V. GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL SESSION
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
OCEAN GROVE, NJ

NEW CONFERENCE CENTER RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2013 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, on May 30, 2013, voted to authorize the Conference Board of Trustees to build or purchase a new conference office center with a budget not to exceed $4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, after extensive cost reduction efforts and competitive bidding the cost of the planned building is $858,311 over the approved budget and the cost of land and site work is $304,295 over the approved budget; and

WHEREAS, the new building of about 20,000 sq. ft. is intended to not only replace the existing offices, but also to expand program capabilities in both communications and training as well as to save money presently expended from our budget for rental of meeting spaces; and

WHEREAS, a smaller building of 15,000 sq. ft. will save nothing of the cost for land and site work, and only $347,116 in the cost of construction and will result in the elimination of the program features for communications and the training/meeting spaces; and

WHEREAS, in the same session, it authorized the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to provide a 4% loan for 25 years of up to $3,000,000 to finance the project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Conference Board of Trustees be authorized to build a 20,000 sq. ft. building with a budget not to exceed $5,029,000; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to pay one-twenty-fifth of the principal amount of the borrowing annually from conference surplus (estimated to be $120,000 per year) as long as these payments do not reduce the surplus to an amount below that required by the merger legislation of the 2000 Uniting Conference and affirmed by the 2009 Annual Conference (8% of the budget); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Share of the current HealthFlex dividend of $500,000 be dedicated to financing this project.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED to continue the authorization for the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to provide a 4% loan for 25 years of up to $3,000,000 to finance the project.

RATIONALE:
The payment of principal in even annual amounts will reduce interest costs to the annual conference. Conference surplus is currently substantially in excess of the minimum amount required by conference legislation and is expected to remain so.

It has been previously established that repair and refurbishment of the present building would cost a substantial sum ($1,000,000-$1,500,000) and said repairs and renovations would leave us with an old building that is marginal for use as a conference office center and which would have neither the space available for new communications capabilities, nor the room for expanded training programs and meeting spaces.

It should be noted that the meeting spaces will save $96,000 per year from budget accounts by being able to hold meetings in the conference office rather than commercial facilities. This amount is over half of the annual mortgage payment (principal and interest).

RESOLUTION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:
In light of the program needs and the partial offset from the reduced cost of meetings, The Connectional Table, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Board of Trustees are in agreement that the 20,000 sq. ft. building is in the best interests of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and recommend adoption of this resolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE SIXTEENTH SESSION
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

MAY 28-30, 2015
WILDWOOD, NJ

RULES OF ORDER *(no changes; may be found at www.gnjumc.org in the Download Library under Annual Conference)*

CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS 2015-2016

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2015 Session of the Greater New Jersey Conference designate the following ministries and institutions as Conference Advance Specials for the 2015-2016 conference year (without restricting in anyway a local church's ability to support other mission work):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Connectional Table 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
Camp YDP - An urban ministry working to provide a safe, comfortable place For children ages 5–13 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 and Preachers' Aid Society - 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

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, program and legislation, and 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.

A FUTURE WITH HOPE, INC. (CHANGE BY-LAWS)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following change to the By-Laws, ARTICLE IV: Board of Trustees, Section 2 should read (additions are underlined, deletions are have a line through the words):
All Trustees will be elected by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (hereinafter "GNJAC") upon nomination by the GNJAC Nominating Committee as provided in Article VII Section 1. The Board of Trustees of the Corporation shall provide recommendations of candidates to the GNJAC Nominating Committee. There shall be no prohibition of paid employees of GNJAC to serve as Trustees. Unless elected to fill a vacancy, Trustees shall be ~~elected~~ nominated at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees. In the event of a mid-year vacancy, the board of trustees may fill the vacancy. The board member must then be elected by the GNJAC in order to continue to serve. ~~the GNJAC nominating committee shall select a candidate who will be voted upon and elected by the Board to fill a vacancy shall serve until the end of the term of the Trustee being replaced.~~
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following change to the By-Laws ARTICLE V: Officers, Section 6 should read (additions are underlined, deletions are struck):
The officers of the Corporation shall be elected by majority vote (but not fewer than four) of the members present at the Annual Meeting which will be the first quarterly meeting of the year ~~held in the month of December each calendar year~~ and shall hold office for one year or until their successors have been elected, whichever is later.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following change to the By-Laws ARTICLE VII: Meetings and Other Means of Conducting Business, Section 1 should read (additions are underlined, deletions are struck):
General Meetings for the transaction of corporate business shall be held at least quarterly unless the Board otherwise determines. ~~The December meeting~~ The first quarterly meeting of the year will be considered the Annual Meeting of the Corporation at which time ~~Trustees and~~ the Officers shall be elected and Trustees shall be nominated for the new term.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following change to the By-Laws ARTICLE VIII: Amendments, should read (additions are underlined, deletions are struck):
Changes to by-laws articles I, II, III, IV, VIII, XII, and XVI, must be approved by GNJAC. All other ~~These~~ by-laws may be amended by the Board at any of its meetings by the vote of two-thirds of all Trustees in favor of the amendment, provided that a written notice of a proposal to amend the By-laws is sent out to all Trustees not less than ten days in advance of the meeting date. ~~No such amendment shall be effective without the prior approval of GNJAC.~~

The ARTICLES that need annual conference approval relate to the purpose and connection with GNJAC. This in affect requires the board to bring to annual conference any by-law changes that would change the purpose and connection to GNJAC.
ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE
ARTICLE II OFFICES
ARTICLE III MEMBERS
ARTICLE IV BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS TO THE BY LAWS
ARTICLE XII DISOLUTION
ARTICLE XVI FORCE AND EFFECT OF BY-LAWS AND COMPLIANCE WITH GNJAC REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY, CHANGE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

BE IT RESOLVED that Article III be amended to read:
The Educational Society shall be clergy and members of the churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, referred to as the Board of directors.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IV, Section I. be amended to read:
The Educational Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of sixteen members, eight clergy and eight members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IV, Section II be amended to read:
Four directors shall be elected each year at the regular session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to serve for a term of four years and shall serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Unexpired terms shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IV, Section III be amended to read:
Section III It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors of the Educational Society to:

1. Meet annually in the spring and fall, and at such times as may be deemed necessary upon five days' notice to each of the directors.
2. Submit to the annual session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference a detailed report of the disbursements of the Educational Society.
3. Increase the funds of the Educational Society by requesting the active cooperation of all members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.
4. Determine which applicants should receive funds from the Educational Society and what amount shall be granted in scholarship and/or loans to each recipient.
5. Maintain oversight of all recipients to ensure they abide by the requirements of the Educational Society.
6. Invest surplus funds through the Conference treasurer.
7. Receive an independent annual audit review.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IV, Section V be deleted. The subject is addressed in Article V, Section IV:
The above was originally written:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article V, Sections I-IV be added as follows:

Section I It shall be the duty of the President to see that all provisions of this Constitution be faithfully executed, to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, to call the annual meetings of the Board and to see that the annual report of the Educational Society be presented to the Conference. It shall also be his/her duty to designate the time and place for the meetings of the Board, and through the Secretary inform all the Directors accordingly; to speak and vote on all questions that may come before the Board at any meetings; and to see that all meetings of the Board are opened with prayer.

Section II It shall be the duty of the Vice-president to assist the President in the conduct of the duties of his/her office, and at such times as the President is absent or not available he/she shall perform the duties of the President.

Section III The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence and carefully keep the records of the Educational Society. He/she shall notify the Directors of all meetings. It shall be his/her duty to furnish at each meeting all the correspondence of the Society since the previous meetings and especially the annual reports of the recipients of the Society. He/she shall also record all proceedings of the Board.

