New York Annual Conference
of
The United Methodist Church

Preliminary Reports, Petitions & Resolutions

214th Annual Session

June 5-8, 2013
Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York
Bishop Martin D. McLee, Presiding

Rev. Fredric O. Jackson
Conference Secretary

Not for publication in any form until and as adopted by the Conference

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Section 1: Ministries of Witness

Committee on Accessibility

Stephanie Parsons, Chair

101. This committee was formed by the 2008 General Conference and is outlined in ¶653 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*. In 2011, NYAC voted on the membership of this committee for the first time. As there are no specifications outlined in the *Discipline* (i.e. no term limits, set number of members, etc.), in many ways, this committee is still in the process of forming.

102. The Accessibility Committee was created for and is dedicated to advocating for, being aware of, encouraging ministries of/for, and promoting inclusion of/for persons with special needs. These are not the limitations of our committee, but rather our starting points.

103. Goals for the NYAC committee include the following:
    1) Encouraging awareness of the need for ministries that are inclusive of people with special needs,
    2) Developing a database of churches accessible to different populations, possibly one that can be accessed through the NYAC web site by anyone church shopping (i.e. which churches have ASL interpreters, which churches are completely wheelchair accessible, which churches offer programs for developmentally disabled, which churches serve gluten-free communion bread),
    3) Developing an Accessibility Survey that will be included in the packets sent to each church from the district superintendents to be used in charge conferences,
    4) Assisting churches in determining the needs of their communities in relation to those with special needs, and
    5) Finding/creating resources for churches developing ministries for those with special needs.

104. These are just a few things our committee hopes to achieve. However, if there are accessibility needs or suggestions for your ministries, districts or local churches, we would be most happy to receive them.

105. At this moment, the Accessibility Committee is a team of four. Over the course of this past year, our elected chairperson had to step down after moving out of the conference. Evy McDonald was our driving force and has been greatly missed. However, we hope to carry on with the passion, energy, and excitement she brought to this committee.

106. On that note, we are looking for committee members! If you are passionate about advocacy and equality for those with special needs, please consider joining us! If you know someone in your faith community who is called to this ministry, point us out to them! There is so much we can accomplish through God's grace and open hearts.

Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

Rev. Robert E. Kersten, Chair

101. While our clergy, laypersons and churches have been actively involved in local and regional ecumenical and interreligious activities, our CCCUIC has been mostly dormant while waiting to see how the 2012 General Conference decision to dissolve the CCCUIC and create a new office within the Council of Bishops will play out.

102. An article in *the methoblog*[1], dated February 22, 2013, by Linda Bloom, UMNS, offered this helpful information:

> After a denominational vote by the 2012 United Methodist General Conference, the formerly independent General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (GCCUIC) has

[1] Linda Bloom, *The United Methodist Reporter: UMC launches new ecumenical, interfaith office* http://methoblog.com/3_0/2013/02/umc-launches-new-ecumenical-interfaith-office/, 2/22/2013

become an office on ecumenical and interfaith ministries lodged within the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

The Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, which began Jan. 1, is supported by an 11-member steering committee of lay and clergy representatives and the council's leadership team on ecumenical and interreligious relations. Heading that team are Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, chair; Bishop Michael Watson, secretary; and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, ecumenical officer.

The new office, led by the Rev. Stephen Sidorak Jr., ecumenical staff officer, will remain in New York with previous staff members of the commission.

During a Jan. 24-26 organizational meeting of the steering committee, bishops, staff and transition team members, Dr. Sidorak reminded the group that the restructuring proposal was initiated by the commission as a way to "strengthen and enhance" the denomination's efforts toward the unity of Christ's church.

Bishop Devadhar, a former director of the GCCUIC, noted that while the world is diversifying religiously and culturally, some United Methodists are still arguing over "who is in and who is out" on church membership rolls.

He expects the bishops' new Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships will provide "a new opportunity for us to do new ecumenism."

103. We continue to rejoice in all the ways that we have developed relationships with our neighbors. We also celebrate the number of United Methodist clergy who are executive directors of local councils of churches or their equivalents, or are elected officials of local, regional or statewide religious ecumenical bodies. Thanks be to God.

Cooperative School of Christian Mission

Patricia Knebel, Assistant Dean

101. The 2012 Cooperative School of Christian Mission worshipped, studied, struggled with, and celebrated the theme "That All May Have Life" July 19 to 21, 2012, at Western CT University. Ninety-two participants spent three days being challenged and inspired by this year's three mission studies: *Immigration in the Bible, Haiti,* and *Poverty.* And in between classes, we fellowshipped, worshipped, sang, ate, and more. Thursday evening's revival service was led by the Rev. Kenny Yi and Friday evening we were led by the youth class. On Saturday, an additional 53 Saturday Sampler participants arrived to spend the day in an intensive class on the *Poverty* study.

102. Teachers for the 2012 School were:

Immigration in the Bible

- The Rev. Dr. Jacob Dharmaraj
- The Rev. Paul Moon (in Korean)
- The Rev. Lydia Lebron-Rivera (in Spanish)

Haiti

- The Rev. Guerschon Saint Ange
- Gail Boykin (Youth class)
- Michelle Stanley (Youth class)

Poverty

- Mary Ellen Kris
- Linda Mellor
- The Rev. Hermon Darden, Jr.
- The Rev. Rhonda Taylor
- Soonae Kang (in Korean)

- Dr. Nancy Ayala (in Spanish)
- Karen Prudente (Saturday Sampler)
- Nazgul William (Saturday Sampler)

Children's Class

- Diana Collier
- Deborah Jenkins

103. **The School of Christian Mission will change its name to Mission u!** Effective 2013 we will become *Mission u: Learning Together for Transformation of the World.* The new name keeps the identity with mission and reflects the personal learning experience (u as in university and u as the text and web language for you). The tag line reflects the community aspect of learning and the mission goal of transformation. **New name—continued life-changing learning!** I am blessed to be chosen as dean for the first Mission u of the New York Conference!

104. The 2013 Mission u will take place August 1-3, 2013, at Western CT University with Saturday Sampler on August 3. Adult studies will include: *The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly* (in English, Korean and Spanish)*; The Roma of Europe* (in English, Korean and Spanish)*;* and *Poverty* (in English). Children and youth studies will be on the theme *Migration.* Saturday Sampler participants will choose between *The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly* or *The Roma of Europe.*

Hispanic American Council

Gladis I. Lobato, Chair

101. Pastors and Laity may the peace and joy of God be with you.

102. The year 2012 brought challenges and achievements, and in all we were victorious in Jesus Christ. The council met on March 9, 2013 to review the work done during the previous year.

103. Our purpose and commitment as the council is to work in unity for the spiritual wellbeing and development of those whom we serve. The executive committee of the council met several times during the year to plan the special events for the Hispanic congregations in our conference:

104. Lenten Services:
- February 29 Grace UMC, Rev. Lydia Lebron-Rivera, pastor
- March 07 Jackson Heights UMC, Rev. Enrique Lebron, pastor
- March 14 Nueva Jerusalen UMC, Pastor Milagros Solorzano, pastor
- March 21 Primera Hispana UMC, Rev. Dr. Luisa C. Martinez, pastor
- March 28 Co-Op City UMC, Rev. Dr. Milca Plaud

105. With great joy we share with you the achievements of our leaders in the different work areas of work:
- April 2-4 - Workshop "Following Jesus' Steps" held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. This was led by Rev. Magaly Beltre and it was held at Jackson Heights UMC.
- June 2012 - Participation at annual conference - we led an early morning Worship Service and had a display table with information about the *Interpreter* in Spanish, the Hispanic Family Camp, Annual Concert, and others.
- June 8 - Hispanic Council Dinner at annual conference where we celebrated the ordination of Rev. Hector Rivera, and expressed our gratitude for the years of ministry to Rev. Dilca Lebron-Mazariego and Rev. Dr. Alicia Fils-Aime Wentler who retired.
- June 16 - The Hispanic United Methodist Men met at Grace UMC in Manhattan.
- June 23 - Dinner Concert - special fundraiser to provide scholarships for children to attend the Hispanic UM Family Camp. We thank Grace UMC in Manhattan and Rev. Lydia Lebron for hosting this important event.

- July 19-21 - School of Christian Mission – we continue to encourage the women of our congregations to attend and to support this important event of our Conference.
- August - MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) - this is the UM National Hispanic Caucus of which we are members.
- August 19 - Farewell Worship Celebration for Bishop Jeremiah J. Park - members of the council, and the Hispanic Consultant Rev. Arturo Maine attended.
- August 31-September 3 - Hispanic Family Camp Committee worked with dedication planning this important event that is a blessing to all the participants.
- October 21 - Laity Sunday Celebration – this year it was held at Primera Iglesia Hispana MU (111th & Lexington). At this celebration a lay person chosen by his or her congregation is given recognition for the work done during the year. We are grateful to the congregation and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Luisa C. Martinez for their hospitality.
- October 28 - Celebration to Welcome Bishop Martin D. McLee – the council attended this event.
- November 12 - In solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Sandy, the Hispanic Council sent a love offering of $300.00 to UMCOR.

106. In addition to all these events, the present chair has represented the council at different conference meetings.

107. We congratulate Daisy Tavares, a member of the council, who was elected as one of the directors of the Women's Division at their meeting on June 14, 2012, held in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

108. Brothers and sisters, the task ahead of us is challenging; let us continue to seek God's direction in the struggles that we face in our communities. Let us look forward and concentrate our efforts and energy in what we need to do. In doing so we will find the answer God has for us.

109. This is my last report as chair, giving thanks to God first who has given me health, strength, and energy to do the work in the best way possible and to keep you informed about all the matters of the Hispanic people. Thank you to every member of the executive committee of the council and to the pastors and laity for your support. I love you all in the name of Jesus Christ! I also thank all the congregations for inviting me to be a part of their celebrations and special events.

Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)

Myrna Clinton, Chair

101. The conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) was established following last year's NYAC. Myrna and Walter Clinton are the chair and co-chair. It is one of ten such committees in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. The purpose of CONAM is found in the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 654, page 458, wherein a task force was established to bring attention to, "the issues, needs, gifts and talents of the Native American people, tribes, organizations and communities within each CONAM conference." Myrna and Walter are excited about, "setting up a framework to reach out to the Native American population and to help connect them to the services that are available on all levels," reported Bill Hunt, editor of *the Messenger,* newsletter of the First & Wesley UMC (West Haven) in its June-July 2012 edition. Myrna and Walter told Bill that, "The Native American population is perhaps the last remaining minority without a voice. They are truly the invisible people. They suffer from social stigma, high unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence and everything else that afflicts our society. [However,]…because they have no voice we turn a deaf ear to their suffering."

102. The CONAM team will help craft the United Methodist response and create the outreach programs which will hopefully bring the peace and justice of Christ into the lives of those in need. Since its inception, the committee has reached out to the Pennsylvania and Delaware committees for guidance, organized a local task force, and met three times to establish goals and objectives. Of current interest are the *Two Row Wampum Belt* Campaign (symbol of a 400-year-old peace treaty); *the Shawl Project*, to create awareness

of and prevent domestic violence against Native American women; *Walking with Our Sisters*, a support network for Native American women; and *Idle No More*, a program to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, especially protecting the environment from exploitation.

103. Native American Ministry Sunday was celebrated by committee members at Jesse Lee Memorial, with Rev. Doug Osgood and Elaine Winward sharing the service and at First and Wesley with Myrna and Walt sharing the service. Walt and Myrna made a "guest" appearance at the Jesse Lee service.

104. One objective for 2013 is to develop communication with church communities within the boundaries of the conference. Our goal for this year is modest: we would be thrilled to establish permanent contacts with three additional congregations who will help us spread the word of our work with Native Americans. We look forward to visiting churches throughout the area and welcome inquiries from anyone interested in joining CONAM.

105. The collective Native American Ministries were instructed to hold an annual meeting to continue training and relationship building, bringing native peoples and church communities together to "maintain these connectional relationships." Please visit CONAM's table at conference this year.

United Methodist Men

Royston Bailey, President

101. The New York Annual Conference United Methodist Men began the year with a focus on improving their ministry in areas of leadership, mission, organization, prayer, scouting, membership, unity and finance.

102. **Unity & Leadership**: On February 11, District Resource Day, eight men attended the Long Island West District training. Five churches were represented: Corona, Bethany, St. Marks, Peoples, St. Albans Grace and Richmond Hill. On June 23 at the Long Island East District Men's elections, Rev. Erick Rasmussen preached on Unity, nine men were present, representing Freeport Hispanic, Port Jefferson, Lake Ronkonkoma, Smithtown, Hempstead English and Central Islip. On June 30 at the Long Island West elections, Rev. Lawrence Charles preached on Unity, 14 men, including District Lay Leader Seymour Thomas, were present representing Vanderveer Park, St. Marks, Richmond Hill, Cuyler Warren, Brooks Memorial and Jamaica First. On September 8 at the Connecticut District Men's Day Apart held at Woodbury UMC, DS Rev. Ken Kieffer preached on "Unity as Men of Faith in a Seemingly Godless World," 21 men were present, representing eight churches, including Pastor Robert Booth, Rev. Gabriel Akinbode and Rev. Sim.

103. **Organization**: On June 23 the UMM organized the Long Island East and Long Island West Districts. Officers for the Long Island East District are David Clark, president; Wayne Carty, vice president; Richard Cox, secretary and Clem Westney, treasurer. Officers for the Long Island West District are Graham Greaves, president; Ernie Searle, vice president; Dennis Gordon, treasurer; Paul Jefferson, interim secretary and Selwyn Cumberbach, prayer advocate.

104. **Missions**: The UMM reconnected with the Cooperative School of Mission, now Mission U, and were able to publicize the Vietnam Bus Project at the August 17-21 event. We joined forces with those around the nation to help raise over $128,000 to support this project. After Hurricane Sandy, the UMM provided a generator and finances to the Roosevelt UMC to help with heating the sanctuary for Sunday worship.

105. **Prayer**: On May 3, the National Day of Prayer, the UMM held our first prayer vigil at East Meadow UMC. Ten people attended, including Rev. Barbara Mungin and Pastor Gia Hall. On October 27 at our Annual Men's Retreat, the theme was "Brothers in Prayer," Rev. Thomas Albin, Upper Room Prayer Ministry Director, taught us ten different ways to pray. Fifty men attended the event; and Rev. Denise Smartt-Sears led the Bible study. Our prayer ministry has shown some small improvements; more local men's units are recruiting prayer advocates as part of their executive committee.

106. **Membership**: The UMM recruited two new members for the executive committee: Graham Greaves was elected to serve as the coordinator of Mission u, and Ernie Searle joined the Communications Team. New

Charters: New Rochelle and East Quogue became new members of the United Methodist Men. New EMS/*Men's Magazine* subscribers: Our EMS/*Men's Magazine* subscribers increased by 14 new members, Brooklyn-Janes and Croton-on- Hudson led the way with seven and five new subscribers respectively. The NYAC UMM received an award from GCUMM for having the second most new subscribers in the nation.

107. **Scouting**: Scouting continued to be our most difficult ministry to organize, however, with the selection of our first Scouting Ministry Specialist Jim Thomas, Poughquag UMC, there are some signs of improvement in the New York Connecticut District.

108. **Finance**: The UMM first "Methodist Night at the Mets" was very successful. 167 people representing 21 churches celebrated at Citi Field. We raised $1,100 for our ministry. Our Communion Breakfast held at Westchester UMC had 54 people in attendance, including Rev. Gordon Edwards, Rev George Haigler, Rev. Camella Fairweather and Conference Lay leader Renata Smith. We raised $525.00 for the ministry. We received financial disbursements from GCUMM, donations from members of the committee and the Conference Ministries Vision Table, thanks to Rev. Ann Pearson; we were able to meet our budget.

109. **District Men's Organizations**: The Metropolitan District continues to lead the way with outstanding Bible study. The average attendance at their monthly meetings is 11 men. The executive committee continues to visit different churches to spread the good news and value of the United Methodist Men. The Long Island East District and Long Island West Districts, organized in June, used the balance of the year planning their 2013 calendar of events. The conference executive committee, with the help of District Superintendent Ken Kieffer, continues working hard to organize UMM in the Connecticut District. We were unable to put any effort into organizing the New York Connecticut and Catskill Hudson Districts.

110. **Thanks**: The UMM were honored for the opportunity to speak at the annual conference; this gave us a greater visibility throughout our conference. We were humbled to be able to present Bishop Jeremiah Park the Society of John Wesley Award, thanks to Brooklyn Bethany, Croton Asbury, Inwood, St. Albans Grace, Salem, Elmont St. Johns, Richmond Hill, Newman Memorial, Brooklyn John Wesley, Brooklyn Janes and Hempstead UMCs for their donations.

111. Special thanks to all the pastors who served with us throughout the year, and our executive committee: Paul Jefferson, John Lemon, Doug Nicholson, Ernie Searle, Graham Greaves, Earlwyn Benjamin, Greg Holder, Herb Brown, Benjamin Nelson, David Clark, and Preston King for their dedication and hard work this year.

United Methodist Women

Susan S. Kim, President

101. United Methodist Women became an independent agency of The United Methodist Church at the General Conference held in Tampa, Florida in April, 2012. Accordingly, new changes are on the way: our national office is now called United Methodist Women, Inc. instead of "Women's Division," and "Cooperative School of Christian Mission" is now called Mission u. However, our vision for turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world remains the same.

102. In anticipation of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Meeting in June with the theme "Come to the Party" based on Luke 14:17, a conference-wide retreat was held at Memorial/Central Korean UMC in March. Rev. T. Ann Daniel led the retreat with a theme, "Everything is Ready, Please Come." It provided a spiritual prelude for over 150 women including those who attended the national young women's seminar, "Limitless: Redefine Tomorrow" in 2011.

103. Quadrennial Northeastern Jurisdictional Meeting in Hershey, PA, June 14-16 was celebrated with 780 women from 10 conferences participating. Two busloads of women from Long Island West District and one from Metropolitan District and several carloads from other districts totaling about 180 brought vitality and enthusiasm into this inspirational gathering. Participants worked at several different local mission sites, urged The Hershey Company to participate in the fair trade for importing of cocoas from Africa, and

collected Layette Kits for UMCOR. Gail Douglas-Boykin from Long Island West District was elected as one of the 25 directors for the United Methodist Women, Inc.

104. Upper Atlantic Regional School was held at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania for the conference team and the study leaders of Mission u. Mission u was held at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT in July. It is an exciting opportunity for the annual conference and United Methodist Women to work together utilizing our connectional system and resources. Clergy and laity of all ages come and share their testimonies and expand their concepts of mission. The Josephine Gibson Scholarship is available to first-time participants.

105. "Ubuntu Mission Day" was held in August at Alma Matthews House, one of the United Methodist Women's national mission sites where the early immigrants stayed. "Immigrants and the Bible," the spiritual growth study at Mission u was led by Carol Barton in the morning. Hands-on mission in the afternoon included hemming new drapes and curtains, cleaning hidden corners and sprucing up the building by 35 women from all six districts. The article about this event was published in the 2013 April issue of the "Response" magazine.

106. "Youth in Mission" took place at Grace UMC in Manhattan in partnership with the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. A diverse group of 100 youth and adults from five districts attended the morning praise and worship led by Paul Lee and, in the afternoon, there were seminars on racism, bullying and human trafficking.

107. Conference Annual Meeting was held on October 27 at Greenville-Norton Hill United Methodist Church in Catskill-Hudson District with the theme, "Moving Mountains with Faith" based on Luke 13:31-32. It was a blessing to have more than 300 women together and rejoice regardless of the long distance they had to travel. District Superintendent Rev. James Moore welcomed us, Rev. Elizabeth Tapia spoke about the theme and Liz Calvin and Bridget Cabrera led international and national mission workshops respectively. We hope to have 400 women at the next meeting at Grace UMC in Valley Stream on October 26, 2013.

108. Our mission includes Appalachian Mission, Unity House, Far Rockaway Mission and Red Bird Mission through the prayers and the monetary gifts from the local units. Knitted and crocheted preemie hats made during Mission u were sent to the Family Birthing Center in Connecticut and a $135,000 pledge was made to our national office. We voted to support the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking's (ECPAT) Code of Conduct, and to educate the travel and tourism suppliers which we use about the Code and ask them to consider signing it. We are urging our national office to request its travel agencies and hotel suppliers to participate as they are preparing 2014 Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Information on ECPAT's Code of Conduct is found at http://www.ecpatusa.org.

109. With this year's theme, "Leap Boldly with Faith" in mind, we were able to leap boldly with faith in two challenging situations. One was the discovery of long misunderstood nominations procedure for the board of directors' position at the national office. Appropriate procedure for the future was clarified eventually. The other was inappropriate management of the funds over a significant period of time that brought the person involved to resign; restitution is being sought.

110. We are blessed with the following conference team members:

111. Karen G. Prudente, vice president; Hazel McIntosh, treasurer; Joann McClam, chair of nominations; Rose King, membership, nurture & outreach coordinator; Nazgul William, social action coordinator; Judith McRae, education & interpretation coordinator; Debra DeMerritt, program resources coordinator; Cynthia Plater, communications coordinator; Gail Douglas-Boykin and Daisy Tavarez, board of directors; Sharon Noisette-Jenkins, vice president of Northeastern Jurisdiction UMW; Patricia Knebel, dean of Mission u; Barbara Sanborn, Catskill-Hudson district president; Roena Littlejohn, Connecticut district president and Appalachian ministry representative; Grace Bryant, Long Island East district president; Patricia Newton, Long Island West district president; Helena Cooks, Metropolitan district president; Linda Nicholson, NY/CT district president; Dorothy S. Kim, Korean language coordinator; Alfida Figueroa, Spanish language coordinator; and Rebecca Adjei-Ofori and Victoria Kusi, Ghana representatives; extended team members:

Gladis Lobato, Mujeres Metodista , president and Sunghea Rhim, Korean United Methodist Women Network president.

Walk to Emmaus

Dennis Subbiondo, Community Lay Director

101. I made my Walk to Emmaus®[2] in 1994 at Montfort Spiritual Center, Bayshore, NY.

102. The Walk to Emmaus, according to the *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus,* is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servant hood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." [3]

103. According to The Upper Room, "the Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristiandad means "little course in Christianity." The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments. During the 1960s and 1970s, Episcopalians and Lutherans, along with several nondenominational groups, such as Tres Dias, began to offer Cursillo. In 1978, the Upper Room of the General Board of Discipleship adapted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer it under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981, The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the name of the program to the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed a youth expression of Emmaus called Chrysalis." [4] In 1991 The UMC brought it to the NYAC.

104. During the three days of the weekend retreat:

Faith is re-explained as the two disciples Walk to Emmaus. Jesus joins them as a stranger and explains to them the meaning of the scriptures concerning himself. Likewise, during the Walk to Emmaus, our faith is re-explained through fifteen talks and discussions, which address important facets of God's grace and Christian discipleship.

Grace is re-experienced upon arrival in the village of Emmaus, when the disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread and remember how their hearts had burned within them as they walked with him on the road. Likewise, during the Emmaus three days, grace is re-experienced through rich worship services, daily Holy Communion, the support of a caring Christian community, and other expressions of God's love.

Christian community is realized when the disciples return immediately to the little Christian community in Jerusalem to share their story and to hear their friend's stories of having seen the risen Christ. Likewise, on the Walk to Emmaus people live in Christian community for three days and have opportunities to share their lives in fun-filled moments as well as serious moments, small-group discussions, common meals, singing, worship and daily participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The body of Christ is renewed when the disciples together become the body of Christ in the world, supporting one another over the long haul as they walk in the spirit of Jesus and share the gospel of grace with those around them. Likewise, during the Emmaus event, the body of Christ is renewed as church members experience revitalization of their commitment. Their renewed discipleship is sustained after the three-day Walk with a strong follow-up emphasis that we call the "Fourth Day." This emphasis involves participation in church, and in small, weekly support groups (Group Reunions) for mutual encouragement, guidance, and accountability.

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[2] Walk to Emmaus is a registered trademark of The Upper Room (a ministry of the Global Board of Discipleship)

[3] *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*, Copyright The Upper Room

[4] *FAQ: What is the History of the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis?*, http://emmaus.upperroom.org/faq, *Copyright The Upper Room*.

105. The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity. While Emmaus provides a pathway to the mountaintop of God's love, it also supports pilgrim's return to the world in the power of the Spirit to share the love they have received with a hurtful and hurting world.

106. During the years that I have been involved with Methodist ministries, I heard many times how pastors have been looking for something to encourage their flock, to inspire their future church leaders, to bring life back into Christ's church. Well here it is folks; it is right in front of your eyes and has been one of the greatest kept secrets of the Methodist churches around the country.

107. I must interject this one important item. The Walk to Emmaus IS NOT a church. Emmaus encourages its' participants to go back to their respective churches and ask the minister, what can I do to help here. We are here to develop Christian leaders for their churches not to be a church.

108. Since last year (NYAC 2012) we have prepared two women's weekends and two men's weekends (fall 2012 and spring 2013). However the men's fall weekend was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy and damage to our regular venue for the weekend.

109. We would like to encourage NYAC clergy to realize the potential of Emmaus to help their church meet the goals they are setting for the Call to Action. Our community spiritual director, Rev. Dale Ellen Krazmien feels that this is the best kept secret in promoting the vitalization of a church. We are always in need of clergy to partner with Emmaus both by attending and serving on a weekend and in encouraging and sponsoring parishioners in the church they serve to attend an Emmaus weekend. It is can be a life changing experience which can infuse new life and vitality into the people who participate.

110. More information can be found on our web site: www.nyacwalktoemmaus.org

Section 2: Connectional Ministries and Ministries of Nurture

Camping and Retreat Ministry

Beth Ann Graf, Chair; Leslie Vachon, Vice-Chair; Gregory Nissen, Acting Director; and Marilyn Van Tine, Secretary

101. **Mission Statement and Context:** We offer natural settings where all are welcome. Here the experience and respect for God's creation connects people in an oasis where Christian community and adventures invite spiritual growth.

102. The Camping and Retreat Ministries (CRM) Governing Board is a subset organization of the NYAC with membership elected from the NYAC membership body. The CRM Governing Board has undergone many manifestations, but currently serves to guide and supervise the camping staff and acting executive director. The CRM Governing Board confers directly with Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCF&A), and the Conference Trustees on the management of properties for which we are stewards.

103. The CRM Governing Board has many facets to fulfill the mission to which we have been charged. The board's representatives see themselves as constituents to the larger mission and each member has a focused role or camp to which they have a connection. We, the CRM Governing Board, have made deep changes in response to current difficult economic conditions. Maximizing our ministry's efficiency is of critical importance.

104. **The Properties, Ministry and the Future:** Sweeping changes at the sites have taken place prompting the need to reevaluate how we operate and administer the properties. Staff re-allocation, insurance reassessments, and new technologies to collect fees have all contributed to a better use of limited resources. The Bishop's Task Force on Camping and Retreat Ministry was commissioned in 2011 to allow the CRM Governing Board to act upon opportunity in a timeline that matches that of traditional business organizations.

105. The NYAC of The United Methodist Church's shrinking and declining populations cannot be ignored. However, we also believe our role extends far beyond that of "making Methodists." While we understand that we are focused to grow and support a church of "heart-warmed United Methodists," we need to re-examine the feasibility of operating three retreat centers if our population is shrinking. With usage by United Methodist populations at an all-time low, Camp Epworth in High Falls, NY cannot be maintained. Even beyond the conference subsidy to the ministry, Epworth, from an historic perspective, runs both program and capital deficits together, totaling approximately $100,000 annually.

106. **Conference Budget and Support Going Forward:** In response to the stressed and delicate financial condition of the NYAC, the CRM has pledged for 2012 and 2013 (as per our budget request) to ask for only $90,000 in administrative subsidy to be used primarily for capital improvements or debt service on capital improvements. As 2012 closed, the CRM overran subsidized allowances by $96,000 and NYAC covered as much as possible. These costs were for capital and payroll costs primarily at the Epworth facility. In terms of cash flow, Quinipet traditionally supports Epworth in times of cash shortages, such as the winter season, for direct pay expenses like insurance and fuel bills. In 2012, Quinipet injected $101,000 into Epworth for these kinds of expenses.

107. The conclusion of the Bishop's Task Force was:
    a) It is not possible for Epworth to become financially sustainable in the near future,
    b) The conference has no funds allocated to continue to subsidize the property and program at Epworth at the above-referenced amount, and
    c) It was recommended that the conference sell the property to eliminate the financial drain. This will enable the CRM Governing Board to focus its full attention on the programs and properties at Kingswood and Quinipet, and, therefore, ensure we provide a healthy and vital camping and retreat ministry to the member churches of the NYAC.

108. The CRM financial system relies on “fee for use” with a 5-8% amount built into the fee for capital improvement and large “upkeep” items in addition to the $90,000 subsidy. To sustain the approximately 900 acres and 55 buildings, the capital contingent in the fees would need to be 10-12% and the subsidy $180,000, neither of which our market can bear at this time. By use of the current fee structure, the CRM Governing Board is attempting to recognize challenges within the subsidy system while continuing to be a part of the bigger picture of ministry of the NYAC.

109. As was concluded in 2005, over two million dollars in capital improvement needed to be completed to be code compliant and to continue serving those organizations, churches and campers that use the facilities. To date, our campaigns have raised approximately half that amount and the CRM borrowed the remainder. Upon the closing of the mortgage and elimination of some smaller lines of credit, the CRM entered the 2013 season with outstanding borrowings from the NYAC of approximately $746,000.

110. Upon the sale of Epworth, the CRM Governing Board will work in conjunction with CCF&A and the Conference Trustees to reimburse the NYAC first, followed by the mortgage. If following precedents and the wish of the CRM Governing Board, all remaining proceeds of the sale of Epworth will be under the advisement of the CRM Governing Board. Additionally, we are pleased to report a new task force comprised of heads of the Conference Trustees and CCF&A, the conference treasurer and key members of the CRM Governing Board has been formed to reinforce communication across all bodies of the NYAC as it relates to the CRM.

111. **Capital Campaign:** The CRM raised 50% of the financial goal of $2,300,000 allowing for many improvements including the addition of the Klein Welcome Center, Infirmary and Administrative Building at Quinipet, addressing the needs of code compliance. Those who have contributed to the campaign and those who have maintained their capital contributions are to be commended.

112. The campaign of 2008 ended in 2012, but opportunities to donate to the CRM remain abundant. Both Quinipet and Kingswood rely heavily on contributions to take that "extra step" or add additional improvements or programs. Please refer to our campsites’ respective web sites to see future plans for expansion of ministry, as well as more information on the concepts listed below. Very special thanks to the Newtown UMC and The Paul R. Carey Foundation for grants and contributions of significant size.

Kingswood Camp Site in Hancock, NY, 766 Acres (www.kingswoodcampsite.org) - Seasonal

113. Kingswood remains a self-sufficient property in terms of cash flow. Proceeds of the timber harvest contract from 2011 allow Kingswood to continue making capital improvements without seeking funding from the CRM system.

114. Kingswood is run by Volunteer Director Cheryl Winship and operates under a New York State Children’s Camp Permit and a New York State Temporary Residence Permit. Julie Wityk oversees the children’s camp, and Holly Moore, who is on site for the majority of the summer season, serves as Kingswood’s primary contact for event organization and family camp reservations.

115. Kingswood continues to make landscape improvements such as the dam restoration project including a new boat dock, a rebuilt campsite due to storm damage, an installation of a new well-pump, drainage improvements to the pole barn and a new roof installed on the addition of the farmhouse with plans for a new roof on the remaining part of the farm house and retreat center. Plans are in place to provide electricity to the new limited mobility campsite, to provide electricity to and expand the number of RV camping sites, to install a new septic tank and to improve access to the bathhouse.

116. The hydraulic fracturing industry has the area around Hancock (where Kingswood is located) in its future sights for development. Awareness of what is happening in the natural gas industry and markets is under constant surveillance. As you might know, the issue is highly charged and politically and environmentally directed depending on the NY State gubernatorial leadership.

117. Kingswood is a cash-flow-neutral property. There was $64,500 in program revenues for 2012, while the program operation/expense was $80,500. The timber harvest proceeds have netted $211,000 in

2011/2012. Kingswood used these funds in 2012 to cover the $16,000 loss and add $40,000 in capital and fixed assets.

118. Kingswood will have to make some adjustments to their program revenue in order to remain cash flow neutral in the future. The program is strong, vital and volunteer based, and a need to increase revenue should not affect the program to a great extent going forward.

Epworth Center in High Falls, NY, 165 Acres (www.epworthcenter.com) - Year Round

119. The programs held over the years at Epworth will leave a lasting legacy in the New York Annual Conference. It is expected that Epworth will be listed for sale by the Conference Trustees in the fall of 2013. No asking price has been established at the time of publishing this document. The CRM has and will continue to maintain the camp in the utmost saleable condition.

120. Justin Savarese is the property manager on-site. He is responsible for the operations of the entire site with some assistance from part-time workers and contractual laborers. Laura Pickard assists by keeping the books and financial operations under the direction of Greg Nissen, acting executive director.

121. Epworth operates under a New York State Children's Camp Permit, a New York State Temporary Residence Permit, and operates an approved NY State non-municipal potable water system along with current SPECDES permits.

122. Epworth ran a successful day camp program in 2012**,** however the CRM Governing Board has determined it will not be sustainable for 2013. The 2013 season will bring family camping, youth retreat camping and many smaller contractual usages by other organizations. Contracts will continue to be fully executed with rental organizations for the 2013 season and will continue into 2014 pending a sale.

123. While we have completed improvements, we remain realistic on our total exposure. Capital improvements are being implemented with the intent of carry-over value to potential new operators. Improvements made to pre-existing and non-conforming structures have value as replacement costs are often much higher than the improvement costs.

124. We have a great responsibility in the stewardship and future of Epworth. Land preservation groups and some educational groups have already expressed interest. The CRM Governing Board prays that Epworth will go to an organization that embodies the traditions and principals it has been operated with since our purchase. Before our ownership, the property was operated by Dreamland Farm, bringing visitors closer to the environment as a "resort farm." Epworth is a unique and wonderful parcel of land, rich in its history with the NYAC.

125. In recent years, including 2012, Epworth was a cash-flow-negative property. Epworth had program revenues of $236,000 and additional NYAC subsidized support of $24,000. Additional funds were also allocated to Epworth from Quinipet ($101,000) for fixed-asset and program (salary) expenses as cash flow required. Of that, $83,000 in capital and fixed-asset expenditures relating to the replacement of the oil-fired heating and air conditioning system with a propane-fired system were used so we could remove the large storage tanks. The program loss was $44,000 in 2012. Epworth reduced staff at the end of 2012 by eliminating two ¾-time positions leaving the property manager to handle all facets of running the camp.

Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center in Shelter Island Heights, NY, 25 Acres (www.quinipet.org) - Year Round

126. The Quinipet facility serves as our main office and houses the CRM administration. Gregory Nissen, the acting executive director is located primarily at this site. Lauren Ruiz, the administrator, and Bryan Knipfing, the assistant director responsible for both school groups and summer programs, maintain the program and its operations. Chris Baer is the full-time food service manager serving both the retreat groups and summer camp operations. Jennifer Martin maintains our web site, assists in producing publications and various office tasks on a part-time basis. Quinipet reduced staff in 2012 by eliminating a dedicated school group coordinator/marketer and no longer has a full-time dedicated facility manager.

127. Quinipet has an active Christian sleep-away camp over a six-week season. About 500 campers attend during that period of time. Our day camp, which also operates for a six-week period, has approximately 500 campers. Finally, the community sailing program, housed out of the waterfront, enrolls about 100 campers over the course of the summer season.

128. Running a sleep-away camp on Eastern Long Island has been a challenge. The ability to offer day camp and a community sailing program helps to offset the cost for the Christian sleep-away camp and helps to keep our prices from growing exponentially.

129. During the non-summer season, Quinipet hosts many church and non-profit retreats on weekends. Approximately 35% of these are United Methodist. In the spring and fall seasons, Quinipet hosts approximately 25 school programs during the mid-week periods. The CRM Governing Board will remain attentive in our goal of filling critical high-capacity buildings and maintaining continual revenue streams year round.

130. Quinipet had $1,300,000 in program revenue in 2012. Contributions, primarily towards the construction of the Klein Welcome Center, netted approximately $35,000, which is included in the figure above. The total program expense was $1,260,000, netting $38,000 in positive cash. The NYAC invested $56,000 of subsidized funds toward Quinipet. Quinipet then supported Epworth with $101,000 — all related to seasonal cash-flow conditions. Quinipet added approximately $81,000 in capital and fixed assets for 2012.

131. Quinipet has future growth plans that can be viewed at www.quinipet.org. Future projects include a renovated and restored sailing barn to continue the community sailing program, additional meeting rooms built in basement spaces which are not yet maximized, general efficiency, handicapped accessibility, and environmental improvements, as well as a 31-room adult retreat house to replace the aged Cliff Cabins and serve an expanded demographic.

Summary

132. Creative opportunities continue to bless the CRM every day. Some doors close, others open. The future of the program relies on the ability to be financially conservative and creative in the use of our awesome resources.

133. The Camping and Retreat Ministries Governing Board asks that you consider these properties first when planning any retreat events. Visit our web sites or call and speak with our staff, who are well versed on all properties and ready to accommodate your needs. Our sleep-away camps offer our youth excellent opportunity for Christian growth in the church as well as the community. Please contact Quinipet to discuss scholarship programs offered by the CRM or for help in establishing one at your church. Brochures are sent to every church prior to the summer season and CRM Governing Board members are happy to visit churches to make a camp presentation. If you would like to contact Greg Nissen, acting executive director, you may do so at greg@quinipet.org or by calling the office at 631-749-0430. Both Greg and members of the CRM Governing Board will be available during annual conference at the CRM table.

Children's Ministry

Lynda Gomi, Consultant

101. In 2012 with the support of the Connectional Ministries Office and the Perkins Foundation, Children's Ministries expanded on the success of two years of Vacation Bible School (VBS) on the Road. Each church in the third year of the program made a commitment to work for one year with a consultant to design a Children's Ministry in each church that would build on connections made during summer VBS and link to fall programming.

102. The churches who participated in 2012 VBS on the Road were: Norwalk UMC, Norwalk, CT, Seaford UMC, Seaford, NY.

103. Several churches not in the VBS on the Road program participated in the rotation of decoration items to help reduce the cost of their programs.

104. VBS materials used in past VBS on the Road programs were recycled and used by churches not able to afford new VBS materials. Churches interested in using the previous year's material for VBS should contact Lynda Gomi at lgomi@nyac.com.

105. Sunday School materials are made available for preview in the Learning Center as are children's magazines and seasonal material with worship, activity and craft ideas.

106. Workshops were held at the request of individual churches for teacher trainings.

Connectional Ministries Vision Table

Ann A. Pearson – Director of Connectional Ministries

101. For Annual Conference, 2012, we continued the quadriennial theme, "For Such a Time as This." The secondary theme was, "In Mission for the Transformation of the World." Each year of this quadrennium has celebrated the four principles of our Conference Vision Statement.

102. A highlight for the conference this year was the conference-wide challenge to raise 1.2 million dollars for the No More Malaria campaign. A presentation was prepared by the youth of the conference with special musical guests and a life-sized mosquito.

103. We are pleased to announce that 4,500 Health Kits were transported to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania for distribution by UMCOR.

104. The mezzanine was crowded with interactive ministry displays. Thank you not only for your presence, but also for your passion for ministry.

105. For the second year, annual conference sessions were "live on the Internet." We are pleased to hear that families and mission sites around the world were connected to our event. We were glad to welcome Good News Ministry TV as our audio/video team for 2012. GNTV will continue to be our techno team for Annual Conference 2013.

106. The work of the Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) continues to prioritize its ministry in line with the Conference Vision Statement, adopted in 2006, to "build up a healthy body of Christ."

107. The Office of Connectional Ministries has prioritized the Call to Action begun in April 2011. In response, districts identified clergy to participate in Incubator Group training – four intensive training sessions for three days each. We were pleased to welcome Kwasi Kena and Safiyah Fosua, Ken Sloane and Carol Krau from the General Board of Discipleship as instructors.

108. By late spring, 2012, at least 48 clergy in each district (yes, that's 288 clergy) were participating in incubator groups looking forward to beginning local church leader incubator groups by the fall. The ripple effect of the Incubator Project has amazing potential.

109. The Office of Connectional Ministries partnered with the Frontier Foundation to present Clergy Tax Seminars in the winter of 2012. Thanks to Keith Muhleman and the host churches for their splendid participation. In addition, the Frontier Foundation provides stewardship resources and training for conference, district and local church programming.

110. The Office of Connectional Ministries has engaged Cassandra Negri as the Children's Ministry Consultant. She is the "go to" person for children's resources, workshops, VBS cluster training and Safe Sanctuary scheduling. In addition, we thank Elizabeth Christie, Deb Mecca and Arturo Maine for their workshop leadership in children's ministry and Safe Sanctuaries.

111. For the third year, VBS went on the road. Thanks to funding from the Rev. William Perkins Fund, churches were selected to participate in a partnership with the Office of Connectional Ministries for a week of

Vacation Bible School. Criteria were met, including a demographic that supports year-round Sunday School. VBS team leaders continue to coach the host church for one year following the On the Road Event. Our thanks to host churches and our team leaders, especially *Lynda Gomi* – our Children's Consultant.

112. We want to thank THE VISION editor, *Joanne Utley*, for her work. In conjunction with *Barbara Eastman*, our Webmaster, the online communications of the New York Annual Conference has developed beyond all expectations. We are thankful for the work of Shelly Mitchell who has moved on to another position in her church in Valdosta, GA.

113. The office of Connectional Ministries published two online publications each week. The eNewsletter is published on Tuesday, primarily a programmatic communication including many opportunities available around the annual conference. The Week in Review is published on Friday and includes interesting stories from the denomination, conference and local church. Let's not forget the "Chuck Knows Church" feature!!! If you are not receiving these online publications – why not!!! Contact apearson@nyac.com.

114. *Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie* continues to bring energy and passion in *Mission and Outreach* to the Office of Connectional Ministries. Floods waters came to the annual conference thanks to Superstorm Sandy. Trained volunteers responded to provide disaster relief in five locations on Long Island and Staten Island. Next spring, in partnership with UMCOR and other funding sources, NYAC will begin the long road for Superstorm Sandy Recovery. International Volunteers in Mission from the New York Conference are involved in remarkable life-changing work. Joseph continues to train folks in the area of disaster relief. He travels with his message of mission when invited by local churches or districts.

115. *Rev. Jim Stinson* continues to serve as consultant for *Older Adult Ministries.* He has led district, cluster, and local church seminars and is currently writing a very popular online column for O*lder Adult Ministries* in *The Vision*. This year, the Committee on Older Adult Ministry was formed. Workshops "on the road" have been created with a resource booklet to assist the local church in conversations about older adult issues.

116. The Budget Committee of the Conference Vision Table continues to make adjustments to reflect the encouragement of new initiative ministries while supporting active committees.

117. *Rev. Arturo Maine* continues as our Hispanic Consultant. His dedication to building ministry has been gratefully appreciated by the Hispanic community.

118. *Neal Bowes* continues to consult in the area of Youth Ministries. Our special thanks to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) under the leadership of 35 amazing youth and adult sponsors led by Dana Dudkewic. They continue to sponsor IGNITE annually as well as workshop leadership for the Bishop's Confirmation Rally. Check out the Youth web site www.umyouth.com.

119. As director of Connectional Ministries, it is my role to be a "listener" around the conference, to respond to the educational needs raised by committees, boards, the Cabinet and to be ever aware of the sparks of a new idea that may be developed into amazing ministry. It is my role as DCM to work with the vision of Bishop McLee, Cabinet and the Conference Vision Statement, toward a preferred future of ministry.

120. This year, Lynda Gomi was named assistant to the director of Connectional Ministries. She has worked at the annual conference since 2008 as the director of the Learning Center. She holds a Masters in Teaching English as an International Language and a Masters of Theology from Drew. She is a valuable asset to Connectional Ministries. Lynda continues her work as the Learning Center director.

121. I continue to celebrate what God is doing through The United Methodist Church and the pockets of superb ministry that I encounter. I see evidence of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" everywhere I go! "We are the people of The United Methodist Church."

Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Andrew Peck-McLean, Chair

101. Our annual conference supports and nurtures college students and seminarians of all ages through the Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. We support the work of campus ministers across our annual conference, and through the New York Education Society, we oversee the scholarship and loan opportunities made available through the annual conference and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

102. There are six campus ministries currently supported by the New York Annual Conference. Four of the six are ecumenical Protestant ministries. These four are: SUNY-New Paltz (Rev. Dianna Smith); The Long Island United Campus Ministries (LIUCM), an umbrella organization for campus ministries at Long Island colleges and universities; SUNY-Delhi; and Western Connecticut State University (Rev. Mark Horton). Two are based out of United Methodist congregations: Westside Campus Ministry (Church of St Paul & St Andrew, Manhattan, Siobhan Sargent); and United Church of Westville campus ministry (Rev. Won-Guen Kang). The commission also supported the Yale Methodist Fellowship in 2012. If your congregation would like to get started in this important ministry, please contact the commission. We are happy to resource others who seek to reach out to students, faculty and staff at the higher education institutions within the bounds of the NYAC. A limited amount of funding is possible.

103. The New York Education Society administers our annual conference scholarships to support students from our annual conference who may not be eligible for aid from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM), since those scholarships are geared towards United Methodist-related colleges and universities. The NY Education Society Fund is managed by GBHEM. The New York Education Society Scholarship disbursed $17,250 in scholarship funds in 2012, for the 2012-2013 academic year. We were proud to have nine NYES Fellows this past year, who were each awarded $1000 scholarships. They were Kahlil Lashley (Kings Highway UMC), Juyeon Lee (The United Church of Westville), Julia Madden (St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC), Lakira McQuilter (Christ Church UMC), Haley Merritt (Union UMC), Emily Peck-McClain (Calvary UMC, Durham, NC), Samuel Phillips (Pleasantville UMC), Tamara Taylor-McDonald (St. Mark's UMC), and Emelio Woodstock (Butler Memorial UMC). In 2012, we had five NYES Scholars, who each received $750. These were Rachel Barber (Fishkill UMC), Amy Phillips (Pleasantville UMC), Carla Esther Phillips (Pleasantville UMC), Brandon Samuel (Butler Memorial UMC), and Priscilla Wong (Chinese UMC). We also awarded eight book grants of $500 each to Natalia Alvarez-Plaud (Co-op City UMC), Roy Grubbs (Yorktown UMC), David Irons (Butler Memorial UMC), Jelani Magloire (Butler Memorial UMC), Tiffany Miller (Butler Memorial UMC), Kenneth Peden (Huntington UMC), Alison VanBuskirk (Christ Church UMC), and Amanda Yau (Chinese UMC). Finally, we contributed NYES funds toward our Conference Merit Recipient winner. Congratulations to all of the 2012 recipients and we look forward to honoring the 2013 scholars at annual conference in June.

104. The United Methodist Student Day offering is an essential way to support our Conference Merit Scholarship program. A rebate from this offering funds our Conference Merit Scholarship, which was awarded to Gordon Edwards from Calvary UMC. Gordon is studying biochemistry with a pre-med focus at American University in Washington, DC. If your congregation doesn't usually participate in UM Student Day, encourage them to do so. It's a great way to assist students of all ages with the monumental task of paying for their educations. In addition, participating in World Communion Sunday offerings supports the Crusade Scholarship program of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. We encourage all NYAC churches to support these scholarship offerings to help educate the next generation of United Methodist leaders in our churches and our communities. Thank you for your support.

105. Many thanks to the members of the commission for their commitment to students of all ages and to higher education in our annual conference. Your time and attention are greatly valued.

Hispanic Consultant

Arturo Maine, Consultant

101. The following outlines activities and meetings in which I engaged as part of my function during the year April 2011-13.

102. **2012:**

Apri 23: Vision Bearers meeting Conference Center
May 12: Vision Bearers Graduation
June 2: Meeting with 4th Ave
Sept 14: Meeting with Saint Stephen's and D.S.
Sept 18: Drew Hispanic Caucus
Sept 28: Vision Bearers 3 Yr Interview
Oct 21: Laity Sunday 1st Spanish at 111& Lexington, Manhattan
Oct 27: Workshop Co-op City UMC
Nov 30: Boom Commack UMC

2013:

Jan 3: Conference Relation, Conference Ctre
Jan 5: Hispanic Council Corona, Queens
Feb 8: Worship and Prayer retreat at 4th Ave
Feb 20: Jackson Heights/ Pastor John Rivera
Feb 27: Meeting Conference Relations Conference Center
April 8 : Meeting Conference Relations, Conference Center
April 24: Meeting With Bishop Conference Ctre
April 27: Vision Bearers class workshop

103. These are the activities of major involvement. (Countless calls and visits to other Hispanic activities not included.)

Learning Center

Lynda Gomi, Coordinator

101. The Learning Center is run by the Connectional Ministries Office to offer support for churches and UM organizations through books, periodicals, curriculum samples, multi-media resources, puppets, and worship materials such as the labyrinth, as well as space for meetings, workshops and day retreats.

102. Items may be requested through the online Resource Library catalogue. Materials are mailed in returnable pouches and are thus equally accessible across the conference. Usage continues to increase as more people became aware of this easy-to-access resource. (http://nyac.com/resource_find.asp)

103. As new materials are acquired for the Resource Library, they appear in the "What's New in the Resource Library" blog, http://nyac.com/blogs .

104. With changes in technology has come the need to update video formatted material to DVD. The online catalog provides patrons the option to search for material in their preferred format.

105. During the summer of 2012 interns assisted updating VHS to DVD when copyright permitted and adding information to the online catalog to make it easier for lenders to identify items as VHS or DVD material.

106. The Learning Center continues to host workshops and provide space for retreats. The altar displays change with the liturgical calendar and make it an ideal space for a day apart.

107. The Learning Center continues to assist in coordinating Safe Sanctuaries Workshops. Safe Sanctuaries Regional Consultants were appointed in fall 2011 and are available to lead workshops on writing Safe Sanctuaries policies. Contact the consultant in your area via the Safe Sanctuaries page on the web site at: http://www.nyac.com/safe-sanctuaries.

Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members

Eileen M Daunt, Chair

101. The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members joined the Town and Country breakfast meeting at annual conference last year. About 10 local pastors and associate members attended. We ate, shared fellowship around the tables and participated in the discussion. Each pastor present introduced themself and shared their ministry and its setting. We discussed ways that the fellowship might help all local pastors and associate members. We also discussed options of how best to connect for fellowship, learning, and sharing. Our hope is that one day we will have an active fellowship in the conference.

102. We recognized Edward Dayton and W. Fred Loving, as the newest local pastors in our conference.

103. As the fellowship chair, I was unable to attend the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors meeting in Kissimmee, Florida in September. About 100 clergy and spouses attended from around the country. This annual gathering is great for fellowship, connecting, and learning from fellow pastors. The annual gathering will be in Branson, Missouri September 17-20, 2013. The Reverend Dr. Robert Crossman is the 2013 NFAMLP seminar leader. He is the founder & director of the South Central Jurisdiction's Small Church Leadership Institute and the author of *Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life*. The seminar topics include: “Discover a Passion for the Lost,” “68 ways to Increase Worship Attendance Without a Change of Pastors,” “WITNESS - What is The Most Effective Way to Invite Others to Attend Worship,” "Navigating Worship Growth Barriers: Finding the Way Forward” and “Create A Stewardship Ripple in Your Church.” All persons who attend the event may earn 1.5 continuing education credits. I was re-elected to a two-year term to serve on the leadership team of the National Fellowship as the local pastor representative.

104. It is the function of the fellowship to promote fellowship, learning and connectionalism with our pastors and conference. It is an honor to serve our conference as the fellowship chair. I expect to find a way that our fellowship will be able to have a web meeting, there are other conferences already meeting in this format.

District Council on Ministries — Connecticut District

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair, Chair

“The Spirit blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.” —John 3:8

101. The Holy Spirit has, and continues to move through the people and churches of the Connecticut District! The vision of the Connecticut District Council on Ministries is to harness a bit of that spirit power to empower and enable us all to do ministry together. Last year, as we gathered at Nichols UMC for our district conference, we celebrated the presence of the Holy Spirit and prayed for continued blessings. Even in that place, as we heard the story of struggle and triumph from New York Giants player Isaiah Stanback, the Spirit was working, transforming hearts and lives in the name of Jesus Christ. One person came that day to support a family member who was being recognized as a new lay speaker. By the grace of God, he gave his life to Jesus that day. And that story alone makes the ministry we do and celebrate as a district a witness to the glory of God!

102. The Vital Congregations process has continued to be a ministry focus for 2012/2013. At September’s District Clergy Meeting, pastors were trained on creating SMART goals and blessed by Rev. Hugh Hamilton’s challenge to step into the murky waters of Vital Congregations, much as Naaman hesitantly stepped into river to be healed. Three groups of clergy Incubators led by Rev. Paul Fleck, Rev. Laura Galbraith, and Rev. Heather Sinclair, have been trained in eight modules centered on the drivers of Vital Congregations, including Worship, Evangelism, Small Group and Leadership. Pastors are beginning, in various ways, to bring this training into congregations. At the district and conference level there will be more training and events for clergy, laity and congregations as we grow into this Vital Congregations process. Seeds are being planted and, by the grace of God, we anticipate harvesting the fruit of vitality!

103. In the fall of 2012, Rev. Craig Fitzsimmons, district mission coordinator, opened our eyes to the needs of our sister church in Prattsville, NY, that sustained significant damage in the flooding from Hurricane Irene. District churches join in the Share-a-Chair effort and raised funds for all new sanctuary chairs prior to Christmas. The generosity of the churches also allowed us to give additional funds toward repairs to the parsonage.

104. On October 28, as New York City began preparations for Hurricane Sandy, a bus full of brave Methodists from Connecticut ventured to Salem UMC to celebrate and welcome Bishop Martin McLee. In a service of rousing music and preaching, the bishop encouraged and challenged us to "free our minds of clutter," "sing a new song" and "press on together to the mark." Our "rapping" and "praying" bishop blessed and inspired the congregation as we look forward to ministry together in the New York Annual Conference.

105. Following Hurricane Sandy, Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, district disaster response coordinator, worked diligently in connecting churches and needs. Several Emergency Response Teams from Connecticut have travelled to New York to be the hands and feet of Christ to families and communities in need.

106. District Resource Days Workshops for laity and clergy were held on two separate occasions in February at West Hartford UMC and Stratford UMC. Thank you to those congregations for their welcoming hospitality! A special thank you to Stratford UMC and the presenters for their flexibility in re-scheduling following the Blizzard of 2013! Workshops were offered on Call to Action/Vital Congregations; Pastor/Parish Relations; United Methodist Women & Men; Church Finance; Children's Ministries; Serving in the Mission Field; Lay Servant Ministries; The UM Frontier Foundation; and Nominations/Serving with Joy. All who attended (a total of over 100 between the two days) were blessed by the learning and fellowship.

107. Throughout the year, DCOM has financially supported ministries and events that bring people and churches of the connection together. These including offering scholarships for the Laity Convocation; supplementing honorariums for speakers at the Yale in Huntington Lecture Series at Huntington UMC; and aiding in bringing together U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission for Youth).

108. Again this spring, we look forward to the CT District Conference. Our guest speakers will be the ministry team of Newtown UMC, Rev. Mel Kawakami, Rev. Jane Sibley and Rev. Sue Klein. We have been supporting them and praying for them since the Sandy Hook tragedy in December, and we look forward to being blessed by their words of healing and hope. A new class of lay servants, who completed the new training this spring, will be recognized, as well as a joyous diversity of music and celebration.

109. For five years, it has been my privilege to serve as the chair of DCOM. I am grateful to the members of the Council for their hard work, creative ideas, and the joy of serving in ministry with you all. Thanks to District Administrative Assistant Dorothy Chamberlain, and all her support. I also thank Superintendent Rev. Ken Kieffer for his guidance and leadership in many ways throughout the ministries of the district. As I leave this position and the Connecticut District, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

District Council on Ministries — Long Island West District

Rev. Delroy Murdock, Chair

101. The big story in the LIW District this past year was the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy and the response of the churches. Several churches in our district were impacted, as well as a significant number of our church members. However, it was encouraging to see neighbor coming to the aid of neighbor. Some local churches teamed up and volunteered their service cleaning up flooded basements. The LIW Emergency Response Team was also instrumental in facilitating some clean-up projects.

102. The Far Rockaway Mission played a pivotal role in providing help to many of Sandy's victims. The mission has been providing hot meals from Monday through Friday, and now, with the help of several churches in the district, this service has extended to Sundays.

103. In general, this was another very active year for the DCOM. By far our biggest and most successful event was our Annual Lay Leaders Training which had over 300 persons attending 14 different workshops. The

demand for this training has been overwhelming and it does provide the empowerment our laity needs to effectively fulfill the church's mission.

104. Equally important has been our Lay Speaking School. Ninety- three lay servants satisfactorily completed the courses offered at the Brooklyn and Queens sites and they continue to give vital ministry support to pastors across the district.

105. The active clusters continue to play a vital role in our district, keeping our connection alive by bringing churches together in services of celebration such as the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Lenten and Good Friday services. The South Brooklyn Cluster has also responded to Sandy with financial aid to the Sheepshead Bay UMC – one of the churches that were flooded. Beyond that they responded to an appeal for contributions to Bethany Methodist Home which is being refitted to accommodate out-of-state VIM who are engaged in rebuilding projects across the borough.

106. The LIW District Youth and Outdoor Ministry had a very successful youth empowerment event at the Bushwick UMC with 141 persons in attendance engaging the youth in worship, workshops and concluding with a concert.

107. We are encouraged by the signs of life among the district UMM which was somewhat dormant for a while. We anticipate that significant ministries will follow.

108. Finally, let me say thanks to the faithful core who attends meetings to plan and to see those plans blossom into effective ministries.

District Council on Ministries — Metropolitan District

Daryl Norman, Chair

101. The mission of the Metropolitan District Council on Ministries is to align our leadership efforts to enable, encourage, support, lead and resource our wonderful churches from Westchester County to Staten Island through a variety of training events, shared network resources, input from committee chairpersons and Conference concerns.

102. Our two major training events are Leadership training and District Lay Servant training. Our 2013 leadership events were held in Westchester, Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx. The Lay Servant training event was held at First Church Mt Vernon. We had excellent attendance and favorable evaluations.

103. In all I believe we still have some basic areas for accountability and improvement. The areas are listed below:

- Full participation of all churches in training events and district-wide events
- Increase payment of our apportionments
- Visioning strategies for 2014
- Member accountability, written reports and attendance at meetings are a "must" for 2014

104. The best ministry years for our congregations are not behind us but are in front of us.

105. We have been blessed by the leadership for the past two years of Rev St. Clair Samuel and pray God's grace and favor be with him as he leaves the district to return to the local church.

106. Ms. Leslie Asase, our administrative assistant, has provided excellent support services to us for the past 7 years and we are grateful for her zeal and commitment and pray God's continued favor on her as her professional life grows as she departs for a new employment venture.

107. We welcome Rev. Dr. Denise Smartt Sears as our new district superintendent and prayerfully stand ready to follow her leadership vision for 2014; specifically for the Metropolitan District Council on Ministries.

108. Thank you to all who have served with joy, integrity and spirit as we continue to bring in the light of Christ's love and guidance.

District Council on Ministries — New York/Connecticut District

Ross Topliff, Chair

101. This has been a great, exciting time for my first year as chair. As always, we have a very dedicated group of people who require little guidance and less encouragement to be about God's work in the New York/Connecticut District. They made it easy for me to lead this wonderful group of people.

102. Of course, our District Superintendent Rev. Betsy Ott provides a guiding hand to all we do. Her wonderful presentation on the visioning process at the laity leadership events helped many people gain a better perspective on the goals and this process.

103. It has been exciting to help plan new activities and expanded opportunities for our laity to join in worship and training. We held a wonderful Advent Service of lessons and carols with at least 30 people assisting, then provided two laity leadership training events so that more people could attend without travelling quite so far. Our lay servant leaders have been very busy bringing these new classes all across our district in addition to the Danbury and Grace-Newburgh schools.

104. Coming events include: End of Summer Jesus Party on Aug. 10, the return of "Great Day of Methodist Singing" on October 5th, and our second (annual) Advent Service in early December. Additional youth events are in the planning stages so that our scattered youth will feel less alone in their journey.

105. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the busy, talented people who continue to step forward again, and for the first time, to serve our Lord Jesus and this district in so many ways. Without them, none of this would be possible.

Mission and Outreach Ministries

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator

101. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our VOLUNTEERS for sacrificing their time and resources to bring hope to survivors of the super storm Sandy. When the time came for United Methodists to put their faith into action and show God's love they exceeded in giving and sharing. Below is a brief report on how our Conference Disaster Administrative Committee prepared and responded to the disaster that caused great damage to lives and properties in Long Island, Staten Island, and Connecticut on Monday, October 29, 2012.

Conference Disaster Preparation and Response

Background

102. **Sandy** was not a hurricane when it landed on the Northeastern United Stated States. It had turned into category 2 tropical storm. Nevertheless its destructive power was deadly and costly. According to FEMA sources about 285 people lost their lives and the estimated cost of damaged assess was over $71 billion.

103. The New York and New Jersey episcopal areas were greatly affected by SuperStorm Sandy. FEMA records indicate that over 528,186 survivors have registered for federal assistance. New York survivors account for more than half of the total FEMA registrants.

104. **NYAC Response**
    1) Activated the NYAC disaster response Incident Command System
    2) Set up Conference Disaster Response Call Center
    3) Did the initial assessment with Bishop McLee and Conference Disaster Administrative Committee (CDAC)
    4) Deployed Early Response Teams during the Relief phase
    5) Three years Recovery Ministries

105. **Initial Assessment —** Immediately after the storm subsided, Joseph Ewoodzie and members of the Conference Disaster Administrative Committee began reaching out to the UM churches in the affected

communities. Several of the pastors including Rev. Jeff Wells of the Community UMC in Massapequa, Rev. Dr. David Henry of Freeport UMC, Rev. Robert Grimm of St. Mark's UMC in Rockville Centre, Pastor Matthew Schaeffer of Bethel UMC in Staten Island and Rev. Wesley Daniels of Calvary UMC in Bronx (working at St. Mark's UMC in Brooklyn) began to reach out in their communities, initially with their own parishioners and then to the local population to see what the extent of the problems were and to begin organizing a response to provide help.

106. **Organized Disaster Response Centers and Volunteer Housing** — Community UMC in Massapequa, Freeport UMC, Bethel UMC in Staten Island, St. Mark's UMC in Brooklyn and St. Mark's UMC in Rockville Centre let it be known in their communities that these churches were being set up as Disaster Response Centers and letting the local communities know that they could call these centers for help. Rev. Timothy Riss pastor of the Hicksville UMC spearheaded the effort to enable Hicksville UMC to be used to house out-of-area volunteers. Local volunteers began to help in the disaster centers to take phone calls for help and to log the needs. Members of churches throughout the conference prepared to send teams to the area to help. Many local volunteers signed up to help out at the five disaster recovery sites.

107. **Trained ERT leader**s — Ross Porter led the effort to set up training locations throughout the conference to train leaders for teams to respond to the needs of local citizens. Classes were held every Saturday during November and December with additional classes in January with over 180 people trained.

108. **Volunteers** — Volunteer teams have arrived from a number of universities including Clemson University in SC, University of South Carolina, Hofstra University, Dowling College, University of Massachusetts, Geneseo State and St. Joseph College. Teams and individuals have come from Arizona, Maryland, and Delaware.

109. **Work Performed** — Volunteers pumped water from basements; removed mountains of debris and placed it curbside; removed and stored furniture in PODS; removed sheetrock, insulation, flooring, subflooring and placed it curbside, and sorted personal belongs into "keep piles" and "throw away piles" for the homeowners. They treated and performed mold remission on homes where possible and in general prepared the home for the next phase of work. Other volunteers provided office help to receive volunteers, provide orientation, directions and guidance and gathered work summaries at the conclusion of the day for each team.

Disaster Recovery Ministries (supported by UMCOR Grant)

110. There are many organizations providing help to Sandy victims in NY, however, there are not nearly enough organizations to provide the help required. UMCOR and The United Methodist Church will make a significant impact on the communities in need. Given the size and scope of the disaster, if only 10% of the FEMA registrants required help that would be 27,000 families in NY alone. UMCOR dollars will reach nearly 800 of the most vulnerable survivors in some way. As you can see, every organization is desperately needed to be on the ground to provide help. UMCOR funded NY Disaster Recovery Ministry which will be working in conjunction with the Long-Term Recovery Group on Long Island, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Connecticut to provide the broadest help possible at the same time minimizing duplication of services through our cooperative efforts.

111. The UMCOR grant will enable The United Methodist Church in NY to create and staff a Disaster Recovery Ministry to reach out to affected individuals and families throughout NY and in CT. Specifically the dollars will help to:
    - Perform initial needs assessment,
    - Institute a holistic case-management system for those targeted by the UMC to help,
    - Implement an effective VIM system to organize, direct and house volunteers,
    - Repair, rebuild and restore damaged homes,
    - Provide ongoing disaster spiritual care to affected persons , and
    - Provide direct assistance to survivors

112. By the Numbers:
- FEMA registrations – total to date - 528,186
- NY registrations - 271,181
- NY UMC Disaster Recovery Centers - 5
- NY UMC Volunteer Housing Centers - 3
- Total number of volunteers – 1847
- Total number of volunteer hours – 14,572
- Total number of homes worked on – 300

Conference Mission Leadership 2012- 2013

113. Please join me to say a big "thank you" to our dedicated VIM leaders whose diligence and devotion have brought great success to our ministry worldwide:

114. **Mission Leadership:** Rev. Wesley Daniel, Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Rev. Ann Pearson, Rev. Timothy Riss and Rev. Charles Straut

115. **Conference Disaster Administrative Committee:** Rev. Dr. M. Craig Fitzsimmons, Rev. Dale Ashby, Ms. Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, Rev. Wesley Daniel, Mr. Warren Ferry, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Rev. Janet Hodge, Rev. Melvyn Kawakami, Mrs. Mary Ellen Kris, Mr. W. Ross Porter and Deaconess Claris Skerritt

116. **Mission Personnel:** Rev. Dr. Esther Amartey-Amarh, Rev. In Koo Chung, Pastor Oscar Destruge-Sandoval, Ms. Annette Griffith, Ms. Denise Hamilton, Rev. Sonia Jermin, Ms. Una Jones, Rev. Hector Laporta and Ms. Linda Mellor

117. **Volunteers in Mission:** Pastor Oscar Destruge-Sandoval, Rev. Woodrow Eddins, Rev. Carl Franson, Rev. Roy Grubbs, Mr. Robert Hawkins, Rev. Marion Hubbard, Pastor Wendy Vencuss and Ms. Enid Watson

118. **Disaster Coordinators:** Rev. Dale Ashby, Catskill-Hudson; Ms. Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, Connecticut; Mr. Warren Ferry, Long Island East; Rev. Cedric Johnson, Long Island West; Rev. Wesley Daniel, Metropolitan, and Mr. W. Ross Porter, New York/Connecticut

119. **District Mission Coordinators:** Ms. Linda Mealor, Catskill Hudson; Rev. Dr. M. Craig Fitzsimmons, Connecticut; Ms. Dennis Hamilton, Long Island West; Rev. Sonia Jermin, Metropolitan and Mr. W. Ross Porter, New York/Connecticut.

Youth Ambassadors in Mission (Y.A.M)

120. The 2012 YAM team did their mission work in Ghana in February. Adult leaders whose dedication and love for young people made this trip a great success were: Tyron Johnson, (Grace St. Albans); Emily Ott (Park Avenue), Gillian Prince (Fennimore) and Joseph Ewoodzie.

121. The thirteen young people who participated in this year's trip to Ghana were:

122. **Connecticut:** Sara Burrous (Simsbury), Alyssa Wood (Shelton); **Long Island East:** Sarah Anne Mackey (Commack), Jennifer Carle (Farmingdale); **Long Island West:** Stephanie Hoyt (Fennimore), Okema Smith (Fennimore), Kevon Wilson (Fenimore), Isaiah Warren (Grace St. Albans), Taliah Moore (Bethany); **Metropolitan:** Dwayne Dell (Butler Memorial), Imani smith (New Rochelle), Maya Smith (New Rochelle), Deniece Dwyer (Wakefield Grace)

123. The next YAM trip is scheduled for Ecuador in February 2013.

124. Since 2005, the Conference has provided a special volunteer in mission opportunity for young people from our local churches. One of the main purposes of Youth Ambassadors in Mission is to give our youth and young people a unique firsthand cross-cultural life-changing experience.

125. Youth Mission Trips have the potential of accomplishing several goals such as:
- Bring youth from across the New York Annual Conference together with a common experience,

- Begin to develop youth leadership for our Conference Youth Ministry,
- Inspire our youth with the traditional Wesleyan mission spirit,
- Help youth learn and experience another culture by working and interacting with others, and
- A life-changing experience of encountering Christ again in a strange environment.

