order of the day will be established to provide for holy conferencing. The special order of the day shall proceed as follows:

1. The co-chairs of the delegation to General Conference will present the proposed amendments to the Conference in a fifteen minute presentation.
2. Upon conclusion of the opening presentation, the Bishop shall bring the Conference into silent prayer for two minutes.
3. Then up to ten minutes will be provided for members to share what they heard with their fellow Christians seated to their immediate left and right. This is not a time for debate, but rather to listen to what their neighbors heard.
4. The Bishop will then call the Conference to order. Members will then have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Conference. Sixty minutes will be allotted for this. No member may speak longer than two minutes. Each speaker will be notified when ten seconds remains of their time. The speaker will be allowed to finish a sentence at the expiration of their time. Then, that microphone will be cut off and the next speaker will be recognized. This will continue until sixty minutes have elapsed or everyone who wishes to speak has been recognized whichever comes first. No changes are permitted to be made to Constitutional amendments.
5. The regular business of the Conference will then resume.

At a previously noted time during a subsequent plenary session, the amendments will be voted upon by secret ballot. Members will be able to vote in favor of or against each individual amendment. If a member wishes to abstain, the member will leave the ballot blank for that particular amendment.

Should any of the foregoing Rules of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference be in conflict with

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the provisions of the current Book of Discipline, then the provisions of the Discipline shall take precedence.

Trustees Enabling Resolutions

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby ratifies, approves and confirms actions taken by the Conference Board of Trustees since the last Annual Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2014 Annual Session, any property, real or personal, is conveyed or transferred to the Annual Conference by any church or other person, firm, partnership, or corporation, the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, provided that the same be approved by the Bishop and Cabinet, to sell, transfer, lease or convey any such real or personal property for such price, and at such time or times, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church be and hereby are authorized in the name, and on behalf of the Conference, to execute and deliver the Conference deed of conveyance or instrument of transfer and all other instruments and documents to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution, and to affix the corporate seal of the Conference thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President or Vice-President or Treasurer of the Corporation is hereby fully authorized and empowered to transfer, convey, endorse, sell, assign, and deliver any and all stock, bonds, evidence of interest and/or indebtedness, and all other securities, corporate or otherwise, now or hereafter standing in the name or owned by this Corporation and to make, execute, and deliver, any property to effectuate the authority hereby conferred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that whenever there shall be annexed to any instrument of assignment and transfer, executed pursuant to and in accordance with the foregoing resolution, a certificate of the Secretary or of an Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of such certificate, and such certificate shall set forth these resolutions and shall state that these resolutions are in full force and effect, then all persons to whom such instrument with the annexed certificate shall thereafter come, shall be entitled, without further inquiry or investigation and regardless of the date of such certificate, to assume and to act in reliance upon the assumption that the shares of stock or other securities named in such instrument were therefore duly and properly transferred, endorsed, sold, assigned, set over and delivered by this Corporation, and that with respect to such securities the authority of these resolutions and of such officers is still in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that subsequent to this Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to the 2014 Annual Session, the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is hereby authorized to acquire or dispose of District parsonages, Program Director's and Treasurer's residences, as in its discretion, it may deem necessary and advisable, and in accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the Conference Board of Trustees is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into such contracts of sale and such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate the sale, transfer, or purchase of such properties. Such properties, real or personal, may be sold or acquired

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from any person or persons, firm, partnership, or corporation upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church shall determine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the Board of Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are hereby empowered and authorized to execute all such deeds, mortgages, notes, bonds, and other documents necessary to implement the purchase or sale of such Conference-owned properties.

New Conference Center Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the conference through its board of trustees purchase/build a new conference office center with a budget not to exceed $4,000,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new conference center be built/purchased so that annual conference center operational budget does not exceed $95,500 excluding mortgage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the building operational cost will not increase the shared ministry budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference authorizes the Board of Pensions to provide a 4% loan for 25 years to the conference Board of Trustees for up to $3,000,000 dollars to purchase/build a new conference center office and that the loan will:

- Increase the return for a portion of the Board of Pensions reserve fund by 100%
- Save conference shared ministry resources

A Future with Hope Mission Fund Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference establish A Future With Hope Campaign Fund to be provided through three year pledges from local church members and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the goal of this fund is to raise $12,000,000 and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that 25% of all funds raised will stay in the local church that raised them to be designated for local church missions, that 60% of the funds raised will be sent to the Greater New Jersey Sandy Relief Fund and that 15% of the funds raised will be sent to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to be used to further support the world-wide Imagine No Malaria Campaign and,

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Conference of 2016 will include a celebration of all the good done as a result of this campaign.

Constitutional Amendments from General Conference 2012

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 6, *Article VI*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 6, *Article VI))* amend by addition as follows:

After “it will” add “pray.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 6 (¶ 6) would read:

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Ecumenical Relations—As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will pray, seek, and work for unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches and united churches related to The Methodist Church or The Evangelical United Brethren Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline,* Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II*, (2012 *Book of Discipline,* Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II))* amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After "shall meet" delete "in the month of April or May" and after "duly authorized committees." add a new sentence, "The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016."

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 14 (¶ 14) would read:

The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.

A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline,* Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2012 *Book of Discipline,* Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I)* amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After "director of Lay" delete "Speaking" and add "Servant".

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student

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organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article I*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article I)* amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

> Delete the first two words, "Changes in" and following "episcopal areas" delete "may be effected" and add "shall be determined" and after "and the central conferences" add "The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision."

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:

The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

Lay Leadership Academy to Support Effective Laity Leadership

BE IT RESOLVED that one weekend every year shall be set aside for a Lay Leadership Academy that will focus on the development of leadership skills within the body of Christ that we call the Laity of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that these training experiences will enhance the abilities of lay people who are considering leadership positions within our local churches, districts and the conference; those who are currently serving in leadership positions within our local churches, districts and the conference; and those who wish to be mentors;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that these lay people of all economic and ethnic backgrounds may be more effective in leading committees, motivating others and bringing the message of Jesus Christ to those within and outside of our local churches;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the costs associated with this annual Lay Leadership Academy will be budgeted out of the general fund of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and scholarships will be available to anyone with a need who would like to attend.

Strategic Ministry Plan Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the following Strategic Ministry Plan be adopted and carried out as delineated in the Plan and that each year of the Plan's implementation a report be presented on the progress, challenges and necessary modifications.

Strategic Ministry Plan

A Future with Hope - Vision, Mission, Strategy and Goals

I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, a future not of destruction but a future with hope -Jeremiah 29:11

A Rich History for an Important Future

The Greater New Jersey Conference (GNJAC) has uniquely positioned itself with hope, courage and creativity for the emerging opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. The journey began in New Jersey in the mid 1700's as a Methodist lay person, James Early, organized class meetings in Southern New Jersey. At the same time, George Whitfield, an inspiring evangelist in the New Brunswick Area had many new believers convert to Christ and Methodism in response to his preaching. Their efforts launched the Methodist movement in New Jersey.

As Methodism throughout the colonies grew, Southern New Jersey Methodists were a part of the Philadelphia Area and Northern New Jersey Methodists were part of the New York Area. In 1968, the New Jersey Methodists became one episcopal area served by one bishop and began to work together; although the two conferences remained distinct conferences. In 2000, the conferences merged and formed GNJAC. For the last 12 years, GNJAC has been deepening spiritually, working to establish an infrastructure for ministry and strengthening relationships for collaborative mission. Today we are called to build on our history to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In addition to developing the infrastructure and relationships, GNJAC has been taking bold steps to become more diverse. Today we are one of the five most diverse conferences in the entire denomination. We are weaving the rich traditions of Native American, African American, European, Caribbean, Indian, Korean-American, Latin American and Filipino-American disciples and congregations into the fabric of our conference. New Hispanic, African American, Korean-American and Filipino-American congregations have contributed to our evangelistic history. We are making room for theological diversity and continuing ministries of social action and evangelism, justice and faith sharing. A future with hope is being embraced.

A Great Commandment and Commission

Our unique history positioned us for the great commandment – *to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor* (Matthew 22:36-40) and the great commission to *make disciples* (Matthew 28:16-20). The church, the living body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) is the primary mission center and the vehicle for calling, equipping, sending and supporting disciples to love God completely, to love our neighbor and to make new disciples. It is through and for the local congregation that spiritual leaders are called, equipped, sent and supported for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Through the ages, the calling has remained the same but how we live the calling has changed as contexts, new technologies, cultures, communities and circumstances emerged and evolved. The computer and the use of electronics, social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as other media for communicating the Gospel are transforming the way we communicate faith and do church.

Throughout the centuries, the church has been one of the most stable institutions because it builds on a tradition that has served and informed our future. We have a rich Wesleyan tradition that has shaped our values and actions. The Methodist movement initiated new ways of reaching the non and nominally religious and developed practices for maturing disciples. These methods were viewed by many as non-traditional and risk-taking. It is our reliance on familiar practices without drawing on our vibrant tradition to develop new practices that threatens our future. Some congregations have been too slow to change and therefore the message seems irrelevant to the culture and world around us. Jesus too had difficulty helping the religious people of his day adapt to an emerging culture that was looking for a different future. Jesus was able to capture the essence of the tradition and infuse it with God's grace through parables and healing so that the Gospel was relevant and powerful for people.

Five Areas to Address

Today, we sometimes have difficulty honoring the past and embracing new forms of worship, communication and ministry so that we connect with the legions of non and nominally religious people in our communities. Through listening tours across the conference and in every district, five areas were highlighted as key areas to address.