Section IV The treasurer shall be bonded in accordance with Annual Conference regulations and procedures. It shall be his/her duty to take charge of the funds of the Educational Society, to keep an accurate account of the same showing the sources from which they have been derived and the purpose to which they have been appropriated. He/she shall open and keep a separate account for each recipient and shall receive and take charge of all notes and obligations of the Society. He/she shall send statements to recipients when repayment is due to commence and annually thereafter. No money shall be paid by the Treasurer from the fund of the Society, nor invested by him without a written order from the Board of Directors, signed by the President and Secretary. He/she shall give to the Directors, whenever they request it, a particular account of the state of the treasury. He/she shall make payments and investments as the board may direct. He/she shall render to the Board at special and annual meetings a written account of all receipts and expenditures for the year preceding, and the amounts of the funds of the Society, and the manner in which they are invested. He/she shall submit a written annual report to be published in the Minutes of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. He/she shall also present his books for annual audit by the Conference auditor.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI be amended to read:

The following committees, along with other committees formed as necessary, shall exist under the Educational Society. Other committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the president or as recommended by the Board of Directors.

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the duly elected officers of the Educational Society and shall meet at the call of the president. It shall consider and act upon interim business of the Educational Society and make report of such meetings to the Board of Directors.
2. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually by the president. It shall present nominations of directors to be elected at the next session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, a slate of officers to be considered for the election by the Board of Directors, and recommendations for filling vacancies as they occur.

3. The Scholarship and Loan Committee shall be appointed annually by the president to review and process all applications for scholarships and loans and to make recommendations to the board of directors for its consideration. It shall be the responsibility of the chairperson(s) to distribute applications upon request.
4. The Public Relations Committee shall handle all publicity and multimedia activity, including but not limited to, "Relay", the Conference web site, Annual Conference packet and table display and Educational Society brochures. This committee will connect the Society with all institutions of higher education approved by the United Methodist Church University Senate.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII be added as follows:
Article VII – Applications for Scholarships and Loans
All persons interested in receiving funds from the Educational Society must submit a completed application with all required documents by the deadline date.

BE IT RESOLVED that the word beneficiary (ies) be replaced by recipient(s).

BE IT RESOLVED that article, section, and paragraph numbers be adjusted as appropriate due to above changes.

RATIONALE: The Educational Society by-laws have not been reviewed and updated since 2002.

FLANDERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORIC SITE
(no financial impact)

WHEREAS, Flanders United Methodist Church holds a unique place in the history of northwestern New Jersey as the largest preaching venue for Bishop Asbury and early Methodist circuit riders.

WHEREAS, Flanders United Methodist Church is where Francis Asbury pioneered the building of the first "Methodist House" in northwestern New Jersey and one of the earliest Methodist houses within the bounds of our conference.

WHEREAS, The building became a first of its kind and inspired Methodists to shift from household meetings, open air gatherings and services held in union churches to building churches wholly owned by Methodists, wherein Asbury initiated a new phase of congregational development.

WHEREAS, Flanders United Methodist Church had one of the largest open air meetings on June 24, 1787 to hear Asbury preach, where he remarked after preaching in the "woods" that there were nearly one thousand listeners and that he baptized a number of adults and children by immersion or sprinkling.
WHEREAS, Flanders United Methodist Church pastors included many important early Methodists leaders such as Ezekiel Cooper, Jesse Lee, William Phoebus, and Richard Swain.

WHEREAS, Flanders Methodists continued to worship in the original Meeting House until 1857 and the current Flanders United Methodist Church building is registered as a New Jersey Historic Place.

THEREFORE, Flanders United Methodist Church has a special place in northern New Jersey's Methodist past and present, it deserves to be recognized by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference as a Conference Historic Site.

RATONALE: The original Flanders United Methodist Church was on the cutting edge of early Methodist church architecture and helped Asbury reshape how congregational development was done. The church in Flanders was the center for early Methodist growth in northwest New Jersey, and its congregation has continued to faithfully minister to the Mount Olive community since 1789.

PORT ELIZABETH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORIC SITE
(no financial impact)

WHEREAS, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church is one of the oldest organized Methodist Episcopal Church congregations in New Jersey at two hundred and thirty years and was part of the original Salem circuit in southern New Jersey.

WHEREAS, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church started out as the Morris River Methodist Society around 1778 during the American Revolution. Benjamin Abbott, southern New Jersey's influential "War Time Evangelist" attends the quarterly meeting.

WHEREAS, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church is visited by Bishop Frances Asbury on September 17, 1785. He would return on October 6, 1786 to an attentive crowd. He returned for a last time on April 17, 1809 to preach and confer with Dr. Benjamin Fisler about building an academy on the church grounds.

WHEREAS, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church's cemetery contains the remains of Richard Swain and his family. Swain served under Abbott and was appointed to several circuits in the New Jersey area until 1803. His leadership helped make Methodism successful in the southern New Jersey area.
WHEREAS, Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church erected the first exclusive Methodist use building in 1786. The present edifice dates from 1827.

THEREFORE, As one of the most successful southern New Jersey churches whose tremendous impact upon South Jersey Methodism since 1785 deserves to be recognized by this body as a Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Historic Site.

RATIONALE: Port Elizabeth United Methodist Church has a special place in southern New Jersey's Methodist history. The fact that Francis Asbury visited twice and set in motion for an educational academy built later on the grounds gives proof to its expanding ministry and importance to Methodist work in the area. Port Elizabeth's spiritual heritage through the years includes a famous 1869 revival and strong temperance stand in 1884.

CAMDEN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER HISTORIC SITE
(no financial Impact)

WHEREAS, in 1913, at the peak of establishing deaconess homes and training schools in the United States, Camden's Deaconess Home and Community Center is founded by the New Jersey Conference Woman's Home Missionary Society with deaconess Hattie F. Davis in charge. A house on 273 Kaighn's Avenue was purchased for the work. The initial offerings to the community were sewing classed, children's' story hour and mother's meetings. Shortly thereafter a kindergarten and employment bureau was launched. In that same year the deaconess made nearly one thousand home visitations to the needy.

WHEREAS, by 1921, the Neighborhood Center moved to 278 Kaighn's Avenue when they purchased the Kaighn Family mansion. Three years later the mansion was demolished and with funding help from the New Jersey Annual Conference along with the New Jersey Conference Woman's Home Missionary Society, a new building costing $100,000 was dedicated on April 30, 1925. Later construction came in the form of the Craft building (1964) and the Broadway Center (1971).

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Center continually expanded its outreach to meet the needs of Camden's underprivileged in subsequent years. Programs included weekly groups, children, youth, teen, senior outreach programs, a thrift store, GED program, Bible classes, recreation, music programs, drug rehabilitation for women and young mothers, emergency service, a soup kitchen that serves meals seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, child care and after school programs.

RATIONALE: The Neighborhood Center has its roots in the international Deaconess movement's focus on serving Camden's disenfranchised through a variety of ministries which continue today. The Neighborhood Center is a product of the New Jersey Conference Woman's Home Missionary Society women and the annual conference since 1913. The 1925 building façade is a testament to early 20th century architectural design. The Neighborhood Center has stayed true to its original purpose throughout the years and is a prime example of a historic Greater New Jersey Annual Conference ministry that remembers what they will be for many years in the future.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as one of the most successful Deaconess based ministries that has evolved their ministry over the years to meet the needs of Camden's citizens we feel that the Neighborhood Center deserves to be recognized by this body as a Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Historic Site.

ANNUAL CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
(no financial Impact)

WHEREAS, the annual conference journal records basic local church information in the form of pastoral appointments, numeric totals for financial statistics, membership, attendances, vital ministries, real estate assessments, incomes, expenditures, etc. which provides only bare bones data about local churches without documenting anywhere near the faithful ministries and work of the congregation for the Kingdom of God.

WHEREAS, local church histories provide gradient historical context of each church depending on the amount and breadth of the research as evident in the narrative essay by putting the sinew on daily church life. Descriptions of buildings, events, class meetings, Sunday Schools, members on various boards and agencies, women's ministries, mission support, vital records all frame the life of the church in compressed categorical segments. These histories are important but often lacking the complete story.
WHEREAS, the annual church/charge report is the final piece of the local church's historic puzzle which allows historians to tell the full story of the life of a local congregation. These reports contain valuable information lacking in other forms of documentation.

WHEREAS, Church/Charge reports only come to the archives for permanent deposit when a church closes its doors. The older the church the less likely a complete set of reports will be collected within the transferred records.