126. **Participation —** Each of the six districts identifies and recommends two youth who have interest in mission. The district and the local church partially fund the trip and support their candidates with prayers. Candidates may apply for Conference Mission Scholarship.

127. After the mission experience, each participant becomes a core member of Conference Youth Ambassador in Mission. They will be recognized at the annual conference session in June of each year. They will give presentations at district workshops during that year, sharing their experiences and inspiring other youth for mission.

Mission Interpretation/Missionary Covenant Relations

128. The New York Annual Conference continues to support and strengthen the relationship with the following mission initiatives:

129. **International Volunteers In Mission sites:** Mozambique Sister Conference Initiative, Bolivia Mission, Costa Rica Mission, Cambodia Mission, Haiti Mission, Ghana Mission, Ecuador Mission

130. **National:** Churches Saving Communities (Advance #982143), Communities of Shalom (Advance #742566), Homelessness in the U.S. (Advance #982385), John St. Evangelization Program (Advance #341355), Appalachia Service Project (Advance #982050), Justice for our neighbors (Advance #901285), Community Centers (Advance #982149), U. M. Army, Crop Walk, Bread for the World, Midnight Run.

General Board of Global Ministries Missionary Support

131. The following are the missionaries related to the New York Conference:

Jae Hyoung (Jay) Choi	Advance # 13973Z	Philippines
Eun Ha Choi (Grace)	Advance # 13974Z	Philippines
Samuel Grano de Oro	Advance # 13032Z	Dominican Republic
Kalindi Thomas	Advance # 13966Z	Global
Sun Sook Kim	Advance # 10843Z	Philippines
Ediberto Lopez-Rodrigues	Advance #012860	Puerto Rico
Diedonne Karihano	Advance #3019569	Mozambique
Joel Medendorp	Advance #773950	Red Bird Mission
Helen de Leon Camarce	Advance # 13953Z	Manila, Philippines
Joseph and Marilyn Chan	Advance # 12904Z	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Rosangela Soares de Oliveira	Advance # 14210Z	Latin America

Older Adult Ministry

James A. Stinson, Consultant on Older Adult Ministry

101. This conference year saw the formation of a Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministries. It has been meeting monthly since the fall of 2012. As a committee, we have been studying Richard Gentzler's book, *Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century*, the first portion of each meeting being devoted to a different chapter. We continue to do so as a means of focusing on our purpose as a committee, which is to inform, promote, and lead in ways that allow local congregations to engage more deliberately in ministry with the older adult population in each congregation and community.

102. We have developed a manual for our members to use as we work in various districts and congregations, so that our presentations and information sharing is uniform in its approach. We have recently shared

with congregations in the Metropolitan District workshops and look forward to sharing with other districts and clusters as invited.

103. We will be sharing our emphasis on Older Adult Ministries, with an interactive display during the NYAC in June.

104. In addition to assisting the formation and direction of this committee, as the Consultant on Older Adult Ministry, I continue to make myself available to local congregations and groups, including the districts. I am available to preach, lead workshops and lead seminars on a variety of issues related to this ministry.

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Dana Dudkewic

Team Reports

101. The Social Justice Team has done amazing things to help the annual conference theme: "No More Malaria" and with the UM Women for a day on the issue of human trafficking. Great things have happened and I know greater things are to come.

102. The Leadership Development Team helped to motivate and inspire the youth of the conference throughout the year. After last year's annual conference, the Leadership Team successfully piloted the third Camp Lead; a one-week program for youth who show excellence in the area of leadership. Six youth from around the NYAC gathered at Kingswood Camp to embark on a spiritual journey to grow as future leaders of The United Methodist Church. In March the team led a workshop at Ignite about what teens want from our church services and youth groups. This all-adults class was a rousing success. All of the workshop attendees left Ignite with a wealth of knowledge pertaining to youth. The Leadership Team is now beginning to plan for Camp Lead 2013. We think this year will bring us a greater number of participants and we cannot wait to see what God has planned. The date for Camp Lead 2013 is August 11-16 at Camp Epworth. Applications to sign up will be available at the CCYM table at annual conference.

103. In the past year, CCYM's Mission Team managed to expand far beyond expectations. They led the flash carnival held at in Walton, NY where we served many children and families offering them a day of free games, face painting, dancing, snacks, and great fellowship. We are in the process of connecting with Restoration Generation and our jurisdictional youth council to increase our ability to offer mission opportunities for the youth of our conference. Ignite 2013 provided a presentation to encourage youth groups to get involved in mission trips and mission work. Along with the presentation they created a display board of past youth mission work and staffed a table to hand out information about Youth Ambassadors in Mission trips. The team is currently working on a weekend in September to return to the Walton church to do a free fall carnival and visit the wonderful children and adults we met last year.

104. Youth Service Fund (YSF) team has made applications available to people who want to develop organizations for teenagers that need a financial boost. The YSF team presented at Ignite and staffed a table to give out information. The YSF team sold lollipops and threw a coin war at Ignite 2013 to raise more funds for YSF. Since we started collecting in 2009, we have yet to receive an application, so this year we hope to distribute money to benefit many youth organizations.

105. This year, the Design Team for CCYM did a lot of hard work and had a lot of fun. We created flyers and promotional items for CCYM events like Ignite, our district Ignition Event, the Annual Conference Lock In, and Camp Lead and we set up a CCYM table at annual conference. At last year's conference we had a great time assisting with the children's events. This team set up and decorated for Ignite 2013 and helped assist with a lot of the cleanup. This team has a lot to do to get ready for this year's Camp Lead, more Ignition events, Ignite 2014, and our Annual Conference Lock In; we are very excited to be Gods hands and feet.

106. This year the Spiritual Formation Team has organized many things for the youth of the New York Annual Conference. They took on many tasks this year. The biggest job was planning and facilitating worship for

all CCYM events including the Annual Conference Lock In, Ignite, Ignition events, and Camp Lead. Our Spiritual Formation Team also wrote daily devotions and small group plans, called "spark groups," for Ignite. We also helped organize and run the Bishop's Confirmation Rally. We are working on putting together a CCYM band to play at all CCYM events. Please keep this new venture in your prayers.

107. All in all, this has been one powerful and strong year for our CCYM, one filled with many new ventures and much excitement. So far God has blessed us more than we could have ever imagined and we look forward to seeing what is to come. Ignite 2013 blew our minds as we went from canceling 2012 to overbooking camp Quinipet for 2013. Praise God!!! We have been blessed with adults and young adults who played a huge role in getting CCYM up and going a few years back. Many of our wonderful youth are going to college this year but we look forward to the new youth who will be joining us; we know God has the perfect replacements for those who will be leaving for new ventures. Our May 11th and August 24th meetings were/will be open meetings as we accept new youth and adults for the year 2013-2014. Also, our visit to the jurisdictional meeting was wonderful and gave us many new ideas that we hope to implement this year. Last but not least, it is very exciting that with the return of many of our young adults, we are beginning a Young Adult Council. Our first event for the NYAC Young Adults will be this summer. Keep your eyes open for more information.

Societies & Institutions

Africa University

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

101. Africa University is deeply grateful to the New York Conference for its leadership in giving to the Africa University Fund (AUF). We thank you for your 100% investment to the AUF in 2012. In total, 27 annual conferences met 100% of their asking. Other annual conferences also increased their support and overall giving to the AUF reached a new record of 93.35%.

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

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

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

105. Throughout 2012, the 20th anniversary celebrations highlighted the crucial role that Africa University is already playing in the life of our global church. The Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya, for example, is superintendent of the Zambia Provisional Conference and a member of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church for 2013-2016. Africa University graduates serve as directors on general agency boards and in regional leadership roles. Across Africa, more than 4,700 graduates are helping to eradicate hunger, poverty, disease, conflict and hopelessness.

106. **Africa University's full potential is not yet realized.** For every graduate, there are hundreds of gifted persons who are praying for a chance to be equipped to serve. That's why Africa University is doubling its efforts to raise scholarships and develop more online distance learning programs.

107. New York Area United Methodists have a strong record of engagement with Africa University, including a considerable investment in the endowment for scholarships that will educate leaders for the church and society in Africa in perpetuity. With your gifts and prayers, you have helped to establish a life-changing ministry. Help us to grow this ministry in ways that will continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform communities.

108. Thank you. Please pray without ceasing for your Africa University. Changing Africa: Learning here, living here, and leading here. Serving God, all the time, everywhere.

Black College Fund

Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Chairperson

101. The Black College Fund (BCF) supports the 11 historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) related to The United Methodist Church. Since 1972, the Black College Fund has been an apportioned fund of the Church. The objective of the BCF is to marshal financial support for the programs and ministries of the HBCUs related to The United Methodist Church.

102. Regular and consistent funding support is essential in continuing the important work of these colleges. Most of these member institutions are well into their second century of service. They still need the continuing institutional support of this church connection to continue their work of opening doors and extending opportunities to deserving students.

103. The HBCUs today have an increasing enrollment of Asian, Hispanic, white and international students. Several religious denominations support private HBCUs, however, The United Methodist Church supports the largest number of fully accredited HBCUs in the United States.

104. The eleven United Methodist Historically Black Colleges and Universities are:

Bennett College for Women Greensboro, NC	**Bethune-Cookman College** Daytona Beach, FL	**Claflin University** Orangeburg, SC
Clark Atlanta University Atlanta, GA	**Dillard University** New Orleans, LA	**Huston-Tillotson** Austin, TX
Meharry Medical College Nashville, TN	**Paine College** Augusta, GA	**Philander-Smith College** Little Rock, AR
Rust College Holly Springs, MS	**Wiley College** Marshall, TX	

105. We presented to the 2012 Annual Conference Lina McCord, intern/ambassador, and Ms. April Cotton, a proud senior at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms. Cotton is majoring in Chemistry and upon the completion of her Bachelors of Science degree she will be pursuing a Juris Doctorate. We collected $4,578 through a special offering. The Black College Fund Committee continues to sponsor the annual luncheon. On March 9, 2013, the luncheon was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dennis L. Blackwell, lead pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church in Woodlynne, New Jersey. We sold approximately 150 tickets and collected $3,231 in contributions.

Boston University School of Theology

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

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

celebration – our largest ever incoming class, excellence in teaching and learning, and a vibrant community life. Some highlights from the previous year were:

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

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

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

Candler School of Theology

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

101. **Candler School of Theology** prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

102. As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

103. Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 478, with 365 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 30 the Master of Theology, 18 the Doctor of Theology, and 15 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 10 percent international, and 50 percent women. Half of M.Div. students are United Methodist, with forty-three denominations represented in all programs. The median age of our entering class of M.Div. students is 27, with 58 percent under thirty.

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

105. Construction preparations for the second phase of the Candler's new building got underway at the end of 2012 thanks to an extraordinary gift of $15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation. The new building, which will house Pitts Theology Library, community space, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel, will be completed in late spring of 2014 in time for

Candler's Centennial Celebration. Candler's phase one building was named in memory of Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake, in honor of its generous financial gift.

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

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

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

109. Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in t the *real* world.

Drew University Theological School

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Dean

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

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

103. It was also my pleasure to host the September 2012 Theological Conference at Drew entitled, *The Future of Christian Spirituality and Interreligious Interaction* in honor of Dr. Pyun Sun Hwan. Over the course of the three days, an array of speakers from the U.S., Korea, and other countries engaged attendees and one another on topics such as "Interreligious Dialogue Versus Interreligious Theology," "The Future of Comparative Theology," and "Interreligious Theology, Liberation, and the Church."

104. It was also a great pleasure to welcome alumni/ae back to campus for the Tipple Vosburgh lectures in the fall. This year's topic was "Faith, Race, and Politics" which provided opportunities to hear the voices and visions of activists, scholars, and church leaders responding to this unique and timely dilemma.

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

106. ***Building up the United Methodist Connection —*** I have enjoyed meeting bishops and many Boards of Ordained Ministry to convey our desire at Drew to be a resource to the entire denomination. I am particularly pleased that Drew is hosting a January Term class taught by UM bishops. This past January, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware Conference, taught a class entitled, *Topics in Pastoral Care: Disabilities and the Church.* Her class led worship recently in chapel and shared just how important this course was in forming a compassionate, inclusive and prophetic vision for the church. In January of 2014, Bishop Jane Middleton will teach a class on Ministry and Health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Long Island Council of Churches

The Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, Executive Director

101. The mission of the Long Island Council of Churches is the help diverse Christians to work together in mission and to help Christians and non-Christians to understand one another better.

102. The LICC provides resources that are beyond the capacity of individual congregations. In the past year, we fed hundreds of people each week in Nassau and Suffolk counties, often providing emergency food to more than 2,100 people a month. Last month we fed 200 more people in Freeport than we did a year earlier. In addition we distributed hundreds of Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. We fed 475 people at our Thanksgiving Dinner in Riverhead, distributed 8,500 household items just in Riverhead, and helped people with rent and mortgage assistance, prescription assistance, transportation, and other problems. We continue to need food donations and volunteer drivers to pick up these contributions.

103. Our Multi-Faith Forum recently presented its 290th educational program, designed to help us understand, get along with, and reach out to neighbors of other faiths. This project is without parallel elsewhere, sending volunteers from eleven different faith communities into schools, workplaces, and houses of worship to help Long Islanders understand their neighbors. Our volunteers represent the Bahais, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhism, Christianity, Hindus, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Native American Spirituality, Sikhism, and Unitarian Universalism. If you are not familiar with all these traditions, you may need a Building Bridges program! We need more volunteers for the Forum, particularly Christians who are willing to tell how they practice their faith in their daily lives.

104. We continue to offer workshops on how to be good stewards. Our financial experts have tackled such topics as how to find affordable housing, how to reduce household expenses, and how to manage money in retirement. We have addressed audiences ranging from day-laborers to retirees, from residents of a domestic violence shelter to unemployed workers trying to save their homes. We sponsored a major conference with GreenFaith this March on how to save money by using less energy both in your house of worship and in your home. Perhaps you would like us to do a workshop for your congregation? Perhaps as part of your stewardship program? Through Ligero Energy, we also offer churches and individuals substantial discounts on natural gas.

105. We continue to offer programs on how to preach and teach about immigration and how to make your congregation more welcoming to our newest neighbors. And we are exploring an effort with the Partners for Sacred Spaces to help congregations use their facilities more effectively in ministry and mission in their communities—and find new partners who will help maintain their buildings.

106. We have launched new efforts to encourage ecumenical and interfaith dialogue in our region, including a series of road trips to visit the Jain Center of America, a Sikh gurdwara, the Brahma Kumaris' Global Harmony House, a Hindu temple, a Mormon stake, and a mosque. In responding to our neighbors in need, we want to address the issues that divide us. We do not imagine that we can unite the broken Body of Christ, but we can at least try to get out of the way of God's attempts to make us one.

107. None of this would be possible without the support of many people like you. Thanks!

United Theological Seminary

By Wendy J. Deichmann, President

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

102. United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They are doing so because United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal

and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important or exciting?

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

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

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

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

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

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

109. Spirit Led, Renewing the Church!

United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, OH 45426 www.united.edu

Wesley Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

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

102. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to expand its programs and the readership of the premier online resource for churches: *Leading Ideas*. Through the Center, we are administering three new programs funded by grants from the Lilly Endowment. One enables us to continue our Lewis Fellows program, an intensive post-seminary leadership training initiative for young clergy. Another will reach pastors, five to ten years beyond seminary. They will engage with thought leaders in Washington, D.C. on the subjects of courage, doing good well, generosity and well-being to help expand their field of vision and lead their churches to engage more effectively in their communities. The third program takes a hard look at the economic challenges facing future ministers. We will conduct research into our graduates' debt, analyze information about current compensation packages, and review the consequences of debt on the well-being of graduates. We will review our own economic and funding strategies and improve institutional practices while creating educational programs that better prepare future pastoral leaders as managers of personal and congregational finance.

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

104. The biggest new development is the Heal the Sick Initiative (HTS) developed in partnership with three hospital systems and the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. In HTS, Wesley will be the catalyst and educational partner in the development of a pilot program of parish-based healthcare in the Baltimore-Washington-Northern Virginia Region modeled after several successful programs nationwide.

The HTS will prepare ministry leaders to support their congregations in the development of health ministries which include care and support for their members' overall well-being, as well as care for their neighbors, particularly the poor.

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

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

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

108. Meet us at www.wesleyseminary.edu.

Section 3: Ministries of Advocacy

Conference Board of Church and Society

Mary Ellen Kris, Chair

101. The Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) has embarked on an ambitious agenda over the past year, continuing our historic role and activities, while seeking to expand our diversity and inclusivity, address racism and other "isms" in our midst, build relationships with more churches and constituencies across the conference, and engage at a deeper level in understanding and addressing the causes of gun violence. We have progress to report on a number of fronts:

- Reaping the benefit of groundwork laid by our prior chair and board members, in November 2012 we hired a part-time staff person—the Rev. Paul Fleck, who is also pastor at New Milford UMC, co-chair of the Immigration Task Force, and a member of MFSA and MIND. Paul reports directly to the Conference Board of Church and Society, which funds his position with Peace with Justice monies. He works about nine hours a week for CBCS, and reports to the Board Chair Mary Ellen Kris. As the "Organizer for Social Concerns and Social Justice Advocacy and Education," he works closely with the board chair on planning, administration, logistics, communications, networking, relationship-building, programming, legislation, outreach, advocacy, and other activities.
- Mary Ellen Kris and Paul Fleck attended training on relational organizing last fall organized by the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C. Besides getting an introduction to how and why to do "relational organizing," we had a chance to meet 38 or so representatives of other conferences throughout the US and learn how much we have in common with conferences and communities that are so different than our own.
- We were so impressed with the training that we have invited Kristin Kumpf, who led the training, to offer a similar workshop here in our conference. Entitled, "Building Relationships for Mission and Advocacy," and scheduled for May 4 at Memorial UMC in White Plains, the training is not limited to members and friends of Church & Society. We hope to attract two or three people from diverse churches throughout the conference.
- We applied for and received a $5,000 Peace with Justice Grant from the General Board of Church and Society to implement a conference-wide program on gun violence and gun control, entitled, "Beating Swords into Plowshares: Engaging Diverse Communities in Public Discourse to Stop Gun Violence." Our plan is to work with local churches and districts to create public forums and dialogue on how to reduce gun violence in our communities. The program is being launched at the Church and Society luncheon on June 6 at annual conference this year with our key note speaker, the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation, and highly renowned preacher, pastor, author and professor. We expect that Rev. Dr. Forbes will build upon his words at Newtown UMC. He will also sign copies of his latest book, which will be available for purchase.
- Provided testimony and engaged in advocacy on the gun violence issue in Connecticut.
- Participated in the planning group and otherwise supported the successful March 2nd conference, "RISE UP! End Violence Against Women and Girls."
- Provided two workshops on Church & Society at IGNITE!, the conference youth retreat held at Camp Quinipet on Sat. March 16.
- Held productive and well-attended board meetings (open to friends as well), including a March 9 face-to-face meeting with Bishop McLee that allowed for an instructive and constructive 1-½ hour dialogue with him.
- Prepared and submitted resolutions to annual conference and commented upon and supported resolutions submitted by other conference groups.

102. Historically, Church & Society has made its mark in this conference (and within the UMC generally) in "issue organizing"—advocating within the conference and in society on specific issues such as gun control,

death penalty, living wage, and other human rights issues, including human sexuality issues. While continuing in that tradition, high on our agenda is our resolve to expand our involvement with and support of churches and constituencies in this conference that have not traditionally engaged with Church & Society, and whose issues perhaps have not been front and center for the NYAC Church & Society.

103. Our strategy for achieving greater inclusivity, diversity and engagement includes the following:
    - holding training on "relational organizing" (as compared to issue organizing);
    - holding workshops for CBCS on the issue of race, especially as it pertains to our conference and to the NYAC Board of Church and Society;
    - putting additional emphasis on the educational function of Church & Society, including offering to provide speakers and other resources to congregations, and
    - holding one or more public forums and facilitating sustained local engagement in addressing gun violence, including examining the underlying causes and complex solutions to reducing or eliminating gun violence.

104. We will endeavor to expand our relationships with more of our local churches and constituencies within the NYAC to be more inclusive and representative of the social justice concerns of the diverse communities, classes, ethnicities and races in this conference. The May 4 organizing retreat should lay the groundwork for future trainings or retreats on related issues such as race and creating a culture of invitation.

105. Reminder: May 26, 2013 is Peace with Justice Sunday. Your generous support will fund important work in the conference as well as work at the national level.

Task Force on Immigration

Rev. Paul Fleck & Natassia Velez, Co-Chairs

101. The New York Annual Conference Task Force on Immigration has been working diligently over the past year to be both proactive and responsive in our efforts. A change from previous years, this year marked a focus on advocacy while building upon the foundations of education and outreach of the previous years.

102. We started the year with a bit of reflection, once again teaming up with the General Board of Church and Society's Rapid Response Team on Immigration. For the second time in our history, we attended and were on the forefront of the Rapid Response Team Annual Meeting. We were able to learn and connect with other organizations within The United Methodist Church, coming together around how to build momentum and take action.

103. As per the petition passed at the 2012 New York Annual Conference, we worked to make Team 2013 a reality. This was carried out in partnership with Bishop McLee through a letter campaign to the elected officials that represent the geography of the New York Annual Conference.

104. We continue to encourage and implement education and advocacy events around the conference. A successful "Breaking Bread and Barriers" event was held at New Milford United Methodist Church of New Milford, CT, with over 125 immigrants and congregants in attendance. This was an incredible cooperative event where all attendees came together to share their stories about the need to repair our broken immigration system. The event was attended by elected officials; Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty was there to pledge her support for Family Unity, one of the key elements of fair and just reform. In addition, Rep. Raul Candlearia spoke about his bill in the Connecticut General Assembly seeking to allow undocumented immigrants to have driver's licenses.

105. One of the most significant projects of the year was our participation in Rise Up: End Violence Against Women & Girls. This conference-wide event was sponsored by partner organizations such as CSROW (Commission on Status and Role of Women), MFSA (Methodist Federation for Social Action), MIND (Methodists in New Directions), CORR (Commission on Religion and Race), and CBCS (Conference Board of

Church and Society). Held on March 2, 2013 at Asbury Crestwood United Methodist Church, Rise Up brought together United Methodists from all over the conference to learn and take action to end violence against women and girls. We were honored to be part of the planning of this event, including providing a workshop on how violence affects immigrant women and girls.

106. Throughout the year we have kept abreast of the changing political climate in Washington D.C around immigration. We continue to advocate for fair and just reform and enabling United Methodists across the connection to do the same.

107. The election last year created the space for opening up the debate on fair and just immigration reform. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York is one of the members of the "Gang of Eight" Senators that have drafted legislation to reform the broken immigration system. In the hopes of influencing the debate on fair and just immigration reform, the task force is presenting a resolution to this ministry committee and the annual conference for the consideration of principles the conference and its membership should support. These include, but are not limited to, preserving family unity, protecting workers' rights, and opposing racial profiling in whatever form it presents itself.

Justice for Our Neighbors (NYAC-JFON) Immigration Project

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stapleton, Chairperson, Robert Bobb, Treasurer

101. **History** — Started in 1999 by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) is a national network of church-based, volunteer-supported immigration law clinics that provide free legal advice and representation to vulnerable, low-income immigrants. The New York regional branch of Justice for Our Neighbors (NYAC-JFON) currently serves clients in all five boroughs at three church-based clinics — Chinese United Methodist Church in Chinatown, Manhattan, founded in 1999; John Wesley UMC in Bedford-Stuyvesant/Clinton Hills, Brooklyn, founded in 1999; and La Promesa Presbyterian Church in Flushing, Queens, founded in 2000.

102. The New York Annual Conference adopted the Justice for Our Neighbors project as a ministry of the conference several years ago. NYAC-JFON represents the response of The United Methodist Church and its local congregations to the needs of immigrants seeking to reunify their families, secure legal status, and enjoy the right to work as well as becoming citizens.

103. **Theology** — "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so; some people have entertained angels without knowing it." — Hebrews 13:2. When we welcome sojourners, it is as if we are receiving Christ, and our doing so becomes a sign of our faithfulness. The 1986 United Methodist Bishops' Statement on Refugees and Immigration says, "God comes to us in the form of the vulnerable person who lacks the benefit of status and protection in an alien land. In the flesh of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God chose to sojourn in a particular way for the sake of all humankind…and restored the possibility of authentic community in which love and justice reign and peace prevails."

104. NYAC-JFON embraces the model of biblical hospitality. Each NYAC-JFON legal clinic is an opportunity for local congregations to "open their doors" with a warm and hospitable welcome for newcomers in their midst. The program relies on United Methodist connectional relationships to bring together resources and commitment from local churches, districts, and annual conferences. Our Conference Mission Statement says, "The New York Annual Conference, through the Grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope…" NYAC-JFON shows how to be that beloved community of hope to the sojourners in our midst.

105. **Overview** — NYAC-JFON's mission is to be a ministry of hospitality that "welcomes immigrants by providing affordable, high-quality immigration legal services, engaging in advocacy for immigrants' rights, and offering education to communities of faith and the public."

106. The core of NYAC-JFON's services includes offering monthly clinics at each of our three partner churches, where undocumented immigrants can receive one-to-one legal advice free of charge. Trained and dedicated volunteers staff each clinic, while our regional attorney, a highly qualified immigration lawyer, provides legal assistance. Our total open caseload at any time is between 350 to 400 cases. The types of

cases we serve include, but are not exclusively, the following: naturalization, family reunification, waivers, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), asylum, Refugee and Asylee Adjustment, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and religious worker petitions.

107. **Past Year —**The last year has been difficult for NYAC-JFON. At the end of 2012, National Justice for Our Neighbors became separately incorporated from UMCOR with a separate board of directors. As a result of this change, UMCOR and National JFON are no longer willing to have the New York regional attorney on its payroll or to house him in their offices, resulting in the loss of a significant financial subsidy. This has meant that NYAC-JFON is no longer financially self-sustaining. NYAC-JFON was also asked to vacate our Harlem office, donated by the City Society, at the end of last summer, as the building was sold to a private owner.

108. Despite these challenges, NYAC-JFON continues to fulfill its mission of hospitality. In addition to its legal clinics, NYAC-JFON has also worked on advocacy programs specifically dealing with undocumented youth as a way of promoting passage of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) and spreading information about legal relief under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). These programs included the following:

109. Organizing an "Immigrant Shabbat" with ACCESS-NY, the young professionals division of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). This program provided the opportunity for 20 young Jewish professionals, some of whom oppose immigration reform, to meet three "DREAM Act"-eligible students and to see how current immigration policy impacts real people.

110. Assisting applicants eligible for DACA through Chinatown's United East Athletics Association.

111. Conducting two presentations to the Association of Hispanic Ministers, which highlighted the opportunities offered to their youth congregants through DACA. Each presentation drew 50 ministers.

112. **Going Forward** — To prepare for the huge changes and new challenges our ministry is facing in the upcoming year, NYAC-JFON continues to seek sources of funding from foundations and private donors, as well as to identify ways of serving our clients with fewer resources. Some of these plans include the following:

113. Reestablishing the Immigrant Visa Assistance Project (IVAP), a joint initiative between NYAC-JFON and Brooklyn Law School started in September 2011. IVAP allows law students to get experience preparing affidavits for NYAC-JFON immigrant visa applications. A professor at Brooklyn Law School supervises the program, which is managed by the law students themselves. This program went into abeyance in the fall of 2012 as NYAC-JFON had been required by UMCOR's outside legal counsel to take on no new cases during the period of separation.

114. Recruiting, training and supervising up to three volunteer attorneys to help manage our caseload, and hiring up to two legal interns to help manage these cases.

115. The changes over the past year have been dramatic and painful, yet as NYAC-JFON moves into its 14th year of existence, we are hopeful that the program will not only survive this period of difficulty, but will thrive and flourish, as it ministers and provides hospitality to those strangers in the midst of us.

Commission on Religion and Race

Roena Littlejohn, Chair

101. The NYAC Commission on Religion and Race continues to schedule and make available the mandatory Anti-racism training events for elders, deacons, DCOMs, BOOM and local pastors as outlined in Petition 2007-302 (extended to 2016) at the 2012 NYAC. We will participate in the ministry of monitoring at annual conference capturing the racial-ethnic diversity of the speakers during plenary, worship and legislative sessions. Please follow the program for scheduled reporting from CORR. Hopefully, we will hear inclusive and gender-sensitive language so that all will feel welcome as we explore the theme, "DISMANTLING WALLS Building the Beloved Community."

102. We welcome the Rev. Walter C. Barton, Jr. as a new member of the CORR. Our sincere thanks to the Rev. Roger Jackson for his dedicated service to the CORR; due to added responsibilities and his work load, he felt the need to step down at this time. The Rev. Hector Laporta, Rev. Marion Hubbard, Rev. Sarah Ford and Mr. David Visaggio expressed their need to step down due to scheduling and other matters; we appreciate their consideration for CORR and the work that is before us, thank you and God's blessings upon them and their ministries.

103. We offer a heartfelt welcome to Bishop Martin D. McLee and express deepest gratitude for his encouragement and support. The CORR met with him and were encouraged and inspired by his thoughts, suggestions and time of sharing. We are praying for him and look forward to his leadership. Plans are underway to act on some of his suggestions. There is much work to be done and we are looking for ways to be pro-active and strive to reach the goals set for us. We offer our thanks to the Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Cabinet liaison, and Cabinet members for their support and encouragement of the clergy to attend the scheduled anti-racism training events. We invite each district superintendent to submit names of two persons who would be willing to serve on CORR to ensure conference-wide representation as we seek equity among membership. We must be intentional about the nomination and election of racial/ethnic persons to decision making positions, which happens based on recommendations that reflect total inclusiveness.

104. CORR's goal is to schedule three anti-racism training events per year, however due to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2012 only one training event was held and there were 27 persons trained bringing our total to 271. We are seeking inclusiveness as we collaborate with conference organizations, boards and committees to plan activities and events for clergy and laity. We believe that education and sharing of resources will move the NYAC from a conference of racism to a conference of relationships.

105. Our thanks to the members of CORR for their dedication, support, prayers and help in meeting the challenges we face and accomplishing the goals of this Commission. Thank you for another year of service and God bless: The Rev. Taka Ishii for guidance and consultation, the Rev. Ann Pearson for support, food and clerical assistance, the Rev. Vicki Flippin for secretarial support and coordination of programs, the Rev. Tom Theilmann for site coordination and help with registration, the Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Cabinet liaison, Mrs. Melodye Merola, nominations, and all members who stand willing and ready to serve where needed, your wisdom keeps us going when we are facing challenges: Mr. Les Johnson, the Rev. Gertude Nation, the Rev. Rhonda Taylor, the Rev. Cynthia Major, Mrs. Kathryn Dickinson, Mr. Eugene Knoth, the Rev. Walter C. Barton and Mrs. Gwendolyn Harris.

106. **Status of Events**

- Awarded 27 certificates to clergy and lay members who completed anti-racism training
- Submitted budget for operations and anti-racism training to include district lay leaders and DCOM members
- Co-sponsored the "Rise Up, End the Violence Against Women and Girls" forum demanding an end to violence. Our co-sponsors: MIND, MFSA, UMW and COSROW.
- CORR web site is up and running, at: www.gcorr.org
- CORR members will attend district conferences, give an overview of the work of the Commission on Religion and Race and offer the ministry of monitoring the session(s). The reports will be sent to each district superintendent, DCOM chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, and chair of nominations. It is our hope that this report will be a helpful tool in filling future leadership roles on the district.
- Beginning this fall, CORR will offer anti-racism workshops to local church officers. If you are interested in the workshop, please visit our web site or contact a member of CORR for more information.
- We are seeking one or two individuals to be trained and certified by Kaleidoscope to expedite training for NYAC CORR (if interested, please contact Roena Littlejohn, (203) 331-9653).
- The next anti-racism training events are tentatively scheduled for October and November 2013.
- We invite you to visit our display at annual conference.

107. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of CORR for your prayers, support, encouragement and assistance in accomplishing the goals set before as we work at "DISMANTLING WALLS Building the Beloved Community."

Committee to Study a More Inclusive Church

George C. Engelhardt, for the Study Committee

101. Acting upon the enabling resolution passed last year in the Annual Conference Session, this committee is comprised of representatives from interested supporters of our goal for a more inclusive church, and from the ethnic caucuses in the conference.

102. From our first gatherings, it was apparent that we were all drawn together by loyalty to our denomination, tempered by our growing unwillingness to participate in the on-going and in our view discriminatory exclusion of gifted and called LBGT brothers and sisters from the full ministry of The United Methodist Church.

103. During our deliberations, we took comfort and courage from reviewing how our spiritual father, John Wesley, struggled with the call to separate from the Church of England, one he resisted until the American Revolution. He was not indifferent to the tensions in the relationship between the Societies and the Church He writes in his Sermon on Schism:

104. "If I could not continue united to any smaller Society Church, or body of Christians without committing sin, without lying and hypocrisy, without preaching to others doctrines which I myself do not believe, I should be under an absolute necessity to separate from that Society."

105. We are not optimistic that there will be a timely openness to change that would make greater LBGT inclusiveness possible, given the present disposition of the General Conference, though this is always our hope and prayer. This evaluation is leading us to consider ways we might remain in communion with The United Methodist Church, but with the ability to establish enough room for the inclusiveness to which we are committed. We believe the *Discipline* provides opportunity for this.

106. We are heartened that we are not alone in our work. Now we are actively networking with other Jurisdictions and Conferences across the connection that share our goals.

107. As we enter the second year of our work, it will be increasingly important for as many churches and church organizations across the conference as possible to join in and support our efforts as a clearer direction emerges about what we might propose.

108. WE ARE INVITING ALL INTERESTED CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS to a day of reflection about where we are in our discernment.

109. Coming out of this day, we would expect that congregations and church bodies will join in publically supporting the direction the Spirit takes us. That day of reflection will be held on November 16th at Asbury Crestwood UMC, starting at 10:30 a.m.

110. Lastly, to increase momentum in building a growing base for our witness, we recommend support for the resolution to the NE Jurisdiction College of Bishops which we have endorsed.