1. Relevancy – We are not consistently connecting with our communities with a message and ministry that is meaningful and purposeful. A recent study conducted for the Greater New Jersey Conference, *Historic Trends and 2030 Projections* indicated that churches whose worshipers are different from the people in the community are not sustainable because they are not connecting with the people in the community. These congregations will likely decline unless they connect through meaningful ministry and engage the people in the community as partners in ministry who have God-given gifts to offer the church and the world.

2. Diversity and Inclusion – We are in the top five most diverse conferences in our denomination. We have started new ethnic congregations and grown multicultural congregations. In the midst of our forward leaning commitment to diversity, there is still room to grow. Our racial ethnic diversity represents 20% of our membership, yet the racial ethnic diversity in the state of New Jersey is almost 50% of the population. Diversity is also more than ethnicity. Diversity includes people of different races, classes, theologies, ages, sexual orientation, disabilities, and people new to the faith. Our future mission calls for open, welcoming and engaging congregations and conference leadership. Our church needs to be shaped by the great diversity of our region as was the early Christian church as reported in Acts 10.

3. Leadership – The culture within our nation and Greater New Jersey in particular, is evolving. Leadership skills that were once effective for a more stable church and time need to be reshaped for a new generation of believers. We need to recruit/call and develop both clergy and lay spiritual leaders to meet the emerging challenges we face. In our conference and congregations we need to:
    a. Call/recruit for a heart for Jesus and develop for spiritual maturity
    b. Call/recruit for passion and develop for growing vital congregations

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c. Call/recruit for vision and develop leaders for leading change and resolving conflict
d. Call/recruit for diversity and develop for cultural competence (how to understand different cultures and community needs as well as how to interact, communicate and lead within multi-cultural contexts)
e. Call/recruit younger leaders and develop congregations for supporting younger leaders
f. Call/recruit for creativity and innovation and develop leaders for ministering in particular contexts
g. Call/recruit for perseverance and develop leaders for fruitful ministry

4. Congregations – Many of our congregations are having a difficult time reshaping their ministry for relevance, mission, diversity, inclusion and growth. As congregations struggle with finances and worship attendance we are experiencing more conflict. 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.

5. Mission – Some of our practices in ministry have made us less sustainable and the ways we articulate our mission are not capturing the minds and imaginations of the non and nominally religious. Sometimes it is because our focus is more about our need than those we serve and sometimes our vision for mission is too small. 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 a Holy Spirit fire and wisdom to reach the least and the privileged, the last and the first, the lost and the found.

The Strategic Plan that follows has been shaped by the listening sessions attended by more than 700 disciples across the conference.

The concerns expressed about our difficulty in being relevant, growing more diverse, calling and equipping leadership, growing vital congregations and presenting a compelling mission are confirmed in the trends of GNJAC over the last 10 years

- Worship attendance declined by 20%
- Professions of faith declined by 34%
- Shared ministry collection rate between 2006 and 2011 declined from 86% to 79%
- The number of churches declined from 610 to 578
- Baptisms declined from 3,321 to 1,882
- The number of children and youth in our congregations declined from 28,581 to 25,271
- 50% of our active pastors are over 57 years old and 50% of our members are over 58 years old

By Contrast

- Population in GNJAC area has grown by 5% in the last 10 years
- Today 50% of GNJAC area residents represent an ethnic group while GNJAC membership has only 20% who represent an ethnic group
- The average age of GNJAC area residents is 37 while the average age of GNJAC is 58
- It is estimated that 25% of the residents and 33% of young adults in the GNJAC area are non or nominally religious

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The *Historic Trends and 2030 Projections* study indicates that by 2030 we will have only 34,770 worshipers (today we have 47,751) and 455 congregations (today we have 578). GNJAC and its congregations will become more irrelevant and will not sustain its ministry and mission or its congregations unless together we focus ministry, connect with the non and nominally religious, and intentionally work to grow younger and more diverse. **The answers 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 (Romans 12:1-2).** This requires a major shift in the way we think and do ministry both as a conference and as congregations:

- From *managing* clergy and congregations **to** *being in relationship with* clergy and congregations
- From Conference *programming* **to** Conference *resourcing* local congregations
- From *telling* clergy and congregations *what to do* **to** *supporting* clergy and congregations *to innovate and create* how they will make disciples and transform the world in their context.

These shifts are grounded in our relationship with Jesus Christ and are guided by His ministry as reported in the Gospels.

It requires the conference to rethink how it leads, resources and supports clergy and congregations so that we can more effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Keys to our future are calling and equipping spiritual leaders, growing more vital congregations and making hard choices about what we do and what we stop doing. We need to identify our gifts and strengths and be infused by Holy Spirit passion to reach new generations of believers and engage in life changing mission. In the midst of our challenges, we claim a future of hope.

A Word about Vital Congregations

The Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have committed to work with congregations, conferences and general agencies from 2012 through 2023 to grow more highly vital congregations. Highly vital congregations are ones that grow over time. The denomination's *Call to Action Study* and further research with our congregations found that highly vital congregations are inwardly transformed and missionally outbound. Vital congregations are Spirit-filled, forward leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Galatians 3:28); make disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20); and serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8 and Luke 4:17-21).

Vital congregations evidence their vitality through: A) Life-full <u>stories</u> being told - stories about changed lives, new disciples and transforming ministry. B) <u>Fruitfulness</u> that is evidenced by new disciples being made, number of disciples in small groups for learning and faith formation, number of disciples engaged in worship and mission, and generous giving by disciples, particularly to mission.
C) <u>Life changing ministries</u> that build up the community of faith and transform lives and social conditions in the community and the world. Vital churches have powerful stories, fruitfulness and life changing ministries.

Life-full stories, fruitfulness and life changing ministries are fostered in vital congregations through

- Inviting and inspiring worship

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- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Faith forming small group ministries
- Strong children and youth ministries

These measurable activities provide guidance for where we need to give our attention for sustained growth over time.

Growing vital congregations is critical for reaching new generations of believers, raising up new lay and clergy leadership, growing younger, becoming more diverse, growing disciple's faith, and engaging in vital justice and mercy ministries. Vital congregations are providing a future with hope.

Gospel Questions

We can begin to work on vision, mission, objectives and strategies and even make good progress but fail in our calling because these become works rather than faith, tasks rather than purpose, and answers rather than a quest to live the Great Commandment and Commission.

One of the significant challenges before us is having congregations face the important questions of our time. These questions include but are not limited:

1. What is a disciple? Why do we make disciples? How does discipleship differ from membership? What does it mean to make a disciple? Is making disciples enough or are we seeking maturity from our disciples? What do mature disciples do? How do we mature disciples?

2. Why does the local congregation exist? What is the purpose and role of a congregation? What does it mean to be the body of Christ today? What is a vital congregation and what are the signs and measures of vitality within your congregation?

3. What is a spiritual leader and how is a secular leader the same and different? How will we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders?

4. What does it mean to transform the world? What in the world needs to be changed and why? Why do we want to transform the world? How will we change lives and the community?

5. Why are we challenged to connect with young adults and the non and nominally religious? What can we learn from this new culture called *mosaics?* Who is the *mosaic* generation and what do they value? How do we relate and connect with young people and why isn't the message connecting as it once did?

6. How would you describe the people that worship with you? How would you describe the people in your community? Is there a difference? How do/will you bridge differences? What new things do you need to learn? How will you connect with the people in your community?

7. So that... Why be engaged by the vision, mission, objectives and strategies outlined in this plan? What difference will it make and how will we be different? In keeping with scripture and the Book of Discipline, what are the ministries you do so that you make disciples, grow

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the vitality of your congregation, grow spiritual leaders, become more like the people in your community, and become younger and more diverse?

The *Gospel Questions* provide opportunities for exploration to help congregations down new paths rather than *the same old path* with the same results we have been experiencing. Every congregation and conference leadership group is called to engage in holy conversation by asking these Gospel questions in order to give shape to their ministry.

We are Called

We have a rich history and we have important challenges ahead. Our present course is unsustainable. In the midst of these times, God is waiting for us to take the first step, saying *I have not brought you to this place for a future of harm, but a future with hope.* (Jeremiah 29:11)

We are called by God to re-imagine what it means for us to live the Great Commandment and the Great Commission in this age. We are called to a new vision of growing younger and more diverse, of connecting with the non and nominally religious in our communities, calling and equipping leaders for this age, increasing the vitality of our congregations and engaging in life-changing justice and mercy mission. We are called to communicate the faith story with passion and relevance and engage with the community with what is essential to them. We are called to be the George Whitfield's and James Early's of our time to shape new generations of believers. We invite the Holy Spirit to reignite within our leaders and congregations a movement that transforms lives and transforms communities. It will require change, not small changes but reorientation to becoming a culture of innovation, and experimentation. It will require building on our tradition and courageous risk-taking to forge a new future. We are poised for *greatness*, a Great Commandment and the Great Commission rooted in Christ and freed for this time. The following vision, mission, goals, objectives and strategies will lead us into *a future with hope.*

Vision

We see a church like Jesus Christ—radical spirit and humble, teaching and healing, soul saving and soul tending, leader and servant, unbound and outbound.

We also see a Wesleyan Church—personal holiness and social holiness, connectional and risk taking, thoughtful and inspirational, small groups and large vision, welcoming all and respecting diversity of thought.

Mission

Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We seek disciples that will sit at the feet of Jesus and become life-long learners and followers of Jesus Christ, leaving behind safety and complacency to serve like Christ to save souls, end poverty, be graceful to those at the margins, connect with people who are different from us, and magnify God's presence in the world.