RATIONALE: Archives and History wants to capture this important document on a yearly basis as to avoid the potential loss of its valuable information in the best way possible. By having a resolution requiring each church to send a printed copy to the archives on a yearly basis allows the archives to capture this record while they are readily available

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History recommends that each local church send a copy of their annual church/charge conference report to the archives once the church's church/charge conference is done.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 MERGER OF FORMER DELAWARE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHURCHES IN NEW JERSEY WITH THE NEWLY FORMED NNJ AND SNJ CONFERENCES
(no financial Impact)

WHEREAS, in 1939, when the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church merged to form the Methodist Church, the new denomination continued policy of demeaning racial segregation through the creation of a jurisdictional system with five white jurisdictions and one, separate African American jurisdiction. The Central Jurisdiction's Delaware Annual Conference (1864-1965) was the home conference to greater New Jersey's black local churches.

WHEREAS, despite the intention of segregating and by default debasing African American Methodists, the Central Jurisdiction provided a new, larger, network amongst its church leaders not previously possible in the old Negro conferences and created a new generation of leaders for a church within a church system which will be important later on in time. Almost immediately these newly formed networks pushed to end the Central Jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, by 1964, the end of the Central Jurisdiction was at hand due to a number of factors including legislation by the Pittsburgh General Conference, the fruits of Methodist church organizations within the jurisdiction and amongst the general church agencies, various annual conferences, pastors and local non-black congregations. These groups along with others showed the way to a more fair and inclusive vision of the church. There was pressure by the Evangelical United Brethren Church to end the Central Jurisdiction as well or union with the Methodist Church would not come to be. Civil rights legislation and building civil unrest started to hammer the final nails in the Central Jurisdiction coffin. The official end of the Central Jurisdiction came in 1973.

WHEREAS, **i**n that same year twenty-three Delaware Annual Conference churches merged into the newly created Northern and Southern New Jersey Annual Conferences. At that same time Bishop Prince Taylor became one of two first Black bishops to be assigned to predominately white episcopal areas. Taylor's assignment was, of course, the New Jersey Episcopal Area. There would be a handful more post 1964 Delaware African American Methodist congregations joining the two new conferences making the merger complete.

RATIONALE: Born out of racism, the Central Jurisdiction is today a terrible stain upon Methodist identity. Despite the demeaning nature of this segregated plan it proved to be a crucible by which the networking and training of African American leaders who were to push for complete integration in both the church and larger American society. Greater New Jersey African American Methodists were instrumental in the fight for civil rights both within and beyond the Delaware Annual Conference boundaries as well as ending the Central Jurisdiction once and for all. By 1964, greater New Jersey Methodists on both sides of the racial line embraced the merger of the Delaware Annual Conference into two new inclusive conferences. The former Delaware Annual Conference leaders proved to be a valuable asset in the spiritual growth of existing black and white churches and push social justice campaigns with Bishop Prince Taylor leading the way.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**,** that The Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History petitions this annual conference to take a moment to recognize the struggle and gifts that these former Delaware Annual Conference churches which made a second reunification possible in 1964 and beyond.

ELECT A LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN AND INCLUDE IN CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT
(no financial Impact)

WHEREAS, The *Book of Discipline* "strongly recommends that the charge conference elect a church historian in order to preserve the history of each local church. The responsibilities of this historian are to keep the historical records up to date; …cooperate with the annual conference commission on archives and history; provide an annual report on the care of church records and historical materials to the charge conference; and also provide, with the pastor and the committee on records and history, if any, for the preservation of all local church records and historical materials no longer in current use. Records and historical materials include all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, reports, letters, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, or any other documentary material, regardless of form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to any provisions of the *Discipline* in connection with the transaction of church business by any local church of The United Methodist Church or any of its constituent predecessors…" (¶247.5)

WHEREAS, the local church historian works with the church office to implement and maintain a records retention schedule that streamlines the life-cycle of records by designating them as being either "active" or "inactive" and also as holding "non-permanent" and/or "permanent" status.

WHEREAS, **t**he local church historian is a valuable member of the church's ministry and witness to the larger community by providing leadership in the ministry of memory-evangelism through the celebration and commemoration of our Wesleyan-Christian faith identity.

WHEREAS, the local church historian needs to be named in the annual church/charge conference report so that the annual conference commission on archives and history has a contact person in which to train, advise and amplify the ability of the local church historian to become more effective in the administration and ministry of the local church.

RATIONALE: The local church historian is an important part of the administration and ministry of every local church. By maintaining the archive of a local church and leading the congregation in celebrating and living-out our Wesleyan identity, the local church historian ensures the church's ongoing witness will inspire future generations for greater faithful service to Jesus Christ.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History (CAH) recommends that each local church elect a Church Historian to enhance the efficiency of its record keeping and keep its ministry of memory-evangelism relevant for future generations. CAH also recommends that the name of church historian be included on the yearly church/charge conference report in order for the CAH to identify, train, support and advise the historian for better service within the local church.

SHARED MINISTRIES PLAN, COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference approves the adoption of the Shared Ministries Plan for 2016, the details of which are provided on the following pages.

	2016 SHARED MINISTRY PLAN	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column F
INCOME:		**2015**	**2015**	**2016**	**2016**	**Difference**
		Approved	**Expected**	**Recommende**	**Expected**	**2015 to 201**
I.	Income from Shared Ministries	12,366,501	10,612,131	11,998,609	10,310,928	(367,892)
II.	Income from Reserve Funds / Previous Year Surplus	406,386	406,386	273,386	273,386	(133,000)
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	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000	-
		13,176,888	**11,422,517**	**12,675,996**	**10,988,314**	**(500,892)**
EXPENSE:						
I. CLERGY SUPPORT						
	A. District Superintendents Salary, Benefits & Office Exp. **Sched.A**	2,292,308	1,987,110	2,368,801	2,053,419	76,493
	B. Episcopal Fund	473,271	410,260	491,615	426,161	18,343
	C. Conference share of Bishop's housing	32,456	28,135	32,456	28,135	-
	D. Annuitants Health Insurance & Benefits	2,943,222	2,551,361	2,366,427	2,051,361	(576,794)
	E. Equitable Compensation	190,342	165,000	190,342	165,000	-
	F. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry administrative expenses	49,464	42,878	49,464	42,878	-
	G. Bridge Fund	14,997	13,000	14,997	13,000	-
	Sub-total for CLERGY SUPPORT	**5,996,059**	**5,197,744**	**5,514,101**	**4,779,954**	(481,958)
II. ADMINISTRATION						
	A. Conference Council on Finance and Administration expenses	4,614	4,000	4,614	4,000	-
	B. Director of Administrative Services expenses **Sched. B**	183,821	159,347	190,002	164,705	6,181
	C. Other conference administrative agencies' expense **Sched.E**	1,469,242	1,273,627	1,490,090	1,291,699	20,848
	D. Conf. Sessions (3 days)	278,581	241,491	278,581	241,491	-
	E. Episcopal Area Office Supplement	161,220	139,755	162,722	141,057	1,502
	F. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	11,536	10,000	11,536	10,000	-
	G. Jurisdictional conference administrative apportionments & related exp.	41,529	36,000	41,529	36,000	-
	H. General Administration Fund	190,471	165,112	184,125	159,611	(6,346)
	I. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	42,389	36,745	40,967	35,513	(1,421)
	Sub-total for ADMINISTRATION	**2,383,403**	**2,066,077**	**2,404,167**	**2,084,076**	20,763
	CLERGY SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION ***(fund 100)***	**8,379,463**	**7,263,821**	**7,918,268**	**6,864,030**	(461,194)
III. WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE						
	A World Service Fund	1,577,983	1,367,890	1,525,042	1,321,998	(52,940)
	B. Director of Connectional Ministry - **Schedule C**	177,530	153,894	182,190	157,933	4,659
	C. Non-Cabinet Staff (4) **Schedule C**	598,606	518,908	617,853	535,592	19,246
	D. Non-Cabinet Staff (1) - **Schedule C**	149,652	129,727	154,463	133,898	4,812
	E. Administrative expenses - *directly related to the above III.B.*	237,311	205,715	248,844	215,713	11,534
	F. Connectional Table - **Schedule D.**	1,088,641	943,699	1,088,641	943,699	(0)
	G. Supplemental Strategic Salary Support	161,502	140,000	161,502	140,000	0
	Sub-total for **WORLD SERVICE/CONF.BEN.** ***(fund 300)***	**3,991,225**	**3,459,833**	**3,978,535**	**3,448,833**	(12,689)
IV. OTHER APPORTIONED FUNDS						
	A. Black College Fund *(fund 410)*	216,105	187,333	208,861	181,053	(7,245)
	B. Africa University Fund *(fund 420)*	48,356	41,918	46,755	40,530	(1,601)
	C. Ministerial Education Fund *(fund 430)*	541,739	469,612	523,577	453,868	(18,162)
	Sub-total for OTHER FUNDS	**806,201**	**698,863**	**779,193**	**675,451**	(27,008)
	TOTAL EXPENSE (I,II,III, IV)	**13,176,888**	**11,422,517**	**12,675,996**	**10,988,314**	**(500,892)**
	Shortfall Budgeted		**1,754,371**		**1,687,682**	
	Total Expense Budget	**13,176,888**	**11,422,517**	**12,675,996**	**10,988,314**	**(500,892)**