Petition #2013-301 — Boy Scouts of America, United Methodist Men and Gay Men

WHEREAS the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a highly lauded organization whose mission is to develop character, citizenship and personal fitness in young men, and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church has a long history of support for the BSA; today this includes over 235,000 Cub Scouts from over 5,000 packs, over 127,000 Boy Scouts from over 5,000 troops, and over 8,000 Venturers from over 1,000 crews as of the end of 2010[5], and

WHEREAS The UMC's support for the BSA is affirmed in ¶256.4 in the *Book of Discipline* where the Boy Scouts are lifted up as a "setting for ministry to children, youth, their leaders and their families"; in ¶256.4a, which provides for local churches to have a scouting coordinator who relates to the church council and any other youth-serving local church structures; and through the formation in 1986 of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters[6], and

WHEREAS local churches within the NYAC share this long history of supporting the BSA, and,

WHEREAS the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) also has a strong history of support for the BSA, demonstrated through their focus on scouting as one of their four primary ministries[7], and

WHEREAS the BSA has a long-standing policy barring openly gay men and boys from serving as leaders or becoming members of the BSA and is considering changing that policy to allow each troop's charter organization to decide whether or not to include or exclude openly gay members[8], and

WHEREAS the BSA's current policy barring the participation of openly gay men is a repugnant policy because it promotes prejudice and discrimination, in conflict with The UMC's expressed value for equal rights regardless of sexual orientation[9] and its condemnation of homophobia[10], and

WHEREAS the idea of shifting the authority to exclude openly gay men and boys to a local level is similarly repugnant, and

WHEREAS the GCUMM issued a statement on January 29, 2013 (see Exhibit A at the bottom of this petition) in support of changing the BSA policy to open the door for troops to allow open gay members and leaders and cited United Methodist values in doing so[11], and

WHEREAS on February 19, the GCUMM sent a letter to the BSA (Exhibit B) urging the BSA to engage its faith partners in full dialogue and consideration of its policies regarding gay members and leaders and to postpone further action until this occurs[12], and

WHEREAS on April 19, 2013, according to ABC News,[13] the BSA announced yet another proposed policy change, namely, to eliminate the prohibition on gay scouts, but to retain the prohibition on gay scout leaders.[14]

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[5] *Scouting In The United Methodist Church*, http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/operating_orgs/Methodist.aspx
[6] *Ibid*
[7] *Scouting Ministry*, http://www.gcumm.org/ministries/scouting/
[8] Ashley Fantz, CNN, *Boy Scouts reconsidering policy against gay membership*, http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/28/us/boy-scouts-policy/index.html, 1/28/2013
[9] Social Principles, ¶162(J).
[10] *Book of Resolutions*, #2042
[11] *Statement from GCUMM,* http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7bdb6a45e4-c446-4248-82c8-e131b6424741%7d/BSA-GCUMM-STATEMENT-JAN-29.PDF, 1/29/2013
[12] Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. & Gilbert C. Hanke, *GCUMM Response to BSA Statement*, http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7Bdb6a45e4-c446-4248-82c8-e131b6424741%7D/GCUMM_RESPONSE_TO_BSA_2013.PDF, 2/19/2013
[13] Alexa Valiente, ABC News, *Boy Scouts May Allow Gay Youth Members, Not Gay Leaders*, http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/04/boy-scouts-may-allow-gay-youth-members-not-gay-leaders/, 4/19/2013
[14] BSA, *Membership Standards Resolution*, http://www.bsaseabase.org/licensing/sitecore/content/MembershipStandards/Resolution/Resolution.aspx

WHEREAS as with all other general agencies and commissions (those at the national/international levels), the GCUMM is subject to General Conference, bound by United Methodist positions and policies as expressed in the *Book of Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions* and mandated to express itself consistent with the will of the General Conference and the framework thereby laid out in official United Methodist positions and policies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYAC call on the GCUMM to recommit itself to and uphold UMC values and policies and to live and demonstrate those values through advocacy for abolishing the BSA's policy barring openly gay men and boys from membership and leadership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter expressing this resolution be written by the NYAC conference secretary and sent to the authors of the February 19 letter — Gil Hanke, general secretary of the GCUMM, and to Bishop Swanson, President of the Board of Directors of the GCUMM — as well as copied to the full board of the GCUMM, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter expressing this resolution, specifically emphasizing the special connection between The UMC and the BSA, the values of the UMC as related to their policy on the participation of openly gay boys and men, and an appeal to the BSA to abolish said policy be written by the NYAC conference secretary and sent to:

Wayne Brock, Chief Scout Executive, Boys Scouts of America, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these letters be sent no later than July 15, 2013.

Submitted by Methodists in New Directions, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Conference Board of Church and Society, Dale Ashby, Dorothee Benz, David Carr, John Carr, John Collins, Darlene DiDomineck, Jayson Dobney, Paul Fleck, Vicki Flippin, Vicky Fleming, Shirley Gerow, Emily Hall, Carolyn Hardin Englehardt, Taka Ishii, Wongee Joh, Lucy Jones, Mary Ellen Kris, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Nehemiah Luckett, Charlotte Patton, Judith Stevens, Marie Strolin, Scott Summerville, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Carol Wilson, Nancy Zukowsk

Petition 2013-301 — Exhibit A

Statement from GCUMM[15]

Gilbert Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, says that both he and Larry Coppock, national director of scouting ministries, were consulted by the leadership at the highest levels of BSA prior to the proposal to change membership requirements.

"Basically this proposed change removes a national membership requirement dealing with sexual orientation and allows those decisions to be made at a local level consistent with charter organization's perspectives," said Hanke. "The *United Methodist Book of Disciple* [*sic*] clearly supports 'the rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.'

"In 2012, 6,700 United Methodist congregations enriched the lives of 363,876 young people through 10,868 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews.

"We consider our scouting program as a ministry to the community and a way to provide the 'spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relations with God, with others, and with self' (*2012 Book of Disciple* [*sic*] ¶161F)," said Hanke.

"These proposed changes will allow local churches to reflect those tenets in their membership requirements. It does not force changes, but allows local churches control over these requirements based on their beliefs.

"These proposed changes are actually more consistent with the current *Book of Discipline*," Hanke concluded.

[15] *Statement from GCUMM*, http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7bdb6a45e4-c446-4248-82c8-e131b6424741%7d/BSA-GCUMM-STATEMENT-JAN-29.PDF

Petition 2013-301 — Exhibit B[16]

February 19, 2013

GENERAL COMMISSION ON UMM UNITED METHODIST MEN

Wayne Brock, Chief Scout Executive
Boys Scouts of America
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Brock and the voting Delegates to the BSA Annual Meeting,

For decades, General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) has had as a primary goal, a core value, to expand scouting ministries throughout the UMC. For many youth the UMC is the entry point for an exciting journey to discipleship. There is no argument within the UMC that scouting as a ministry is a mark of vitality.

Since BSA announced a possible change in their membership policy dealing with homosexuality, our office has received many phone calls and emails. We realize in the United Methodist Church there are people who have differing opinions on this issue. There are many questions of legal implications, and questions about how this new rule would be managed in our local churches. Many see this change to be in conflict with their understanding of Scripture. Many have stated they will terminate their relationship with BSA, as a leader and as donors. Many have expressed anger that our church was not brought into this discussion as this change was being considered. A few have told us they support this proposed change by BSA; however, overall, the responses have been overwhelmingly against the proposed change.

This potential shift from BSA places GCUMM's primary goal, our core value- expansion and retention- at risk. If approved, scouting programs would decrease, and new programs would be harder to begin due to the uncertainty this proposal has generated. There has not been adequate time for GCUMM or individual church/charter organizations to fully explore the legal and spiritual consequences of these proposed changes. For these reasons, on this date, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the GCUMM affirmed unanimously these two requests of BSA:

1. We would ask that these new membership proposals being considered at the May, 2013 Annual Meeting of BSA not be implemented at this time. More time is needed for the 50 United Methodist Annual Conferences and the thousands of United Methodist churches to research in a thoughtful and prayerful manner exactly what this change might mean.
2. We would further ask that this be the beginning of a new relationship between BSA and the faith communities that provide over 70% of the units and 62% of the membership in BSA. Ongoing work must grow from this experience as BSA and their ministry partners seek ways to implement a new, strengthened, faith-filled response to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Mr. Brock, please forward this letter to all voting members of the upcoming Annual Meeting. Feel free to contact our Nashville office if you have questions.

In His service,

James E. Swanson, Sr.
Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.
President, GCUMM

Gilbert C. Hanke
General Secretary, GCUMM

1000 17th Ave S | Nashville, TN 37212
Phone: 615.340.7145 | Toll Free: 866.297.4312 | Fax: 615.340.1770 | E-mail: gcumm@gcumm.org

[16] Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. & Gilbert C. Hanke, *GCUMM Response to BSA Statement*, http://www.umc.org/atf/cf/%7Bdb6a45e4-c446-4248-82c8-e131b6424741%7D/GCUMM_RESPONSE_TO_BSA_2013.PDF, 2/19/2013

Petition #2013-302 — Study Day to Discuss UMC Structure

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference, in response to actions taken at General Conference, voted in 2012 to create a "Study Committee for an Inclusive Conference" that was tasked to study and evaluate alternative ways of being The United Methodist Church (UMC) in the Wesleyan tradition and to explore "structural and disciplinary changes" in the church, and

WHEREAS the committee met regularly, engaged in prayer, discernment, and study, and recognized that the history of the people called Methodists in the United States includes years of discriminatory policies that denied full participation to people of color, indigenous peoples, women, language minorities, laity, differently-abled people, the divorced, and to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, and

WHEREAS often policies were supplemented with the creation of church structures that further marginalized oppressed communities, such as the creation of the segregated Central Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church, or the current "Global Church" structure that has been enacted to keep in place discrimination against LGBT people, and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church continues to overtly discriminate against LGBT people, and delegates to General Conference voted to retain the language saying "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching," retained discriminatory policies that prohibit LGBT people from seeking ordination, continued to deny same-sex couples the ability to marry in the church, and even continue to allow clergy to bar LGBT individuals from church membership, and

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference stated in 2012 that "there is no indication that given the present structure of our United Methodist Church the official policies and positions which deny full participation to LGBT sisters and brothers desiring to be in ordained ministry and which declare their lives incompatible with Christian teaching will change," and

WHEREAS delegates to General Conference also took actions that would have removed protections of other marginalized communities if they had been enacted (though most were later overturned by the Judicial Council) including the following votes that passed with the majority votes of General Conference delegates:

- To disband the General Commission on Religion and Race, the entity within the church tasked to challenge the "connectional structures of the UMC to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church" (later overturned by Judicial Council Ruling No. 1210),
- To disband the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the entity tasked to challenge the UMC "to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church" (later overturned by Judicial Council Ruling No. 1210),
- To drastically reduce the racial diversity represented on boards and agencies of the General Church (later overturned by Judicial Council Ruling No. 1210),
- To remove guaranteed appointments for ordained elders, a policy instituted in 1956 to protect women clergy and later employed to protect clergy of color and those whose first language is not English (later overturned by Judicial Council Ruling No. 1226), and

WHEREAS the present structure of the Church make it likely that future General Conference gathering will seek ways to remove these protections for marginalized communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members and delegates of the NYAC be mandated by passage of this resolution to place on the agenda of their Church Council provisions that assure their congregation will have representatives attend the gathering on Saturday, November 16 called for by the Study Committee for a More Inclusive Church to discuss these issues related to the Inclusiveness of The United Methodist Church and options the New York Annual Conference may have for structural and disciplinary changes to the UMC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these persons be expected to report back to their Church Councils the information shared, the options the study committee has examined, and the invitation to join a growing number of congregations who are ready to support further consideration of actions that lead to structural changes

making the UMC more inclusive of all people, assuring protections for women and people of color that have been institutionalized, and removing the discriminatory language that prohibits LGBT persons from participating fully in the life of the church.

Submitted by the Study Committee on a More Inclusive Church, George C. Engelhardt, Taka Ishii, Darlene DiDomineck, Jayson Dabney, Earni Searle, Jorge Lockward, Hermon Darden, Milca Ploud, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Patricia Knebel, Paul Fleck, Ann Craig, Rowena Littlejohn

Petition #2013-303 — Expressing Concern to the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops

WHEREAS the Reverend Sara Baron (of the Upper New York Annual Conference) duly submitted a petition entitled, "Proposed Constitutional Change: Eliminate Jurisdictional Conferences," (the body of which can be found at http://www.nejumc.org/pdf/2012_07_16-NEJ-MondayDCA.pdf) to the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) of The United Methodist Church, asking to replace the jurisdictional conferences, which exist only in the United States, with the central conference structure that exists in the rest of the world, and

WHEREAS the petition was referred to the NEJ College of Bishops, in order that they form a task force to examine the petition and the issues surrounding it, and

WHEREAS any proposed constitutional amendments to the *Book of Discipline* will have to be approved by the NEJ Annual Conferences at their 2015 sessions, and

WHEREAS the NE Jurisdictional Conference met in Charleston, WV, on July 18-20, 2012, yet by the submission date for this petition to the New York Annual Conference session 2013, the NEJ College of Bishops had yet to form the task force to deal with these important issues, and

WHEREAS corresponding conversations are taking place across the connection—in annual conferences, other jurisdictions, and other levels of the church—examining our global connection and regional relations but the NEJ has not yet formed the structure that will allow us to plug into these conversations and thus has yet to have a voice in them, and

WHEREAS the task force will now have less than two years to not only develop a proposal and look at the proposed constitutional changes and what they might mean in terms of how the NEJ and its annual conferences relate to the broader United Methodist Church in the future, but will also have to draft and distribute any potential resulting legislation to NEJ annual conferences in that same time frame.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 214th session of the New York Annual Conference publicly expresses its concern to the NEJ College of Bishops over the length of time it has taken to begin this process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bishop Martin D. McLee, resident bishop of this annual conference, is hereby urged to take this matter to the NEJ College of Bishops and provide leadership in discharging this duty, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the New York Annual Conference send a cover letter and a copy of this petition to the NEJ College of Bishops to make them aware of this concern, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the secretary of the New York Annual Conference be directed to include in the cover letter a request for a written response and explanation from the NEJ College of Bishops as to why the process of getting the task force going has taken so long and that response be shared with the annual conference at its 2014 session.

Submitted by the Study Committee on a More Inclusive Church, George C. Engelhardt, Taka Ishii, Darlene DiDomineck, Jayson Dabney, Earnie Searle, Jorge Lockward, Herman Darden, Milca Ploud, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Patricia Knebel, Paul Fleck, Ann Craig, Rowena Littlejohn

Petition #2012-304 — Extending the Moratorium on the Hydraulic Fracturing Process in New York State

WHEREAS the controversial drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking, in which millions of gallons of water, combined with sand and a company-proprietary cocktail of chemicals, many of which are highly toxic, are injected into each well under high pressure with the intent of fracturing shale and rock formations deep underground to release trapped natural gas so that it can be extracted, continues to generate deep concern as to its impacts to the environment, to human health and to local community economies, and

WHEREAS one source of natural gas that is being pursued aggressively by the natural gas industry is the Marcellus Shale, an ancient rock formation that spans 600 miles and four states, including New York and extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale would be accomplished almost exclusively using the hydraulic fracturing process, and

WHEREAS one million acres of the Marcellus Shale are in the New York City watershed and 9 million New Yorkers depend on the watershed for clean, unfiltered water, and

WHEREAS as of April, 2013, hydraulic fracturing remains exempt from the provisions of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, allowing corporations to withhold revealing the chemicals used in fracking fluid, as well as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, allowing corporations using hydraulic fracturing to avoid federal regulations pertaining to hazardous waste. The hydraulic fracturing industry is also exempt from important provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and dozens of other federal statutes and regulations, and many of these exemptions are mirrored at the state level[17], and

WHEREAS risks to the environment from the hydraulic fracturing drilling process include possible contamination of water supplies by seepage of fracking fluids through the fractured rock formations as well as through naturally occurring pathways through geological formations; by spills and overflows from large holding ponds for hazardous fracking fluids pumped back out of the well after the fracturing process; by spills of toxic chemicals during transportation to and from the well site; air pollution from gases vented from the well; noise pollution; deforestation to create roads, well pads, areas for water and fracking fluid hazardous waste holding tanks[18], and

WHEREAS energy companies are aggressively targeting land owners in the upstate New York region, particularly the southern tier, offering lucrative financial deals in exchange for drilling rights, taking advantage of the severe economic downturn of the last several years and people's vulnerable financial situations. Many energy companies are using predatory practices in securing leases from landowners. In some cases landowners who have signed leases with energy companies allowing fracking to be done on their land have found that they are unable to sell or insure their property, and

WHEREAS from California to Vermont, at least 39 states have laws that allow some form of so-called compulsory integration, which forces landowners to sell oil and gas beneath their property. The hydraulic fracturing well does not have to be on a person's property for energy companies to tap into the natural gas under the landowner's property. Under a 2005 law in New York state, energy companies do not need permission from a land owner to buy the natural gas under their land once 60 percent of the land around the well is leased or owned[19], and

WHEREAS these same energy companies have access to considerable lobbying muscle – ten companies or trade groups that lobbied on fracking and other issues of concern to the natural gas industry spent $4.5 million lobbying Albany over the last three years, according to an analysis prepared by the New York Public Interest

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[17] Letter from Bruce Ferguson, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, to Jonathan Levy, Policy Advisor, Domestic Policy Council, The White House, Washington D.C., http://catskillcitizens.org/learnmore/levy%20final.PDF, 1/2/2013

[18] Summary Report, "Human Health Risks and Exposure Pathways of Proposed Horizontal Hydrofracking in New York State," presented in meeting with officials from NYS DEC and the NYS DOH in Albany, NY, http://www.catskillcitizens.org/learnmore/Human_Health_Risks_NY.pdf 10/9/2012

[19] Freeman Klopott and Jim Efstathiou Jr., *NY Farmers Learn Fracking May Mean Drilling if Neighbors Agree*, http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-14/n-y-farmers-learn-fracking-may-mean-drilling-if-neighbors-agree.html, 3/14/2013

Research Group – allowing them great influence in swaying state policy and public perception with regard to hydraulic fracturing.[20] These lobbying efforts are designed to portray fracking as safe for the environment and human health and an economic boom to communities, and

WHEREAS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's administration is pursuing a plan to limit hydraulic fracturing to portions of several struggling New York counties along the border with Pennsylvania and to permit it only in communities that express support for the technology. The plan would limit drilling to the deepest areas of the Marcellus Shale rock formation in an effort to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination and would be contingent on hydraulic fracturing's receiving final approval from state regulators [14], and

WHEREAS the counties in question in Governor Cuomo's plan include Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben, and Tioga, counties that have seen a sharp decline in some of their traditional industries, such as the dairy business, leading to severe economic distress for many residents of these counties[14], and

WHEREAS New York State Health Commissioner Nariv Shah said on March 11, 2013 that he will not wait for the completion of any studies, and plans a recommendation "in weeks" on whether the state should approve hydraulic fracturing. Shah said he won't wait for the final results on gas drilling studies, which could be years away. Instead, he said state officials will talk to at least some of the researchers about their findings. Research studies into the effects of fracking on human health are underway by different groups such as Geisinger Health in Pennsylvania. The agency is studying the health records of individuals living near Pennsylvania gas wells from before and after fracking started. Geisinger plans preliminary results within a year[21], and

WHEREAS any plan that allows limited fracking in selected counties of New York that are suffering more economically than the rest of the state at a time when the dangers of fracking to the environment and to human health are at best not well understood and comprehensive federal and state regulations on the fracking process are not in place to protect both environment and human health, as well as landowners rights is a social injustice perpetrated upon those who are most economically vulnerable, and

WHEREAS the New York State Assembly voted on March 6, 2013 to extend the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in New York State until May 2015 and require further studies on the environmental impact of the practice known as fracking, also requiring a full review process, including a new study to look at the potential public health impact of fracking[22]; however, as of April 9, 2013, the New York State Senate has yet to act on the Assembly fracking bill or either of two similar bills originating in the Senate and neither Majority Leader Dean Skelos or Environmental Conservation Chair Mark Gristanti have indicated that they are willing to permit a vote on the issue[23].

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference send a letter to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYS Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, and Environmental Conservation Chair Mark Gristanti strongly urging the Governor and the NYS Senate to follow the lead of the NYS Assembly and extend the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing within the entire state of New York until such time as current studies into the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and human health are completed and stringent and enforceable state and federal regulations are in place for hydraulic fracturing which safeguard the environment, New York's drinking water supply, the rights of New York landowners, and the health and safety of all New Yorkers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference encourage all of our local churches, particularly those in New York State, to engage in education and social justice advocacy regarding this issue in their local congregations and communities.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the Conference Board of Church and Society, Rev. Dale Ashby, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. Judy Stevens, Rev. Paul Fleck

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[20] Danny Hakim, The New York Times, *Cuomo Proposal Would Restrict Gas Drilling to a Struggling Area*, 6/13/2012
[21] CBS News/AP, *NY State Health Commissioner Won't Wait for Studies on Fracking*, http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/03/11/n-y-state-health-commissioner-wont-wait-for-studies-on-fracking, 3/11/2013
[22] Reuters, *New York State Assembly Votes to Block Fracking Until 2015*, http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/energy-fracking-newyork-idUSL1N0BYFK320130306, 3/6/2013
[23] *NYS Assembly Passes a Fracking Moratorium Bill*, http://catskillcitizens.org/updates/20130309.cfm, 3/6/2013

Petition #2013-305 — Embark on a Broad-Based Prison Initiative

WHEREAS the United States has the largest prison population in the world and the highest level of incarceration per capita among the major industrialized countries (with less than 5% of the world's population, we house nearly 25% of the world's prisoners[24]), and

WHEREAS the population of New York State prisons is approximately 70,000, of which 80% come from New York City and Buffalo, and most of these are Black and Latino, and

WHEREAS another 24,000 prisoners are detained by New York City on Riker's Island and many more are incarcerated in county jails around the state, and

WHEREAS the New York State Department of Corrections currently operates approximately 70 prisons and one drug treatment campus within an overall system that is primarily focused on retributive justice, rather than restorative justice, with neither correction nor rehabilitation as its primary task, and

WHEREAS the gospel calls us to visit those in prison (Matt 25: 36, 39-40, 43-45), a call embraced throughout our Methodist history and tradition, and

WHEREAS the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm that we should seek restorative rather than retributive justice, holding offenders accountable to the victimized person and the disrupted community, seeking to "repair the damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, including the victim, the offender, the families, and the community. The church is transformed when it responds to the claims of discipleship by becoming an agent of healing and systemic change."[25]

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Conference shall embark on a broad-based Prison Initiative, inviting local churches and conference agencies and entities (for example, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the Cabinet), including those already engaged in some kind of prison ministry, to partner with incarcerated persons by entering a Prison Initiative Covenant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the covenant shall include a commitment by the signatory churches to engage in prison ministries, including at least two of the following types of ministries:

- "Prison Pal" letter writing and personal visitation programs;
- Teaching in prison educational programs such as Rising Hope, Hudson Link or the Sing Sing Master's degree program of NY Theological Seminary;
- Participating in the Kairos program;
- Leading worship services and Bible studies in a prison on a regular basis;
- Inviting incarcerated persons to become members of local churches by correspondence, preferably, but not limited to, churches near their home neighborhoods;
- Welcoming the formerly incarcerated into congregational life;
- Addressing issues of criminal justice in teaching and preaching;
- Setting up church study groups using books such as *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander, or *The Lynching Tree* by the Rev. Dr. James Cone, as well as resources on restorative justice; and provide opportunities for forums or dialogues with the formerly incarcerated and their families;
- Set up or participate in existing ministries that support prisoner re-entry into society such as The Exodus Transitional Community, and/or personally mentoring/befriending the formerly incarcerated persons through the ups and downs of post-incarceration life, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the absence of a congregational commitment, we urge individual members, lay and clergy, to make an individual covenant to do at least one of the above, and

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[24] Jesse Lava, Brave New Foundation, General Board of Church & Society, *What If It's Not the Prisoner Who Needs Forgiveness?*, http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/what-if-its-not-the-prisoner-who-needs-forgiveness, 4/25/2013

[25] ¶164 (H), Social Principles, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2012*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conference Board of Church and Society, in cooperation with the New York Conference Office of Connectional Ministries and other conference constituencies, shall encourage, promote and support this conference-wide Prison Initiative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask specifically that the Conference Board of Church & Society and the Office of Connectional Ministries publicize this initiative to local clergy and lay leaders, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask specifically that the Conference Board of Church & Society employ a survey instrument on participation in this initiative and report to the next three annual conference sessions on the nature and extent of our conference's participation in this Prison Initiatives.

Submitted by Board of Church & Society, Methodist Federation for Social Action- NYAC Chapter, John Collins, Mary Ellen Kris, Paul Fleck

Petition #2013-306 — Advocate for Immigration Reform

"And when a stranger sojourns with you in your land, do not oppress him/her. Let the stranger ... be to you as the native along, and you shall love him/her as yourself." — Lev. 19:33, 34

"What does the Lord requires of you: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" — Micah 6:6-8

WHEREAS we recognize that the reality of today's global migration is often caused by complex economic and political situations that force individuals to relocate, and

WHEREAS the present systems have created great suffering with heartbreaking consequences: many people have died tragically trying to cross the border' children and families have been separated due to deportation, and several United Methodist congregations, including Hispanic/Latino congregations, have been decimated, and

WHEREAS we rejoice that the political climate in our nation has changed, opening the space for a just and humane reform of the immigration laws of our country, and

WHEREAS as persons of faith we recognize this moment as a call to recognize the human and civil rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters, allowing them to come out of the shadows into a life of peace and hope, and

WHEREAS based on the essential relatedness of all people, the call to radical hospitality and faithfulness of the church is measured by how we treat and advocate for the most vulnerable in our societies, and

WHEREAS while we are encouraged by the many voices calling for comprehensive immigration reform we remain concerned that there are proposals that do not include all the actions needed to create a just and humane reform of our immigration laws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we call on every United Methodist in the New York Annual Conference to openly and forcefully advocate to the US Congress for changes that will reunify families; protect separated children, provide a path for citizenship, protect the rights of all workers including the undocumented, and to recognize the gifts and the contributions that immigrants are making to our nation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference join the Interagency Task Force on Immigration of The United Methodist Church, and MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) who are calling all United Methodists in our nation to join in prayer and in acts of advocacy until a just and humane reform of our system of immigration is achieved that includes the following principles offered by the Interagency Task Force on Immigration of The United Methodist Church and MARCHA:

1) Declare a general moratorium on all deportations, keeping families together, while Congress acts on a comprehensive reform,
2) Ask state governments to care for and protect children who have been separated from their parents by immigration raids and deportations until they are once again reunited with their parents,
3) Request Congress to adopt the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) in its entirety,
4) Solicit that all DACA (Deferred Action for Childhoods Arrivals) be included in the Affordable Health Care Act,

5) Persuade the federal government to continue to challenge the legality of state anti-immigrant laws,
6) Advocate that any immigration reform includes a path to full citizenship,
7) Denounce any incident of racial profiling that takes place anywhere in our nation, and
8) Protect all workers from exploitation and unfair competition.

Submitted by the Immigration Task Force of The New York Annual Conference, the New York Annual Conference Board of Church & Society, the New York Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race, the Methodist Federation of Social Action- NYAC Chapter, Jessica Anschutz, Maria Bricese, Guy D'Angelo, Hermon Darden, Lorraine DeArmitt, Steve Derby, Paul A. Fleck, Vicky Fleming, Gary Gomes, Emily Hall, Carolyn Hardin Englehardt, Tom Goodhue, Taka Ishii , Hector LaPorta, Jorge Lockward, George McClain, Jennifer Morrow, Terry Parker, Kathe Strang, Marie Strolin, Scott Summerville, Ximena A. Varas, Carol Wilson, Nancy Zukowski

Petition #2012-307 — Combat Human Trafficking

WHEREAS human trafficking, which the U.S. Department of State defines as "activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service," is an international human rights issue that requires the attention of the entire international community working toward justice and equality, and

WHEREAS according the U.S. Department of State an estimated 11 to 27 million people worldwide—80 percent of whom are women and girls— are victims of this modern day form of slavery[26], and

WHEREAS it is now estimated that international and domestic trafficking is the fastest growing international criminal enterprise, taking its place alongside the trafficking of arms and illegal narcotics, and

WHEREAS despite current efforts to combat human trafficking, it remains a $32 billion global industry[27] that depends on the buying, selling, and abuse of human beings, impacting mostly vulnerable women and girls, often from impoverished or oppressive circumstances, from many countries, including the United States, and

WHEREAS too often people from impoverished countries are trafficked to countries in the economically developed world, with the United States being among the most prominent of those countries, and

WHEREAS human trafficking is not just an issue in the developing world, but occurs within the U.S. as well. As many as 2.8 million children run away each year in the US. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets, one-third of these children are lured or recruited into the underground world of prostitution and pornography. The Department of Justice estimates 300,000 children are at risk each year for commercial sexual exploitation, and[28]

WHEREAS human trafficking, which predominantly takes the form of coerced labor or sex ensnares vulnerable individuals who are coerced or tricked by traffickers with false promises of opportunity, and

WHEREAS the federal government has acted to combat human trafficking by enacting the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, and reauthorizing it in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2013, making human trafficking a federal crime and providing protection and assistance to human trafficking victims in the United States, whether they are trafficked into the United States or trafficked internally, and

WHEREAS in January 2011, as a result of cases involving the trafficking of women in Westchester County, NY, the Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force, spearheaded by the Pound Ridge Police Department, the International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA), My Sisters' Place and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, has developed a multi-agency anti-trafficking protocol. In addition, there are inter-agency programs and protocols in place in the following locales within the New York Annual Conference: Suffolk County, NY; Nassau county, NY; New York City; and in the State of Connecticut.

[26] U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report (2012)*; www.state.gov/documents/organization/192587.pdf
[27] *Ibid*
[28] Stop Child Trafficking Now web site, *Child Trafficking Statistics,* www.sctnow.org/contentpages.aspx?parentnavigationid=5827&viewcontentpageguid=29d295d1-5818-4e7a-bde1-f61690fa44a8

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church strongly condemns human trafficking in all its forms, and supports efforts to combat human trafficking and aid trafficking victims domestically and internationally, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the Conference Board of Church and Society, the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Conference United Methodist Women, and the Conference United Methodist Men to broadly distribute materials to local churches to educate our members regarding the nature and scope of human trafficking as well as how to combat human trafficking. This may include the formation of a human trafficking task force for education and advocacy around the issue.

Submitted by Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Women, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Methodist Federation for Social Action- NYAC Chapter, Mary Ellen Kris, Steve Phillips, Paul Fleck, Susan Kim, Laura Galbraith, John Gerlach.

Petition #2013-308 — Beating Swords into Plowshares: Engaging Diverse Communities in Public Discourse and Advocacy to Stop Gun Violence

WHEREAS the NYAC has been involved in initiatives to reduce gun violence in the past, including resolutions passed at the 2011 Session of The New York Annual Conference seeking to ban high-capacity gun magazines and seeking to close the gun show loophole that allowed purchases of dangerous weapons at gun shows without background checks, and

WHEREAS the Newtown United Methodist Church in Sandy Hook, Connecticut was near the epicenter of the gun violence tragedy in Sandy Hook that claimed 28 lives on December 14, 2012, and it served as a center for the Red Cross and a center of pastoral care amidst the crisis, and

WHEREAS the need to prevent the incidence of firearm-related injury and death is an issue of increasing concern and a priority public health issue. The United Methodist Church is among those religious communions calling for social policies and personal lifestyles that bring an end to senseless gun violence. These acts of senseless violence should not be an acceptable occurrence in any community: suburban, urban, or rural. The church must continue to address these issues of violence and develop programs to enrich the lives of all, and

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Church & Society recently was awarded a $5,000 Peace with Justice Grant by the General Board of Church & Society to fund a program of the Conference Board of Church & Society entitled "Beating Swords Into Plowshares: Engaging Diverse Communities in Public Discourse and Advocacy to Stop Gun Violence,"and

WHEREAS this program and grant are intended to facilitate conversations at grassroots levels across neighborhood, ethnic groups and income status throughout the Conference in order to educate, heal and engage broader and more diverse constituencies in creating common ground among often hostile points of view, and

WHEREAS a goal of the program is to mobilize advocacy steeped in listening to one another, especially among constituencies that do not typically talk to each other. The Conference Board of Church & Society hopes to promote public discourse that can create the impetus for intelligent, long-overdue public policies to move the conference toward strategies for promoting restorative justice and sustainable community restoration and development, and

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Church & Society will be kicking off this program at its annual luncheon at 12 noon on Thursday, June 6 of the 2013 Session of the New York Annual Conference with a keynote address by Rev. Dr. James Forbes, President of the Healing of the Nations Foundation, and

WHEREAS the success of this program will depend upon the involvement of our church members and their communities across the conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ***The Conference Board of Church & Society, in cooperation with the conference office, the district superintendents, and local churches, will undertake to convene in each district*** at least one public forum including clergy, mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals, public officials, and others from communities (urban, rural, and suburban) to explore ways in which our churches and conference can constructively respond to this growing tragedy, and to explore the possibility of an ongoing role for our churches in facilitating dialogue to address the issue of gun violence in our communities, our schools and among our children, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ***each church in the conference*** is called upon to prayerfully consider how they can become involved in or otherwise support this initiative, such as by: nominating one or more people from their church to assist with the visioning, planning and/or execution of this initiative, including recommending speakers, other resources, and sites for forums; making their church available to host a forum on how to reduce gun violence in their community; participating in, attending, or promoting one or more of these forums; aiding Church & Society with planning, recommending speakers or other resources; or engaging in creative advocacy to reduce gun violence in their communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ***each church in the New York Annual Conference is asked to inform the Conference Board of Church & Society, as soon as possible how it can support this initiative (e.g. ideas or resources [including volunteers to assist with the visioning/planning of public forums or to help organize an advocacy team within the congregation] they can make available to support this initiative).***

Submitted by Board of Church & Society, Methodist Federation for Social Action- NYAC Chapter, Westbury UMC Church Council, Mary Ellen Kris, Paul Fleck, Lorraine DeArmitt

Petition #2013-309 — Gun Violence Legislative Remedies

WHEREAS the 2011 Session of The New York Annual Conference passed resolutions seeking to ban high-capacity gun magazines and seeking to close the gun show loophole that allowed purchases of dangerous weapons at gun shows without background checks, and

WHEREAS the Newtown United Methodist Church in Sandy Hook, Connecticut was near the epicenter of the gun violence tragedy in Sandy Hook that claimed 28 lives on December 14, 2012, and served as a center for the Red Cross and a center of pastoral care amidst the crisis, and

WHEREAS as of May 1, 2013, more than 3,750 persons have died as a result of gun violence since the tragedy in Newtown.[29]

WHEREAS New York and Connecticut are victimized by the importation of illegally trafficked guns. Every year, thousands of guns flood the streets of New York State from other states because the interstate marketplace for illegal guns flourishes in states with weaker gun laws. New York and Connecticut are net importers of illegal guns. In fact, ATF data shows that in New York State 66.5% of all crime guns recovered come from other states;[30] in Connecticut 38.8% of all crime guns recovered come from other states. Easy access to firearms nationally affects our safety in New York and Connecticut, and the safety of our communities.