This type of discipleship is encouraged and supported through vital congregations.

The Mission of GNJAC is twofold: 1) Assist spiritual leaders to connect with their greatest joy and the world's greatest need by calling, nurturing, equipping, sending and supporting them to grow and

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support a new vision of discipleship. 2) Resource congregations to deepen their love for God and connection with the community as they become spiritual innovators much like the first century church but for 21st century realities. We will resource our congregations to engage in and live the Gospel questions of our time.

Goal

We are called to ignite a great commandment and commission movement throughout GNJAC **to grow the number of highly vital congregations from 14% to 41%** and connect and reflect the communities we serve.

Objectives (to be accomplished by 2018)

1. Increase the percentage of churches growing in worship attendance from 33% to 51%
2. Start 90 new faith communities[1] (2 per year in each district and charter five as new congregations – at least half of the new faith communities comprised of residents from the immediate community)
3. Decrease the number of worshipers it takes to make a new profession of faith from 17 to 15 (presently we make one new profession of faith for each 17 worshipers)
4. Increase the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75%
5. Increase the number of young adults in small groups from 2820 to 3200
6. Increase our racial ethnic worshipers from 20% to 25%
7. Increase the percentage of worshipers engaged in mission from 8%[2] to 40%
8. Increase local church dollars spent on mission per worshiper from $280 to $320[3]
9. Raise $12 million through a mission campaign through our congregations for a global mission (Imagine No Malaria - $2 million), a regional mission (Sandy relief and Recovery - $7 million) and a local mission project identified by each congregation ($3 million). We are also raising an additional 10 million for Sandy Relief and Recovery from foundations, government sources, denominational sources and large donors. Of this additional $15 million we have already raised $6.3 million and another $2.9 million committed through a national volunteer base for a total $9.2 million.

GNJAC Strategy

Call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to grow vital congregations

A spiritual leader has the depth of faith and the leadership qualities and skills to inspire and equip people to grow vital congregations, make new disciples and engage in justice and mercy mission.

A vital congregation is a congregation that transforms lives and communities and grows over time.

Congregational Foci

1. Evangelism—sharing our faith so that others come to faith
2. Worship
3. Mission - community justice and mercy ministries

[1] A new faith community includes a new church start, second site ministry, new worship service
[2] Presently we only ask for people who go on mission trips in statistical reports. In the future we will also ask how many disciples are involved in community ministry through the congregation
[3] $320 is more in line with other conferences in our jurisdiction.

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4. Children, youth and young adult ministries
5. Small groups that practice and live the Wesleyan Means of Grace
6. Stewardship

Conference Foci

1. Learning opportunities for lay leadership and pastors
   - Lay leadership teams and clergy develop their own learning plans focusing on one of the six congregational foci which the conference resources and supports. A yearlong resourcing plan rather than one time workshops or district events
2. Resourcing congregations for learning through
   - Connecting prayer
   - Learning and resourcing groups
   - Identify discipleship/congregational development plans and resource congregational teams rather than individuals from the congregations to facilitate hope, renewal and a path toward vitality within congregations, the conference will work with congregations once every five years to assist each congregation to do a self-assessment. The assessment and plan for renewal and vitality will use resources from paragraph 213 of the Book of Discipline and a process developed through the annual conference.
   - Calling and recruiting leadership
   - Clear expectations

How Will We Make Decisions

We will allocate resources - time, people and money - to grow more highly vital congregations, make and mature disciples and engage in community and world transforming mission. The following are questions to serve as guideposts for missional decision making.

1. Is this Holy Spirit inspired to lead to transformed lives, communities and congregations?
2. Will this help us grow/maximize more highly vital congregations?
3. Will this Ignite innovation in our congregations/conference?
4. Will this help us call and recruit the types of leaders we seek - leaders with a heart for Jesus, passion, vision, diversity, younger, creative, perseverance?
5. Will this help us grow younger and more diverse?
6. What will we stop doing in order to do this?

Vital Congregation's Focus and Strategies

Innovative Worship that magnifies God and inspires followers of Jesus Christ

1. Worship teams infusing Holy Spirit creativity and inspiration into worship that is relevant and connects with people in the community
2. Worship that connects with the non and nominally religious[4]
3. Passionate preaching that connects emotionally with worshipers and leads to decisions to be more like Christ

[4] The non and nominally religious are people who are often spiritual but feel the church has become too institutional or lost connection with people's souls and journeys.

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4. Thoughtful preaching to increase faith and theological understanding and help disciples apply the scriptures and faith to daily living (introduce more topical sermons and worship series)
5. Lift up God sightings[5] and positive stories in preaching and worship about the church, it's disciples and progress toward mission and ministry goals

Innovative Evangelism that connects with new generations of believers

1. Inspire belief so rooted in God's grace that disciples invite new generations of believers to experience God's grace in Christ
2. Regularly after the sermon invite disciples to renew an aspect of their life
3. Engage disciples to tell their faith story and invite others to worship (FRAN[6])
4. Create a culture of radical hospitality and follow up with visitors
5. Connect with the non and nominally religious in the community

Innovative Small Group Discipleship that is maturing disciples and engaging disciples in their calling and purpose

1. Start more small groups, mature disciples through small groups, practice the *Wesleyan Means of Grace*[7] and invite new group members
2. Call and equip new small group leaders
3. Start more ministries with children, youth and young adults

Innovative Mission that is merciful and just toward the poor and the marginalized

1. Engage disciples with the poor, marginalized and people in need in our communities
2. Create a mission movement in the congregation so that more disciples are passionate about their God calling[8] and live their purpose in life
3. Regularly invite disciples to serve in the community and go on mission experiences

Innovative Stewardship that increases giving for ministry and mission

1. Conduct ongoing stewardship awareness to help disciples understand why we give, what is biblically expected of disciples, and inspires disciples to *step up* in their giving
2. Inspire disciples to give generously to ministry and mission every week
3. Conduct a mission fund campaign that raises money for Sandy Relief and Recovery, Imagine No Malaria and assists our congregations to become more vital

Pastoral and Lay Leadership Priorities

1. Coach lay leadership to grow deeper in their faith and increase their leadership effectiveness
2. Engage the congregation in setting courageous mission and ministry goals and inspire and lead the congregation to reach these goals

[5] God sightings are times and spiritual moments where God is revealed in powerful ways
[6] FRAN is a resource to help disciples invite Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors to worship and ministries
[7] The *means of grace* are ways God works invisibly in disciples, hastening, strengthening and confirming faith so that God's grace pervades in and through disciples. The *means of grace* are both works of piety and works of mercy.
Works of Piety – These include prayer, fasting, reading, meditating and studying the Scriptures, regularly attending worship and healthy living, regularly receiving the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study.
Works of Mercy - These include doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, sharing faith, feeding the hungry, giving generously to the needs of others, seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (for instance Wesley implored Methodists to end slavery), and serving with the poor.
[8] Everyone is called by God for the ministry of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12)

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3. Preach, teach and communicate so that disciples are inspired, growing in faith, increasing biblical understanding and are making a decision to change their lives
4. Lead disciples to grow in small groups, grow children, youth and young adult ministries, and share their faith
5. Grow worship, stewardship and the number of new disciples

Conference Ministry Focus and Strategies

Leadership Development Ministry to grow more vital congregations so that we make more disciples and engage in transformational mission

1. Assist clergy and lay leaders to identify leadership development needs and support and resource leaders to grow their faith and skills for growing vital congregations and connecting with their communities
2. Direct leadership development toward making and maturing disciples, engaging in community and world transformation and growing vital congregations
3. Recruit, grow and support turnaround[9] leaders
4. Recruit, grow and support young adult clergy and lay spiritual leaders

Sandy Relief and Recovery Ministry to engage United Methodists to repair homes, rebuild communities and renew lives

1. Repair homes of low income, disabled and elderly individuals in collaboration with long-term recovery groups
2. Rebuild at least three communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy using the Communities of Shalom strategy
3. Organize volunteer host sites to house and deploy 15,000 volunteers
4. Recruit young adults throughout GNJAC to work on Sandy Recovery
5. Renew lives through counseling and spiritual support

Urban Ministry to develop our presence in greater New Jersey area cities, grow vital urban congregations, address poverty, and develop urban communities

1. Start new and strengthen existing Communities of Shalom
2. Identify common funding and training strategies for our mission focused congregations and mission centers, which includes Respond, Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC) and Neighborhood Center
3. Start new urban faith communities with new and emerging populations who are underserved
4. Utilize *A Future with Hope* to raise grant funds for urban ministry
5. Engage mission teams to serve in our urban communities

Poverty Ministries to meet the immediate needs of the poor and address the systemic causes of poverty

1. Educate disciples across GNJAC about poverty and the root causes of poverty
2. Create a network of churches and mission centers that are working with the poor to end poverty

[9] A turnaround leader assess the needs and strategies of a congregation and community, sets a courageous vision and goals and inspires and equips the congregation to make new disciples, grow worship, grow disciples' faith through small groups, engage the congregation in life changing mission, and increases giving to mission and ministry.

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3. Identify one area of poverty that GNJAC will address together as a way to give witness to the region of the *Great Commandment*
4.