	A		B		C		C		C	
SCHEDULE ABC	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected
	District		Dir.Admin.Srvcs./		Director of Connectional		Coordinators		Coordinators	
	Superintendents		Conference Treasurer		Ministry		Four		One	
Salary	87,911	90,549	87,911	90,549	87,911	90,549	67,924	69,962	67,924	69,962
Pension										
Pension CRSP	13,736	14,148	12,349	13,338	13,736	14,148	10,365	11,320	10,365	11,320
Pension CRSP (CPP)	3,297	3,396	2,264	2,415	3,297	3,336	2,488	2,716	2,488	2,716
(CHIP)Health Insurance*	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Housing Maintenance *	8,000	8,000	20,000	20,600	20,000	20,600	20,000	20,600	20,000	20,600
Utilities *	6,000	7,000	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	850			0	0				
Worker's Comp	350	750	350	700	350	700	350	700	350	700
Expenses:										
Travel, Conferences ,Bus. Entmt.	12,800	12,800	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700
Administrative Assistants	59,239	61,298								
Continuing Education	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Office Expenses	5,800	5,800								
Payroll Taxes	0	0	7,873	8,503	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST FOR ONE (1):	**214,790**	**221,491**	**159,347**	**164,705**	**153,894**	**157,933**	**129,727**	**133,898**	**129,727**	**133,898**
	9	**9**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**1**
	1,933,110	**1,993,419**	**159,347**	**164,705**	**153,894**	**157,933**	**518,908**	**535,592**	**129,727**	**133,898**
District Office Rent (Pooled)	**54,000**	**60,000**								
Total of DS package	**1,987,110**	**2,053,419**								

SCHEDULE E					
	2015	**2015**	**2016**	**2016**	**2016**
II D. ADMINISTRATION	**Budget**	**Expected**	**Budget**	**Expected**	**Shortfall**
Salaries: Central Office Staff/Service Dept.	645,571	559,620	664,938	576,408	88,530
Benefits & Payroll Taxes-Central Office	304,456	263,921	305,938	265,205	40,733
Salaries:Conference Secretary/ Secretarial Asst	13,533	11,731	13,879	12,031	1,848
Central Office Operations	178,806	155,000	178,806	155,000	23,806
Treas. Office Operations	33,973	29,450	33,627	29,150	4,477
Conference Journal	17,258	14,960	17,258	14,960	2,298
Auditing/Bonding	28,840	25,000	28,840	25,000	3,840
Capital Equip. R/R Fund	7,060	6,120	7,060	6,120	940
Information Services Support	38,530	33,400	38,530	33,400	5,130
Committee on Nominations	981	850	981	850	131
Building Maintenance Reserve	5,393	4,675	5,393	4,675	718
Gen/Jur Conference Reserve	3,922	3,400	3,922	3,400	522
Conference Business Travel	17,304	15,000	17,304	15,000	2,304
Board of Trustees	144,199	125,000	144,199	125,000	19,199
Conference Chancellor	29,417	25,500	29,417	25,500	3,917
SCHEDULE E Total	1,469,242	1,273,627	1,490,090	1,291,699	198,391

GNJAC						
Schedule D- Benevolence Budget						
Calendar Year 2016 Budget						
	2015 Projected Budget	**2015 Actual Expected**	**2015 Expected Shortfall**	**2016 Projected Budget**	**2016 Actual Expected**	**2016 Expected Shortfall**
Board of Church and Society	**3,922**	**3,400**	**522**	**3,922**	**3,400**	**522**
Board of Discipleship	**208,677**	**180,881**	**27,796**	**208,677**	**180,881**	**27,796**
Board of Discipleship	1,154	1,000	154	1,154	1,000	154
Camps & Conferences	207,523	179,881	27,642	207,523	179,881	27,642
Board of Global Ministries	**22,792**	**19,913**	**2,879**	**24,112**	**20,900**	**3,212**
Board of Global Ministries	1,471	1,275	196	2,538	2,200	338
Disaster Response	9,554	8,438	1,116	9,806	8,500	1,306
Mission School	11,767	10,200	1,567	11,767	10,200	1,567
Board of Higher Education	**69,214**	**60,000**	**9,214**	**74,988**	**65,000**	**9,988**
Higher Education & Campus Ministry	69,214	60,000	9,214	74,988	65,000	9,988
Board of Laity	**19,611**	**17,000**	**2,611**	**22,785**	**19,750**	**3,035**
Commission on Archives and History	**8,075**	**7,000**	**1,075**	**8,076**	**7,000**	**1,076**
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	**29,909**	**25,925**	**3,984**	**25,381**	**22,000**	**3,381**
Commission on Christian Unity/Inter. Concerns	5,393	4,675	718	8,076	7,000	1,076
NJ Council of Churches	24,515	21,250	3,265	17,305	15,000	2,305
Commission on Religion and Race	**4,412**	**3,825**	**587**	**9,229**	**8,000**	**1,229**
Commission on Small Membership Church	**980**	**850**	**130**	**577**	**500**	**77**
Commission on the Status and Role of Women	**4,902**	**4,249**	**653**	**5,768**	**5,000**	**768**
Committee on Disability Concerns	**8,825**	**7,650**	**1,175**	**577**	**500**	**77**
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	**83,938**	**72,758**	**11,180**	**54,222**	**47,000**	**7,222**
Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	17,305	15,000	2,305	5,768	5,000	768
Korean American National Plan	23,535	20,400	3,135	11,537	10,000	1,537
Strengthening the Black Church Plan	12,748	11,050	1,698	13,844	12,000	1,844
National Hispanic Plan	30,351	26,308	4,043	23,073	20,000	3,073
Committee on Native American Ministry	**490**	**425**	**65**	**577**	**500**	**77**
Council on Young Adult Ministry	**14,218**	**12,325**	**1,893**	**14,219**	**12,325**	**1,894**
Young Adults	14,217	12,325	1,892	14,219	12,325	1,894
Council on Youth Ministry	**29,419**	**25,500**	**3,919**	**24,804**	**21,500**	**3,304**
Youth Ministry-Search	19,597	17,000	2,597	14,998	13,000	1,998
Ignite	9,806	8,500	1,306	9,806	8,500	1,306
United Methodist Men	**1,961**	**1,700**	**261**	**577**	**500**	**77**
Sub-Total - Conference Sch. D Benevolence Budge	**511,344**	**443,401**	**67,943**	**478,491**	**414,756**	**63,735**

Community Outreach Grants	210,256	182,250	28,006		210,256	182,250	28,006
Connectional Table	49,537	42,818	6,719		61,113	53,038	8,075
Congregational Development	49,031	42,500	6,531		49,031	42,500	6,531
Emerging Needs	19,612	17,000	2,612		19,612	17,000	2,612
Leadership Development	29,419	25,500	3,919		29,419	25,500	3,919
District Programming	137,271	119,000	18,271		137,287	119,000	18,287
Communications	17,161	14,875	2,286		23,073	20,000	3,073
Relay	60,794	52,700	8,094		76,142	66,000	10,142
Resource Center	4,217	3,655	562		4,217	3,655	562
Grand Total	1,088,641	943,699	144,942		1,088,641	943,699	144,942

SHARED MINISTRY (APPORTIONMENT) FORMULA FOR 2016

WHEREAS, at the Annual Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in 2010, a new formula for allocating the expenses of the Annual Conference was approved,

And WHEREAS, that formula was to be used beginning in 2011,

And WHEREAS, the formula would have made substantial changes in the amount billed to many individual local churches,

And WHEREAS, the Annual Conference wanted to moderate the effects of the change in local church's asking due to the formula change,

And WHEREAS, the Annual Conference authorized a system of caps on changes in local church Shared Ministry asking,

And WHEREAS, nearly all churches will have reached equilibrium with the new formula by the end of 2015,

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that beginning in 2016, there shall be no further caps on Shared Ministry asking.