WHEREAS as of November 15, 2011, Brady background checks had been conducted on over 100 million persons, stopping over 882,000 persons with certain criminal records and other prohibited persons from buying guns.[31] Extending these checks to all gun sales, including private and gun show sales, is a crucial next step that will help disrupt the flow of illegal gun trafficking and make us safer.[32]

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[29] Chris Kirk and Dan Kois. Slate.com, *How Many People Have Been Killed by Guns Since Newtown?* http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/crime/2012/12/gun_death_tally_every_american_gun_death_since_newtown_sandy_hook_shooting.html, 4/17/2013

[30] Trace the Guns 2010, A Project of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/NY/imports/

[31] *National Instant Criminal Background Check*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics

[32] From *Letter of Faith Leaders* from the General Board of Church and Society

WHEREAS our broken background-check system enables even those inclined to commit harmful acts to be able to buy guns. Currently, so-called "private sellers" aren't actually required to screen their buyers. Because these private sellers don't run background checks, anyone inclined to violence can simply track them down and buy weapons, no questions asked. Far too many dangerous crimes are committed through purchasing guns in this manner,[33] and

WHEREAS the American people have spoken clearly. Ninety-two percent of the public, including 82 percent of gun owners, support expanding the background check system to cover all sales and transfers. Overwhelming majorities likewise support bans on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church has long supported federal legislation to regulate "the importation, manufacturing, sale, and possession of guns and ammunition by the general public." The 2012 *Book of Resolutions* continues: "Such legislation should include provisions for the registration and licensing of gun purchasers and owners, appropriate background investigation and waiting periods prior to gun purchase, and regulation of subsequent sale,"[34] and

WHEREAS on April 17, 2013, the United States Senate refused to include an assault weapons ban by rejecting the Feinstein Amendment (#711 to S. 649) by a vote of 40 yeas to 60 nays[35], and

WHEREAS on April 17, 2013, the United States Senate refused to limit high-capacity magazines to no more than ten rounds by rejecting the Lautenberg-Blumenthal Amendment (#714 to S. 649) by a vote of 46 yeas to 54 nays[36], and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2013, the United States Senate refused to expand background checks to gun shows and private sales by not voting for cloture of debate on the Manchin-Toomey Amendment (#715 to S. 649) by a vote of 54 yeas to 46 nays[37].

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *We United Methodists of The New York Annual Conference commend President Obama, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kristin Gillibrand, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Daniel Malloy, the Legislatures of New York and Connecticut, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg for their leadership in addressing the epidemic of gun violence*; and *that we support the following legislation at the state and federal levels:*

- Making gun ownership a more responsible process with universal background checks no matter where the gun is purchased, including private sales and gun shows;
- Mandating that governmental agencies collect and input the data that is required to be entered into the databases relied upon for background checks;
- Mandating rigorous enforcement of violations of gun laws and regulations;
- Reinstating a vigorous ban on assault weapons, and
- Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines for all weapons capable of holding more than 10 rounds, and that

We specifically support the following recently defeated federal legislation designed to reduce the proliferation of guns in the hands of those who should not have them:

- The Toomey-Manchin Amendment (#715 to S. 649), which would have expanded background checks and close loopholes for private and gun-show sales;

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[33] From *Letter of Faith Leaders* from the General Board of Church and Society

[34] *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church (2012)*, Resolution 3426.

[35] United States Senate Democrats, *Roll Call Vote on Feinstein amendment #711 (assault weapons ban)*, http://democrats.senate.gov/2013/04/17/roll-call-vote-on-feinstein-amendment-711-assault-weapons-ban/, 4/17/2013

[36] United States Senate, *U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 113th Congress - 1st Session. On the Amendment (Lautenberg Amdt. No. 714)*, http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=113&session=1&vote=00103, 4/17/2013

[37] United States Senate, *U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 113th Congress - 1st Session. On the Amendment (Manchin Amdt. No. 715),* http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=113&session=1&vote=00097 4/17/2013

- The Feinstein Amendment (#711 to S. 649), which would have banned over 100 different kinds of assault weapons[38], and
- The Blumenthal Amendment (#714 to S. 649), which would have limited high-capacity magazines.

Submitted by Board of Church & Society, Methodist Federation for Social Action- NYAC Chapter, Westbury United Methodist Church Council, Mary Ellen Kris, Paul Fleck, Lorrain DeArmitt

Petition #2013-310 — Commendation of Those Who Have Taken a Stand for Justice

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference has taken a consistent stand for more than thirty years calling for the inclusion of God's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children in the full life of The United Methodist Church. It has affirmed that "sexuality is God's good gift to all persons" and that the diversity of that gift should bar no one from answering the call to ministry, from recognition of her or his covenantal relationships, or from membership in the church community[39], and

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference has supported same-sex couples' right to full equality in civil society (2003 and 2007), has opposed The United Methodist Church's prohibition against same-sex marriages (1999 and 2010), and has supported the recognition that the "sanctity of marriage" applies equally to same-sex couples (2007), and

WHEREAS the jurisdiction of the New York Annual Conference includes parts of both the state of New York and the state of Connecticut, states where civil marriage is legal for same-sex couples, presenting a crisis for our churches and clergy who need to provide pastoral care for members and families who are part of our congregations, and

WHEREAS the New York Annual Conference declared in 2012 that "clergy, lay persons and congregations encountering institutional discrimination that inhibits equal access to the means of grace for all persons may feel bound by conscience to offer the ministries and sacraments of the church to all persons on an equal basis" and that "Those who so act according to conscience do so in a way that is consistent with the long-standing principled declarations of this annual conference," and

WHEREAS there have been many prophetic and pastoral individuals and congregations within The United Methodist Church who have taken actions that are aligned with the New York Annual Conference and our longstanding efforts towards the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in the life and ministry in the church.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the Rev. Jimmy Creech for officiating at the covenant services of same-sex couples in 1997 and in 1999, subsequently enduring two church trials in the Nebraska Annual Conference and losing his ministerial credentials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the Rev. Gregory Dell for providing pastoral care to same-sex couples in his congregation, Broadway United Methodist Church, in Chicago, Illinois, who endured a church trial in 2000 and was suspended from ministry for a year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the Rev. Donald Fado and the 67 additional clergy members of the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference who co-officiated at the blessing of a Holy Union in Sacramento in 2000, and the Committee on Investigation of that annual conference, who refused to bring charges against those clergy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto for her pastoral care to eight couples who were seeking to be married during a one-month period in 2004 when same-sex marriages were briefly legal in San Francisco, and

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[38] *Bill Summary & Status, 113th Congress (2013 - 2014), S.AMDT.711*, The Library of Congress, http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:SP0711

[39] Methodists in New Directions, *NYAC's Stand for God's LGBT Children*, http://www.mindny.org/mind-initiatives/nyac-history/30yearwtnss/

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the Rev. Amy DeLong for her pastoral ministry to a same-sex couple in the Wisconsin Annual Conference in 2009 and enduring a church trial for this pastoral act of ministry in 2011, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the 208 clergy, 869 laity, and 6 congregations within our own annual conference who have pledged to offer pastoral ministry to same-sex couples seeking services of marriage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend the more than 1,100 clergy across the connection who have pledged that they will also officiate at services for same-sex couples, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend Bishop Melvin Talbert and his call for United Methodists to ignore the prohibitions against GLBT people that are found in *The Book of Discipline* and saying "I declare to you that the derogatory language and restrictive laws in *The Book of Discipline* are immoral, and unjust and no longer deserve our loyalty and obedience," a call which has made him the target of opponents of the LGBT people in The UMC, who have called for his censure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference commend all of those unnamed clergy, laity, and congregations whose bold actions and courageous statements help to provide for the pastoral needs of same-sex couples within The United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Methodists in New Directions, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Conference Board of Church and Society, Dale Ashby, Dorothee Benz, John Carr, John Collins, Darlene DiDomineck, Jayson Dobney, Paul Fleck, Vicky Fleming, Vicki Flippin, Shirley Gerow, Emily Hall, Carolyn Hardin Englehardt, Wongee Joh, Lucy Jones, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Nehemiah Luckett, Charlotte Patton, Judith Stevens, Marie Strolin, Scott Summerville, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Carol Wilson, Nancy Zukowski

Petition #2013-311 — A Single Garment of Destiny: Global Solidarity with LGBT People

WHEREAS "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Martin Luther King famously said in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail." "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly," and

WHEREAS we must be equally committed to fighting systems of racial and ethnic oppression as we are to fight systems of oppression based on sex, gender and sexual orientation, seeing the interconnectedness of such systems, and as Christians we have a special obligation to actively resist such systems when they are perpetuated and reinforced in the name of our faith, and

WHEREAS rising anti-gay repression and violence in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe is being directly fueled by a significant minority of American Christian leaders, who have warned of the dangers of accepting homosexuals and urged their criminalization, and

WHEREAS these Christian leaders have: headlined the notorious anti-gay conference[40] in Uganda that gave rise to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill (better known as the "Kill the Gays" bill for its death penalty provision) and met with its sponsors, and one of them proudly describes himself as the "father" of the Ugandan anti-homosexual movement, a movement that has included newspapers calling for the death of gay activists; urged Russians to "criminalize the public advocacy of homosexuality" in an "Letter to the Russian people[41]," a wish that came to pass with the recent passage by the Russian Duma of an "anti-propaganda" bill[42] that bans the promotion of gay events; founded a virulently and violently anti-gay organization in Latvia, Watchmen of the Walls[43], which is known for its anti-gay demonstrations where gays and lesbians are pelted with bags of excrement; founded and

[40] Jeffrey Gettleman, NY Times, *Americans' Role Seen in Uganda Anti-Gay Push*, http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/world/africa/04uganda.html?_r=1&, 1/3/2010

[41] Dr. Scott Lively, *Letter to the Russian People*, www.defendthefamily.com/pfrc/archives.php?id=5225300, 10/15/2007

[42] Kelly J. Newson, *Ban on Gay 'Propaganda' passed by Russian Duma,* guardianlv.com/2013/01/ban-on-gay-propaganda-passed-by-russian-duma, 1/25/2013

[43] Public Eye, *Scott Lively*, http://www.publiceye.org/publications/globalizing-the-culture-wars/scott-lively.php

funded a Brazilian branch[44] of the anti-gay American Center for Law and Justice; among many other, similar specific interventions in foreign countries where LGBT people are vulnerable, and

WHEREAS in some cases these same U.S. Christians have claimed, apparently without any capacity for irony, that the spread of LGBT rights in other countries is a Western idea, and

WHEREAS, violence and repression against LGBT people has increased in many of the countries where U.S. Christians have urged people to take up an anti-gay crusade, and

WHEREAS the leading researcher on U.S. evangelical influence in Africa, Rev. Dr. Kapya Kaoma, reported in 2012: "Pejorative attitudes toward LGBT people in Africa have long been widespread. But the recent upsurge in politicized homophobia has been inspired by right-wing American evangelicals who have exported U.S.–style culture-war politics….The Christian right has been involved in legislative or constitutional efforts to crack down on the LGBT populations of Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as well. Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill has become a kind of template for other countries, including Nigeria and Liberia, where similar laws have been proposed… It is homophobia, not homosexuality, that is being imported to the continent by neocolonialists with an agenda: to spread U.S. culture wars worldwide[45]," and

WHEREAS the growth of U.S. evangelical Christian influence in Africa and its specific agenda of stoking anti-gay fears and criminalizing LGBT people is well documented in a number of places, including the 2009 Globalizing the Culture Wars[46] report and the 2012 Colonizing African Values: How the U.S. Christian Right is Transforming Politics in Africa[47] report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference publicly condemn the spread of anti-gay hate to other countries by U.S. Christian leaders and call upon *all* U.S. Christians to cease all efforts at vilifying and criminalizing LGBT people in other countries; and state clearly that we believe such hate advocacy is contrary to the Gospel call to welcome and defend the marginalized and the oppressed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference send copies of this resolution along with letters of solidarity and support to beleaguered LGBT organizations in Uganda, Russia, Latvia, Brazil, Honduras and Belize[48], letting them know that there are American Christians who support them and their civil right and who believe in the diversity of God's creation.

Submitted by Methodists in New Directions, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Conference Board of Church and Society, Dale Ashby, Dorothee Benz, John Carr, John Collins, Darlene DiDomineck, Jayson Dobney, Paul Fleck, Vicky Fleming, Vicki Flippin, Shirley Gerow, Emily Hall, Carolyn Hardin Englehardt, Taka Ishii, Wongee Joh, Lucy Jones, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Nehemiah Luckett, Charlotte Patton, Judith Stevens, Marie Strolin, Scott Summerville, Sara Thompson Tweedy, Carol Wilson, Nancy Zukowski

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[44] Jandira Queiroz, Political Research Associates, *Antigay Legal Group Targets Home of World's Largest Pride Parade*, http://www.politicalresearch.org/aclj-new-brazil-home/, 1/26/2013

[45] Rev. Dr. Kapya Kaoma, The American Prospect, *Exporting the Anti-Gay Movement,* http://prospect.org/article/exporting-anti-gay-movement, 4/24/2012

[46] Rev. Dr. Kapya Kaoma, © 2009 Political Research Associates, *Globalizing the Culture Wars: U.S. Conservatives, African Churches, and Homophobia,* http://www.politicalresearch.org/resources/reports/full-reports/globalizing-the-culture-wars/

[47] Rev. Dr. Kapya Kaoma, © 2012 Political Research Associates, *Colonizing African Values: How the U.S. Christian Right is Transforming Politics in Africa*, http://www.politicalresearch.org/resources/reports/full-reports/colonizing-african-values/

[48] These are the specific countries where MIND (through Benz's position at the Center for Constitutional Rights) has contacts with LGBT groups.

Section 4: Leadership/Commissioning

Committee on Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Appointments

Jacob S. Dharmaraj, Chair

101. Cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments in The United Methodist Church promote an awareness of the worldwide nature of our denomination and create an equitable mission context for both pastors and members of the church to minister with each other at the altar of ecclesial partnership and missional collaboration.

102. Missional appointment in The United Methodist Church is the software that drives what we call *the connectional system*. This operating system progresses with drumbeat regularity in the New York Annual Conference through its missional practices and active listening. Crucial to the success of this missional practice and its operating system is its synchronization with the commitment and relentlessness of their role players.

103. Many in the NY Annual Conference hold the opinion that every pastor under appointment is involved in cross-racial and cross-cultural relationship, and hence we have a collective identity. Although special attention to any one particular group might not be possible at this point, we believe each group pursues equity in its unique sphere.

104. The goal of the Committee on Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural appointments has been to serve as cross-cultural negotiators and inter-racial mediators in making the appointments of racial ethnic minority pastors and the churches that they serve become more vital and vibrant. In that capacity, Ann Pearson, Director of Connectional Ministries, and all the six district superintendents gave financial assistance to buy printed resources for training and workshops.

105. The year 2012, nonetheless, was a challenging year for the committee. While the committee was planning to conduct several workshops in district and conference levels, its well thought-out plans and carefully-choreographed programs were sidelined by a newly formed parallel committee named *Coloring Beyond the Lines* (CBL). This committee has been reportedly created by the Conference's leadership with a grant of $18,000 by a mission agency. Although this committee gave $2000 toward the purchase of *Many Faces: One* Church, a resource on CR/CC appointments, CBL caused nothing but confusion as the latter is an autonomous committee.

106. Since this parallel committee's issues and activism strive to penetrate the mainstream CR/CC concerns and agenda, the CR/CC committee had no options but to suspend all of its activities for the remainder of this quadrennium.

107. If NYAC believes that CR/CC issues must move from the periphery into an integrated center of Conference's life, urgent changes are needed. Those changes ought to be systematic and not simply programmatic or sporadic. Allan Bloom's celebrated jeremiad in *The Closing of the American Mind* comes to mind during the preparation of this year's annual report. The CR/CC committee in NYAC has been currently situated much "like a man who keeps a toothless old circus lion around the house in order to experience the thrills of the jungle."

108. The Committee on Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural appointments requests the NY-AC for clarity and direction in the following areas: 1) According to the *Book of Discipline*, the general agencies of the denomination are mandated to work with duly elected committees of the annual conferences. GCORR's grant of $18,000 to an individual member of the conference to create a parallel committee and do the functions of a conference-elected committee is deeply disconcerting. 2) Creation of parallel or overlapping committees with little connection to the Conference will send nothing but a discordant message to the constituents across the conference.

Committee on Episcopacy

Constance Y. Pak & Ernest L. Swiggett, Co-Chairs

101. The Episcopacy Committee met four times from August 2012 to April 2013. It was necessary because the New York Annual Conference opened a new chapter by welcoming a new episcopal leader, Bishop Martin D. McLee.

102. The majority of the previous members of the Episcopacy Committee (including the co-chairs: Rev. Kristina Hansen and Rev. Robert Sorozan) finished their terms by June 2012. Therefore, the forming of the leadership team was urgent. It was agreed that we would elect two co-chairs, one laity and one clergy. Mr. Ernest Swiggett was elected as the lay chair and Rev. Constance Pak was elected as clergy chair with the understanding that Rev. Bill Shillady would act as head of a transition team to help us through the fall months as we settled in a new bishop. Rev. Bette Sohm was elected as secretary. We decided not to have a treasurer at that time. The present members are as follows. Clergy (7): Ebenezer Aduku, John Carrington, Mel Kawakami, Herbert Miller, Constance Pak, John Simmons, Bette Sohm. Laity (9): Chan Gillham, Judy Hoffman, Kevin Smith, Renata Smith, Ernest Swiggett, Seymour Thomas, Ximena Varas, Rashid Warner, Warren Whitlock. Ex-officio (2): Rev. Bill Shillady and Mr. Frederick Brewington (members of the Episcopacy Committee of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference).

103. The transitional team was formed immediately (Bill Shillady, Constance Pak, Fred Brewington, Kevin Smith, Renata Smith, Ernest Swiggett) and various tasks were assigned to help the bishop to settle in and for prepare for his welcome service and celebration. With the assistance of the New Rochelle UMC and its hospitality committee, Bishop McLee moved into his parsonage on September 14, 2012. The office suite in White Plains was painted; cleaning the floors and painting the entire residence was done. Thanks to John Carrington and Warren Whitlock for their hard work to assure the parsonage was clean and comfortable. Bishop McLee said that his home is “a place of solace and comfort.”

104. Bishop McLee’s first public appearance was at the Tri-District Clergy Retreats in early October 2012. There, the bishop introduced himself to the clergy of the New York Annual Conference, stating that being himself will bring a new understanding and a new spirit to the conference. The bishop heard so many times in this journey: Be who you are. With his upbeat personality and inspiring spiritual presence with singing, preaching, praying, sharing witnesses, healing, the new bishop has created new energy in our conference.

105. The Service of Welcome and Celebration for our new bishop was held at Salem United Methodist Church in Harlem on October 28, 2012. In spite of the very bad, unpredictable weather (Super Storm Sandy began that evening); we estimated that about 800 people attended. Many ecumenical religious leaders and politicians were invited; whoever might be Methodist connected, related, and/or interested. From the beginning, Bishop McLee strongly expressed that he would like to have a great deal of diversity and inclusiveness in gender, age, ethnicity, culture, etc. The service was filled with the Spirit – great music, beautiful liturgical dance, a solemn covenant ceremony, wonderful messages and greetings by the guests, bishop’s sincere sermon including his hip-hop (it was a hit!). Additionally, the reception was marvelous. The reception committee (Warren Whitlock, chair) had prepared and displayed sumptuous food. Half of the food was nicely catered, but many interesting, delicious ethnic foods were donated by the various caucuses and individual churches in our conference, such as Chinese, Ghanaian, Hispanic and Korean dishes. Over all, the whole event was a great success. Later, the bishop reported to the committee that he received good comments about the whole event and was very pleased and grateful. Great team work!

106. Since the mountaintop experience of his installation service and celebration, Bishop McLee started his task initially by going on a listening tour. He wanted to hear who we were. He has been in worship in most areas in our conference. He has taken the opportunity to get to know more of the clergy and laity. As our shepherd, has been meeting and mentoring the young clergy (under 40). He has visited the NYAC Disaster Relief Centers following Hurricane Sandy, and met with several victims who have been helped and volunteers who were helping. This effort will be continued. He ministered to the congregation of Newtown UMC, CT, and its community, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting tragedy in

December 2012. The healing ministry is still needed there. After six months, our bishop feels that now is the "time for doing" and he has gone from not preaching to lots of preaching these days. He believes that people are responding well to his message of challenge and encouragement. Besides his responsibilities in the NYAC, a member of the Council of Bishops and the NEJ College of Bishops, he is serving his various conference commitments. He connects with the Leadership Table, the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Initiative, and the Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry. He is also on the boards of Drew Theological School, New York Theological Institute and the New York Methodist Hospital. The bishop really feels that the NYAC is where God wants him to be, and is looking forward to his first annual conference in June 2013.

107. Bishop McLee has appointed his two new episcopal staff: Rev. Robert Walker, assistant to the bishop in November 2012 (he replaces Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii) and Ms. Cheryl Fortune, administrative assistant to the bishop in December 2012 (she succeeded Ms. Evelyn Brunson). The Episcopacy Committee welcomed them, and acknowledged that they too are under our care as well. Bishop also appointed a new district superintendent of the Metropolitan District, Rev. Denise Smartt Sears in January 2013. Presently, he is seeking to create the position of director of the new church starts in our conference without adding more money to the budget (looking instead to shift the current funds). Even though the cost of this new position is high ($160,000 total including benefits), it is necessary for the future of the NYAC. Our committee is supporting the bishop's plan.

108. Also, Bishop McLee recently requested an increase of the bishop's discretionary fund. The 2013 budget is $3,500. It has been that amount since Bishop Nichols (1980-84) served the New York Area. Bishop McLee is asking for an increase to $10,000. It seems a big jump, but the bishop considers it "right sizing." This request was already submitted to CFA, and the Jurisdictional Committee has been in on the conversation. The NYAC treasurer's office shows the appropriateness of the increase, and our committee is supporting it.

109. Currently, the Episcopacy Committee is working on crafting a Covenant of Confidentiality based on one drafted by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee in January 2013. Our committee must prepare an annual report to send to NEJ. This tool is not to be used to evaluate the bishop, but is a statistical report. We need to develop an evaluative tool for our conference.

110. It has been our committee's honor to work with our new episcopal leader, Bishop McLee. We've been busy this year and we understand it is our primary responsibility to create a strong sounding board for the bishop to have a successful ministry in the NYAC. Being the assistants and ambassadors for the bishop, we continue to be joyful, helpful, supportive and creative in serving our shepherd, Bishop McLee, all for the glory of God.

Conference Lay Leader

Renata Smith

101. The Board of Laity reflects and determines what it does by what is happening in the annual conference. Vital congregations, leadership training and communication were high on our agenda this year. To increase our effectiveness as a board, we now have an Associate Conference Lay Leader Mitchell (Mitch) Underwood. He is lay leader for the CT District and gives dedicated service to his local church, Plainville UMC, his district, and the conference. Welcome, Mitch!

102. We have lessened the amount of meetings, and have increased conference calls. At two of the Board's meetings, we discussed congregational vitality. Members shared that communication among lay leaders might improve if we worked more in clusters. Above all, increased discipleship among laity was seen as a key factor in the vitality of our churches. Having devotions at all meetings was stressed. We need a constant reminder that "We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails." — Proverbs 19:21

103. The jurisdictional meeting for conference and district lay leaders was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., October 5th-7th where training for lay leaders was the focus. Mitch Underwood, Seymour Thomas, his spouse and I attended. I continue to serve as secretary for this committee. The theme for the gathering was "Disciples

Called to a New Direction." Sandy Jackson, Director of Connectional Laity Development at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) and Scott Johnson, lay leader for the Upper New York Conference, were featured presenters. Sandy Jackson detailed the changes in the Lay Servant Ministry.

104. Our first Laity Convocation was held at the Macy Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor, NY on October 20th. This day's aim was to introduce the incubator training to the laity as a means of increasing congregational vitality. Raymond Trapp and the worship ensemble IMAGE, led us in an inspirational praise and worship session which set the tone for the day. Margaret Howe, district lay leader and director of Lay Servant Ministry for the CH District, introduced us to the module on "Shared Leadership." Margaret encouraged us to partner with God, with each other, and to use the gifts God has given us. Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena, former director of discipleship at the GBOD and currently assistant professor of Christian Ministry at Wesleyan Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, led the afternoon session. We participated in the method of holy imagination to experience scripture. He reminded us of the need to be a covenant people. Bishop McLee arrived to a standing ovation and addressed the gathering. The success of this event caused us to schedule a Second Laity Convocation to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in White Plains on Saturday October 19th.

105. Mitch Underwood attended the meeting of annual conference lay leaders in Nashville, Tennessee in January. Dr David Lowes Watson, guest speaker, addressed the theme "Sharing Pastoral Power." Mitch reported that Rev. Watson shared that pastors have specific roles, but that laity were best qualified to show people how to live out the gospel in their individual lives. Dr. Watson highlighted the Wesleyan Class System as a model for effective small group ministry.

106. Bishop McLee joined us for our April BOL meeting. He encouraged us to collaborate with our pastors to share the knowledge gained at trainings. He said we should help our congregations understand pastoral changes by explaining the appointive system. He reminded us of the difference we as laity make in the conference. Rev. Ann Pearson gave a glowing report about IGNITE and briefly explained some of the anticipated changes at this year's annual conference. Ximena Varas, a member of Team Vital, explained its purpose and plans. Peter O'Neill shared that the Lay Servant Ministry was aimed at having as many laity as possible take the new basic course and were working to improve their database. Karen Prudente, vice president of United Methodist Women shared information about Mission U and encouraged attendance of both laity and clergy at this year's school. Royston Bailey, president of the United Methodist Men, shared about the men's ministries and the effective inroads that group is making. Warren Whitlock informed us about a morning devotional via conference call which will begin on May 1 from 6:45 a.m. - 6:50 a.m. It will continue until annual conference and will be led by lay persons. All present were encouraged to share information and resources with local church laity. It was stressed that it is highly important for lay members to share a report of Annual Conference with their local churches.

107. I, as conference lay leader, continue to serve on the Strategic and Economic Analysis Task Force (SEATF). This task force was adopted at last year's conference and developed the statement of the preferred future of the NYAC. It states: Within five years the NYAC is flourishing: we are increasing discipleship, ensuring financial stability, and demonstrating Christian leadership across our mission field – while empowering and encouraging our congregations to do the same. One of the areas of focus is how the laity will increase in discipleship and demonstrate Christian leadership. This would mean that in five years, at least 5% of local church laity, on average, are lay servants, certified lay ministers, or similarly trained and utilized in the church's ministry. This will necessitate us to keep more accurate data, increase training opportunities for laity, and utilize laity who have already been trained, into the church's ministry.

108. District lay leaders and district directors of Lay Servant Ministry continue to participate in district training events, visiting local churches and sharing resources and information. We are blest to have a Board of Laity so committed to serving Jesus Christ wholeheartedly. I count it a privilege to work with them and to serve this conference. We thank Rev. Ann Pearson, Director of Connectional Ministries, for her strong support and guidance. We joyfully welcome Bishop McLee and pray God's continual blessings on him. We know that God has greater things planned for the NYAC, and we anticipate a flourishing future as we follow God's lead and work cooperatively with each other to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

Peter O'Neill, Conference Director

101. The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries met while annual conference was still in session at Hofstra last June to begin discussions concerning several changes to this ministry that arose from General Conference. We met again on October 13, 2012 at the Fordham UMC and held teleconferences on July 12 and December 15. At this writing a meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2013 at the Conference Center. The conference and district directors also participate in the meetings of the Board of Laity

102. The 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church approved several resolutions that have significantly impacted the Lay Servant Ministry program. The most important of these was to change the name of this ministry to Lay Servant Ministries from the former Lay Speaking Ministries. Participants in the program who were local church and certified lay speakers have now automatically become local church and certified lay servants. The basic requirements have not changed. Individuals must meet the standards set forth in the *Book of Discipline*, be approved annually by their charge conference and district committee and fulfill minimal retraining at least every three years. The main purpose of this name change is to place greater emphasis on servanthood, rather than to solely provide qualified speakers for pulpit supply. The variety of new Advance Course options available for recertification speaks to our becoming Christ's servants in a broad range of missional areas, rather than simply preaching and/or leading in public worship. It is hoped that this will now encourage more individuals to seek the training opportunities available to them through the Lay Servant Ministry program. Your conference committee agreed to institute this name change immediately for the fall of 2012, rather than wait for the 1/1/2013 official change date and all of our districts are actively on board with this.

103. The 2012 General Conference also approved a new position under the LSM mantle for those individuals who strongly desire to serve as lay preachers of God's word. The position of lay speaker will require those individuals to undertake a more strenuous training regimen than was required in the past. In addition to taking the basic course, candidates for this position must also complete five specific advance courses, be approved by their district committees and accepted by the Conference Committee on LSM. Because this will be a conference0level designation, your conference committee has elected to defer any recommendations until the June 2014 Session of the annual conference in order for us to insure that the training and evaluation process is uniform throughout our six districts.

104. In January I had the pleasure of representing the NYAC at the annual ACDLSM meeting in Nashville, along with Susan Johns Greenfield and Eugene Knoth, two of our district directors. We were greeted at our opening worship by Bishop McAlly of the Tennessee Conference. Training sessions led by Taylor Burton-Edwards, George Donigan and Steve Manskar introduced us to new Advance course materials authored by each of these individuals. We also had an opportunity to meet with several of the Board and Agency heads at GBOD headquarters. Throughout the four days there were many opportunities to meet with our fellow conference and district directors from across the connection to learn and understand how the 2012 changes are being implemented.

105. As conference director I had an opportunity to address a gathering of lay servants from the Metropolitan District at their annual breakfast on October 13, 2012. I also led a workshop on the Changes to the LSM Program at the Long Island East Leader to Leader Workshop on February 2, 2013.

106. The Catskill Hudson District, under the co-leadership of Margaret Howe and Eugene Knoth, reports 166 lay servants, of which 67 are certified. In addition to holding a basic class this past year, six advance courses were also offered.

107. The Connecticut District, under District Director Mary Brevigleiri, reports that they have 102 individuals who are currently on the roll as lay servants, 45 of whom are certified. The district offered two basic courses this past year, in September and January. Other classes offered were "Three Colors of Ministry," "Interactive Preaching," "Our American Methodist Heritage," and "Lay Pastoral Care Giving."

108. The Long Island East District, under District Co-Directors Susan Johns Greenfield and Rev. Gertude Nation had 209 lay servants, of which 117 are certified. Another 18 individuals will have completed the Basic course this year. Classes are offered at two locations during February and March. Two advance courses were offered at both locations, "Leading in Prayer" and "Leading Small Groups," with 36 total enrollees. The district also held a Youth Basic Course over two Saturdays.

109. The Long Island West District, led by District Director Marie Davis, has an amazing 664 lay servants. Classes are offered at two locations. In addition to the basic course, there were advance courses in "Servant Leadership," "Go Preach," and "Bereavement." The Basic and Servant Leader course was also offered in Spanish. Total attendance was 94, which included one youth.

110. The Metropolitan District, co-directed by Kim Owens and Joy Rhodes, reports that there are 374 lay servants in that district. The annual LSM school is scheduled for April 6, 12-14, 2013.

111. The New York Connecticut District, led by District Director Elaine Winward, has proximately 231 lay servants. They held a Laity Convocation attended by 20 people and have conducted advance classes on "Sermon Preaching," "Leading Small Groups," "Leading in Prayer," "Spiritual Gifts," and "Methodist History," attended by a total of 81 people, many coming from Catskill Hudson and the Metropolitan Districts. The basic course was offered at three locations with a total of 51 attending.

112. A special word of thanks to the many dedicated lay and clergy people who give of their time and talent to lead lay servant courses in all of our districts. An active laity is the cornerstone of The United Methodist Church and the NYAC is blessed to have so many lay people who have answered God's call to servant ministry.

Board of Ordained Ministry

Bill Pfohl, Chair and Lydia Lebron-Rivera, Vice-Chair

101. The 2012-2016 Board of Ordained Ministry began to discern and assume its responsibilities to God and the Church in the wake of the General Conference in June of 2012. The *Book of Discipline* had undergone significant revision, and several substantive issues were yet to be fully vetted by the Judicial Council. The members of the BOOM executive committee met several times over the summer; participated in numerous webinars presented by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM); physically attended Jurisdictional (Baltimore) and General Church (Dallas) trainings, and were blessed to receive insight and direction from our new bishop.

102. **Fall Orientation:** Those able to manage the fall-out of Hurricane Sandy gathered at Camp Olmstead on November 2-3 in order to welcome new members, consider recommended procedures from GBHEM, and review our prepared materials for the ordination event. Five task forces were officially constituted (see below) and general plans and priorities were established.

103. **COMPASS Report** – prepared by Rev. Lynda Bates-Stepe, Dean of COMPASS

104. The COMPASS Program supports, encourages and sustains provisional members, or residents in ministry, who have been commissioned and are preparing for ordination as elders and deacons. Through the clergy mentoring component of COMPASS each resident is paired with an effective clergyperson as their mentor. This mentoring relationship is confidential and non-evaluative to give the resident a safe place to engage with the joys and successes of ministry as well as the challenges and struggles.

105. There is also a peer component of the COMPASS Program. The residents meet several times a year for gatherings and retreats. In the 2012-2013 year the residents met for an orientation meeting, a retreat on clergy effectiveness and ministry project, and an annual retreat with the Rev. Tilda Norberg, NYAC elder and Gestalt therapist.

106. The COMPASS Program continues to work with the Board of Ordained Ministry to prepare newer pastors to serve God and their congregations with enhanced effectiveness and joy. We celebrate the COMPASS

residents who will be ordained in June and look forward to welcoming a new class of newly commissioned residents after annual conference.