Imagine No Malaria Ministry to help end deaths by malaria in Africa

1. Educate disciples across GNJAC about the killer diseases in developing countries and how we can end deaths by malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS
2. Raise our fair share to support the United Methodist Imagine No Malaria effort

Multi Ethnic Ministry to increase the diversity of our conference and our sanctuaries on Sunday morning

1. Start new faith communities to reach existing and new immigrant populations
2. Start and engage in ministries that serve immigrant populations using tools such as English as a Second Language and Justice for Our Neighbors
3. Equip clergy and congregations for cross cultural appointments
4. Recruit and equip ethnic clergy and mission personnel to serve the church and community
5. Grow our relationships with partner conferences outside the United States (Korea, Africa, Argentina and Russia)

New Faith Communities[10] *and Congregational Development Ministry* to reach new and younger generations of believers

1. Start new communities of believers through mission activities and small groups that may emerge into congregations
2. Support congregations to start second and third campuses
3. Start new congregations with new immigrant populations and in growing suburban and ex-urban communities
4. Lead congregations to identify their strengths, challenges, opportunities and to develop a ministry plan to become more vital
5. Resource congregations in relationship to their context, ministry plan and stage. Resourcing will be in alignment to a congregation's self-identify and their stage of ministry. Stages include:
    a. Exploration – The congregation wants to explore their purpose and who God is calling them to become. The congregation may be exploring a particular ministry or the congregation's overall vision and mission.
    b. Engagement – The congregation's vision and mission is clear and the congregation is engaging in making new disciples, growing all disciples, and engaging disciples in ministry according to their calling and purpose.
    c. Evolving – The congregation has explored and engaged in its purpose and God is calling them to be something new. It may be a new ministry, or organizational plan, or a second campus, or daughtering a new church start, or adding a building addition or a new building or any strategy or ministry that evolves the congregation into becoming a new creation in Christ.
    d. Legacy – The congregation has decided their best years are behind them. The congregation wants to continue in ministry as it is and explore the legacy to share with future generations.

Young People Ministry to reach new generations of believers

[10] A new faith community includes a new church start, second site ministry, new worship service

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1. Start new faith communities with a focus on younger generations of believers
2. Call, equip and support young adult leaders exploring ministry vocations
3. Start young adult communities using available parsonages or other property that builds discipleship and mission communities to assist young adults to explore vocation, develop congregations and engage in justice and mercy mission
4. Yearly youth retreat to reach thousands of youth across the conference where youth are invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ and are equipped for daily living
5. Camping ministry that changes lives, engages young people and their families to grow deeper in their faith.

Conference Staff and Leadership Priorities

1. Organize and carry out ministry so that the congregation is the primary source of mission activity and focus resources to help congregations grow younger, become more diverse, be more mission minded, mature disciples faith, and reach new generations of believers
2. In collaboration with congregations, identify congregational types and resource congregations according to their type
3. Engage with pastoral and lay leadership so that they grow spiritually
4. Lead pastors and lay leadership to continually improve their ability to lead the congregation to make disciples and transform the world
5. Support pastors and lay leadership so that they experiment in ministry and take risks for Christ
6. Lead the conference to start new faith communities to grow GNJ younger, more diverse, more mission minded and reach new generations of the non and nominally religious
7. Allocate time and resources to maximize reaching our goal and objectives
8. Provide quality service and ministry to our congregations
9. Engage with congregations and clergy so that pastors stay longer in their appointment
10. Organize conference-wide change the world weekend to model mission in the community
11. Organize conference-wide radical hospitality weekend as Christ's witnesses in our communities
12. Organize a conference-wide lay movement so that laity are leading local ministries, reaching new generations of believers and developing new leaders, particularly young adult leaders
13. Steward conference resources faithfully

Next Steps

Important to moving the Strategic Ministry Plan forward is for the conference to align resources – money, personnel, activities and time with the strategic ministry plan. Alignment is ensuring that each aspect of the conference life and ministry connects with one or more aspects of the plan and that resources (money, personnel, activities and time) have a direct correlation to an objective and strategy and that the resources are carrying out the mission and moving toward the vision.

Conference Leadership Next Steps

1. Review the conference budget and organize the budget in alignment with the plan and allocate/ negotiate any necessary shifts within the budget to carry out the plan (Any changes must be in accord with paragraphs 613 & 614 of the Book of Discipline, and if anything more

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is required the Annual Conference will have to vote on the proposed change).– Council on Finance and Administration and the Primary Task Team (PTT)

2. Review present staffing and organization and change as necessary the current staffing configuration so that GNJ is properly staffed to implement the plan – Personnel Committee, Council on Finance and Administration and PTT
3. Assign staff to the plan so that each goal and strategy has a staff person assigned – PTT executive committee and bishop
4. Each agency of the conference review the plan's goals and strategies and develop a plan to carry out its ministry collaboratively with other boards and committees of the conference so that every agency is supporting the implementation of the plan – PTT
5. Review the present ministry of the conference and negotiate with agencies and staff what they will stop doing because the activities do not directly impact moving the plan forward – PTT
6. Develop evaluation tools and define the metrics that guide and evaluate conference staff, agencies, conference ministries, pastors and congregations in relation to the strategic ministry plan – PTT executive committee, board of ordained ministry, board of laity, cabinet and personnel committee
7. Lead every congregation once within every five years through a mission and ministry study using materials from Paragraph 213 of the Book of Discipline (these resources may include additional resources such as Natural Church Development) to assess congregational health, vitality, and mission to assist congregations to make decisions about how it will fulfill its calling and purpose. - PTT executive committee and extended cabinet
8. Design a resource that will assist congregations to engage in the Gospel Questions outlined in the plan – extended cabinet
9. Develop an appropriate timeline for the strategies, activities and objectives – PTT executive committee and extended cabinet.
10. If a congregation has not set goals, engage in a process and set goals by fall 2013 charge conference. – Council on Finance and Administration and the Primary Task Team (PTT)

Congregational Leadership Next Steps

1. Engage in a year long conversation using the Gospel questions starting January 2014 – Pastor, lay leader and church council chairperson with the support of the superintendent
2. Review their congregational vital congregations goals and identify progress and next steps – Pastor, lay leader and church council chairperson
3. Work with the superintendent to identity an appropriate timeline to engage in mission and ministry study using materials from Paragraph 213 of the Book of Discipline and resources developed by staff – Pastor, lay leader and church council chairperson and superintendent
4. Identify how the congregation will carry out the congregational strategies identified in the plan – Pastor, lay leader and church council chairperson

We trust God is leading us to a future with hope as we continue to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Shared Ministry Plan

Be it resolved that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference approve the Shared Ministries Plan for 2013.

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2014 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
INCOME:	**2013**	**2013**	**2014**	**2014**	**2014**	**Difference**
	Approved	**Expected**	**Recommended**	**Expected**	**Shortfall**	**2013 to 2014**
I. Income from Shared Ministries	12,027,344	10,152,141	12,366,501	10,436,676	1,929,825	339,155
II. Income from Reserve Funds / Previous Year Surplus	170,000	170,000	195,000	195,000	-	25,000
III. Centenary Fund Contribution	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	-
IV. Interest / Investment Income	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	-	-
V. Additional Funds received in Support of the Budget	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	-	-
	12,501,344	**10,626,141**	**12,865,501**	**10,935,676**	**1,929,825**	364,155
EXPENSE:						
I. CLERGY SUPPORT						
A. District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp. **Sched.A**	2,205,929	1,875,040	2,319,861	1,971,882	347,979	113,932
B. Episcopal Fund	476,007	404,606	481,393	409,184	72,209	5,386
C. Conference share of Bishop's housing	33,100	28,135	33,100	28,135	4,965	-
D. Annuitants Health Insurance & Benefits	2,829,248	2,404,860	2,914,124	2,477,006	437,119	84,876
E. Equitable Compensation	194,118	165,000	194,118	165,000	29,118	(0)
F. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry administrative expenses	48,471	41,200	50,445	42,878	7,567	1,974
G. Bridge Fund	15,294	13,000	15,294	13,000	2,294	-
Sub-total for CLERGY SUPPORT	**5,802,167**	**4,931,841**	**6,008,335**	**5,107,085**	**901,250**	206,168
II. ADMINISTRATION						
A. Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses	4,706	4,000	4,706	4,000	706	(0)
B. Director of Administrative Services expenses **Sched. B**	173,633	147,588	179,320	152,422	26,898	5,687
C. Treasurer's office expense						
D. Other conference administrative agencies' expense **Sched.E**	1,337,298	1,136,703	1,443,864	1,227,284	216,580	106,566
E. Conf. Sessions (3 days)	272,342	231,491	272,342	231,491	40,851	-
Reserve for Conf. Sessions (1 day in 3rd yr. of Quadrenium)	11,765	10,000	11,765	10,000	1,765	(0)
F. Episcopal Area Office Supplement	151,138	128,467	157,179	133,602	23,577	6,041
G. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	11,765	10,000	11,765	10,000	1,765	(0)
H.Jurisdictional conference administrative apportionments & related exp.	42,353	36,000	42,353	36,000	6,353	(0)
I. General Administration Fund	198,209	168,478	198,956	169,113	29,843	747
I. New Conference Office Transition		-		-	-	
J. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	44,082	37,470	44,244	37,607	6,637	162
Sub-total for ADMINISTRATION	**2,247,291**	**1,910,196**	**2,366,493**	**2,011,519**	**354,974**	119,202
CLERGY SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION ***(fund 100)***	**8,049,458**	**6,842,037**	**8,374,828**	**7,118,604**	**1,256,224**	325,370