RATIONALE: Since nearly all churches will have gotten to the point that the Shared Ministry asking is as per the formula, there is no need to continue the system of caps.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CONFERENCE SURPLUS FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT OF MORTGAGE

WHEREAS, the churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference have shown improving stewardship in recent years,
And, WHEREAS, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits transferred $1,000,000 to the Conference accounts in payment for services rendered since merger as required by merger legislation,

And, WHEREAS, conference surplus now stands at $2,785,000

And, WHEREAS, CCFA believes that a surplus reserve of 10% of the expected expenditures of the annual budget provides adequate assurance that emergencies can be accommodated,

And, WHEREAS, the total conference surplus exceeds the 10% by $1,686,000

And, WHEREAS, the planned mortgage of $2,900,000 for the new Conference Office Center will result in interest costs of $1,743,000 if the mortgage is paid over the 25 years planned,

And, WHEREAS, CCFA believes it would be wise to reduce the principal portion of the mortgage as quickly as possible to save the interest cost,

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that CCFA is authorized to use the conference surplus as of December 31, 2015 that is in excess of 10% of the 2016 expected budget expenses, to reduce the principle amount of the mortgage for the new Conference Office Center. The amount expected to be used is currently estimated at $1,700,000.

RATIONALE: The planned mortgage will cause the Annual Conference to include in its budget about $190,000 per year for principle and interest payments for the next 25 years, an increase of about $100,000 per year over the present mortgage payments. The interest portion of those payments is $1,743,000.

Inasmuch as local churches have supported budgets well in previous years and those responsible for expenses have been careful and prudent, conference surplus has increased nearly every year since merger. CCFA feels it is reasonable to anticipate those trends will continue and that unusual demands on surplus will not arise in excess of the surplus that is retained.

Those things said, CCFA believes that the wisest investment we could make would be to pay down the mortgage as soon as possible. The anticipated payment of $1,700,000 will result in savings of approximately $1,100,000 in interest. This legislation asks the Annual Conference to authorize the use of excess surplus to pay down the mortgage.

PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS, BOARD OF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Past Service Annuity Rate for January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 be set at $645 per approved service year prior to January 1, 1982.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

1. That effective January 1, 2016, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference will continue to sponsor CRSP for full-time, three-quarter time, and one-half time clergy and continue to sponsor UMPIP for those clergy in one-quarter time appointments.
2. That contributions for January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 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).
3. That the starting date for retirement payments for new retirees commences July 1, 2015, unless otherwise stated.
4. That grants approved in lieu of pension to Bernard Shropshire are continued through 2016.

   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.

5. 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.
6. 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, Rev. Christina Zito and Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson.

7. 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.

8. 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, 2015 through June 30, 2016, 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 there under, to the least 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.

9. That clergy retiring before July 1, 2016 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 packing costs. The same benefits and restrictions shall also apply to a surviving spouse moving out of the parsonage upon the death of a pastor while in active service in the Annual Conference, and to those entering disabled relationships**.**

10. 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.

11. That the Guidelines for Health Insurance Participation, below, be approved and upon approval printed in the 2015 Conference Journal and Yearbook.

2015 HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES, CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

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, and full-time local pastors of the Annual Conference and to eligible full-time lay employees.

The Plan provides secondary health insurance coverage for retirees who are receiving Medicare which requires both Medicare Parts A & B for coverage. For those who have retired early and are not yet eligible for Medicare, primary health

insurance coverage is through the same plan as those in active ministry. 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 31 days of appointment.

      1) Waiving coverage in the Plan may be done within 31 days of initial eligibility; once per year during the Conference open enrollment period for the following January 1; or within 31 days of an open enrollment period for a spouse's plan; beginning January 1, 2016. Contact the Insurance Coordinator for required documents. Documents must be completed and returned within enrollment deadline periods. See PREMIUM PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY – ACTIVE for Waived Coverage Fees.

         a. Participant must certify that:
            - The plan is through a former employment or a spouse's current or former employment. Proof of such coverage is required.
            - The plan is not a marketplace plan. Under these guidelines and marketplace rules, Full-time clergy are ineligible for any Premium Tax Credit.

         b. Re-admittance to the plan is during any open enrollment period, or due to a Special Enrollment event (loss of other coverage, employment status change, divorce, or death of a spouse, gain a dependent).

   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 ministers (¶344.2a) are required to enroll in the Active health insurance plan within 31 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 31 days of initial appointment. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period or in the case of a Special Enrollment 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 Medical 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. Beginning January 1, 2016, participants obtaining Medicare due to disability, may choose to remain in the Active Health Plan, or to enroll in the United HealthCare Retiree Plan as their secondary insurance. The premiums for ministerial members on Conference Medical 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. *Retired participants and spouses age 65 and over are required to carry Medicare Part A and Part B in order to be eligible for Conference insurance*. A Retiree (and eligible dependents) not enrolling in the Plan at the time of retirement, or who left the plan as a retiree, may enroll during any open enrollment period, or within 31 days of a Special Enrollment event (refer to Clergy Eligibility #1, subparagraph 1b. For dependent eligibility, see #5 under "Eligibility."

4. Any of the following **lay persons** are eligible to enroll in the Plan upon application within 31 days of hire. Late enrollments are permitted only during the Annual Election Period as allowed by the Plan, or in the case of a Special Enrollment 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, completes a Salary Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement, and whose church enrolls a minimum of 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.

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 Special Enrollment event. If an annuitant marries (remarries), coverage of spouse and/or children may be available and premium for dependents is at the retiree's expense.

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 the insurance carrier(s).

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 under the age of 65 commencing benefits**

    a) **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.

    b) **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. Premium responsibility will be frozen at the calendar year 2014 level for annuitants retiring prior to July 1, 2014.

    c) **on or after July 1, 2014**, 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 an annual fixed amount determined in the year of retirement 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.

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.

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 premium(s) or Waived Participation Fee(s) (which is equal to the blended premium) 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 their own salary paying unit as their share of their premium.

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. **Medical 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, causes a break in appointment years, 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 years 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.

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.

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN, 2016

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2016 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference adopts the 2016 comprehensive funding plan below: (Note: The funding plan was submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) on February 24, 2015 to fulfill Disciplinary requirements listed in ¶1506.6. It received a favorable opinion on February 26, 2015. Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBPHB for the 2016 conference benefit obligations:

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

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by annual conferences. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is $1.105 billion, while total plan assets are $1.274 billion resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 115%. The Greater New Jersey Conference portion of the liability is 1.9552% and the 2016 contribution is $1,942,051. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by CRSP Billings to Local Churches. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The Greater New Jersey Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2016.

Effective January 1, 2014 CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP, therefore if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013 and prior. The 2016 CRSP-DC contribution is anticipated to be $448,933 and will be funded by CRSP Billings to Local Churches.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan, an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is $3.018 billion, while total plan assets are $3.345 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111% and no required contribution for 2016. The Greater New Jersey Conference's % of the total liability is 1.9056%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of $4.332 billion and the Greater New Jersey Conference's portion of that balance is $80,851,687 or 1.87% of the total.

Pre-1982 Plan

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergy person retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors: 1) years of service with pension credit and 2) Conference pension rate. Years of service with pension credit are approved by each Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the past service rate, is the dollar amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit. The pension rate may change from year to year. The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM based benefit does not change.

The 2016 Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the Greater New Jersey Conference will be $645.00 representing a 2.06% increase from the 2015 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 2.00%, which is based on: Be consistent with Annual cost of living increases.

