VISION AND MISSION

We believe God's love heals and transform lives. God's love is encountered in disciples of Jesus who passionately share faith, hope and justice in the community. Vital congregations form and shape passionate disciples. We equip spiritual leaders to grow vital congregations and make disciples so that God's love heals and transform the word.

GNJ Strategic Plan

Vision

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

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

Mission

Equip spiritual leaders to make disciples[1] and grow vital congregations[2] to transformation the world

2018 Goal

Increase the number of highly vital congregations from 14% to 41%[3]

Strategy

Call, equip, send and support turnaround spiritual leaders and
resource congregations to assess their ministry and establish a path for vitality

2018 Objectives

1. Increase the percentage of churches growing in worship attendance from 33% to 51%
2. Start 90 new faith communities[4] (2 per year in each district and charter five as new congregations – at least half of the new faith communities comprised of residents from the immediate community)
3. Decrease the number of worshipers it takes to make a new profession of faith from 17 to 15 (presently we make one new profession of faith for each 17 worshipers)
4. Increase the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75%
5. Increase the number of young adults in small groups from 2820 to 3200
6. Increase our racial ethnic worshipers from 20% to 25%
7. Increase the percentage of worshipers engaged in mission from 8%[5] to 40%
8. Increase local church dollars spent on mission 15% to 17%
9. Raise $12 million through the Mission Fund Campaign

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

[2] **HIGHLY VITAL CONGREGATIONS** are inwardly transformed and missionally outbound. Vital congregations are Spirit-filled, bear witness to transformed lives, implement the 16 drivers of vitality and bear fruit in the five vitality metrics.

[3] **FROM 14% TO 41%** is a complete turnaround and transformation of the way we do ministry. It will require a full commitment to follow the way of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, align conference ministry with congregations. Building on our Wesleyan tradition, we will focus on processes, equipping, innovation and experimentation.

[4] **A NEW FAITH COMMUNITY** includes a new church start, second site ministry, new worship service

[5] Presently we only ask for people who go on **MISSION TRIPS** in statistical reports. In the future we will also ask how many disciples are involved in community ministry through the congregation

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greater New Jersey Conference

1001 Wickapecko Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712-4733

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Between the covers of the 2015 Conference Journal are people, ministries and mission, all of which make up the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

People

Contained in these pages are names and information for the 906 clergy and 744 lay members who make up GNJ. Each one is a gift from God. Also listed are the faithful lay members and clergy who died over the past year. We remember them with thanksgiving.

Among our people are the leaders who have served and continue to serve congregations, communities and the world to fulfill our mission. They are the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey. I give thanks for their service and commitment to the church.

Ministries

Also in these pages are the reports and budgets of our ministries. The congregations in the conference are making new disciples, commissioning and ordaining clergy, rebuilding Sandy-damaged homes, preventing malaria, educating young people in colleges, universities and seminaries, feeding people, equipping laity and clergy to grow vital congregations, and transforming lives and communities. I praise God for this ministry and thank God for the generosity and service that is making a difference.

Mission

The 2013 Annual Conference session enacted a bold strategic ministry plan that said by 2018, GNJ would have 41 percent of its congregations be highly vital. We have made great progress moving from 16 percent to more than 32 percent in two years. We are well on our way.

We also said we would organize the conference to equip spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations. We continue to take steps to fulfill the mission and to align our ministry to achieve God's purposes.

Let's allow this journal to remind us of our priorities – people, ministries and mission. Let us continue to pray together and serve together so that God will be glorified through the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

Thank you for your service and commitment to the church.

Keep the faith!

John R. Schol

John Schol, Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey

John R. Schol
Bishop

District Superintendents

Brian Robert
Cape Atlantic District

Varlyna D. Wright
Capital District

Jisun Kwak
Delaware Bay District

Manuel Sardinas
Gateway North District

Myrna Bethke
Gateway South District

Gina Hendrickson
Northern Shore District

Wayne Jack Plumstead
Palisades District

Drew Dyson
Raritan Valley District

Steven G. Bechtold
Skylands District

The Greater New Jersey Conference Cabinet

Officers of the Conference

John Cardillo
Treasurer, Director of Administrative Services and Statistician

David E. Wiley, III
Conference Secretary

Rosa Williams
Conference Lay Leader

Ordained Elders

Jean Arlea Eriksen

Rolando Santiago Fuentes

William McKinley Williams, III

Evan Rohrs-Dodge

Commissioned as Provisional Deacons

Debra A. De Vos

June Lee Tamburro

Commissioned as Provisional Elders

Karline Dubuisson

John F. Inverso

Yeol “Earl” Kim

Frederick R. Marz

Ninabeth D. Metcalf

Tae Youl “Leo” Park

SandraLee Stenstrom

Heather Elizabeth Valosin

Catherine Elizabeth Williams

Recognition of Full Membership

James Gi-Sung Lee

Received into Associate Membership

Gina Yeske

2015 Retirees

Elders

Elaine R. Cuff
Joanne Drane
Mark Earl
Karen Gazillo
Dorothy F. Gilbert
Norma M. Hockenjos
Betty Horne
Sherrie Dobbs Johnson
Donald T. Knott
E. Richard Knox
Hee Moon Lee
Rozellia Matthews
Shelly Potter-Abrahamsen
Barbara Rambach
Jerry D. Ruff
William Spangler
Rina Terry
Gregory Young

Local Pastors

Richard DeRick
Thomas Gilchrist
Delloyd Green
Clint Hudnall
Alfred Jaeger
Walter Kellen
William C. Moore
Carlos Nolasco
Cynthia Taylor
Nancy Vonderhorst

Deacons

Frances Ballinger
Marilyn Pote Hutton