2014 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN

INCOME:	Column A 2013 Approved	Column B 2013 Expected	Column C 2014 Recommended	Column D 2014 Expected	Column E 2014 Shortfall	Column F Difference 2013 to 2014
III. WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE						
A. World Service Fund	1,642,600	1,396,210	1,648,615	1,401,323	247,292	6,015
B.Director of Connectional Ministry - **Schedule C**	171,041	145,385	173,188	147,210	25,978	2,147
C.Non-Cabinet Staff (2) (Cong. Dev. & Youth Coor.) - **Schedule C**	295,496	251,172	290,647	247,050	43,597	(4,849)
D.Non-Cabinet Staff (1) (Stewardship Coor.) - **Schedule C**	115,369	98,064	115,712	98,355	17,357	343
E. Administrative expenses - *directly related to the above III.B.*	176,471	150,000	182,353	155,000	27,353	5,882
F. Ministries Team Budget - **Schedule D.**	869,000	738,650	883,175	750,699	132,476	14,175
G. Supplemental Strategic Salary Support	164,706	140,000	164,706	140,000	24,706	-
H. Leadership Development Funds **(see Schedule D.)**	27,000	22,950	30,000	25,500	4,500	3,000
N. District Resourcing Teams **(see Schedule D)**	140,000	119,000	140,000	119,000	21,000	-
O. Planned Giving Program **(see Schedule D)**			-	-	-	
P. Laity Council **(see Schedule D)**	11,000	9,350	20,000	17,000	3,000	9,000
Sub-total for **WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN.** ***(fund 300)***	**3,612,683**	**3,070,781**	**3,648,396**	**3,101,137**	**547,259**	35,713
IV. OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS						
A. Black College Fund *(fund 410)*	224,937	191,196	225,760	191,896	33,864	823
B. Africa University Fund *(fund 420)*	50,336	42,786	50,521	42,943	7,578	185
C. Ministerial Education Fund *(fund 430)*	563,931	479,341	565,995	481,096	84,899	2,064
Sub-total for OTHER FUNDS	**839,204**	**713,323**	**842,276**	**715,935**	**126,341**	3,072
TOTAL EXPENSE (I,II,III, IV)	**12,501,345**	**10,626,141**	**12,865,501**	**10,935,676**	**1,929,825**	364,155
Shortfall Budgeted		**1,875,204**		**1,929,825**		
Total Expense Budget	**12,501,345**	**10,626,141**	**12,865,501**	**10,935,676**	**1,929,825**	364,155

	A		B		C		C		C	
SCHEDULE ABC	**2013**	**2014**	**2013**	**2014**	**2013**	**2014**	**2013**	**2014**	**2013**	**2014**
	Expected	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**	**Expected**
	District Superintendents		**Dir.Admin.Srvcs./ Conference Treasurer**		**Director of Connectional Ministry**		**Cong. Dev. Coor. & Youth Coor.**		**Stew. Dev. Coord.**	
Salary	79,953	85,351	79,953	85,351	79,953	85,351	64,024	65,944	64,024	65,944
Pension										
Pension (CPP)										
Pension CRSP	15,490	13,336	11,394	12,042	15,490	13,336	12,248	9,713	9,923	8,243
Pension CRSP (CPP)	2,998	3,073	2,088	2,132	2,998	3,073	2,370	2,418	1,920	1,968
(CHIP)Health Insurance*	16,804	16,500	19,494	16,500	19,494	16,500	19,494	16,500	9,747	8,250
Housing Maintenance *	7,000	8,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0
Utilities *	6,000	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cellular Phones*	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
(R/E) Prop Insurance	757	757			0	0				
Worker's Comp	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Expenses:										
Travel, Conferences, Bus.Entmt.	11,300	12,800	10,200	11,700	10,200	11,700	10,200	11,700	10,200	11,700
Administrative Assistants	54,208	59,231								
Continuing Education	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Office Expenses	5,800	5,800								
Payroll Taxes	0	0	7,209	7,447	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST FOR ONE (1):	**202,560**	**213,098**	**147,588**	**152,422**	**145,385**	**147,210**	**125,586**	**123,525**	**98,064**	**98,355**
	9	**9**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**
	1,823,040	**1,917,882**	**147,588**	**152,422**	**145,385**	**147,210**	**251,172**	**247,050**	**98,064**	**98,355**
District Office Rent (Pooled)	**52,000**	**54,000**								
Total of DS package	**1,875,040**	**1,971,882**								

SCHEDULE D MINISTRIES TEAM	2013 Approved Budget	2013 Actual Expected	2013 Expected Shortfall	2014 Proposed Budget	2014 Actual Expected	2014 Expected Shortfall	Change 2014 Proposed to 2013 Approved	Change 2014 Expected to 2013 Expected	% Difference 2013 to 2014
CHURCH & SOCIETY (336)	3,500	2,975	525	4,000	3,400	600	500	425	14.2857%
DISCIPLESHIP (345)	1,500	1,275	225	1,000	850	150	(500)	(425)	-33.3333%
Camps & Conferences (331 & 330)	205,000	174,250	30,750	211,625	179,881	31,744	6,625	5,631	3.2317%
Youth Ministry (332)	20,000	17,000	3,000	20,000	17,000	3,000	-	-	0.0000%
United Methodist Men	3,000	2,550	450	2,000	1,700	300	(1,000)	(850)	-33.3333%
HIGHER ED. & CAMPUS MIN.(333)	99,975	- 84,979	14,996	100,000	85,000	15,000	25	21	0.0250%
CHRISTIAN UNITY (346)	5,500	4,675	825	5,500	4,675	825	-	-	0.0000%
NJ Council of Churches (352)	25,000	21,250	3,750	25,000	21,250	3,750	-	-	0.0000%
GLOBAL MINISTRIES	500	425	75	500	425	75	-	-	0.0000%
Disability Awareness Ministry (347)	5,500	4,675	825	9,000	7,650	1,350	3,500	2,975	63.6364%
National Hispanic Plan (302)	30,950	26,308	4,643	30,950	26,308	4,643	-	-	0.0000%
Strengthening the Black Church Plan	13,000	11,050	1,950	13,000	11,050	1,950	-	-	0.0000%
Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM)	1,000	850	150	500	425	75	(500)	(425)	-50.0000%
Asian American Plan									
Korean American National Plan	20,000	17,000	3,000	24,000	20,400	3,600	4,000	3,400	20.0000%
Shalom - Urban Ministry (335)									
Community Outreach (340)	185,000	157,250	27,750	185,000	157,250	27,750	-	-	0.0000%
Disaster Response	10,000	8,500	1,500	10,000	8,500	1,500	-	-	0.0000%
Partnership Initiatives -									
Russia Initiative									
Africa Initiatives									
MULTI-ETHNIC COORDINATING (350)	20,550	17,468	3,083	20,050	17,043	3,008	(500)	(425)	-2.4331%
COMMUNICATIONS (385)	10,000	- 8,500	1,500	17,500	14,875	2,625	7,500	6,375	75.0000%
Resource Center	5,000	4,250	750	4,300	3,655	645	(700)	(595)	-14.0000%
RELAY	66,000	56,100	9,900	62,000	52,700	9,300	(4,000)	(3,400)	-6.0606%
ARCHIVES & HISTORY (344)	5,500	4,675	825	11,000	9,350	1,650	5,500	4,675	100.0000%
LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES (307)	250	213	38	250	213	38	-	-	0.0000%
EMERGING NEEDS (382)	20,500	17,425	3,075	20,000	17,000	3,000	(500)	(425)	-2.4390%
Congregational Dev.	56,275	47,834	8,441	50,000	42,500	7,500	(6,275)	(5,334)	-11.1506%
Child., Youth, Young Adults	14,500	12,325	2,175	14,500	12,325	2,175	-	-	0.0000%
Ocean City Youth Weekend	10,000	8,500	1,500	10,000	8,500	1,500	-	-	0.0000%
Stewardship Coordinator	10,000	8,500	1,500	10,000	8,500	1,500	-	-	0.0000%
COOP. SCHOOL OF MISSION	12,000	10,200	1,800	12,000	10,200	1,800	-	-	0.0000%
COSROW	4,500	3,825	675	5,000	4,250	750	500	425	11.1111%
RELIGION & RACE	4,500	3,825	675	4,500	3,825	675	-	-	0.0000%
MINISTRIES TEAM Sub-Total	869,000	738,650	130,350	883,175	750,699	132,476	14,175	12,049	1.6312%
LEADERSHIP DEVELOP. (380) (separate line item)	27,000	22,950	4,050	30,000	25,500	4,500	3,000	2,550	11.1111%
DISTRICT PROGRAMMING (separate line item)	140,000	119,000	21,000	140,000	119,000	21,000	-	-	0.0000%
PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM (separate line item)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
LAITY COUNCIL (308) (separate line item)	11,000	9,350	1,650	20,000	17,000	3,000	9,000	7,650	81.8182%
GRAND TOTAL	1,047,000	889,950	157,050	1,073,175	912,199	160,976	26,175	22,249	2.5000%

SCHEDULE E

II D. ADMINISTRATION	2013 Budget	2013 Expected	2014 Budget	2014 Expected	2014 Shortfall
Salaries: Central Office Staff/Service Dept.	614,100	521,985	639,202	543,322	95,880
Benefits & Payroll Taxes-Central Office	234,861	199,632	275,148	233,876	41,272
Salaries:Conference Secretary/ Secretarial Asst	13,448	11,431	13,448	11,431	2,017
Central Office Operations	182,353	155,000	182,353	155,000	27,353
Treas. Office Operations	35,000	29,750	35,000	29,750	5,250
Conference Journal	17,600	14,960	17,600	14,960	2,640
Auditing/Bonding	29,412	25,000	29,412	25,000	4,412
Capital Equip. R/R Fund	7,200	6,120	7,200	6,120	1,080
Information Services Support	39,294	33,400	39,294	33,400	5,894
Committee on Nominations	1,000	850	1,000	850	150
Building Maintenance Reserve	5,500	4,675	5,500	4,675	825
Gen/Jur Conference Reserve	4,000	3,400	4,000	3,400	600
Conference Business Travel	17,647	15,000	17,647	15,000	2,647
Board of Trustees	105,882	90,000	147,059	125,000	22,059
Conference Chancellor	30,000	25,500	30,000	25,500	4,500
SCHEDULE E Total	1,337,298	1,136,703	1,443,864	1,227,284	216,580

Shared Ministry Formula Legislation

BE IT RESOLVED that Greater New Jersey Annual Conference increases in asking for Shared Ministries from its local churches will not exceed 15% for 2014 and 2015 of its prior year assessment with no cap on decreases. The remainder of the current Shared Ministry Formula remains in effect.