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 75% level.

Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as of January 1, 2014 for 2016, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the Greater New Jersey Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2014,as follows:

Funding Plan Liability	$44,778,231	
Assets in the Plan	$51,562,945	
Funded status	$6,784,714	represented by a 115.15% funded ratio

As outlined above, given the overfunded status of the Pre-82 Plan for the Greater New Jersey Conference, the CBOP intends to redirect Pre-82 assets in the amount of $2,018,996 on 12/31/15 to meet 2015 required contributions to the CRSP DB Plan. The conference is using Pre-82 surplus to help fund post retiree healthcare consistent with the Book of Discipline paragraph 1506.6. The CBOP also recognizes that the use of redirection increases the possibility of future required Pre-82 contributions.

Active Health Benefit Program

Plan Overview: The Greater New Jersey Conference offers the Self Funded-HealthFlex program which is best described as a Self Funded-HealthFlex program to its active eligible participants.

The total cost of the program for 2016 is anticipated to be $6,434,142 and will be funded by Health Insurance Billings to local Churches. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average Future Increases 4%, due to: Healthflex Plan Adjustments 2016-2020.

Additional Conference Sponsored Coverage

The Greater New Jersey Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods, where without conference funded premiums; the participants would not be provided coverage or benefits:

Other (Clergy Incapacity Leave): 11 participants at an estimated cost of $330,000 as of 12/31/14.

The total estimated cost of conference sponsored coverage is $330,000 as of 12/31/14.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)

Plan Overview: The Greater New Jersey Conference post-retirement medical program currently offered is an Insurance plan made available to eligible retired clergy.

The expectation for 2016 is to offer Clergy eligible annuitants with 20 years service or laity 20 years employment 100% retiree healthcare benefits. Less than 20 years receive prorated benefits. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be $3,181,000 with the funding sources to be Account assets and new incoming askings. On a longer term basis, the Conference intends to be funded by: The conferece is expecting to be fully funded by 2030 and the results will be updated pending the next valuation.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2013, the following is the funded position of the post-retirement medical benefits:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	$61,906,385
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	Not included.
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	$1,731,632
Assets designated for PRM	$17,664,478

These values are based on a 4.50% long term discount rate, a 5.0% long-term expected return, and a current increase trend of 8.0% with an ultimate medical increase of 5.0%, beginning in 2020.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time appointment with plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation, whichever is less. The Greater New Jersey Conference has elected to make CPP eligible clergy appointed full time have mandatory participation under special arrangements, while part time appointed clergy have optional participation under special arrangements.

For 2016, the Greater New Jersey Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of $731,000, which is anticipated to be funded by: CPP Billings to Local Churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.50% per year due to: The conference has a strategic plan where the Bishop and Appointment Cabinet are transitioning Local Churches to become Vital Congregations. One step of that is to increase clergy salaries which in turn increase plan obligations.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) for Lay and Clergy

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

Conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are eligible when starting employment for a plan sponsor funded pension contribution of 6 % of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to make contributions toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for the Greater New Jersey Conference is anticipated to be $67,240 and will be funded through the Local Church Shared Ministry.

The Greater New Jersey Conference, as of January 1, 2016 is planning on sponsoring the UMPIP for clergy serving quarter-time and are eligible for a pension contribution of 12.5% of salary. The estimated contribution for the Conference is anticipated to be $67,240 and will be funded through the Local Church UMPIP Billings.

Other Conference Benefit Obligations: Defined Contribution (DC) Type

DC Plan Overview: The Greater New Jersey Conference currently offers a UNUM life Options plan made available to full time conference staff. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be $12,800 with the funding sources to be: Local Church Shared Ministry. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.5%% per year due to: Compensation increases.

Conclusion:

The 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above Summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding , the Greater New Jersey Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

See 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (Appendix A)

CLERGY EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FOR 2016

BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference adopt the following recommendations for minimum equitable salary effective January 1, 2016. Please refer to the report of the Commission for rationale and additional information about the work of the Commission.

a) Elder and Deacon in Full Connection $42,562
b) Provisional & Associate Members (92%) $39,157
c) Full time Local Pastor (87%) $37,029

Any changes in clergy minimum salaries related to a change of clergy status through ordination, commissioning or licensing in 2015 will become effective as of January 1, 2016.

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 **20** 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.
All full-time pastors shall be provided with a parsonage or a housing/rental allowance as part of their compensation package.

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 professional ministerial expenses as allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall be at least $2,500. For the churches that are receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable reimbursement expense line should not exceed $2,500.

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).

Standards for Parsonages

Revised July 2015

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BE IT RESOLVED that the following recommendation be adopted as the parsonage standards for the GNJUMC effective July 1, 2015:

I. Responsible Group in the Local Church

The Book of Disciple does not mandate a parsonage committee however, it is strongly recommended that each local church Charge Conference form a parsonage committee.

The committee will follow-up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health of the pastor or pastor's family. The chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the chairperson of the board of trustees, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance. (¶ 258.2 g (16) and ¶ 2532.4)

II. Standards for Parsonage (Existing Parsonages)

For existing parsonages, each local charge shall provide and maintain the following furnishings:

1. Living room and family room furniture.
2. Dining room furniture.
3. Kitchen, including stove, refrigerator with separate freezer compartment, exhaust fan, and dishwasher.
4. Laundry equipment – automatic washer and dryer.
5. Standard television connection (providing at least 30 channels), high speed internet service and one telephone line (cell or land line). Where possible consider bundling the services.
6. Floor coverings, solid surfaces are preferred.
7. Window shades and blinds, or curtains and drapes, functioning.
8. One fire extinguisher in kitchen and one extinguisher outside of the furnace room. There shall be at least one extinguisher per floor level. All fire extinguishers should be in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties, and/or certificate of occupancy.
9. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in compliance with local code requirements for rental properties, and/or certificate of occupancy.
10. Closets or free standing storage units in each bedroom.
11. Drives and walks should be hard surfaced.
12. Minimally acceptable outside lighting.

13. Trash cans. In municipalities where garbage pickup is not part of the tax base and is billed to the parsonage, that local churches pay for this service.
14. Lawn mower and snow removal equipment (shovel or snow blower, appropriate to the need), or appropriate service, the cost of which will be determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of Trustees.
15. A study for the pastor in either the parsonage or church building. Office furnishing shall include a desk, desk chair, minimally acceptable shelving for the pastor's library, additional chairs, and a locking filing cabinet.
16. Furnishings for special rooms such as sun porch, den, etc., that may be different from one charge to another.
17. Parsonage electrical service shall conform to the current National Electrical Code.
18. Parking space for a minimum of one (1) car shall be provided.
19. Each charge shall decide if it will provide a security/alarm system.

Additional Suggestions

1. Electrical service to be inspected every five (5) years by a licensed electrician.
2. Roof inspection every five (5) years.
3. Energy Audit every five (5) years.

III. Standards for Parsonages
(Purchasing or Building a New Parsonage)

All newly constructed or newly purchased parsonages shall be in full compliance with the dictates of the Book of Discipline. Consideration shall be made for those with handicapping conditions -

Provide on the ground-floor of a newly constructed parsonage: (1) one room that can be used as a bedroom by a person with a disability; (2) a fully accessible bathroom; and (3) fully accessible laundry facilities (¶ 2544.4*d*)

1) **Option One**
   a) The use of maintenance-free materials in building and in finishing and furnishing, these contribute to keeping maintenance costs lower.
   b) The following room requirements:
      (a) Living Room/Family Room
      (b) Dining Room
      (c) Kitchen
      (d) Study
      (e) Baths (2)
      (f) Bedrooms (3)
   c) A minimum electrical service of 200 amperes.
   d) A garage of a size to accommodate 2 cars, plus room for storage of lawn mowers, bicycles, tools, garden equipment, ladders, paint supplies, etc.
   e) Space to store large articles of furniture and equipment.
   f) The use of materials meeting the most energy efficient standards for insulation and windows.
   g) Careful consideration should be given in choosing the location of the parsonage. This consideration might include the distance from the church, accessibility from main streets of the community and the church, the neighborhood and its future, and the community itself and its future growth.