107. **Evaluation Events** – St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT was the site for our interview events. In November the Board considered 17 candidates for ordination or recognition for full membership, and in March considered 15 candidates for commissioning.

a. The Board recommends approval of 11 candidates for ordination as elders and full membership in the New York Annual Conference: David Ball, Lawrence Charles, Leslie Duroseau, Camella Fairweather, Juhye Hahn, Simeon Law, Gene Ott, Seungho Shin, Bette Sohm, Joanne Utley, and Elizabeth Williams. The Board recommends approval of one candidate for ordination as a deacon and full membership in the New York Annual Conference: Sabrina Chandler. The Board also recommends approval of Gloria King whose orders have previously been recognized for full membership in the New York Annual Conference.

b. The Board recommends approval of 11 candidates for commissioning as provisional elders in the New York Annual Conference: Alexandre da Silva Souto, Lori Hartman, Victoria Kittoe, Roslyn Lee, Won Tack Lee, Sung Min Moy, Carole Paynter, Todd Pick, Matthew Schaeffer, Marva Usher-Kerr, Julia Alexandra Weidmann Winward. The Board recommends approval of two candidates for commissioning as provisional deacons: David Clegg and Marcia White-Smith.

108. **Policies and Procedures** – Recent research and recommendations by GBHEM have led us to utilize the KSAP rubric for evaluating ministry. Candidates are assessed throughout our process by focusing on professional **K**nowledge, **S**kills, **A**bilities, and **P**ersonal Characteristic. The following directives are utilized by the Board and the culmination of our process as we seek discernment for orders:

109. Evaluation of candidates for ordination represents the culmination of the church's discernment process with those women and men who seek to serve God as clergy in the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The candidate has already invested years with various communities of faith, committees and the Board of Ordained Ministry. In order to be at this point in the journey the candidate has:

- Demonstrated Fitness for Ministry: The **Abilities** and **Personal Characteristics** identified as necessary for effective ministry. (This assessment of "fitness" is the initial responsibility of the local church or ministry setting from which the candidate began to explore his or her call. The SPRC or equivalent body, Charge Conference and finally the District Committee on Ordained Ministry must affirm by super majorities that the candidate is "fit" consistent with the criteria of the *Book of Discipline*.
- Demonstrated Readiness for Ministry: The candidate must articulate the appropriate academic **Knowledge** base necessary for a credentialed professional clergyperson. The District Committee on Ordained Ministry must affirm that the candidate has the necessary knowledge to explore the practice of ministry and recommend the candidate to BOOM. BOOM must affirm the candidate's knowledge and approve the candidate for a period of provisional membership and residency in ministry so that she or he can apply knowledge and develop practical **Skills**.
- At the conclusion of a minimum of three-year residency period the candidate may seek to give witness to her or his mastery of primary skills (core competencies) by providing evidence of effectiveness in ministry.

110. The evaluation events are designed to provide BOOM members with the opportunity to interact with each candidate during a culminating 24-hour period. After exposure to the candidate prior to the event through a variety of pathways including sermons and papers, the board now utilizes interview times, meals, worship, and reports as a means to get a fuller picture of the individual and her or his response to God's call. Board members are expected and encouraged to gather sufficient knowledge and experience of each candidate so as to be able to make an informed decision regarding each candidate's current readiness (commissioning) or effectiveness (ordination) in ministry. This discernment is an assessment of the candidate's present competencies and signals confidence that the candidate is ready to be commissioned or ordained as a deacon or elder in The United Methodist Church and will serve with excellence in the New York Annual Conference.

111. The ordination event interview sessions are designed to explore the candidate's ability to apply knowledge appropriately, evaluate the candidate's skills for ministry, and discern if the residency period has provided sufficient experience so as to demonstrate excellence in ministry in accordance with the *Book of Discipline*.

112. Each successful candidate must demonstrate an appropriate practical understanding of ministry in terms of his or her own gifts and graces. It is expected that the experiential learning and reflection upon his or her years in provisional/residency appointment(s) will undergird the candidate's effectiveness in his or her current ministry setting. The BOOM must be confident that ordained candidates will be able to apply existing skills and work to develop additional skills so as to be effective in a wide variety of settings.

113. In **each ordination interview session** board members are to evaluate a candidate's effectiveness in ministry as an elder or deacon in light of the following categories:

- Leadership (ability to cast a faithful vision, build a collaborative community, and facilitate an inspiring connection to God through Jesus Christ)
- Pastoral sensitivity and insight
- Personal awareness and administrative skills
- Spiritual maturity and the ability to continue to grow
- A celebration of the United Methodist connection
- Multi-cultural awareness and a desire to develop cross-cultural relationships that will foster insight and build the broader community of faith.

Each interview session should begin with prayer. Each interview team is to begin with the questions approved and provided by Board consensus and then expand the conversation/interview based upon the candidate's written materials and responses.

114. **Ministry Connections** – The District Committees on Ministries are an extension of BOOM and by *Discipline* are trained and supervised by the Board. Local church staff-parish relations committees are also to be instructed by BOOM in order to be properly prepared to guide candidates throughout the process. New to the 2012 *Book of Discipline* is the requirement for an annual orientation event for all persons seeking certification as a candidate. This event will take place in the autumn and at other times deemed appropriate. Intentional investment is being made as per the *Discipline* to foster a positive and supportive educational environment for all clergy through the Orders of Elders and Deacons and the Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members. Of course the BOOM is privileged and expected to work appropriately with the Cabinet is clarifying the definition, demonstration and evaluation of effective ministry for all clergy.

115. **BOOM Task Forces** – In order for the Board to accomplish their many and varied responsibilities the following task forces have been established:

a) **Administrative** - Conference Relations, Executive Committee, Bridge Committee, Event Coordination, Communication, etc.

b) **Clergy Health, Wholeness and Education Task Force** is responsible for working with the Orders of Elders and Deacons and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, Conference Connectional Ministry Table and others to identify excellent training opportunities which will better enable clergy to fulfill the conference's goals. This task force recommends the certifying of events that will receive CEU credits, facilitates discussion around the expectation and logistics of Local Pastors Licensing School, Course of Study, and issues related to the ongoing support and care of all pastors. The task force also evaluates and makes recommendations regarding grants and scholarships. Finally, the task force also resources and supports clergy exploration intentional time for renewal as recommended by the *Discipline*.

c) **Recruitment and Candidacy Task Force** supports the General Church initiative to recruit young clergy as well as the pursuit of excellent candidates at every age. They will make connections with

seminaries, facilitate the exploration/orientation events and work closely with the dComs to insure that proper training and support is in place throughout the process, but most especially through the candidate's certification. This will include providing training and guidelines for local church S-PR committees and their equivalent bodies in a non-local church setting.

d) **Residency in Ministry and Clergy Mentoring Task Force** identifies and facilitates the appropriate support and training of individuals as they move through the process beyond certified candidacy. This will include the continual evaluation and design of the program for preparation and growth for commissioned clergy (which of course includes COMPASS, and the newly required "ministry project"), training of individual mentors, group mentoring, training and support of licensed local pastors, and relating BOOM to the Cabinet with regard to BOOM expectations for and support of district hires.

e) **Clergy Effectiveness and Accountability Task Force** continually discerns best practices in clergy effectiveness and the expectations for clergy membership in the Conference. Not only do/will they seek to lead the discussion on what effectiveness looks like in and among the variety of settings for ministry, but will also seek to create the most appropriate means for evaluating clergy fitness, readiness, and effectiveness for those seeking ordination or licensing, and after.

116. It has been a great challenge and joy to recognize God at work in and through the Board and among the people called United Methodist in our conference. We feel good about the progress we have made in this year, but acknowledge that there are many priorities yet to be sufficiently addressed. You can expect a significant overhaul of the BOOM policies and procedures and their communication in the upcoming year. We hope to be able to provide a local pastors licensing school within the bounds of the conference. The Board is grateful for your prayers comments, and suggestions as we seek to do our part — by the grace of God — to make disciples (and disciple makers) of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Parish/Faith Community Nurse

Deaconess Claris Skerritt, RN, BSN, FCN

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases among the people.

101. **Early History of Deaconesses and Parish Nurses:**
Following the servant Christ, the early church cared for and visited the sick. They saw Diakonia as the serving, caregiving, and healing foundation of the church and an integral part of the church's mission toward health and wholeness of all individuals. Phoebe, named in scripture as the first deaconess, opened her home to the sick and the needy, but as the church grew many wealthy widows and matrons established places of comfort for those who were suffering. St. Fabiola, widow and daughter of a rich Roman, after committing herself to Christ, sold her possessions and used the proceeds to build homes to care for the sick and the poor. Other deaconesses in early church history are St. Olympias and St. Sophia who were named as caregivers.

102. During the Middle Ages much of the healing ministries were done by religious orders. Behind cloistered walls, Hildegard of Bingen included medicine, mysticism, and prayer in her ministry. By the time of the Renaissance, medicine had become a science. Christian healing was largely ignored, however in the 19th century there was a resurgence in the recognition of the connection of faith and health which led to church-established hospitals. Theodore Fliedner of Kaiserswerth, an influential German pastor in the 1800s, helped to develop a diaconate and built houses for people who were ill, developmentally disabled, transitioning from prison, or needy in any other manner and gathered women deaconesses to provide care. Women in healthcare became very popular. Florence Nightingale studied the Kaiserwerth model, recognized the connection between faith and healing and hailed the advancement this brought to the professional aspect of nursing.

103. In America, the church's deaconesses and nurses were sent to other countries to open new institutions for those in need, while William Passavant, a Lutheran pastor, sent them to work at "Pittsburgh Infirmary" in the Pittsburgh suburbs, which was later renamed Passavant Hospital. Deaconess hospitals, as they were called, were started all over the country by various Protestant denominations; they also trained women to staff their own hospitals. In 1881, Lutheran General Hospital - Chicago opened, staffed by deaconess nurses and it was here that parish nursing began — taking almost a century to be named. In 1940, Granger Westberg first experienced the power of faith at the hospital bedside when he served as chaplain. He saw the connection between physical well-being and spiritual health and brought about the concept of wholistic healthcare. Westberg enlarged on this concept for the next 40 years and in 1983 proposed an experimental program to six Chicago congregations using nurses as caregivers and trainers in faith-based communities.

104. Parish nurses and faith-community nursing follows the pattern of Jesus' earthly ministry as summarized through his teachings and preaching, saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" and his many miracles—his healings. The parish nurse focuses on a wholistic approach which encompasses the body, mind, and spirit. Parish nurses provide a setting to help people regardless of their ability to pay for services. They believe that health is a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity and visit individuals in the context of their community or congregation in order to best assess their needs and find support networks. Parish nurses find an avenue to integrate faith and assess the health and educational needs of the individuals. This wholistic approach is the integration of faith and health which embraces life to its fullest, including the pursuit of a healthy spiritual life and the connection with God. Parish nurses advocate, and educate the community and the parishioners to achieve a higher level of wellness by improving their spiritual and physical health. Parish nursing is a health ministry of presence, intentional listening, and confidentiality. There are approximately 15,000 parish nurses in the United States of which about 35% are compensated for their ministry however the overwhelming majority are unpaid volunteer professionals.

105. Parish nurses serve in various roles but not as a physician that diagnoses or treats illnesses; not as a home healthcare nurse who dispenses medication or performs treatment prescribed by a physician; not as a therapist that performs physical therapy, occupational therapy, or psychotherapy, and not as clergyperson. They have specialized training in these areas and come to the field with a deep spiritual commitment as they educate, advocate, and activate persons to take positive action and preventive measures regarding wellness. The parish/faith-community nurse acts as an integrator of faith and health as an educator, counselor, coordinator of volunteers, resource and referral agent, and advocate. Parish/faith-community nurses are assisted by retired RNs, LPNs, allied-health professionals, and lay volunteers known as health advocates.

106. Parish/faith-community nurses are the part of the congregation health ministry that addresses the church's mandate to preach, teach, and heal which — when implemented in a spiritual and confidential manner — addresses the brokenness of today's healthcare system which was carried out by the monks and nuns through visitation. Many parishioners would like their doctor or pastor to address issues of both faith and health in their visits, however either due to lack of time or training they are not ministered to wholistically. Addressing spiritual beliefs influences medical decisions as well as improving the patient/doctor or pastor relationship so that in the absence of cure, there can be spiritual healing and a divine relationship. Parish nurses are especially beneficial to the homebound and older adults who have no support system in place or whose relatives are not in close proximity. The parish nurse as the health educator spends quality time with parishioners, as the health counselor can better explain the concerns of the unanswered questions from the doctor and find agencies that will address their needs, treatment options, and referrals. The health advocate guides the caregiver and family members through the maze of a jagged healthcare system and through the various agencies' support groups and volunteer options to optimum health.

107. Through the health ministry of the church, I am pleased to offer services to the older adult congregation and community two days each week as the parish nurse working in partnership with a health committee

and other members of the congregation. This health ministry combines the therapeutic qualities of church, community, and faith in God to strengthen the healing task of individuals, families, and communities. Our faith community/parish nurse is a registered nurse with a current license who has completed the Foundations in Faith Community Nursing course and operates under the scope and standards for this professional specialty practice approved by the American Nurses Association. Faith-community nurses use their training and experience to serve the needs of our church community and the wider community through a range of programs and services, including the following:

- Visiting the sick at home or in the hospital
- Providing health counseling
- Assisting with referrals for needed health-related services
- Teaching classes on a variety of health-related topics
- Arranging for health screenings
- Developing support groups
- Training and coordinating volunteers

108. **Our Philosophy:**
    - All human beings are sacred, and will be treated with respect and dignity.
    - Parish/faith-community nurses seek to empower all people to become active partners in managing their personal healthcare resources.
    - All nurse and non-nurse participants in parish/fait- community nurse ministry will maintain the highest professional standards of confidentiality.
    - Parish/faith-community nurse ministry will build on and strengthen capabilities of individuals, families, congregations, and communities to care for one another in light of their relationship with God, society and the faith community.
    - Parish/faith-community nurses work in a dynamic partnership of support and service with pastors and other church staff.
    - Health is a dynamic process which includes spiritual, physical, mental, and social dimensions of a person.
    - Spiritual health is fundamental to physical, mental, and social health. Well-being and illness can exist together and healing can occur in the absence of a cure for specific illness or injury.

109. Clergy can benefit greatly from having a parish nurse in their congregation whether as a paid staff member or unpaid volunteer professional as a great portion of their work is health related—physical health or spiritual health. Because volunteers are not as easily available as in the past, the community is looking to the churches to heal their brokenness due to the biblical mandate to preach, teach, and heal the church. Clergy have leadership roles in the healthcare system to fulfill. The parish nurse improves the health of the clergy by freeing up some of the time needed for visitations.

110. The parish/faith-community nurse is a **healing presence** within the faith community. Parish/faith community nurses are specially trained registered nurses with active licensure who direct and coordinate health and wellness ministry programs within a congregation in partnership with the pastor and other church staff. These health ministry programs are developed to meet the unique needs of each congregation across the life span of its members. The parish/faith-community nurse acts as an integrator of faith and health as an educator, counselor, coordinator of volunteers, resource and referral agent, and advocate. Parish/faith-community nurses are assisted by retired RNs, LPNs, allied-health professionals, and lay volunteers known as health advocates. Parish/faith-community nurses **do not** usually provide "hands-on" patient care such as that offered by home health nurses, but instead direct people to the most appropriate healthcare providers. Parish/faith-community nurses **do not** replace the pastor's healing mission, but support and enhance his or her reach and effectiveness.

111. I had the opportunity to work with my congregation and the community over several years and have seen the lives that have been touched by the gathering and programs in which they participated: nutritional foods for healthy living; visitation for encouragement and healing; Bible study using various formats, and

networking with others in the health field to bring information that enables the community and the congregation to grow towards health and wholeness.

112. In my role as a deaconess of The United Methodist Church, I am the vice chair of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Association of Deaconess/ Home Missioner/Home Missionary. This year is the 125th year of the Deaconesses Ministry. I attended the General Conference, volunteered for the Prayer Ministry Chapel and the Parish Nurses Screening Booth at the conference in April 2012, the New York Annual Conference and the convocation in November 2012. In the role of parish nurse I have presented on topics of Older Adult Ministry and I am in the process of educating other registered nurses and health advocates.

113. My ultimate goal is to have a parish nurse assigned to each congregation and to have a health ministry that will serve the New York Annual Conference and the community and beyond, that will address the needs of each and every individual to prevent diseases and remove the restraints that keep individuals from attaining full potential to wholistic health.

114. I must thank the Rev. Ann Pearson, Director of Connectional Ministries, for all the support she has given to this ministry.

Section 5: Clergy Care & Conference Finance

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Gunshik Shim, Chair

101. According to paragraph 624 of the *Book of Discipline*, "Each church or charge has an obligation to pay the full compensation as approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the church shall immediately notify, both in writing and verbally, the pastor, district superintendent and congregation."

102. "It is the purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference." (*Book of Discipline*, Para. 625).

Recommendations for the year, 2014:

103. That the Equitable Salary Fund be set at $165,000.00.

104. That the Salary Adjustment Fund be set at $75,000.00.

105. That the categories in the Minimum Salary Schedule be continued at 24 years for full-time local pastors, associate members, elders, and deacons.

106. That the Minimum Salary Schedule be increased across the board by 1% in every category. This increase reflects the cost-of-living index.

107. That the Minimum Professional Reimbursement Account for a pastor under full-time appointment remains at $5,550.00. Pastors under part-time appointments are to receive a minimum of $1,387.50 for each ¼ time increment.

108. That clergy under part-time appointment be entitled to a prorated minimum salary schedule.

109. That pastors serving multi-church charges are to receive an additional $250.00 professional reimbursement OR an additional $250.00 salary increase for each church after the first church on their circuit, whether serving in a part-time or full-time appointment.

110. That the 2014 Equitable Compensation Commission's Minimum Salary Schedule for all pastors serving under full-time appointment is as follows:

111. **2014 Minimum Salary Schedule**

Years of Service	Local Pastor	Probationer	Associate Member	Elder/Permanent Deacon
0	$ 34,511.70	$ 36,597.86	$ 36,984.18	$ 37,602.30
1	$ 35,026.80	$ 37,138.71	$ 38,143.16	$ 38,168.91
2	$ 35,258.60	$ 37,396.26	$ 38,426.46	$ 38,477.97
3	$ 35,516.15	$ 37,912.88	$ 38,787.03	$ 38,812.79

Years of Service	Local Pastor	Probationer	Associate Member	Elder/Permanent Deacon
4	$ 35,799.45	$ 38,065.89	$ 39,070.34	$ 39,199.11
5	$ 36,005.49	$ 38,374.95	$ 39,405.15	$ 39,559.68
6	$ 36,288.80	$ 38,580.99	$ 39,714.21	$ 39,842.99
7	$ 36,494.84	$ 38,905.50	$ 40,023.27	$ 40,203.56
8	$ 36,700.88	$ 39,199.11	$ 40,306.58	$ 40,589.88
9	$ 36,984.18	$ -	$ 40,641.39	$ 40,898.94
10	$ 37,241.73	$ -	$ 40,950.45	$ 41,233.25
11	$ 37,473.53	$ -	$ 41,259.51	$ 41,620.08
12	$ 37,756.83	$ -	$ 41,620.08	$ 41,954.90
13	$ 37,962.87	$ -	$ 41,929.14	$ 42,263.96
14	$ 38,194.16	$ -	$ 42,238.20	$ 42,598.77
15	$ 38,426.46	$ -	$ 42,521.51	$ 42,985.10
16	$ 38,684.01	$ -	$ 42,856.32	$ 43,319.91
17	$ 38,941.56	$ -	$ 43,165.38	$ 43,654.73
18	$ 39,147.60	$ -	$ 43,474.44	$ 44,041.05
19	$ 39,405.15	$ -	$ 43,783.50	$ 44,324.36
20	$ 39,636.95	$ -	$ 44,144.07	$ 44,710.68
21	$ 39,868.74	$ -	$ 44,478.89	$ 45,071.25
22	$ 40,126.29	$ -	$ 44,787.95	$ 45,431.82
23	$ 40,385.36	$ -	$ 45,097.01	$ 45,766.64
24+	$ 40,644.43	$ -	$ 45,406.07	$ 46,101.46

"0" year covers the first six months of a pastor's first appointment (i.e., July 1 - December 31).

Council on Finance and Administration

Gillian Prince, President

101. "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done!" My first year as CCF&A chair has been a great journey. I thank God for placing people around me, who have given freely of their time, helping me learn and understand. As I continue on this journey as CCFA chair, I pray that God will continue to equip me with all the tools needed to serve our NY Conference.

102. We look forward to the promised economic recovery, which will undoubtedly free our people to give even more to the ministries of God. We recognize that not all people can fulfill the pledges they made, and not all churches can meet the expectations we have of them. We must be confident that blessings will rain down on all people when we have shared what we have.

103. From this perspective—that the work we fund is in collaboration with God's mission, and that we will share what we have—the CCFA has worked with Bishop Park for eight years and now with Bishop McLee to provide an example for local churches and other annual conferences. We strive energetically to fulfill the apportionments assigned to our annual conference by paying 100%. We do trust that God is at work when we send the dollars away.

104. It is important to remember that we have three apportionment formulas. Last year we explained that we had fallen into the habit of calling some of our apportionments "direct billings to local churches," while in fact they are direct billings to the annual conference, and then divided out (apportioned) to the local churches by certain formulas. We have three funds, billed from the annual conference to local churches, which are all apportioned by your authority as voting members representing what you have decided is a fair share of these costs for each church. The money we collect pays for expenses that are incurred on your behalf and with your permission. If any local church defaults on its payments to any of these apportionments, then either the costs cannot be fully paid, or they must be paid by the local churches that did not default on their payments. There are three different formulas for these three apportioned funds, which you approve when you accept the reports and recommendations of CCFA and the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

105. The HealthFlex for Active Clergy Fund is apportioned to churches by taking the estimated premium billed to the conference, adding approximately 3% (this number will vary year-to-year), and dividing by the number of pastors and conference employees participating in the program. The extra 3% is to make sure we have sufficient funds to pay the bill, expecting that some churches and pastors may fail to pay their share. This number is called the "Uniform Rate" and is the amount that is actually apportioned to the church for each participant employed by that church. For example, if there are two full-time pastors in the plan, the church is apportioned two shares of the Uniform Rate. Optional features of our health plan, like a pastor's decision to set aside money for a Medical Savings Account, will increase the billing that goes to a particular church, but since this money is deducted from the participant's salary, there is no net effect on the local church's budget. (To be clear: Churches should be deducting from pastors' salaries everything in the HealthFlex bill that exceeds the Uniform Rate. If these items are not deducted from a pastor's pay, they represent additional compensation that must be reported to the IRS and on Table II of the Statistical Tables.)

106. The local church does not pay the actual cost of its pastor's health Insurance, but instead pays the uniform rate as calculated above. This is because billing churches for the actual cost unduly complicates the appointment process, leading some churches to plead for pastors who will not bring family members into the plan. Therefore we have instituted the Uniform Rate concept and emphasize that it does not represent the actual cost for health insurance for the pastoral staff of a specific church.

107. CRSP (Pension) is apportioned to churches by charging 17.4% of total pastoral compensation (salary plus either: a) actual housing allowance, or b) 25% of salary for pastors living in parsonages) for those clergy appointed ¾ time or more. Unfortunately, this formula has not provided the income that is needed to pay the bill which the denomination presents us.

108. The local church does not pay for the cost of its pastor's pension, but the church pays an amount apportioned to it by this formula. However, this amount is very close to the actual cost of an individual pastor's pension. For pensions, the denomination bills the annual conference, leaving to the annual conference all decisions about how to pass the bill along to local churches. The conference has decided to apportion the bill based upon the pastoral compensation package.

109. Shared Ministries are apportioned to local churches by taking the amount reported on Table II by a local church for the previous year's expenses for salaries, accountable reimbursements, office expense, and programming (the "local church apportionment base") and dividing it by the sum of all such apportionment bases for every church in the conference (the "annual conference apportionment base"). Doing so results in a percentage that is then applied to the conference budget in the following categories: Clergy Support, Administration, World Service and Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, Black College Fund, Missional Priority Fund, and Africa University Fund. For example, a church that incurred $200,000 in expenses (only those categories listed above) in 2011 and reported those expenses in their Statistical Tables submission during 2012, would have a 2013 apportionment of $48,824 assuming the 2012 annual conference apportionment base was $34,000,000 and the 2013 annual conference budget was $8,300,000.

110. **The apportionment base of the New York Annual Conference has either suffered a small decline or enjoyed a small increase lately.** Here are the numbers from the Journals:

2004	$32,786,662	2008	$34,081,904
2005	$35,917,696	2009	$34,696,632
2006	$38,268,314	2010	$34,059,412
2007	$33,866,629	2011	$33,908,859
2012	$33,169,019		

111. **Follow up on Camping and Retreat Ministries.** Last year we reported that we had supported CRM with more than a million dollars in unbudgeted funding. A task force was formed (see their report in the 2012 Journal), and the 2011 annual conference voted to allow the Trustees to mortgage Camp Quinipet, with the agreement of other key agencies, to lease or even sell a part or all of Camp Epworth. We received from the mortgage of Quinipet the sum of $756,000.00 on November 10th 2012.

112. CRM has identified for sale a small parcel with a house that is on the property of Camp Epworth. CCFA expects that sale will further replenish the funds that were unexpectedly spent over several years.

113. We have been blessed by the many people who continue to worked on these matters: Greg Nissen , Ross Williams, Camps Chair Beth Ann Graf, Chair of Trustees Ginny Carle , CFA Vice-chair Eric Fjeldal and myself. They have invested blood, sweat, and tears along with their prayers and their presence at countless meetings. Finally, we are grateful to the members of the Council on Finance and Administration. They endure considerable anxiety and maintained a gracious and Christian demeanor throughout.

114. **Renewal and transition.** The Church of God never lacks gifted people, and I want to take this time to thank Reverend Tim Riss for his service in the position of chair of CCFA over the past several years. On a personal note, I would like to thank Tim for his mentorship and willingness to help and answer my many questions during the past year. As we are on this journey I want to thank Ross Williams for his dedication to the ministry of NYAC finances and our new Bishop Martin McLee for his encouragement. Every person on this council who attended a meeting night, a budget hearing or at annual conference provided rich gifts for us. Blessing always.

115. **Recommendations:**

116. **Equitable Salaries:** The council report of the Commission on Equitable Salaries, recommends a budget of $165,000 for minimum salary support.

117. **District Superintendent Salaries:** The council recommends the 2014 salaries of the district superintendents, director of connectional ministries, and treasurer/director of administrative services be set at $80,322.00. This represents an increase over 2013 of 3.2%.

118. **2013 Calendar Year Budgets:** The council recommends three budgets with three different formulas for apportioning.

119. **The Shared Ministries Apportionment** (consisting of Clergy Support, Administration, World Service and Conference Benevolences, Missional Priority, Black College Fund, Africa University Fund, and Ministerial Education Fund) will be apportioned according to the apportionment base of local churches as calculated in Table II of the Statistical Reports. As we go to press, the number that will apportioned to local churches is $ 8,393,082 *which is an increase of .6% compared to 2013.*

120. **The HealthFlex for Active Clergy Apportionment** will be $14,448 for each local church employing one participating clergyperson (as defined in the report of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits), of which we expect the clergyperson to pay 8%. *This apportionment will be the same as 2012, except that the salary-paying unit will pay 2% more and the employee 2% less than last year.*

121. **The CRSP Apportionment** will be 17.4% of appointed clergy compensation (salary plus housing, as defined in the report of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits). *This is the same as the apportionment for last*

year, and a local church will see its bill rise or fall in direct proportion to the salary it pays. See the budget below for more details about these items.

122. **Pensions and Benefit Issues:** The council concurs with the report and recommendations of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and congratulates them on their good work.

123. **Conference-wide Appeals**: The council recommends that appeals to all the local churches in the annual conference be limited to the following causes:

    a. Anchor House;
    b. Bethel Homes, Inc.;
    c. Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home;
    d. Camping;
    e. The Children's Home of Binghamton;
    f. Far Rockaway Mission;
    g. NYAC Justice for Our Neighbors;
    h. Methodist Home for Nursing & Rehabilitation, Riverdale NY;
    i. Personal Energy Transportation project in East Jewett;
    j. United Methodist City Society (including Five Points Mission);
    k. United Methodist Homes of Connecticut;
    l. Volunteers-in-Mission projects, and
    m. Women's Advocate Ministry.

2014 New York Annual Conference Proposed Budget

Proposed 2014 Budget New York Annual Conference																		
													Proposed		Incr/(Decr)		Incr/(Decr)	
An "F" next to a budget line item indicates it is to be "fully funded"																		
"Discipline" paragraph reference in left-most column								2012		2013		2014		vs. 2013 Budget		vs. 2012 Actual	
								Actual		Budget		Budget		($)	(%)	($)	(%)
614		**Income**																
		I.	Income from Shared Ministry Apportionments					7,531,400		8,339,214		8,385,082		45,868	0.6%	853,682	11.3%
		II.	Income from registration fees & donations (see Pg. 3)					327,948		379,380		346,300		(33,080)	-8.7%	18,352	5.6%
		III.	Income from reserve funds					-						-	N/A	-	N/A
		IV.	Reserves spent for General Church Apportionments					233,808						-	N/A	(233,808)	N/A
		V.	Transfer from Bishop's Partner's in Ministry Fund					-						-	N/A	-	N/A
		VI.	Prior Year Apportionments					124,827						-	N/A	(124,827)	N/A
							Total Income	**8,217,983**		**8,718,594**		**8,731,382**		**12,788**	**0.1%**	**513,399**	**6.2%**
	I.	**Clergy Support**																
614.1a		A.	District Superintendent expenses															
			1.	Salaries				456,114		466,994		481,936	**F**	14,942	3.2%	25,822	5.7%
			2.	Benefits & Taxes				190,798		198,059		209,776	**F**	11,717	5.9%	18,978	9.9%
			3.	Expenses				322,246		346,270		333,451	**F**	(12,819)	-3.7%	11,205	3.5%
			4.	District Trustees (DS Parsonages)				101,788		117,466		204,564		87,098	74.1%	102,776	101.0%
			5.	Reserve for full funding				-		124,996		126,705		1,709	1.4%	126,705	N/A
							Total District Superintendent Expenses	**1,070,946**		**1,253,785**		**1,356,432**		**102,647**	**8.2%**	**285,486**	**26.7%**
614.1b		B.	Episcopal Fund (GCA**)					**340,231**		**306,894**		**307,215**		321	0.1%	(33,016)	-9.7%
614.1c		C.	Conference share of Bishop's Housing					18,944		25,000		30,000	**F**	5,000	20.0%	11,056	58.4%
			1.	Reserve for full funding				-		3,090		3,708		618	20.0%	3,708	N/A
							Total Conference Share Bishop's Housing	**18,944**		**28,090**		**33,708**		**5,618**	**20.0%**	**5,618**	**N/A**
614.1d		D.	Pension and Benefits															
			1.	Retiree medical benefits				1,547,852		1,431,017		1,350,256	**F**	(80,761)	-5.6%	(197,596)	-12.8%
			2.	BOPHB contribution to retiree medical benefits				(600,504)		(594,555)		(777,393)	**F**	(182,838)	-30.8%	(176,889)	-29.5%
			3.	Repayment of loan from Board of Pensions				10,000		10,000		10,000		-	0.0%	-	0.0%
			4.	HealthFlex for those on Incapacity Leave				66,243		71,608		102,930	**F**	31,322	43.7%	36,687	55.4%
			5.	Reserve for full funding				-		112,233		83,525		(28,708)	-25.6%	83,525	N/A
							Total Pension and Benefits	**1,023,591**		**1,030,303**		**769,318**		**(260,985)**	**-25.3%**	**(254,273)**	**-24.8%**
614.1e		E.	Equitable Compensation					155,414		165,000		165,000		-	0.0%	9,586	6.2%
			1.	Commission on Equitable Compensation				-		-		2,000		2,000	N/A	2,000	N/A
							Total Equitable Compensation	**155,414**		**165,000**		**167,000**		**2,000**	**1.2%**	**11,586**	**7.5%**
		F.	Other Programs of Clergy Support															
625.2			1.	Salary Adjustment fund				44,320		75,000		75,000		-	0.0%	30,680	69.2%
626			2.	Emergency Aid fund				19,716		40,000		40,000		-	0.0%	20,284	102.9%
614.1f			3.	Clergy recruitment				-		3,000		3,000		-	0.0%	3,000	N/A
614.1f			4.	Moving expense - active clergy				42,880		25,000		50,000		25,000	100.0%	7,120	16.6%
614.1f			5.	Moving expense - retired clergy				6,813		7,000		7,000		-	0.0%	187	2.7%
614.1f			6.	Vocational change assistance				-		100,000		100,000		-	0.0%	100,000	N/A
							Total Other Programs of Clergy Support	**113,728**		**250,000**		**275,000**		**25,000**	**10.0%**	**161,272**	**141.8%**
635.1b		G.	Conference Board of Ordained Ministry					55,937		83,000		92,725		9,725	11.7%	36,788	65.8%
614							**Total Clergy Support**	**2,778,791**		**3,117,072**		**3,001,398**		**(115,674)**	**-3.7%**	**222,606**	**8.0%**
	II.	**Administration**																
614.2a		A.	Conf. Council on Finance and Administration reserves					0		200,000		150,000		(50,000)	-25.0%	150,000	N/A
614.2a		B.	Treasurer's Office Expense															
			1.	Office salaries				266,853		279,699		294,728	**F**	15,029	5.4%	27,875	10.4%
			2.	Benefits & taxes				155,895		157,994		178,038	**F**	20,044	12.7%	22,143	14.2%
			3.	Treasurer / Director of Administrative Services				100,419		102,832		105,323	**F**	2,491	2.4%	4,904	4.9%
			4.	Professional expenses (travel, fees, recruiting, etc.)				8,770		13,000		15,000		2,000	15.4%	6,230	71.0%
			5.	Equipment purchase/lease and maintenance				56,989		45,000		57,062		12,062	26.8%	73	0.1%
			6.	Technical support				72,185		90,000		77,000		(13,000)	-14.4%	4,815	6.7%
			7.	Supplies, postage, telephone				40,568		75,000		45,200		(29,800)	-39.7%	4,632	11.4%
			8.	Audit fees				19,650		28,350		28,279		(71)	-0.3%	8,629	43.9%
			9.	Reserve for full funding				-		66,806		71,449		4,643	6.9%	71,449	N/A
							Total Treasurer's Office Expense	**721,329**		**858,681**		**872,079**		**13,398**	**1.6%**	**150,750**	**20.9%**
Note: Certain line items have been restated to conform to the 2014 presentation																		