Equitable Compensation

MINIMUM SALARY

BE IT RESOLVED that The Commission on Equitable Compensation establishes the following **minimum equitable salary for persons under full-time appointment** in the local church effective **January 1, 2014:**

a) Elder and Deacon in Full Connection	**$41,122**
b) Provisional & Associate Members (90%)	**$37,010**
c) Full time Local Pastor (85%)	**$34,954**

The proposed salary of $41,122 for Elder and Deacon in Full Connection represents 1% increase from 2013 and 84% of the 2014 Denominational Average Salary which is $48,890.

Any changes in clergy minimum salaries related to a change of clergy status through ordination, commissioning or licensing in 2013 will become effective as of January 1, 2014.

There will be a $300 minimum increment in the base salary of each year of full-time service under appointment by the Greater NJ Annual Conference (or its predecessor conferences) up to **18** years. This applies to clergy (elder, provisional elder, provisional deacon, deacon in full connection, associate members, and local pastor) serving in full-time appointments. The years of service record for each clergy is based on the Service Record by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and it does not include part time appointments or a time of leave of absence.

The minimum equitable salary for ¾ time pastoral appointments shall be ¾ of the required minimum in the pastor's salary. And the minimum equitable salary for ½ time pastoral appointments shall be ½ of the required minimum. All appointments less than ½ shall be considered ¼ time appointments for pension purposes and the salaries shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the local church.

Each pastor's salary above the minimum equitable salary is determined by the local church or by the charge in consultation with the district superintendent. Each Pastor (Staff) Parish Relations Committee takes into consideration the pastor's experience, education, leadership, health and dental insurance coverage, social security, and family needs.

PARSONAGE

BE IT RESOLVED that all full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage or a housing/rental allowance as part of their compensation package.

REIMBURSEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that all full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense line item in the church budget to cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other

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professional ministerial expenses as allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall not be less than $2,000. For the churches that are receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable reimbursement expense line should not exceed $2,000.

VACATION

BE IT RESOLVED that all full time pastors shall be entitled to receive the following vacation per appointment year:

Minimum 4 weeks of vacation for the first 10 years of full-time service, after that it is 5 weeks.

Vacation time shall not be cumulative from year to year. Local churches may not consider time spent in leadership responsibilities in conference activities as vacation time. This includes Course of Study, Local Pastors Licensing School, Camps, Annual Conference-related Ministries, and other education and renewal as required by The Book of Discipline (¶350.2)

HOUSING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission reaffirms the *Standards for Parsonages(see www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/356)* (Existing Parsonages) with the following changes:

1. Delete #5: ~~5. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels).~~
2. Add "or satellite TV service" to #17: 17. High speed internet service and basic cable **or satellite TV service.**

Pension and Health Benefits: 2013 Health Insurance Guidelines

The mission of the Conference Health Insurance Plan (the Plan) is to provide primary health **insurance coverage to full-time full, provisional and associate ministerial members of the** Annual Conference and to eligible full-time lay employees.

The Plan provides secondary health insurance coverage for retirees who are receiving Medicare. For those who have retired early and are not yet eligible for Medicare, the primary health insurance coverage is through this Plan. The Plan is a non-vested current benefit for active and retired pastors and lay employees.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Clergy Eligibility:

a) Clergy under full-time Episcopal appointment to serve a local church including Elders, Deacons, Local Pastors, Associate Members, Provisional Members, and Retired Members; and those under full-time appointment as district superintendents, clergy staff members of Conference councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish development, general evangelists and campus ministers (Book of Discipline ¶344.2a) are required to enroll in the Active health insurance plan within 30 days of appointment. Opting out of the Conference Plan to participate in another plan of insurance is not permitted.

b) Ordained clergy from another annual conference, Methodist denomination, or another denomination, under Episcopal appointment to serve a local church full-time; and district superintendents, clergy staff members of Conference councils and boards, treasurers, bishop's assistants, or directors of parish development, general evangelists and campus

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ministers (¶344.2a) are required to enroll in the Active health insurance plan within 30 days of initial appointment. Opting out of the Plan to participate in another plan of insurance is not permitted except when covered by a group health plan sponsored by the denomination or conference to which he/she belongs.

c) Clergy in any category under Episcopal appointment to full-time service in an Extension Ministry (¶344.1a [3][4]; 344.1b;346.1;346.2;344.1d; 331.1a,b;326.1;331.8), may enroll in the Plan within 30 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period or in the case of a "Life Status Event" as described in HealthFlex's Summary Plan Description.

d) Part-time clergy in any category are not eligible for coverage through the Plan.

2. **Ministerial members who are placed on Incapacity Leave status by the Conference** shall continue enrollment in the Plan regardless of whether they are eligible for Medicare disability benefits. The Conference Plan remains primary until the participant becomes eligible for Medicare due to disability, at which time the Conference Plan becomes secondary to Medicare. The premiums for ministerial members on Conference Incapacity Leave (and their enrolled family) will be paid by the Conference with Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits funds.

3. **Clergy in Retired Status** may be in the Plan if they were under appointment through the Conference for the seven years immediately prior to retirement and were continuously enrolled in the Conference Plan for the last five of those seven years. Retired participants age 65 and over are required to carry Medicare Part A and Part B. Dependents must also have been continuously enrolled in either the Conference Plan or in another employer plan for the five years preceding the clergy member's retirement to be eligible for coverage. Retiree coverage is available by application at the time of retirement only. Retirees who choose not to enroll in the Plan at the effective date of retirement or who terminate coverage for any reason will forever lose their eligibility to participate in the Plan. For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."

4. **Any of the following lay persons** are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 30 days of hire. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a "Life Status Event" as described in HealthFlex's Summary Plan Description.

   a. Lay employees of the Conference or any of its subsidiary agencies working a minimum of 1,560 hours annually (30 hrs. per week)

   b. Full-time (minimum of 1,560 hours annually) lay employees of any church in the Conference that adopts the program and whose church enrolls 75% of its full-time lay employees.

   c. Retired lay employees of the Conference, local churches, Conference-affiliated UM institutions, the Episcopal office, units of the Conference whose lay employees are not on the Conference payroll, and the surviving spouse of such employees, may participate in the Plan provided they are receiving an annuity from the General Board of Pension through their salary-paying unit, and they have been continuously enrolled in the Plan for the five years preceding retirement.

5. **Dependents eligible for coverage** in the Conference Plan are limited to the spouse, children who are qualified adult dependents and children who are under age 26. Dependents may be added only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a "Life

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Status Event" as described in HealthFlex's Summary Plan Description. Dependents acquired by a retired participant after retirement are not eligible for the Conference Plan.

PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ANNUITANTS

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants, based upon the premiums charged by HealthFlex.

Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all enrolled annuitants of the Conference, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

A. **A clergy person age 65 or older**, becoming an annuitant on or after July 1, 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with annuity credit in (CRSP), the Clergy Retirement Security Program (includes prior plans), with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her Medicare Companion premium. Such share shall be 5% times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20.

B. **A lay person age 65 or older,** becoming an annuitant on or after July 1, 2002, who has less than 20 approved years with annuity credit in UMPIP, the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (includes prior plan), of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church shall, in order to receive health insurance coverage under the Plan, be responsible for the payment of a pro-rated share of his/her premium. Such share shall be 5% times the number of full years by which such years are short of 20.

C. The Active premium for an **annuitant commencing benefits under the age of 65** on or before July 1, 2003 shall be paid by the Conference subject to paragraphs A and B above until the annuitant reaches age 65. For an annuitant commencing benefits after July 1, 2003 prior to age 65, the Conference shall contribute an amount equal to the coverage cost of a Medicare-eligible annuitant, subject to paragraphs A and B above, and the annuitant shall be responsible for the remainder of the Active premium until the annuitant reaches age 65.

D. **Extension Clergy serving approved Conference Advance Specials** in the geographic bounds of the Annual Conference who are not eligible to enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) will be credited, *solely for the years appointed to that Advance Special,* with actual years of appointment and service to the Conference, for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated premium payment responsibility upon retirement.

For information on Coordination of Benefits between the Conference Plan and Medicare, contact the Health Team of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – PRE-ANNUITY RETIREES

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants, based upon the premiums charged by HealthFlex.

For those who have retired early and are not collecting an annuity, the retired enrollee is responsible for the full Active premium payment until they reach annuity age.