2) **Option Two**
   a) The standards of Option One would apply with consideration by the church of purchasing, leasing, renting a townhouse or condominium. This option would be negotiated by the District Superintendent, the local charge and the pastor following consultation with the District Committee on Church Location and Building.
   b) The purpose of this option is to provide an alternative to the "traditional" church parsonage for ministry in special situations. Allowing for the wide variety of townhouse/condo choices, it is difficult to recommend a standard for such a setting.

IV. Responsibility

1) ***Each pastor is responsible for:***
   a) Furnishings for as many bedrooms as the family needs.
   b) Personal items such as television, vacuum cleaner, small appliances, dishes, glassware, flatware, cleaning tools, wastebaskets, and decorative accessories.
   c) The following regular maintenance:
      Floor maintenance
      Trash disposal and recycling
   d) It is expected that the pastor shall provide minimally acceptable tenant (renter's) insurance.
   e) Restitution for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.
   f) Exiting pastor shall remove all personal items and furniture from the parsonage and property and leave in a "broom clean" state.

2) ***Each charge shall provide:***
   a) Utilities – heat, electricity, gas/oil, water, sewage, and basic non-personal telephone services.
   b) Maintenance for all parsonage equipment.
   c) Basic furniture for all rooms except the bedrooms.
   d) Funds for the repair of the parsonage and its maintenance should be allocated and allowed to accumulate so that continuing care and major repairs can be made when needed.

V. Miscellaneous

1. We recommend that, in addition to the required written reports filed annually with the Annual Conference, there be a complete video inventory of all church-owned furnishings in the parsonage. The inventory shall be maintained and kept current.
2. It should be the responsibility of the Parsonage Committee to become acquainted with the parsonage and, after a new pastoral appointment, meet with the parsonage family to discuss the minimum acceptability of housing and furnishings, and to meet annually thereafter with the parsonage family.
3. During the transition of pastoral appointment – the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair, the exiting pastor, the new pastor and the Board of Trustee Chair will walk through the parsonage together for inspection and planning. It is recommended to utilize the Church Conference Parsonage inspection report for this walk through.
4. The right of the pastor to own furniture and equipment cannot be challenged. However, if s/he does own furniture and goods that s/he wishes to use in the parsonage, and parsonage furniture has to be stored, s/he should make every effort to store it properly so it is in good condition and does not suffer damage from being stored. The site or method of storage for any church owned furniture shall be determined by mutual agreement between the pastor and the Board of Trustees.—The pastor assumes financial responsibility for the storage of any unused furniture.
5. The parsonage is the pastor's for his/her tenure in that church or charge. S/he has therefore the responsibility to care for the furniture to protect it from damage by pets or children and, if it is damaged, to return it to a condition equal to that when s/he received it to use. If an item of furniture is damaged beyond repair, s/he is obligated to replace it.
6. In order to respect the privacy of clergy and his/her family, the church has responsibility to make an appointment and secure the approval of the pastor or an adult member of the household, prior to visiting the parsonage at any time.

VI. Appeals

Appeals by the churches or pastors should be made to the District Superintendent as the final authority to interpret and implement the foregoing standards.

BRIDGETON: CENTRAL UMC, CLOSURE OF

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER 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, and liquidation of any other assets, and
b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 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.

GLADSTONE UMC, CLOSURE OF

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, and the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER 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, and liquidation of any other assets, and
b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 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.

WEST PORTAL UMC, CLOSURE OF

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER 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, and liquidation of any other assets, and
b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 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.

SARANG KOREAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DISCONTINUATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference declares Sarang Korean United Methodist Church, which worshipped at the First United Methodist Church in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, to be discontinued under Paragraph 2549 of the 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference be directed to make disposition of any assets or property formally owned by the congregation and handle any outstanding debts in the Conference's best interest.

WINDSOR UMC, CLOSURE OF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of the Windsor United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 edition, the congregation is discontinued and the assets of the church are transferred to the Trustees of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the provisions of ¶229 of the Book of Discipline, 2012 Edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist Church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER 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, and liquidation of any other assets, and
b) Upon receipt, the remainder shall be directed to the Strategic Disciple Making Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 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.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF LANGUAGE, BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, ¶161F

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that an amendment be made in Book of Discipline ¶161F regarding the use of "incompatibility".

1. A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CHANGE LANGUAGE IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.

BOD 2012 ¶161.f Human Sexuality — We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous~~, heterosexual~~ marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children.

All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, ~~or~~ sexual orientation, or gender identity are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn anyone and commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: RESOLUTION REGARDING MARRIAGE AND MARRIAGE CEREMONIES BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, ¶161B, 341.6, AND 162.J

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in Paragraphs 161B, 341.6, and 162.J, regarding marriage, civil unions, marriage ceremonies and the rights attenuating thereto.

1.A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO REMOVE FROM THE BOOK OF DISCIPINE THE RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE REGARDING MARRIAGE

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference support marriage equality for all prepared couples and join together to move the United Methodist Church to acceptance with a recommended change to the Book of Discipline amending ¶161B as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶161B) Marriage---We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two persons ~~a man and a woman~~. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as a union of two persons ~~one man and one woman~~.

1.B A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CHANGE THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE TO OFFER SERVICES OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE TO ALL PREPARED COUPLES

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶341 by deleting ¶341.6 as follows:
~~BOD 2012 ¶341.6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

1.C A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO UPDATE THE EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶162J as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶162J *Equal Rights regardless of Sexual Orientation* — Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: RESOLUTIONS REGARDING STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FOR ORDAINED CLERGY
***BOOK OF DISCIPLINE*, ¶304.3, ¶2702.1, ¶310.2 (D)**

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in BOD 2012 ¶304.3, ¶2702.1, removing the barrier for ordination and service within The United Methodist Church.

1.A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO UPDATE THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REGARDING CHARGEABLE OFFENSES FOR CLERGY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶2702.1 of the Book of Discipline as follows:
BOD 2012 ¶2702.1 A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶2702.4)* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a ~~heterosexual~~ marriage ~~(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies~~; (c) crimes;….

1.B A RESOLUTION CALLING THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO AMEND THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDINATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶304.3 as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶304.3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. ~~The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF CHURCH FUNDS, BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, ¶613.19 AND 806.9

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in Paragraphs 613.19 and 806.9 regarding the use of United Methodist funds.

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO FOSTER HOLY CONFERENCING IN UNITED METHODIST ORGANIZATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶613 deleting portions of ¶613.19 as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶613.19. To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall ~~give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or~~ violate the expressed commitment of the UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). ~~The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church's official position is fairly and equally represented.~~

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶806 by deleting portions of ¶806.9 as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶806.9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall ~~give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or~~ violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). ~~The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.~~ It shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: FACILITIES ACCESSIBILITY, ***BOOK OF DISCIPLINE* ¶ 610.4**
Conference Budget Implications: None

BE IT RESOLVED, that ¶ 610 be amended to, . . . The annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose . . . . It will monitor to insure inclusiveness—racial, gender, age, and people with disabilities—in the annual conference.

1. ~~Whenever possible,~~ Every effort shall be made to ensure that all meetings scheduled by the annual conference and its districts, boards, or committees ~~should~~ will be held in places that are accessible to persons with disabilities even if this means scheduling meetings outside church-related facilities.

RATIONALE: The Discipline specifies that there shall be no discrimination against people with disabilities, yet ¶ 610.4 is not sufficiently strong to ensure that people using wheelchairs can attend meetings of the annual conference, its districts, boards, and committees. Adopting the petition ensures that the intent of the paragraph is met.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: ADDRESSING JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP *BOOK OF DISCIPLINE* ¶ 652
Conference Budget Implications: None

BE IT RESOLVED that ¶ 652 be amended as follows, "Each annual conference shall establish a procedure by which it will manage clergy medical leave. The annual conference may establish a joint committee on clergy medical leave. If the annual conference establishes such a committee, it shall be composed of two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, and one active or retired minister with one or more disabilities named by the Conference Committee on Disabilities, or—if there is no conference Committee on Disabilities—then by the bishop, all of whom shall be elected either annually or the beginning of each quadrennium, and when a vacancy occurs. Further, a district superintendent shall be appointed from time to time to the committee by the bishop to represent the cabinet. Unless and until other members are elected, the chairperson and registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the chairperson and secretary of the conference board of pensions, and the chairperson of the Conference Disability Committee or others designated by them, shall be authorized to represent their respective boards and The disability committee in organizing itself either annually or at the beginning of each quadrennium by the election of a chairperson and a secretary. If the annual conference does not establish a joint committee, the annual Conference's established policy and process for managing nonetheless should involve the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions, the Conference Committee on Disabilities or alternate structure and, representation from the cabinet.