Proposed 2014 Budget																		
New York Annual Conference																		
											Proposed		Incr/(Decr)		Incr/(Decr)	
An "F" next to a budget line item indicates it is to be "fully funded"																		
"Discipline" paragraph reference in left-most column								2012		2013	2014		vs. 2013 Budget		vs. 2012 Actual	
								Actual		Budget	Budget		($)	(%)	($)	(%)
614.2a		C.	Other Administrative Expenses													
			1.	Board of Trustees				124,295		167,380	358,253		190,873	114.0%	233,958	188.2%
			2.	Camping				80,100		90,000	90,000		-	0.0%	9,900	12.4%
			3.	Assistant to the Bishop				29,103		40,900	41,000	F	100	0.2%	11,897	40.9%
			4.	Conference Secretary & journal				62,014		63,300	83,384		20,084	31.7%	21,370	34.5%
			5.	Conference Sessions				458,464		505,247	457,566		(47,681)	-9.4%	(898)	-0.2%
			6.	Property Administration				225,354		281,093	233,800		(47,293)	-16.8%	8,445	3.7%
			7.	Commission on Archives and History				37,591		42,000	47,000		5,000	11.9%	9,409	25.0%
			8.	Commission on Sexual Ethics				-		2,100	2,100		-	0.0%	2,100	N/A
new line 2014			9.	Committee on Personnel				0		-	5,000		5,000	N/A	5,000	N/A
			10.	Committee on Religion & Race				10,775		41,000	41,000		-	0.0%	30,225	280.5%
			11.	Gen. & Juris. Conf. Travel / Committee training				9,637		-	5,000	F	5,000	N/A	(4,637)	-48.1%
			12.	Justice For Our Neighbors				28,010		40,000	60,000		20,000	50.0%	31,990	114.2%
			13.	Reserve for full funding				-		8,763	8,404		(359)	-4.1%	8,404	N/A
614.2a				**Total Other Administrative Expenses**				**1,065,343**		**1,281,783**	**1,432,506**		**150,723**	**11.8%**	**367,163**	**34.5%**
614.2b		D.	Episcopal Area Administration													
			1.	Bishop's Area Expense Fund				52,500		40,000	40,000	F	-	0.0%	(12,500)	-23.8%
			2.	Bishop's Discretionary Fund				3,000		3,000	10,000	F	7,000	233.3%	7,000	233.3%
			3.	Reserve for full funding				-		5,315	6,180		865	16.3%	6,180	N/A
				Total Episcopal Area Administration				**55,500**		**48,315**	**56,180**		**7,865**	**16.3%**	**680**	**1.2%**
614.2b		E.	Jurisdictional conference adminstrative apportionments					26,704		23,428	23,428		-	0.0%	(3,276)	-12.3%
614.2b		F.	General Administration Fund (GCA**)					127,569		127,790	126,970		(820)	-0.6%	(599)	-0.5%
614.2b		G.	Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (GCA**)					29,334		28,421	28,235		(186)	-0.7%	(1,099)	-3.7%
614.2a		H.	Contingency funds (includes hospitality for meetings)					(16,099)		47,500	50,000		2,500	5.3%	66,099	N/A
				Total Administration				**2,009,680**		**2,615,918**	**2,739,398**		**123,480**	**4.7%**	**729,718**	**36.3%**
	III.		**World Service & Conference Benevolences**													
614.3b		A.	World Service Fund (GCA**)					1,116,962		1,059,025	1,052,114		(6,911)	-0.7%	(64,848)	-5.8%
		B.	Conference Benevolences (Conference Programs)													
614.3			1.	Connectional Ministries Vision Table (see Pg. 4)				329,831		539,038	533,600		(5,438)	-1.0%	203,769	61.8%
			2.	Campus ministries				48,625		56,000	56,000	F	-	0.0%	7,375	15.2%
			3.	Parish Development - Mission Grant				158,750		160,000	160,000	F	-	0.0%	1,250	0.8%
			4.	Quadrennial Mission Focus Fund				-		60,000	30,000		(30,000)	-50.0%	30,000	N/A
			5.	Board of Church & Society				1,700		13,000	13,000		-	0.0%	11,300	N/A
			6.	Reserve for full funding				0		26,697	32,135		5,438	20.4%	32,135	N/A
				Total Conference Benevolences (Programs)				**538,906**		**854,735**	**824,735**		**(30,000)**	**-3.5%**	**285,829**	**53.0%**
614.3c		C.	Administrative Expenses (directly related to III.B.)													
			1.	Program staff - salaries				228,586		244,892	266,765	F	21,873	8.9%	38,179	16.7%
			2.	Benefits & taxes				81,680		85,810	107,226	F	21,416	25.0%	25,546	31.3%
			3.	Professional expenses (travel, fees, recruiting, etc.)				19,592		26,000	26,000		-	0.0%	6,408	32.7%
			4.	Reserve for full funding				-		44,087	46,223		2,136	4.8%	46,223	N/A
				Total Administrative Expenses				**329,858**		**400,789**	**446,213**		**45,424**	**11.3%**	**116,356**	**35.3%**
															-	N/A
				Total World Service and Conference Benevolences				**1,985,725**		**2,314,549**	**2,323,062**		**8,513**	**0.4%**	**337,337**	**17.0%**
	IV.		**Other Apportioned Causes**													
614.4		A.	Missional Priority Commission					118,050		130,000	130,000		-	0.0%	11,950	10.1%
614.4		B	Black College Fund (GCA**)					147,810		145,022	144,075		(947)	-0.7%	(3,735)	-2.5%
614.4		C.	Africa University Fund (GCA**)					33,081		32,453	32,242		(211)	-0.7%	(839)	-2.5%
614.4		D.	Ministerial Education Fund (GCA**)					277,940		363,580	361,207		(2,373)	-0.7%	83,267	30.0%
				Total Other Apportioned Causes				**576,881**		**671,055**	**667,524**		**(3,531)**	**-0.5%**	**90,643**	**15.7%**
				Total Expense				**7,351,078**		**8,718,594**	**8,731,382**		**12,788**	**0.1%**	**1,380,304**	**18.8%**
Note: Certain line items have been restated to conform to the 2014 presentation															**Without Reserve**	
**** General Church Apportionments (GCA) are our Shared Ministry Apportionments that help fund the ministries**															**for Full Funding:**	
of the United Methodist Church throughout the world.															**655,675**	**8.9%**

Income from Registration Fees, Contributions and Donations

	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed Budget
Board of Church & Society			
Special Sundays	6,250	8,000	8,000
Sale of Booklets	-	500	500
Sub-total	6,250	8,500	8,500
Conference Board of Ordained Ministry			
Evaluation Events		5,000	
Candidacy Fees	9,880	20,000	23,300
Donations	2,500		
Bishop's Partners in Mission	5,000		
Sub-total	17,380	25,000	23,300
Board of Trustees Income			
Estate, Trust, Other	26,107	15,000	28,000
Sub-total	26,107	15,000	28,000
Commission on Archives & History			
Donations	396	1,000	-
Sub-total	396	1,000	0
Commission on Conference Sessions			
Registration Fees	269,225	309,880	265,000
Sub-total	269,225	309,880	265,000
Connectional Ministries Vision Table			
Registration Fees	7,238	20,000	20,000
Sub-total	7,238	20,000	20,000
Conference Secretary & Journal			
Directory Sales	1,352	-	1,500
Sub-total	1,352	0	1,500
Total	**$ 327,948**	**$ 379,380**	**$ 346,300**

Proposed 2014 Budget
New York Annual Conference
Conference Benevolences - Detail

An "F" next to a budget line item indicates it is to be "fully funded"																
"Discipline" paragraph reference in left-most column						2012 Actual		2013 Budget		Proposed 2014 Budget		Incr/(Decr) vs. 2013 Budget ($)	Incr/(Decr) vs. 2013 Budget (%)	Incr/(Decr) vs. 2012 Actual ($)	Incr/(Decr) vs. 2012 Actual (%)
614.3	B.	Conference Benevolences (Conference Programs)													
		1.	Program Funds - District and Conference COM												
			a.	Category I - program entitites within districts		19,373		46,000		46,000		-	0.0%	26,627	137.4%
			b.	Category II - across districts (broader) training		38,663		46,000		46,000		-	0.0%	7,337	19.0%
		2.	Travel and Training / Conference Funds									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Board/Committee Travel		0		0		0		-	N/A	-	N/A
			b.	Delegate Travel & Board/Committee Travel		5,675		12,000		12,000		-	0.0%	6,325	111.5%
			c.	CMVT Annual Planning Retreat								-	N/A	-	N/A
		3.	Operating Funds									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Program, Literature & Supplies		1,658		2,500		2,500		-	0.0%	842	50.8%
			b.	Memberships		2,500		2,500		2,500		-	0.0%	-	0.0%
			c.	District Council on Ministries		10,440		12,000		12,000		-	0.0%	1,560	14.9%
		4.	Programming Support									-	N/A	-	N/A
			b.	Farmworker & Migrant Ministry Fund		13,920		17,000		17,000		-	0.0%	3,080	22.1%
			c.	UM Appalachian Ministries Network		2,610		4,000		3,000		(1,000)	-25.0%	390	14.9%
			d.	Cooperative School of Christian Mission		6,151		5,500		5,500		-	0.0%	(651)	-10.6%
			e.	Chinese ministry		0		1,500		1,000		(500)	-33.3%	1,000	N/A
			f.	Haitian ministry		0		-		0		-	N/A	-	N/A
			g.	Hispanic ministry		10,500		7,000		7,500		500	7.1%	(3,000)	-28.6%
			h.	Korean ministry		3,915		4,500		4,500		-	0.0%	585	14.9%
			i.	Black Methodists for Church Renewal		0		2,000		2,000		-	0.0%	2,000	N/A
			j.	Mission Trip Leader Fund (new in 2007)		0		2,000		3,200		1,200	60.0%	3,200	N/A
			k.	Asian Council (new in 2009)		0		500		500		-	0.0%	500	N/A
			l.	Mission Outreach		171		12,000		5,400		(6,600)	-55.0%	5,229	3058.4%
		5.	Ecumenical Relations									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Christian Conference of Connecticut		0		8,500		8,500		-	0.0%	8,500	N/A
			b.	NY State Community of Churches		7,395		8,500		8,500		-	0.0%	1,105	14.9%
		6.	Program Funding									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Board of Laity		4,390		4,000		10,000		6,000	150.0%	5,610	127.8%
			b.	Youth/Children/Adult Ministries		7,492		20,000		20,000		-	0.0%	12,508	166.9%
			c.	Emerging Ministries		38,074		39,600		40,000		400	1.0%	1,926	5.1%
		7.	Resources, Media, Training, Equipment Funding									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Learning Center		21,848		25,000		25,000		-	0.0%	3,152	14.4%
			b.	Communications (f/k/a Newspaper/Vision)		66,865		140,000		140,000		-	0.0%	73,135	109.4%
			c.	Equipping local church outreach		9,630		40,000		40,000		-	0.0%	30,370	315.4%
			d.	Safe Sanctuaries		4,450		5,000		5,000		-	0.0%	550	12.4%
		8.	Fixed Expenses									-	N/A	-	N/A
			a.	Age-Level Ministries Stipends		15,383		20,000	F	20,000	**F**	-	0.0%	4,617	30.0%
			b.	Hispanic Consultant		12,000		12,000	F	12,000	**F**	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
			c.	Stewardship Education - Frontier Foundation		12,000		12,000		12,000	**F**	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
			d.	Walk to Emmaus		0		2,000		2,000		-	0.0%	2,000	N/A
			e.	IT Technical Support		14,727		20,000		20,000		-	0.0%	5,273	35.8%
			f.	Reserve for full funding - Ann's budget addition		0		5,438		0		(5,438)	-100.0%	-	N/A
614.3		Conference Benevolences (Conference Programs)				**$ 329,831**		**$ 539,038**		**$ 533,600**		(5,438)	-1.0%	203,769	61.8%

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Bill Shillady, President

> 5 Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. 6
> Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a
> generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you
> have and experience. 7 Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he
> will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others — ignoring God! —
> 8 harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in
> response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life,
> eternal life. 9 So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will
> harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. 10 Right now, therefore, every time we get the
> chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community
> of faith**. —** Galatians 6:5-15 (*The Message*)

Health and Pension Overview - 2012

101. Over the last few years, your Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the "Conference Board") has presented reports with the themes "Change is coming!" and "Change is here!"

102. We reported that change was arriving whether we wanted it or not. Through the enactment of the Health Care Reform Act on the federal level, in General Conference legislation on benefit issues, and the need to focus on the unfunded liability of our retiree medical costs, your Conference Board, with the action of the Annual Conference (the "Conference") has become informed, flexible, ready for new programs in health and wellness, accepting of different health insurance benefits for active clergy and the "Extend Health Program" for retirees and in 2014, we will begin a new version of our United Methodist Clergy Retirement Security Program, which was enacted at the General Conference in 2012 (CRSP – REVISED).

103. All of these changes focus us towards this year's theme of our report: "Take Responsibility: It's your future – your choices!" Your future wellness, retirement, and spiritual and emotional health will not be determined by the Conference but by you and your spouse's choices in lifestyle, savings, and planning.

104. We are now at the critical juncture in our United Methodist heritage where future benefit programs will be less generous than the past; where our active clergy health insurance plan will be moving toward a consumer driven plan; where clergy and their families will need to make more decisions regarding their healthcare; where our retirees will need to choose which Medicare supplemental plans and Part D prescription plans best fit their medical needs in their geographic area; and where our choices of lifestyle, exercise, our health and wellness, our emotional wellness, our spiritual wellness, and our financial wellness are all related to our personal choices more so than those made by the annual conference or the denomination. **It's your future – your choices!**

105. We are no longer in an era where we can count on the church to fully take care of us in retirement without planning to take care of ourselves through increased contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan, with financial planning through Ernst and Young, and with health and wellness decisions through WebMD, Virgin Health Miles and the Blueprint for Wellness. (If you don't know what these are you need to read Sally Truglia's emails).

106. We will need to make some tough decisions at this annual conference. As a covenantal community of United Methodists, lay and clergy together, we will need to decide on funding pensions under the new CRSP program for clergy; we need to enact strategies on benefit plans so that local churches pay less; we need to work together to keep active clergy health insurance costs to a minimal increase despite our very bad loss ratio the last three years. We seem to have had more sick and unhealthy clergy lately. We will also need to decide if we should reveal the names of those churches and clergy who owe thousands of dollars in unpaid pension and health benefit bills.

107. We have six clergy who have been serving churches since 2005 (13 churches during that time among them) who have benefited from pension and health benefits without paying for those benefits. These six clergy and their churches owe $458,625 on those benefits, which accounts for 38% of all unpaid benefits of the conference during that time.

108. On the really good news side, our Conference Board and Conference made a decision two years ago that has saved us literally hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are so grateful to Sally Truglia, our benefits administrator, who has brought her compassion and knowledge to care for us in this time of our taking responsibility for ourselves. With Ross Williams and his financial team, we have been able to achieve a very high level of data accuracy, have much more integrity in our billings, know which churches and pastors are paid in full or behind and are encouraged to use all of the benefits available to us.

109. Some of Sally's duties and accomplishments over the past year are listed below:

- Successful interaction, assistance and communication with active and retired clergy and their family members via phone call, email and personal visits to discuss healthcare and retirement issues as well as billing questions, enrollment concerns, coverage changes and claims;
- Developed a strong working relationship between the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the "General Board") and the Conference office;
- Reviewed clergy records in Benefits Access and provided documentation for clergy service updates and corrections to the General Board;
- Ensured that complete benefits information is available on the NYAC conference web site: www.nyac.com/benefits
- Communicated with retirees regarding their individual Medicare supplemental plans and providing intermediary assistance with Extend Health;
- Assessed the financial situation of our retired clergy and administers financial grant applications and assistance [rograms where needed;
- Coordinated Pre-Retirement Financial Seminars;
- Coordinated the Blueprint for Wellness event at our annual conference meeting;
- Served as our Pensions Registrar;
- Frequently communicated to all clergy discussing annual enrollment, FSA, Wellness & Virgin Miles, Blueprint for Wellness;
- Processed death notifications and related death benefits;
- Prepared special reports/projects requested by the Conference Board, Cabinet and bishop's office;
- Developed a close working relationship with conference secretary;
- Maintained accurate records for all clergy and their families; updated databases as needed; processed Appointment Change Forms, retirements and membership updates.

110. The Benefits Department of the NYAC administers the following programs for our active clergy, all included in the clergy and churches monthly Uniform Rate:

- HealthFlex Medical Insurance provided by BCBS
- Prescription Drug plan provided by Express Scripts
- Behavioral Health benefits provided by United Behavioral Health
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by United Behavioral Health
- Annual Well-Vision exam ($20 co-pay) provided by VSP
- BluePrint for Wellness Screenings through Quest Labs
- Virgin HealthMiles and HealthCash rewards
- Evive Healthy Reminders
- Weight Watchers (special pricing and offers through HealthFlex)
- Flexible Spending Accounts & Dependant Care Accounts

- Clergy Security Retirement Program (CRSP)
- Clergy Protection Plan death and disability benefits (CPP)
- United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)
- Benefits Access web site – web access for members to view retirement & benefits
- Help our clergy and employees understand the benefits of an MRA and a DCA account

111. Sally Truglia has set the following as her goals for the year 2014:
    - Educate all active clergy about changes to CRSP;
    - Encourage and reward enrollment in UMPIP;
    - Improve MRA and DCA enrollment;
    - Coordinate Retirement Planning webinars for clergy of all ages;
    - Promote Wellness programs and rewards for healthy living;
    - Continue outreach to retirees and continue to be a resource for their insurance and financial needs;
    - Provide timely information about Health Insurance exchanges and government subsidies to all clergy who are not eligible to receive benefits through the conference;
    - Provide efficient, professional and friendly assistance to all in need.

112. As you can see, a benefits administrator has been a welcome addition to assist our clergy and Sally works with our retired clergy, widows, spouses, and actives to provide much needed information and help. She has been the "go to person" to help make the "Extend Health" transition as smooth as possible despite problems encountered by many of our retirees with Extend Health itself.

113. The other team that helps us make great decisions is led by Ron Coleman who is our conference relations liaison from the General Board for this past year and they have helped us to move forward in many ways to implement positive change and to understand some of the complex issues that the clergy retirement and active benefits create. Many others at the General Board have been so helpful these past few years in helping us understand healthcare reform and our move to Extend Health from Jon Jones and John White to the actuarial team, and who can forget Kelly Wittich and our move toward wellness.

114. The Defined Benefit-Defined Contribution plan petition from 2012 General Conference (referred to as the "restated Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)") will result in first-year cost reductions to your local church of approximately 18% of CRSP cost. Costs reductions will be achieved by the future decrease in the benefits provided to plan participants. While this plan continues clergy pension support for life, it also means clergy will need to become more engaged in managing the defined contribution portion of the pension plan and save more for retirement in order to maintain their standard of living. It does not reduce benefits that already are being paid to retired clergy or reduce what active clergy have already earned.

115. The Conference Board in consultation with the Cabinet has decided to recommend to the Conference that they include clergy serving 75% and above in the CRSP RESTATED – program. We are recommending a different plan for our 50% and below clergy which will be defined below. For CRSP-RESTATED the cost of the Defined Contribution and the Defined Benefit will be approximately 11.8% of total compensation (salary plus cash housing allowance or 25% of salary in lieu of housing allowance). Currently this is billed at 14.4%. A pastor will need to **VOLUNTARILY** (your choice) contribute 1% to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan to receive an additional 1% match from the conference; otherwise the conference contribution will be 2% to their Defined Contribution account.

116. Clergy appointed 50% and less will be placed into the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan directly and the local church will pay the benefit directly to the pastor's account. We will follow the same formula. 11.8% paid by the local church to the UMPIP, unless the pastor **does not VOLUNTARILY** contribute 1 % to the UMPIP, then the church will only pay 10.8%. The pastor and the district superintendent will need to supervise this process. The local church will be the plan sponsor. This funding of part-time clergy would be paid directly by the local church to the UMPIP program and not through the conference. This UMPIP

account will help clergy to accumulate funds so that the defined benefit reduction will be partially or fully offset at retirement. All clergy serving 75% or less would be required to pay 4.4% on the CPP under the special election clause.

117. This is about choices. ALL CLERGY CAN CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN 1% TO THEIR UMPIP ACCOUNT. You can do so pre-tax which means you already get an immediate return on your investment in yourself. And depending on your age and stage of life, you can contribute up to a maximum of $23,000 in 2013 (2014 limit not yet available). If a clergy person wishes to opt out of the pension plan, they can do so by signing a waiver.

118. Currently, all part-time clergy are included and we do not cover our costs under the funding formula of 17.4% of compensation. 11.4% for the CRSP DB, 3.0% for the CRSP DC (direct contribution to UMPIP), 3.0% for the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

119. I want to emphasize that all benefits accumulated until this new plan begins **will not be changed**.

120. Our current active HealthFlex Plan will continue even with the Affordable Care Act and the possibility of moving to the Health Care exchanges. We have spent considerable time analyzing the economic models of how our clergy might qualify for the exchanges under the new federal and state plans. To even begin to think of this, we would need to increase our current clergy contribution toward the insurance from approximately $100 per month to approximately $375 per month. Your Board did not feel that was feasible or doable without a great deal of difficulty. And then, there were many ramifications to the whole process concerning taxes and compensation issues. So for the present, we are staying with HealthFlex which is moving us toward a more "consumer-driven" health plan. We must utilize the pre-tax Medical reimbursement account contributions. We must all be a part of the wellness plans, coaching, walking, and better lifestyle choices. We need to use the Ernst and Young "free" financial planning which is available through our General Board.

121. We already know that churches can receive rebates from the federal government and we encourage your treasurer to join the church treasurers' online discussion group to find out if your church qualifies for a substantial refund for your health insurance payments for your clergy person. You can join this group by going to: http://groups.google.com/group/nyac-treasurers

122. We need to make better lifestyle choices! We are still an unhealthy group of clergy with an average age of 55 for our active clergy. We are the high risk, older participant insurance pool, because believe it or not, as we age, we require more intensive and expensive healthcare. The last two years our health insurance claim losses have been 124% on average. This means that our insurance premium costs continue to rise which causes the Uniform Rate to rise. We have not made the choice to hold each other more accountable to the covenantal obligations of better health, wiser lifestyle choices, increased exercise and full payment of benefit costs.

Funding Shortfalls on HealthFlex

123. How can we change how much the conference health insurance costs? One of the ways to reduce the costs of our HealthFlex program is to have it fully funded by congregations and pastors. This currently does not happen.

124. At the close of fiscal year 2012, the shortfall in HealthFlex payments was $144,376. This was a 96% payment rate. At the close of the fiscal year 2011, we had only a 92% payment rate which was a shortfall of $333,415. So things improved, but we still were short these funds. I want to commend the Long Island West and Metropolitan Districts who moved from 81% and 83% payment rates respectively to the much higher payment rates shown below.

125. Payment rates per district were:

	Amount Paid	Shortfall	
Catskill Hudson	379,395	5,999	98%
Connecticut	799,742	10,350	99%
Long Island East	788,707	30,418	96%
Long Island West	551,738	39,428	93%
Metropolitan	707,651	52,301	93%
New York/Connecticut	633,620	5,880	99%

126. Our Conference Board believes that we did not achieve 100% in payments, even with increased data integrity, because a small minority of our clergy consistently fails to pay their accounts. Of course, this practice places an unfair burden on the churches that pay their accounts in full and depletes the reserves of the Conference Board. We cannot allow this abusive practice to continue and Ross Williams has taken steps to ascertain which churches are deliberately abusing the system and notify them of our Termination Policy. However, even after being notified, agreeing to a payment plan, and making some payments, these same churches and clergy fall behind again. Our hope is that our new bishop, Martin D. McLee, will pressure our clergy to recognize their covenantal obligation to pay for their own healthcare.

127. We must have a strategy of the Cabinet deciding which churches should receive missional grants and not the continuing self-election by churches and pastors to decide they are missional or they are special and therefore do not have to pay their benefits.

128. By our estimate, every church in the conference is billed an additional $1,000 in HealthFlex to cover those who do not pay their fair share. Is this fair? Our Conference Board asks our bishop and the Cabinet to utilize the tools at their disposal to insure that all churches pay their obligations. Our termination policy gets responses, but then the same churches fall behind on their payment agreements. We do not wish to terminate anyone.

Funding Shortfalls on the Clergy Retirement Security Program

129. CRSP funding improved in 2012. Our payment percentage was 94% compared to 91% in 2011. However, when we are talking actual dollars, the amount was $182,129. The shortfall amount in 2011 of $266,776 compares to $221,526 in 2010. So the good news is that we are moving on to perfection, but we are not there yet. Most of the funding shortfall, $128,375, was from the Metropolitan and Long Island West districts. So even though they improved on HealthFlex, they did not fully improve in this realm. This funding shortfall in CRSP now amounts to a pension benefits funding shortfall since 1/1/07 of $1,320,065. This shortfall has been taken from your Conference Board's benefit reserve account. And part of the shortfall has come from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration ("CF&A"). As we attempt to build up our reserve to cover the retiree medical costs, we have less money to do so. It means that the Conference Board is providing subsidies to local churches who cannot afford full-time, or even part-time pastors.

130. We cannot continue to underwrite the debts for some churches without jeopardizing these reserves for the purposes intended. We are not able to "mark up" for full funding on the CRSP program. The other problem that will develop soon relates to the drastic reduction in the salary base of the conference with all the part-time appointments that are occurring.

131. Under our proposed plan in 2014, some of these funding issues will be addressed as the local church becomes the sponsor of the UMPIP plan for 50% and below appointments. The pastor and the church will need to covenant for this payment. Also, your Conference Board is much more aware of the shortfalls and the cabinet is being made aware of the problem situations more frequently.

Retiree Medicare & Extend Health

132. Our move to Extend Health had its difficulties. However, for the most part, it has been successful. Sally Truglia has been the patient, caring, compassionate voice on the phone or the immediate responder to

emails who has helped many of our retirees deal with the complex bumps along the road of this new program. Sally has worked with Extend Health management and the General Board liaisons and has solved almost all of the problems within a few days. Change is not easy and there are probably some retirees who still are not satisfied.

133. We are also aware that in some situations we have placed financial burdens upon our retirees and we have a grant process to assist those in need. Friends, some of our retirees live so close to the poverty level that they could not advance the first month premium to their new Medicare supplemental plan. But there was Sally, arranging a grant/loan to help them do so. She has worked to help our retirees explain to the doctors that they are no longer on the very rich and generous prescription plan and the doctors have issued new generic prescriptions. There is no way our conference could have made this transition without having a benefits administrator in place, and most especially Sally who was so compassionate and caring.

134. Our retiree medical unfunded liability at the end of 2012 according to the Towers and Watson actuarial report that we commissioned after our move into Extend Health was reduced from $65,350,000 to $22,421,000 as indicated in the chart below:

135. Expected Postretirement Benefit Obligation

	HealthFlex Plan	Extend Health
Actives (for the future)	44,858,000	12,821,000
Retirees	20,492,000	9,600,000
Total	65,350,000	22,421,000

So as you can see our unfunded retiree medical liability for the future has been reduced by approximately $43 million dollars by our move to Extend Health.

136. Your Conference Board has a goal to eliminate of the cost of the retiree health payments from the Conference budget. This is getting closer as our benefit reserve grows as we are able to use Pre-82 surplus funding to pay for the defined benefit component of CRSP and as the market gains of WESPATH, the General Board's Investment Team, continue to do well. In 2009, the BOPHB began to supplement the NYAC budget to help cover the cost of the retiree medical insurance costs for the purpose of reducing apportionments to local churches. We have used a 5% drawdown from our benefit reserve account at the General Board to fund this contribution.

2009 — $380,000	2010 — $370,000	2011 — $550,000
2012 — $600,500	2013 — $594,555	2014 — $777,394

Your Conference Board is helping to reduce apportionments to local churches. Since the inception of this subsidy to the budget to fund retiree medical expenses we have contributed approximately $2.5 million and with 2014 included it will rise to approximately $3.3 million.

We hope in the somewhat near future we will fully fund the Health Reimbursement Accounts for retirees through the Health Benefits reserve that your Conference Board has been growing at the General Board. If the market increases, we may be able to achieve this goal.

Integrity in Pensions 1982-2012

137. A key component in the funding of the Pre-1982 Plan has been our Integrity in Pensions program, a 30-year funding mechanism for the churches of the Conference that was inaugurated in 1982. This program concluded at the end of 2012 but we still have a number of churches who continue to pay into the program based on agreements they have made with our Conference Board.

138. Unhappily, however, there remain 80 churches that have fallen behind or who made no payments to Integrity in Pensions in the last number of years. We would ask those congregations to remember the retired pastors who served them during the years before 1982 and for their sake to complete their

commitment to Integrity in Pensions. We still need the funds to make payments to increase the past service rate. We now need to fund those increases before we can make them.

139. The total outstanding Integrity in Pensions balance of these 80 churches as of March 31, 2012 was approximately $1,534,000. The original amount of any given church's fair share obligation cannot be forgiven. This is $825,000 of the above figure. To do so would be unfair to those other churches, many in similarly difficult financial situations, who have met their commitments. However, the Conference Board is prepared to offer assistance to churches in arrears. This might include one or all of the following: suspension of current interest, forgiveness of past-due interest, and extended time for payment. Several such special arrangements have already been negotiated with individual churches. Churches who are interested should contact the Conference Board through the chairperson, Jim Van Schaick, or the conference treasurer, Ross Williams.

140. The other good news is that those churches who invested with the NY-CT Foundation under the Option 4 Plan of the original campaign did receive their original investment from the successor Frontier Foundation. There are over 90 churches that were paid $1,076,075. The amounts range from $954 to over $60,000. Each one covered their original obligation to the program.

Miscellaneous Items

Pre-Retirement Seminar

141. For the past few years, the Conference Board has sponsored pre-retirement seminars for clergy and spouses who are approaching retirement age. Resource persons from the General Board and the Social Security Administration have helped participants understand and plan for their retirement benefits. We held such a seminar at the White Plains Conference Center with over 50 participants.

Ernst & Young Financial Planning

142. Also, free to every active clergy is a financial planning program through Ernst and Young. The General Board has once again arranged to offer Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services at no charge to active participants, surviving spouses, and terminated and retired participants with an account balance of at least $10,000.

143. Ernst & Young's financial planners can provide confidential, objective guidance on making investment decisions, saving for retirement, managing debt, understanding tax issues, evaluating insurance needs and options, buying a home, and more! To take advantage of this valuable resource, just call Ernst & Young directly at 1-800-360-2539 between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Wellness Incentives through the Virgin Health Miles Program

144. In 2012, we had 382 participants out of 968 eligible who have enrolled in the Virgin Health Miles walking and exercise program. Each participant can earn up to $400 per year for walking and exercising. In 2012, our participants earned HealthCash and gift cards. This year, we have the same percentage of participation, approximately 39% and we look to increase member participation in the future.

Health Flex Changes

145. Our HealthFlex plan is mandatory for all clergy serving ¾ time and above.

146. Your Conference Board has voted to continue with the HealthFlex in 2014; we have chosen to elect a PPO plan B which does not have major changes to our coverage.

147. The deductible will be $750 for singles and $1,500 for families UNLESS BOTH THE PASTOR AND THEIR SPOUSE TAKE THE HEALTH QUOTIENT ONLINE. TAKING THE HQ REDUCES THE DEDUCTIBLE TO $500 per person, $1,000 per family.

148. The co-pay for a primary care physicians will remain at $30 and $50 for specialists. The Prescription Plan will be the same percentage out-of-pocket expenses based on the Tier Structure of pharmaceuticals; we know this has been more costly to our participants. The mail in plan remains the most cost effective of the program.

149. Please take note that once again, there will be a major incentive to take the HealthQuotient™ *(HQ)* on line. Through the General Board web site (www.gbophb.org) and in the portal for WebMD, you must take the HQ to avoid higher deductibles in the year 2014.

150. **Please read this carefully. IF YOU TAKE THE *HealthQuotient™ (HQ)* on line between August 1st and September 30th, 2013, you will RECEIVE A LOWER DEDUCTIBLE IN 2014**.

151. This concerns the HealthFlex *active* plans*.

152. Participants in the Conference plan, all clergy ¾ time and above who do not complete the HQ by September 30, 2013 will not receive the deductible discount.

Take HQ = Deductible for 2014	**Do Not Take HQ = Deductible for 2014**
$500 — individual	$750 — individual
$1,000 — family	$1,500 — family

153. Completing the HQ by September 30, 2013 is the only way to avoid this increased medical plan deductible in 2013. All participants and spouses covered by HealthFlex *active* plans are expected to complete the HQ. Each year, we have had some spouses who took the HQ and pastor partner did not. We had some clergy who took the HQ and their spouse did not. Both spouse and pastor must take the HQ to get the family discount.

154. Please note that your information is protected. Personal data entered through the HQ is processed by WebMD, an accredited health organization with high standards for security. Your information remains confidential *and is never shared with your conference, employer or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.*

155. You can complete the HQ online at www.gbophb.org by entering the WebMD site through the portal. You can use any computer with internet access at your home, work, church, public library or a friend's home. You should have established an account with WebMD, if not, it is easy to register online. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. The system is known to get overloaded the last few days before a deadline.

156. If you are unable to complete the HQ, requests for accommodation should be addressed in writing to: **General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 1201 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois, 60201; Attn: HQ Requests.** Please send a copy of any communications to our Conference Board as well. Please understand that our Conference Board cannot make exceptions.

Blueprint for Wellness

157. One of the key components to assist you in completing the HQ is a blood test through our wellness program. This Blueprint for Wellness screening is available through Quest Diagnostics. We are pleased to announce that Quest Diagnostics is here at this Annual Conference session performing the screenings for you. The Blueprint for Wellness automatically transfers to your HQ survey.

158. Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® is a comprehensive and confidential "biometric" screening that is part of your HealthFlex wellness benefits—and a perfect complement to your annual doctor's visit. Blueprint for Wellness provides useful information about your heart, liver, kidney function, diabetes risk and blood sugar control, calcium and iron—plus PSA screening for men.

159. Important Dates:

- April 1- July 31, 2013: Step 1: Blueprint for Wellness - Earn $100 HealthCash
- August 1 - September 30, 2013: Step 2: HealthQuotient (HQ) – Avoid higher insurance deductibles

- January 1–December 31: Earn Wellness Points and Achieve Virgin HealthMiles targets

160. You must be a member of the Virgin Health Miles program to receive your $100 reward.

Walking Program

161. Active HealthFlex participants and spouses can participate in the **Virgin Health Miles program**, which offers financial incentives for being physically active. You can earn **up to $400** in Health Cash incentives and save **$250** (individual) or **$500** (family) on the 2014 medical plan deductible.