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PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall establish rates of premiums for the participants based upon the premiums charged by HealthFlex.

Unless it has already been stated above under Eligibility, the Conference shall pay the premiums for all enrolled active participants, lay or ministerial, from appropriate funds, except that:

A. Each church shall pay the premiums of each of its full-time appointed clergy (including clergy spouse and dependent children if enrolled) who are either a full, probationary or associate member of the Conference or a local pastor.

   1. The salary paying unit shall also be responsible for remitting premium for its lay employees who are enrolled in the Plan.
   2. Plan participants are to pay 2% of their cash salary to the salary paying unit as their share in the premiums paid.

B. Each eligible enrollee, whose fees are not paid as provided above, shall pay his or her own premiums either directly or with employer participation. In every case, the individual enrollee is responsible for seeing that payment of his or her own premium is made if the party with PRIME responsibility fails to make the payment.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE AFTER CERTAIN EVENTS

A. **Voluntary and Involuntary Termination** - If a person's participation in the Plan ceases due to voluntary or involuntary termination of Conference membership or employment or discharge or removal from the Annual Conference, continuation of health insurance coverage may be available through application to HealthFlex. The Conference Plan does not offer COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) because, as a qualified 414(e) Church Plan, it is exempt from COBRA by federal law.

B. **Loss of Dependent Status -** If a dependent's participation in the Plan ceases due to divorce or to attaining the limiting age, continuation coverage may be available through application to HealthFlex.

C. **Incapacity Leave** - See #2 under Eligibility.

D. **Leave of Absence** (¶354 and ¶355) - Clergy placed on voluntary leave of absence (personal, family, or transitional) or involuntary leave of absence may continue in the Plan for a period of twelve months**,** provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage for up to an additional 12 months may be available through application to HealthFlex. Leave of absence is not an appointment and does not accrue annuity credit towards health benefits in retirement.

E. **Sabbatical Leave** (¶ 352) Clergy placed on sabbatical leave may continue in the Plan for a period of twelve months**,** provided they pay the premiums. Continuation coverage may be available through application to HealthFlex. Sabbatical leave is not a break in appointment for the purposes of health benefits in retirement.

F. **Death** - Surviving spouses of clergy members are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guidelines #1 and 3) as the clergy member. Surviving spouses of lay employees of the Conference and District offices are subject to the same rules (see Eligibility Guideline #4 c) as the lay employee.

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ADMINISTRATION

All concerns, issues, requests, etc., relating to premiums, benefits, coverage (including voluntary termination of coverage, additions or deletions to policies) and benefits at retirement must be "in writing" from the Plan participant to be considered official. Such correspondence, concerns, or requests for changes in coverage must be sent to the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator. Commitments or resolutions of issues must come in writing directly from the Plan Administrator or his/her designated coordinator.

The Benefits Officer and Administrator for the Conference Plan is the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services. The Benefits Officer shall be a member of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits without a vote. He/she shall be responsible for promptly enrolling all eligible persons, for collecting all amounts due from churches, agencies or individuals for participation in the Plan, for arranging for their prompt deposit in a Conference account, for checking all billings from the Insurance Carrier to certify their completeness and accuracy and for making proper remittances on schedule for the Plan; and such Officer shall delete from the Plan any enrollee whose premium is not paid by the end of the month for which the premium is due. Termination is effective the first day of the month for which no payment has been received.

2014 Annual Conference Comprehensive Funding Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopts the 2014 comprehensive funding plan below: (Note: The funding plan (see Appendix A below) was submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) on January 29, 2013 to fulfill Disciplinary requirements listed in ¶1506.6. It received a favorable opinion on March 14, 2013 (see Appendix B below).

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Greater New Jersey Annual Conference 2014 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN TEMPLATE

The Greater New Jersey annual conference has the following benefit obligations:

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)

The total liability for CRSP DB annuities as of 1/1/2012 is $737 million, the total plan assets are $744 million, and the current funded ratio for the plan is 101%.

The Greater New Jersey Conference's portion of the total liability is 1.97%, and the conference has elected to include 50%+ for FTE eligibility for 2014. As a result, the required contribution due as of 12/31/14 is $1,967,861.

It is anticipated that the amount will be funded from Redirection of Pre-82 totaling $1,967,861.

The total account and/or future incoming money covers the required contribution.

The contribution for 2012 CRSP DC is anticipated to be $668,962 and will be funded by CRSP DC Billings to Local Churches

It is anticipated that increases for future years will be 1.50% (anticipated increase %). This increase is anticipated because Plan compensation increases

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

The total liability for MPP annuities as of 1/1/2012 is $2.538 billion, the total plan assets are $2.639 billion, and the current funded ratio for the plan is 104%.

The conference's % of the total liability is 1.86%,. There is no required contribution for 2014.

Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of $4.324 billion as of 1/1/2012. The conference's portion of this account balance at 1/1/12 is $81.982 million or 1.90% of the total.

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (Pre-82)

For 2013, the PSR is $607.00. For 2014, the conference is increasing its PSR to $619.00. On average, the conference expects future increases to be approximately 2%. The rationale for our expectation is:

Be consistent with Annual cost of living increases

We have changed our estimate of future increases to the PSR for the following reason(s): See # 4

Key assumptions: 7.0% discount rate, using the RP2000 mortality table with a AA generational projection.

The conferences does not intend to increase its contingent annuitant percentage from 75%.

Funding Plan Liability as of 1/1/2012	$43,921,165
Plan Assets as of 1/1/2012	$50,282,353

The current funded status is $6,361,188 with a 114% funded ratio.

Redirecting Surplus Information

The conference intends to redirect $2,693,487 on 12/31/2012. The conference intends to redirect $2,666,542 on 12/31/2013.

The conferencce is using Pre-82 surplus to help fund post retiree healthcare consistent with the Book of Discipline paragraph 1506.25

The conference recognizes that the use of surplus increases probability of future Pre-82 contributuions.

The conference is fully funded in the Pre 1982 pension plan for this funding plan.

The Total Balance is positive, all liabilities have been accounted for.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program

The Post Retiree Medical Plan currently offered and anticipated for 2014 can be described as: HealthFlex

A more detailed description of this plan is: Clergy eligible annuitants wiith 20 yrs service or laity 20 yrs employment receive 100% retiree heathcare benefits. Less than 20yrs service receive prorated benefits

Strategic plan for funding obligation is as follows: To be fully funded in 20 yrs per plan filed with the GBOPHB in 2010.

The conference intends to retain the plan on an ongoing basis. The following is based on the most recent actuarial valuation dated as of 12/31/2011, prepared by AON Hewitt
Total value of assets assigned to the PRM program is: $15,945,518 The source of additional funds to pay for this program is: Pre-82 redirection, conf. & participant contributions.

The most recent PRM valuation showed the following liabilities:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) (net conference cost)	$62,978,900
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) (net conference cost)	Not included
Service Cost (SC) (net conference cost)	$1,778,000

Key assumptions: 5.50% discount rate, 5.0% return on assets, 9.0% trend rate, ultimately going to 5.50% trend rate in the year 2018.
Source for paying for obligations: Pre-82 redirection, conf. & participant contributions

Active Health Benefit Program

The Greater New Jersey conference offers the following active health program to its participants: HealthFlex.

During the calendar year 2012, the total cost for the active health program was $6,222,841. The active health program was funded from Health insurance Billings to local Churches. Future increases are expected in the range of Future Increases expected 3%

Rationale for anticipated increases to this obligation: Healthflex Plan Adjustments 2012

Comprehensive Protection Plan

Currently (for 2012), the Greater New Jersey Conference has an annual required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of $644,953.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 1.5% per year. This expected increase is due to: Plan compensation increases

It is anticipated the unfunded obligation will be funded as follows: CPP Billings to local churches

Other Conference Benefit Obligations to Clergy and Staff

The Greater New Jersey conference has the following other benefit obligations

Section A. Other Benefit Obligations

Currently (for 2012), the Greater New Jersey Conference has an annual estimated contribution of $60,633. This benefit obligation can be described as UMPIP-DC Plan.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 2.50% per year. This expected increase is due to: Plan compensation increases. This will be funded by: Local Church Shared Ministry

Section B. Other Benefit Obligations

The Greater New Jersey Conference has an benefit obligation that can be described as UNUM Life Options

For this obligation the annual estimated contribution is $11,906. This obligation is funded: Local Church Shared Ministry

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately N/A per year. This expected increase is due to: N/A

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This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the conference's obligations and funding of the following benefits provided to clergy and laity.

X CRSP DB
X CRSP DC
X MPP Annuities
X MPP Future Annuities
X Pre 1982
X Post-Retirement Medical
X Active Health
X CPP
X Other Obligations Section A
X Other Obligations Section B
Other Obligations Section C
Other Obligations Section D
Other Obligations Section E

CBO/Treasurer 3/11/13
Signature, conference title, date

President CBO/NB 3/11/13
Signature, conference title, date

Signature, conference title, date

Signature, conference title, date

General Board
Pension and Health Benefits
Caring For Those Who Serve

Written Opinion of Greater New Jersey Comprehensive Funding Plan

This Funding Plan meets the minimum standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by the General Board, and the requirements for a favorable opinion of a Funding Plan.

Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by the General Board do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable Conference to fulfill the obligations included in the Funding Plan.

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Glenview, Illinois
March 14, 2013

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Sponsor CRSP AND UMPIP for Part-time Clergy

BE IT RESOLVED, effective January 1, 2014, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time, and one-half time clergy and will begin to sponsor UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.