RATIONALE: Since each annual conference is required to establish a procedure for clergy medical leave, an active or retired ordained person with a disability must not be an optional, but a required part of the decision making body to ensure a fair and just course of action.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: ADDRESSING MENTAL ILLNESS BENEFITS, *BOOK OF DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: ¶806
Conference Budget Implications: Nominal

BE IT RESOLVED that ¶806 be amended to add a new paragraph following paragraph 8.

It shall be responsible for ensuring that no United Methodist board, agency, or other entity shall provide to their own agency, other agencies or to annual conferences disability compensation insurance for clergy or laity which offers different levels of protection based on whether or not the diagnosis is for a mental-nervous condition.

RATIONALE: Disability insurance which restricts benefits for "nervous-mental conditions" – common practice -- unjustly discriminates against some employees compared to others, violates Social Principle ¶162X and is counter to the principles of Resolution 3303, Ministry in Mental Illness. GCFA is the appropriate agency to enforce non-use of UMC funds for such insurance.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: REGARDING EMPLOYEE DISABILITY INSURANCE IN THE UMC *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*
Budget Implications: Nominal

BE IT RESOLVED that United Methodist Church Employees have the same Disability Benefits as clergy.

RATIONALE: The "industry-standard" in commercial disability insurance is to terminate disability compensation after two years when the disability is based on a mental or nervous diagnosis, regardless of the continuing presence of disability. Such a policy unjustly discriminates against some employees compared to others and violates the trust employees have that their employer will provide adequate assistance for them if they become disabled. Such a policy violates United Methodist Social Principle ¶162X and is counter to the principles of Resolution 3303, Ministry in Mental Illness. Some employers which object to this discrimination, however, have been able to negotiate non-discriminatory disability policies. The General Council on Finance and Administration is entrusted with many related matters and is the logical entity to enforce a policy of non-discrimination across the denomination. Currently, disability policies for General Agencies are provided by GCFA and policies for Annual Conferences and all clergy are offered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

COMMISSION ON CAMPS, CONFERENCES AND RETREATS, INC., STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the Statement of Relationship with the Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc.
This is prepared in accordance with the 2012 Book of Discipline paragraph 2517.4 which requires a statement of relationship for health and welfare ministries.

The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ("Annual Conference") makes disciples of Jesus Christ as it supports local churches' ministry in their respective communities; identifies areas of need within and beyond its geographical boundaries; and acts with the local churches in developing missional programs to meet these needs. The Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc. ("CCCR") extends these missional purposes with and beyond the scope of the local churches of the Annual Conference by establishing and maintaining services which provide for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of persons by planning of camp, conference and retreat ministries either at its Aldersgate Center, Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery, or at other locations and by other means, as set forth in its By-Laws.

The Annual Conference enables the local church in its primary task to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping the local church and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church. CCCR extends these missional purposes beyond the scope of the local churches of the Annual Conference by establishing and maintaining programs that provide quality and caring services to affected persons following the Great Commandment, *to love God and our neighbor*.

Although the Annual Conference and CCCR share missional purposes and goals and although both of them support conformity with the high standards of service, each recognizes the other as an independent entity, making independent governing decisions.

CCCR offers members of local churches of the Annual Conference opportunities to serve in mission in various ways including as members of the Board of Directors. The persons elected as Directors do not represent, nor are they amenable to the Annual Conference. The Directors of CCCR operate autonomously from the Annual Conference.

The President of CCCR shall provide a report to the Annual Conference at its annual session. The roster of the Board of Directors of CCCR will be included in the Annual Conference Journal. The Annual Conference upon recommendation by the Nominations and Leadership Committee of the Annual Conference will elect Directors of CCCR.

The Annual Conference encourages and recommends that local churches and individuals contribute to the financial support of CCCR. This support is voluntary and without guarantee of amount or continuation. The Annual Conference does not guarantee nor assume any responsibility for the obligations of CCCR.

This Statement of Relationship shall be reviewed and amended as necessary by CCCR and the Annual Conference upon recommendation of their appropriate committees. This agreement shall take effect upon the adjournment of the 2015 session of the Annual Conference. It will be reviewed and readopted at least every four years.

PROJECT NURTURE, INC., STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP
(no financial Impact)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference approves the following Statement of Relationship with Project Nurture, Inc.:

Project Nurture, Inc. is a joint ministry of the United Methodist churches in Millville, New Jersey. It is primarily aimed at supporting programs for at-risk children and youth. It began under the leadership of Rev. George Lynch of Trinity UMC and was formally incorporated in 2001. That same year by Conference resolution, the earnings from the proceeds of the sale of the former Broad Street UMC were directed to Project Nurture. The corpus is held in trust by the Conference.

The governing body includes a clergy representative from each of the seven United Methodist churches in Millville along with a lay representative. The Delaware Bay District Superintendent is also a member with full voice and vote. Other at-large members may be appointed to the board if needed.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GNJ TO COMMIT TO INCLUSIVE CHURCH

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference commit to and work for the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons including LGBT persons, and declares its opposition to continued restrictions of church law on the participation of LGBT people in the United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people, regardless of their economic status, race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or immigration status.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GNJ TO COMMIT TO AND SUPPORT MARRIAGE EQUALITY

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference make a public statement supporting and upholding Marriage Equality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, will support clergy spiritually, emotionally, and prayerfully who are brought up on charges for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.

BMCR, RESOLUTION REGARDING RACIAL JUSTICE

WHEREAS, The Greater New Jersey Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal upholds the ideals of equal justice under the law, racial justice, and human dignity for all of God's people; and

WHEREAS the recent deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Oscar Grant, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray and other unnamed African American males by police or policing organizations, compels us to address the inequities within our system; and

WHEREAS, these deaths are indicative of a growing social-economic division that threatens the current and future well-being of our society; and

WHEREAS, we experience here within the Greater New Jersey Area the toxic impact of the intersection of racism and poverty in too many of the lives of citizens of urban rural and suburban settings ; and

WHEREAS, while we recognize that there have been some progress within police departments here in New Jersey and across the nation to engage in constructive dialogue and good faith efforts to improve relations among officers and communities of color and young people, problems still exist and improvements are needed in order to protect lives; and

WHEREAS, we express solidarity with the thousands of protesters across the nation who are peacefully expressing their outrage and frustration at the deaths of unarmed African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan of the Greater New Jersey Conference calls for the resourcing of congregations to engage in justice and mercy ministries in the community and around the world, and while we profoundly believe and insist that all lives matter with great emphasis on young black men and women, and that the growing divide between "haves and have not's" in American society undermines the realization of that belief in the fairness and the stated "color blindness" of the U.S. Constitution, the criminal justice system, our schools, and the economy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Greater New Jersey Conference leadership and congregations explore the concepts of equal justice under the law, racial justice, institutional racism and white privilege at both the conference and local church levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Conference creates a task force to identify resources to help congregations engage in initiatives that address the needs of the community, the perpetrators, and the victims that brings God's restoration and helps congregations promote positive relationships between the community and the police. We also ask that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference designates BMCR and the Conference's Board of Church and Society and the Commission of Religion and Race to work in consultation with the bishop to set the membership of this task force. The task force will report their findings and recommendations at the next annual conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bishop, extended cabinet and the connectional table read and have a discussion on the book "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Conference continues to promote dialogue between members of the various communities and law enforcement officers and agencies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Greater New Jersey Conference join with other labor and community groups to call for the creation of a national model for community policing, and an end to institutionalized racism in the criminal justice system.

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 2016 Annual Session, any property, real or personal, that 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 Secretary or of an Assistant Secretary of this Corporation in the office at the date of 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 assumptions 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 2016 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 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.