Pension and Health Benefits, Board of – Recommendations

BE IT RESOLVED that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 be set at $619 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

BE it further resolved that

1. That contributions for January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 for the Clergy Retirement Security Program for full-time and less-than-full-time (3/4 time & 1/2 time) clergy, and for Conference sponsored UMPIP Plan for 1/4 time clergy, be set at 12.5% of plan compensation; That contributions for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be set at 3% of plan compensation for full-time clergy, at 3.4% of the Denominational Average Compensation for less-than-full-time (3/4 time & 1/2 time) clergy, and at 4.4% of the Denominational Average Compensation for optional coverage (1/4 time and leave status).
2. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2013, unless otherwise stated.
3. That grants approved in lieu of pension to Howard Smith and Bernard Shropshire are continued through 2014.

   a). That the following members of the former Southern Conference be grand-parented in terms of eligibility for conference-paid health benefits. Specifically, the following persons, upon becoming annuitants with at least 10 years of service, will be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits: Edward F. Conway, Ruth Propert Taenzer, Jae Jeong Shim, Mildred E. Bender, Charles H. Mayer, J. Evans Dodds, Eileen Murphy, Nicholas Connolly, Daniel Gueh, Renee L. McCleary, William R. Hess, Frances B. Ballinger and Charles D. Mitchell.

   b). That Robert L. Webster and family be eligible for Conference-paid health benefits upon retirement and receiving an annuity.
4. That Rev. Patricia Bruger's actual years of appointment and service at CUMAC/ECHO, INC. from June 16, 1995 through retirement be fully credited for the purpose of calculation of service year credits to determine allocation of pro-rated health insurance premium payment responsibility upon retirement.
5. That the following clergy be grand-parented to five years "under appointment through the Conference immediately prior to retirement" to meet eligibility requirements for health benefits in retirement, rather than the seven years as approved at the 2011 annual conference meeting (Paragraph 3 under Eligibility, p. 365 of the 2011 Conference Journal). Specifically, the following persons, if, at the time of retirement, meet all other eligibility requirements for health insurance in retirement, shall be grand-parented under this provision: Rev. Vena Murphy, Rev. William Jacobsen, and Rev. Christina Zito.

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6. That clergy participants in the Conference Health Insurance Plan who have expenses associated with the adoption of a child will be reimbursed up to $10,000 per child upon the presentation of the necessary documentation.

7. The Greater NJ Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

   BE IT RESOLVED that an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

   THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

8. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2014 be reimbursed for one time moving expenses up to $5,000.00 incurred while moving from church-owned housing to personal housing. This reimbursement is limited to actual moving expenses, not to include moving company

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packing costs. Those entering disabled relationships shall be entitled to the same benefits and restrictions.

9. That the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to make modifications to the current Insurance Plan as the health care market demands. In addition, modifications to the Plan that could reduce premium costs to local churches and Annual Conference are to be studied and enacted as the Board determines appropriate. These changes might include increased participant deductibles, co-payments, greater use of generic medications, and other avenues of cost saving and sharing. Such changes will be subject to prior review of CFA and the Cabinet.

10. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation be approved and upon approval printed in the 2013 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

11. That we approve the following pre-1982 prior service funding plan for 2012 per the 2008 Book of Discipline. (Note: The funding plan (see Appendix A below) was submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) on May 23, 2012 to fulfill Disciplinary requirements listed in ¶1506.8. It received a favorable opinion on May 25, 2012 (see Appendix B below).

APPENDIX A

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program
As of January 1, 2012

The 2012 Past Service Rate (PSR) is $595 or 1% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The conference intends to maintain the PSR above 1.0% of the CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by the average of about 4.0% per year for the conference and we expect that pattern to continue. Therefore, we expect future PSRs to increase by an average of about 4% per year.

As of January 1, 2010 (used for determining the 2012 requirements) assuming 4.0% annual PSR increases, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits' actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows more assets than benefit obligations.
The liabilities and assets as of January 1, 2010 for the 2012 funding plan are summarized below:

Supplement One Liability*

	2012
Total Liability Assuming 4.0% PSR Increases	$(47,233,994)
Current Plan Funding	$ 55,092,909
Funding Surplus	$ 7,858,915

The conference's deposit account at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is available to provide any necessary funding of the plan.

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In the past and future the Conference intends to continue using Pre-82 surplus to pay for CRSP-DB and MPP yearly funding requirements and all corresponding deposits received from Local Churches for CRSP will be kept in an outside reserve dedicated by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Conference recognizes that the use of surplus redirection increases the future likelihood of Pre-82 contributions.

*Assuming 7% Interest and the RP-2000 Mortality Table

John Cardillo
Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services

May 23, 2012

APPENDIX B

GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 25. 2012
VIA E-MAIL

John Cardillo
1001 Wickapecko Dr.
Ocean. New Jersey 07712-4733

RE: 2012 Funding Plan for the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Dear Mr. Cardillo:

Attached is a copy of the funding plan for 2012 submitted for the portion of Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program attributable to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

The total liability as of January 1, 2010, for 2012 is $47.233.994 based on the following key actuarial assumptions:

• 7.0% interest
• RP-2000 mortality table unprojected
• Past service Rate (PSR) of $595 and
• 4% Past Service Rate future increases

In the opinion of The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, the attached funding plan meets the funding requirements of Paragraph 1506.8 of

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The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008. This opinion applies only to the attached funding plan.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Featherstone
Actuarial Services Department
cc: Ronald Coleman, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Closure of Conovertown UMC, Conovertown, NJ

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses it thanksgiving for all the blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the Conovertown United Methodist Church in Conovertown, NJ, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the provisions of ¶2549 of the *Book of Discipline*, 2012 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to United Methodist Church of their choice, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be directed to distribute net proceeds from the disposition of the assets as follows:

a) All outstanding loans and other obligations owed to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference shall be repaid upon the sale of the property, an liquidation of any other assets, and
b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Harvest Mission Fund.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with provisions of ¶2549.4 of the *Book of Discipline*, 2012 Edition, all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Conference Advance Specials 2013-2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2013 Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference designate the following ministries and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2013 conference year (without restricting in anyway a local church's ability to support other mission work):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Primary Task Team be authorized to make any additions and deletions to the Conference Advance Specials list based upon recommendations of the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

Amistad	An ecumenical ministry in the greater Freehold area seeking to assist Hispanic children and their families through educational, nutritional and spiritual programs

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Camp YDP	An urban ministry working to provide a safe, comfortable place forc hildren ages 5–14 to come after-school and during vacations as a service to working residents in the economically disadvantaged Northside section of Paterson
Cape Atlantic Cooperative Hispanic Extension(CACHE)	A cross-cultural coalition of churches working together to raise support for strengthening programs and facilities of Hispanic Ministries in the Cape Atlantic District
Centenary Fund/Preachers Aid Fund	Supporting retired clergy and spouses.
Christian Outreach Project	Provides no-cost home repairs to persons in need. Participants are made up of high school youth and adult volunteers. In addition to home repairs, participants engage in morning devotionals, singing, worship services and recreational activities.
CUMAC/ECHO	Provides emergency food, clothing, job skill development and spiritual growth to eligible individuals and families in Paterson and Passaic County, NJ
C.U.M.I.	Camden Urban Ministry Initiative, a cooperative After-School Program in Camden.
Echelon Mall Ministry	Ecumenical ministry in marketplace
Eirene Immigration Center	Provides pastoral care, counseling to help immigrants with any spiritual, personal issues, legal advice and immigration issues.
Neighborhood Center	An urban outreach agency of the Greater New Jersey Conference that has ministered to the South Camden community since 1913. The Center provides programs for all ages: Day Care, Preschool, Before and After School, Junior Girl Teen, Summer Enrichment, Senior Bible Study, Fifty Plus Club, Soup Kitchen, Bagged Emergency Food and Program and Legislation Holiday Dinners for Center families.
Pennington School	Provides half scholarships matched by Pennington School
Partnering Community Center of Greater Newark	Addressing the educational, enrichment, physical, and spiritual needs of children and families in the Greater Newark area.
Ranch Hope/Victory House	Ranch Hope provides ministry to troubled boys ages 9 to 16 ½ and Victory House provides services to troubled girls between the ages of 14–18 years. They receive counseling, housing and recreation, as well as spiritual guidance, attend chapel services and bible study.

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Publicizing Igniting Ministries

BE IT RESOLVED that we clearly and prominently present the details of the Igniting Ministries Programs on the Greater New Jersey Conference website.

Caring for the Earth

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC) of the United Methodist Church oppose the expansion or development of new infrastructure for the extraction of fossil fuels, e.g., oil pipelines, coal power plants, and hydraulic fracturing (known as 'fracking') and support the development of alternative sustainable energy sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church instruct the Board of Church and Society to educate, encourage, and empower churches and members within our conference to resist climate change and environmental degradation. The means of such encouragement may include assembling and disseminating resources that explain the science behind climate change and environmental degradation; identifying appropriate groups with whom individuals and churches might partner; and having Mission Moments on issues related to climate change and the environment.

Local Church Structure Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference request Bishop Schol to consult with Korean leaders and the Korean Caucus to learn why the organizational system used by some Korean UMCs exists and in needed, and report back his learning at the next Annual Conference.

Make Mount Tabor Camp Meeting a GNJ Conference Historic Site

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History recommends to the annual conference that the Mount Tabor Camp Meeting site be designated the status of a GNJAC Historic Site.

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