162. In 2014, retired participants and spouses may continue to participate in the Virgin HealthMiles program.

HealthFlex Premium Projections for 2014

163. The new Uniform Rate for HealthFlex PPO- Plan B will be $15,264 for the year 2014. This represents a 5.6% increase from 2013. We always do our best to keep the Uniform Rate fair, equitable and reasonable. Our overall rates went up 9.3% because of our terrible medical loss ratio the last three years. We are risking better payments by only marking up the Uniform Rate by 3% for 2014 with trust and hope that our new Bishop will hold all clergy accountable to their covenantal obligation of paying this Uniform Rate and realizing the plan is mandatory.

Because of the increase costs associated with the pharmaceutical and the high deductibles we recommend the following church/pastor share:

Church's share	$14,004	($1,167/mo)	91.7%
Pastor's share	$ 1,260	($ 105/mo)	8.3%
Total Cost	$15,264	($ 1,272/mo)	

164. In reality, the clergy of our conference have one of the lowest percentage and dollar amount payments toward their health insurance of all the annual conferences.

165. Please remember that in 2007, we had a Uniform Rate of $11,400, in 2008, it was reduced to $11,040, in 2009 it was $11,400. In 2010, the rate was $12,664. In 2011, the rate was $13,440. In 2012 and 2013, the rate was $14,448. These rates represent an average 4.4% increase over eight years. This is well below the national average of increases in healthcare costs.

166. This Uniform Rate has a 3% markup to cover shortfalls in payment. It also has $50,000 toward the benefits administrator office. Approximately $150 of the $14,448 contributes to the total compensation costs of this position.

167. We also encourage, and our benefits administrator will provide the information as to how the pastor's share can be paid pre-tax through a section 125 plan resolution that will need to be adopted by each local church.

168. The total amount of our HealthFlex billing for both active and retired clergy in 2012 was approximately $5.9 million which is approximately $492,000 per month. We must pay the HealthFlex bill or the conference coverage can be terminated. TIMELY PAYMENT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

169. Please see the Benefits budget in the draft CF&A budget.

Recommendations from Your Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

All Action Items. It is understood, that CF&A has the final decision on how to fund the benefits. Action items that are financial in nature will be referred to CF&A for their approval to fund in the manner suggested by the BOPHB.

170. **Participation in Costs – Actives:**

171. **Action One**: It is our recommendation that every full-time and three-quarter time active clergy be a mandatory participant in the HealthFlex plan in 2014. We will use HealthFlex PPO B as our mandatory plan. The proposed Uniform Rate for HealthFlex is $15,264.

172. The pastor's share of 8.3% of the proposed Uniform Rate will be $105 per month (currently $100 per month). The church will pay 91.7% or $1,167 per month, an increase of $63 per month.

173. Pastors are encouraged to set up a pre-tax MRA account up to $2,500 to be deducted from their salary and paid through the Conference to the plan's benefits administrator (currently Ceridian). This is a pre-tax way to help pay for their deductable and other medical related expenses.

174. **Action Two: Retirees Extend Health Coverage**: the Conference will continue our agreement with "Extend Health" to provide a choice of Medicare Supplement, Part D prescription and/or Medicare Advantage health insurance plans for the Conferences' current and future eligible retirees, who are already enrolled or will be enrolled in Medicare. These plans will be combined with an individual Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for each retiree and spouse, as applicable. (Retirees who are under age 65 and are not Medicare-eligible, may be maintained in the active plan at their own expense as prescribed by our policies).

175. The Conference will fund the HRA within the plan chosen by the retiree with a fixed amount (determined each year by the Conference similar to the Past Service Pension Rate) with which the retiree may choose to pay health care premiums and other health-related expenses. This fixed amount for 2014 will be $2,644 per participant. All current retirees and those who retire at this Annual Conference session will receive this benefit.

176. The Conference Board will continue to budget for grants to those retirees who may not have any other means during a financial or medical crisis that cannot be resolved in non-financial ways.

177. The Conference Board will begin a new formula for funding the HRA tied into years of service in the year 2016. Clergy who have less than 20 years of service will receive a percentage of the full funding similar to the policy that existed prior to our move to Extend Health. In the old Medicare supplemental plan, retirees paid a higher percentage of the cost based on years of service. A funding scale will be presented in 2015 that will be implemented for all those retiring in 2016 and beyond.

Recommendations — CRSP Restated for 75% and Above Appointments

178. **Action Three**: CRSP Pension Benefits for active clergy: CRSP Restated will include all clergy serving 75% appointments and above. Clergy who make at least a 1% voluntary contribution to their own personal United Methodist Personal Investment Plan account will receive a matching 1% contribution through the program as prescribed in General Conference Legislation.

179. To fund this plan, all congregations that have 75% and above appointments will be billed a percentage based on total compensation that will be approximately 11.8% (currently 14.4%). We will continue with a compensation cap and a percentage billing.

180. To be transparent, we are billing to cover the 1% contribution for all clergy. We plan an intense campaign for all clergy to enroll. It would also be an administrative nightmare to bill churches based upon each clergy's participation. Also we could foresee churches asking for clergy who don't care about their future pensions to save money.

181. **Action Four:** In addition to the CRSP restated program for full time clergy, the Comprehensive Protection Program for full time clergy serving 100% will be billed at 3% of total compensation. For those who are serving at 75% CPP will be billed at 4.4% because the benefit is paid at 100%. This is General Board billing policy.

182. Receipts to Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account:

183. **Action Five:** It is our recommendation that remittances from churches for CRSP be deposited during the subsequent month into our Reserve Deposit Account at the General Board, and when the forwarding of this money falls behind by more than three months, that CF&A inform the Conference Board. If the amounts fall behind by more than three months, that CF&A would use reserves to bring funding up to at least the three month payable timeframe.

184. And that the Conference Board be allowed in consultation with the Conference Treasurer and General Board staff and by the use of financial tools and market information to help pay the required 2013 CRSP-

DB of $2,198,644 payment from either the Deposit Account or our Pre-1982 account or a combination of these two funds. If we can use pre-82 surplus funding, our BOPHB is building the Benefits Reserve to help fund future retiree medical benefits.

185. **Action Six:** It is our recommendation that all clergy in appointments less than 75% be enrolled in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan with the local church as the sponsoring employer. The church will contribute 10.8% of planned compensation to the clergyperson's account and 1% more if that clergy contributes at least 1% to their own account, pre-tax or post-tax. Our Conference Board and Benefits Administrator will work with the Cabinet in implementing this plan to provide for retirement benefits for part time clergy who wish to have those benefits in the future.

186. **Action Seven:** It is our recommendation that the health insurance costs for pastors on incapacity leave who are not yet on Medicare or Medicaid, be paid at the current rate. We ask for $102,930 to be included in the 2014 apportioned budget.

187. **Action Eight:** *Past Service Pension Rate:* It is our recommendation that the PSR in the Pre-1982 Plan be set at $580 for 2014, which represents a 2% increase. This is the recommendation for retirees with credit in the Pre-82 Plan. We will need to fund this increase in advance. We will use our Integrity in Pension balance at the General Board to pay $396,476 to fully fund this increase. (Our balance in this account is $1.9 million approximately at the end of April.)

188. The History of our PSR:
2009 Past Service Rate of $534
2010 Past Service Rate of $545
2011 Past Service Rate of $545
2012 Past Service Rate of $556
2013 Past Service Rate of $568

189. The PSR must be at least 0.8% of the Conference Average Compensation. The CAC for New York for 2014 is $62,608. Our PSR for 2014 will be 0.93% of the CAC.

190. **Action Nine:** *Special Grants*: It is our recommendation that the payment of special monthly grants, as established in previous years and as provided for in *The Book of Discipline*, be continued to the following persons: Jean Arthur - $ 39.50; Elsa Myers - $198.65

191. There may be additional names added at our annual conference session.

192. Special grants will also be decided by BOPHB for the payment of grants to our retirees based on the financial situation of retiree. A compassionate and caring process has been established to help fund our retiree medical coverage.

193. **Action Ten:** (Same policies as last year)

194. THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS ARE RECOMMENDED TO BE CONTINUED WITH SLIGHT PROCESS CHANGE:

195. ***Termination for Non-Payment***

New York Annual Conference
Health Flex Termination Policy
Effective July 1, 2010

196. If the health insurance payment for a participant is not received within 60 days of the due date, notice will be sent by regular mail to the Finance Committee Chairperson, Church Treasurer, Pastor/ Staff Parish Relations Chairperson, District Superintendent and by certified mail with return receipt to the Pastor, declaring that if past due payments from the pastor or the church are not received within the next 30 days, steps will be initiated to cancel the participant's coverage.

197. It is understood that the church is responsible for payment toward the Uniform Rate as well as any section 125 plan amounts that have been withheld from the pastor's salary due to a salary reduction agreement for that purpose.

198. After the notice has been sent on a 60 day default, and there is no response from the church or the pastor after the subsequent 30 days in the form of payment in full or written response, then the district superintendent and the treasurer/director of administrative services, in consultation with the Conference Board, will make a decision to move toward termination. A certified letter will be mailed, return receipt requested, warning of the termination to take place in 15 days.

199. Insurance will not be terminated until at least 45 days have passed after the initial notice that payment was due.

200. Any Medical Reimbursement Account or family care account will be frozen until future payments are made. Also, any PPO buy-up will be terminated. Once a pastor and her/his dependents, if any, are dropped from the plan, they can only re-enter during the open enrollment period in November for the following year.

201. By the time of open enrollment for the following year, a payment schedule must be provided by the pastor and the local church with commitment for monthly payments for that new year.

202. **Action Eleven: We recommend the continuation of the following *Administrative Policies for Health Benefits Program:*** The guidelines by which our health benefits program is administered are presented here for the sake of clarity and understanding by all:

203. **1. Uniform Rate** — Since our health benefits plan covers all full-time and three-quarter time clergy, our connectional responsibility requires that every church served by a fulltime or three-quarter time pastor pay the Uniform Rate. The Uniform Rate is NOT an insurance premium for the individual currently serving as the church's pastor. It is each fulltime or three-quarter time church's equal share of the total Conference premium that provides health benefits for active clergy, conference staff and their families throughout our diverse conference.

204. The Uniform Rate is determined by the total annual cost for active pastors in fulltime or three-quarter time appointment and conference staff, divided by the number of clergy under fulltime and three-quarter appointment and conference staff. The local church will pay a percentage of the Uniform Rate and covered clergy pay a percentage as well. The same formula will apply to conference staff, the Conference will pay a percentage of the Uniform Rate and staff members pay the same as clergy.

205. **2. Clergy Couple Under Appointment** — Clergy couples, in which both ordained spouses serve under appointment in separate fulltime churches, are treated in the HealthFlex census as separate units. Each church, per section 1 above, is responsible for paying its 92% of the Uniform Rate. The clergy couple is responsible for paying a **single** 8% of the Uniform Rate. Note: Each partner is given his or her own health benefits card. If there are dependent children, the couple must determine on which one's card to list the dependent children.

206. **3. Retired Clergy —** Retired clergy, age 65 or above, must be enrolled with the Social Security Administration for coverage under Medicare, Part A and Part B, before they can be enrolled in the Extend Health network.

207. **4. Surviving Spouse of Clergy** — The covered surviving spouse of a clergy member enrolled in HealthFlex may continue in the plan at his or her expense. A surviving spouse who is not yet age 65 will pay the premium cost for a single individual and any applicable dependents. A surviving spouse age 65 or over whose primary coverage is Medicare will be offered the services of Extend Health.

208. **5. Retiree Eligibility —** A retired participant eligible for the Extend Health program is defined as a former active participant in the conference's Health Benefit Plan with at least five years of continuous coverage at the time of retirement, and whose primary coverage at retirement is through Medicare Part A and Part B.

A formula based on years of service will be implemented in 2016 to fund the HRA at a percentage of full funding for those who have less than 20 years of service. To receive any funding of the HRA one must have served and been enrolled in HealthFlex for at least 5 years.

209. **6. Clergy Who Retire Before the Age of 65 —** Clergy who retire before the age of 65 must continue, at their own expense, their coverage in HealthFlex as if active until their 65th birthday. If such early-retired clergy choose not to continue in the conference HealthFlex program they will not qualify for Extend Health when they are Medicare eligible.

210. **7. Retired Clergy with Spouse Younger than Age 65 —** A retired clergy member with a spouse younger than age 65 may have the spouse covered in the active HealthFlex plan at his or her expense. Eligibility for coverage in Extend Health when the spouse reaches age 65 requires at least five years of continuous coverage in the conference actives plan before age 65

211. **Action Twelve: THE FOLLOWING NEEDS TO BE ADOPTED:**

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the New York Annual Conference

212. The New York Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

213. WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

214. WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

215. WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

216. WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

217. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the period July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

218. 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.

219. 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.

Appreciation

220. We thank: all the conference administrative staff for their support services; cabinet liaison Adrienne Brewington; Gillian Prince, ex-officiao as CF&A president; and Conference Board members Anthony Beck, Carol Bloom, Wayne Carty, Rev. Sara Goold, Sabrina Johnson Chandler, Doug Hathaway, Kent Jackson, Roy Jacobsen, Arturo Maine, David Mantz, Christine McCabe; Elliot Oakes, Patrick Perrin, Richard Rice, Stephen Smart, Jim Van Schaick and Robert Woodcock for their faithful attendance, keen insight and numerous contributions to our work. I am grateful to CF&A for their gracious hospitality when I attend their meetings.

221. We also are grateful to all the General Board staff who advise us at our meetings, by phone, and email.

Christians are supposed not merely to endure change,
nor even to profit by it, but to cause it.
Harry Emerson Fosdick

Section 6: Administration

Commission on Archives and History

Leslie Reyman, Chair

101. The Commission on Archives and History takes seriously the stewardship of its rich and varied history, by telling the stories of our common heritage.

102. 2012 began with a meeting in January, the budget hearing in February, and another meeting in April. The April meeting helped members get ready for our yearly table and presence at annual conference. Annual conference is a time to meet and greet folks from the local church. It is a good way for the commission to advertise its many ways of helping the local church in ministry to their communities.

103. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference's annual meeting was held in Gettysburg, PA with a tour of several churches that were significant during the Civil War, including; Chambersburg, PA, and Williamsport, MD. Archivist Beth Patkus and Chair Leslie Reyman, along with commission members Marilyn Hatch and Sue Alexander represented the New York Annual Conference. At the meeting, NYAC made available newsletters, brochures and Chico Bags for those participating. The chair gave the report of the New York Annual Conference.

104. Archivist Beth Patkus has visited several churches, helping them with their records management systems. The main focus of the second half of the year was the acquisition of material from eight closed churches in the conference. Four of those churches: Rye, Armonk, Summerfield and Woodmere-Lawrence, have already sent historical documents and records to the archives, per the Discipline ¶640. Two other churches that closed in 2011 (Beaverkill and Germantown) have not yet had their material sent to the archives. With this material coming into already tight space, the commission is once again looking for additional space, including off-site storage.

105. The re-structuring of many general boards, committees, and commissions, including the General Commission on Archives and History, that was proposed at the 2012 General Conference, thankfully was not passed.

106. Patkus and Reyman attended a catablog workshop in the spring of 2012. A catablog lets cataloged material be submitted to a blog, allowing researchers to easily find information on collections currently residing in the C. Wesley Christman Archives. Cataloging of collections using a computer cataloging program began in summer 2012, in preparation for placing this information on a catablog.

107. In 2012 the commission continued several projects that helped all members of the conference connect with their past, live into our present and move into our shared future. This included records management workshops, and local church anniversary celebrations.

108. Got Records? We Can Help!

Conference Archivist

Beth Patkus, Archivist

101. Historical documents and records are rarely perceived as exciting…but in fact they tell the fascinating story of our past and can guide us in future ministries. The C. Wesley Christman Archives and the Commission on Archives and History hold and preserve historical records in sacred trust for the New York Annual Conference. The C. Wesley Christman Archives contains treasures that reflect the earliest history, not only of our denomination, but also of our country, including the saddlebags of circuit rider Freeborn Garrettson and congregational records from historic closed churches within the conference area.

102. The Commission on Archives and History oversees the ministry, and directs the conference archivist to catalog, manage, and preserve the archival collections of the New York Annual Conference. The Archives responds to requests for information from individuals looking for family records, conference staff seeking

historical information, and churches researching their history and requesting assistance with records management issues.

103. The C. Wesley Christman Archives is housed at the Conference Center in White Plains, NY, where I staff the Archives three days per week with assistance from volunteer Ron Schultzel. I continue to maintain the Archives Web page found at http://www.nyac.com/archives, and may be reached at any time via email to archives@nyac.com. The Archives also maintains a Facebook page (search C. Wesley Christman Archives), and produces a newsletter three times per year.

104. From January to December 2012 the Archives responded to more than 140 requests for information, covering genealogy, church history and records management, pastoral records, and conference activities. We took in almost 70 linear feet of local church and conference records, primarily from four of the six local New York churches that closed in 2012, Armonk UMC, Rye UMC, Woodmere-Lawrence UMC, and Summerfield UMC in Port Chester.

105. During 2012, I visited several local churches to consult on records management and other archival issues, presented a church archives and records management workshop for local churches in March, and participated in the Learning Center open house in September. Workshops, manuals, and on-site help are always available for local congregations.

106. I attended several workshops and trainings in 2012: an archival cataloging workshop offered by the Society of American Archivists in March, a workshop on using blog software to make archives collections accessible online in May, and a multi-day training session for conference archivists at the General Commission on Archives and History at Drew University in July. I began cataloging the archives collections using the Archivists Toolkit software during the summer of 2012.

107. Commission Chair Leslie Reyman and I represented the New York Annual Conference at the May 2012 Annual NEJCAH Meeting hosted by the Susquehanna Conference in Gettysburg, PA, and I will attend the May 2013 annual meeting in Portsmouth, NH, which will be hosted by the New England Conference.

Report of the Commission on Conference Sessions

Co-Chairs: Rev. James Moore, superintendent of the Catskill Hudson District; Conference Lay Leader Ms. Renata Smith; Rev. Ann Pearson, director of Connectional Ministries

101. The Commission on Conference Sessions is responsible for organizing each session of the New York Annual Conference. The dean of the Cabinet, the director of connectional ministries, and the conference lay leader serve as co-chairs of the commission under New York Annual Conference rules. This year, Rev. James Moore stayed on in his leadership role in order to maintain continuity during this, a year of transition.

102. During the break between the end of the 2012 conference and the planning for the 2013 conference, a subcommittee was launched to find alternative locations for consideration by the larger group. The subcommittee created a “needs” document along with a site review checklist for use on visits to different venues. Members of the subcommittee visited several campuses and hotels/convention centers for review. There was a definite split between the part of the group who preferred comfort (hotel/convention center) that comes with a higher price tag and the other part who preferred a campus setting at a cost similar to, or lower than, Hofstra. We stopped our search at the request of Bishop McLee who asked us to plan on meeting at Hofstra for at least 2013. After our 2013 conference, we will meet with Bishop McLee to get his suggestions for future venues.

103. The income from registrations and fees in 2012 was $279,225 or $4,225 more than the anticipated income of $275,000. The actual expenditure was $458,464 or $30,114 more than the anticipated expenditure of $428,350. Again, for the second year in a row, all of the monies due for registration were received! The Sessions Commission, with the help of the annual conference financial staff, has developed an appropriate system for tracking the costs associated with staging a session of the annual conference, and has found a number of ways to increase efficiency and reduce costs. We expect that costs for the 2013 session will not exceed the income received from apportionments and registration fees.

104. The commission established a schedule of meetings for the 2012-2013 conference year. The commission was organized into sub-committees with the following leaders:

Program Director	**Ann Pearson**
Event Manager	**Barbara Eastman**
Legislative Sections	**Ian Straker**
Worship Chairs	**Charles Ryu and Jessica Anschutz**
Hospitality	**Barbara Mungin**
Ushers	**John Fritz and Steve Allen**
Hotel Alternatives	**Bob Hunsinger**
Conference Secretary/Journal	**Fredric Jackson assisted by Barbara Eastman**

105. In 2012, Barbara Eastman, a long-time consultant to the conference, was brought on as a staff member. In addition to her communications, webmaster and IT roles, Barbara is extended her contributions to the annual conference event from production of materials, registration management and on-site support to management of the business and logistical aspects of the conference. Please extend a warm welcome to Barbara when you see her in June!

106. Improvements to our planning process and goals would not be possible were it not for the evaluations that have both encouraged, corrected and suggested. Over the years, your voices have transformed our conference event. We would like to acknowledge the passion and vision of our ministry area, whose displays are interactive and informing. You bring color and life to an otherwise empty space.

107. The theme for the 2013 conference session is "Dismantling Walls: Building the Beloved Community." The program has been designed to focus on this theme in many different ways especially with the inclusion of the confirmands in the ordination event on Saturday, June 8, 2013. Other aspects of the event include bringing awareness to, and raising money for "Imagine No Malaria" and the annual collection of UMCOR health kits.

108. The Call to Conference was reconfigured in 2013 to minimize the costs associated with its production and mailing. We've received a lot of positive comments on this new format. The Call was mailed to all members on record with the conference office in February. The list of current lay members was received via the online Charge Conference Summary Form to which all churches have access. If your church didn't fill out that form in 2012/2013, please be sure to make it a point to input your information this fall, so that we may have an accurate list of lay members, along with their mailing addresses, for next year's Call.

109. As in 2012, a pre-conference packet and all relevant documents and information are being posted to the www.nyac.com web site. These pre-conference reports/petitions/resolutions and the agenda will be compiled in printed booklets which will be available to members when they check in at annual conference.

110. 2013 also brings a change in how we manage many areas of the conference while at Hofstra. With gratitude to:

- Administrative logistics in arena (registration, materials distribution, etc.) – MaryLynn Salerno (conference staff)
- On-site registration – Fran Collins (conference staff)
- Registration materials distribution and registration – conference staff members and volunteers (including Sally Evans from the Frontier Foundation; Barbara Moody, LIW District staff; volunteers: Vicky Fleming, Bill Hagerty, Bob Hunsinger, Stella Law, Ximena Varas, DaleEllen Krazmien, and more!)
- Table displays – Barbara Atchison (LIE District staff)
- Nurse recruitment – Daphne Moore
- Oversight of Student Center meals and meetings – Rosemarie Walker (volunteer)
- Korean Translation – Chan Gilham (NYCT District staff)
- Clergy Session – Bill Pfohl, Mark Davies, Ric Hanse
- Laity Session – Renata Smith, Mitch Underwood
- Assistant secretaries – Kent Jackson, Elizabeth Mortlock, Sung Moy and Michael Zukowski

111. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of all the members of the commission:
Co-Chairs: Rev. James Moore, Rev. Ann Pearson and Ms. Renata Smith;
Members: Mr. Steve Allen, Rev. Adrienne Brewington , Ms. Veronica Darby, Ms. Barbara Eastman (staff), Mr. John Fritz, Pastor William Hagerty, Rev. Janet Hodge, Mr. Robert Hunsinger, Rev. Fredric Jackson, Rev. DaleEllen Krazmien, Ms. Stella Law, Pastor Victoria Luna, Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Ms. Gillian Prince, Rev. Barbara Mungin, Rev. Ian Straker, Rev. Godfrey Uche, Pastor Marva Usher-Kerr, Ms. Rosemarie Walker and Mr. Ross Williams (with the support of Mr. Sam Rosenfeld and Ms. MaryLynn Salerno).

112. We would like to extend a special note of thanks to Pastor Marva Usher-Kerr. Marva has served at the annual conference event for more than 15 years – first as the housing coordinator, and since 2009 as the registrar — and has now stepped down. We thank her for her hard work all of these years and wish her well on her on her ministerial journey.

113. We'd like to thank the countless volunteers who work in so many different capacities to make annual conference an annual success!

114. The dates for the 2014 Annual Conference Session will be announced at the close of the 2013 conference.

Journal Examination Committee

Rev. Dennis Winkleblack, Chair

101. Thanks to the great work by our assistant conference secretaries, our Conference Secretary Rev. Fred Jackson, and our technology expert par excellence, Barbara Eastman, Rev. Vicki Fleming and I examined the 2012 Conference Journal and Directory and declare them to be accurate.

102. Of course, if upon reading them, you find a mistake we will, as always, humbly receive your criticism non-defensively and make haste to correct things.

Parish Development – Missional Priorities (EMLC) Commission

Rev. David W. Mantz, Chair

101. **Introduction:** We serve the churches of the annual conference by making loans and grants throughout the year to help churches with facility improvements and new ministries to enhance their ability to make disciples. I need to thank the members of our committee who faithfully come out to meetings at the Conference Center in order to make this happen. I especially want to thank our district chairs and their committees who give us the information we need to make these decisions.

102. **Our Guidelines:** "The Commission," which usually meets four times a year, has 10 at large members elected to 2-year terms with a 6-year maximum. It also includes chairs of all the District Parish Development Committees, all district superintendents, the director of connectional ministries, the conference treasurer, representatives from the Council on Finance & Administration, the United Methodist City Society, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, and ethnic caucuses. In the committee, a quorum consists of those who are present and voting. The commission has the following functions: (1) Making the final determination annually for ministry and mission grants. (Including those requests for Missional Priorities (2) Making loans and grants for capital projects out of the conference revolving loan fund; (3)Taking on other responsibilities as defined by the Conference and the committee.

103. **Revolving Loan Fund:** As of December 31, 2012, our Revolving Loan Fund balance was $808,187. During 2012 we issued four loans for a total of $181,000 and issued six grants for a total of $27,635. We had a total of 68 loans receivable with a total due of $1,773,014 (principal $1,497,006; interest $276,008). We had 21 delinquent loans amounting to $584,168 for which no payment had been received within the last 12 months. This continues to worry the committee and we hope the churches in question will pay or offer some plan for settlement before these loans are "written off." Our interest — now at 6% — allows us to maintain the fund and to provide small capital grants along with the loans. Invested funds under the

stewardship of the commission remain in the custody and management of the Frontier Foundation and include monies for New Church Development when they are available.

104. **New Church Growth & Development Fund:** During the year the committee continued to support the Vision Bearers Project. The fund started the year with $62,961, received $224,091 from the sale of land associated with the former Maspeth Church and ended the year with a balance of $298,689.

105. **Mission Funds:** Looking at requests from each district and reviewing information from the Cabinet and the NY City Society about Equitable Salary and Salary Supplements, the commission tries to fairly distribute the available Parish Development – Missional Priority funds at our November meeting. The Conference budget provided $160,000 for mission grants, and there was about $130,000 available in the Missional Priority Fund – each year churches give to this special apportionment and there is generally a small balance carried over for emergencies. During 2012 Mission Grants and Missional Priority/EMLC Grants totaling $263,275 were made to 31 ministries in all 6 districts for disbursement on a quarterly basis in 2013. Details can be seen in the following spreadsheet.

2013 Parish Development Grants

DISTRICT & CHURCHES	*Parish Dev. Miss Grant*	*Missional Priority*
Connecticut		
New Milford	2,500	
Great Hill-Seymour	2,500	
Wethersfield	3,000	
Bridgeport: Summerfield	4,000	4,000
Total: CONN	**12,000**	**4,000**
Catskill/Hudson		
Clinton Ave Kingston		15,000
Town of Esopus	5,000	
Highland UMC	3,500	
First UMC, Walton	3,000	
Colchester UMC	1,675	
TOTAL: C/H	**13,175**	**15,000**

DISTRICT & CHURCHES	*Parish Dev. Miss Grant*	*Missional Priority*
Metropolitan		
Chinese	5,000	6,000
Metropolitan Community	5,000	6,000
New Day	5,000	4,000
Special Ministry Japanese	4,000	
St. Paul and St. Andrew	5,000	2,000
St. Stephen's	5,000	
Trinity		5,000
Union Japanese	5,000	
Epworth	4,000	4,000
Woodycrest	5,000	4,000
Asbury, Mt Vernon	3,000	3,000
Total: METRO	**46,000**	**34,000**
Long Island East		
Amityville - Simpson	13,500	
Bay Shore	19,000	
Wading River	10,000	
Southold	10,000	
Southampton	5,600	
Total: LIE	**58,100**	
Long Island West		
St Johns Elmont	5000	
Kings Highway	8,000	
John Wesley UMC	10,000	5,000
Far Rockaway Mission	35,000	5,000
Total: LIW	**58,000**	**10,000**
New York/ Connecticut		
Warwick	10,000	
Drew/Carmel	3,000	
Total: NY/CT	**13,000**	
GRAND TOTAL	**200,275**	**63,000**

Conference Personnel Committee

Rev. Sabrina Johnson Chandler, Chair

101. The Personnel Committee, established by the annual conference in 1984, is a human resources ("HR") committee for the annual conference. We are called to provide and sustain a framework that ensures care, justice, parity, consistency and standards. We are charged as stewards of the varied and diverse gifts represented in our midst and so we must determine ways to nurture, encourage and help people to meet their potential; using their gifts, talents and skills in service to the ministry of the annual conference.

102. Amongst its various duties, the Personnel Committee develops personnel policies, recommends salary ranges, evaluates senior executive staff (director of administrative services, director of connectional

ministries currently) and recommends a specific salary level for those individuals to Conference Council on Finance and Administration, reviews benefits packages, and handles staff grievances when necessary.

103. This year, the committee continued working towards our goal of establishing basic HR policy and practice in support of the conference's work. A sub-committee was charged with the task of creating a template for conference employee job descriptions, which has been approved and is now available on the conference web site. In conversation with conference employees and their supervisors, a review and update of current job descriptions for most positions was completed. Our hope and intent is to have them all updated in the current year.

104. A second sub-committee was charged with the task of creating guidelines on position creation and review. In partnership with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, a job requisition form was created and will be made accessible via the conference web site. The newly established process will allow for thoughtful assignment of salary rates, job function, and possible revamping or reassignment of positions as they are vacated or as they change in scope. Our hope is that this will also encourage reflection on how the position will contribute to achieving our conference's "preferred future."

105. Ongoing tasks for the committee include: a) revising the current performance evaluation form and process, and providing training to the supervisory staff on how to use the new form and conduct evaluation dialogues with their employees; b) reviewing existing positions to ensure that they are classified properly as per the Fair Labor Standards Act; c) conducting an annual review of the Personnel Policy Manual to update, revise or add policies that are consistent with the conference's mission, nurture employee productivity and help keep the conference legally compliant; d) assessing/evaluating unique HR policy issues related to the camping and retreat conference employees.

106. We have been blessed to welcome new members that bring a servant's heart and needed expertise in human resources and finance. My thanks to all for their diligence, enthusiasm, and thoughtful consideration as we sought to do this work. It has truly been a joy. The members of the Personnel Committee whose work is reflected here are: Rev. Ed Horne, Rev. Gertude Nation, Parker Prout, Margaret Howe, Rev. Eric Fjeldal (CFA rep), Rev. Betsy Ott (ex-officio), Ross Williams (ex-officio), Rev. Ann Pearson (ex-officio), and Sally Truglia (conference HR and benefits manager).

Conference Rules Committee

Rev. Dr. Gennifer Brooks, Chair

101. This year the committee undertook an overhaul of the rules that govern the business of the annual conference. In addition to paragraph changes required by the restructuring of *The Book of Discipline* and the more substantive changes mandated by decisions of law put in place by the 2012 General Conference, the committee reviewed the contents of the previous rules in comparison to the practices that have been followed by the annual conference. As a result the complete set of rules has been revised and sent to the members of the annual conference, and will be presented at the opening of annual conference for adoption, with or without modifications by the members of the annual conference. Given the extensive nature of the modifications, they will not be included in this report and members are directed to the complete set of conference rules provided in the pre-conference booklet, where specific changes are described.

102. Upon review it was noted that the rules as printed in the 2012 Conference Journal is not in concert with the procedure that was followed with respect to the endorsement of candidates for the episcopacy. The printed copy contained in Rules 94 through 97 states the following:

> ***94.*** *The Annual Conference may endorse one or more persons for Episcopal candidacy. Members may submit the names of persons to be considered using Conference Petition forms that shall be made available on the annual conference web site. Members are encouraged to submit their petitions prior to annual conference. Petition forms shall also be available in printed form from the Conference Secretary at the site of the annual conference. Each petition must be signed by ten (10) lay and ten*

(10) clergy members of the annual conference in order to be considered valid. Only elders in full connection are qualified to be elected to the episcopacy. Candidates do not have to be members of New York Annual Conference.

95. *At the beginning of the process, one of the annual conference members of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy shall present to the annual conference the number of episcopal vacancies to be filled by the Jurisdictional Conference. The decision to endorse candidates for the episcopacy must be ordered by a two-third vote of those members present and voting.*

96. *Once a decision is made to proceed with endorsement, the presiding officer shall open the floor for motions regarding the number of candidates that may be endorsed. The decision regarding the actual number that will be endorsed shall be made by vote of the conference and shall be ordered by a majority of vote of those members present and voting (i.e. 50% + 1). The presiding officer shall specify the latest time by which petitions must be received by the conference secretary in order to be considered for endorsement by the annual conference and the time for completing the process for endorsement of candidates.*

97. *The Conference Secretary shall prepare a written ballot with the names of all candidates for whom valid petitions have been received. A ballot shall be considered invalid if it contains more names than places to be filled on that ballot. A majority of the valid ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required for endorsement. Only the names of persons who have been elected shall be removed from subsequent ballots. The rules for the balloting process shall in accordance with those followed for Election of General and Jurisdictional Delegates (Rules 87 and 89 – 93).*

103. The correct version of the rules that governed the procedure that was followed for the selection and endorsement of Episcopal candidates in 2012 is as follows:

94. The Annual Conference may endorse one or more persons for Episcopal candidacy. Petition forms shall be made available on the annual conference web site and members are encouraged to submit their petitions prior to annual conference. Petition forms shall also be available in printed form from the Conference Secretary at the site of the annual conference. Each petition must be signed by ten (10) lay and ten (10) clergy members of the annual conference in order to be considered valid. Only elders in full connection are qualified to be elected to the episcopacy. Candidates do not have to be members of New York Annual Conference. The presiding officer shall specify the time by which petitions must be received by the conference secretary in order to be considered for endorsement by the annual conference.

95. At the beginning of the process, one of the annual conference members of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy shall present to the annual conference the number of Episcopal vacancies to be filled by the Jurisdictional Conference. The decision to endorse candidates for the episcopacy must be ordered by a two-third vote of those members present and voting.

96. Once a decision is made to proceed with endorsement, the presiding officer shall open the floor for motions regarding the number of candidates that may be endorsed. The decision regarding the actual number that will be endorsed shall be made by vote of the conference and shall be ordered by a majority of vote of those members present and voting (i.e. 50% + 1). The time for completing the process for endorsement of candidates shall be determined by the presiding officer.

97. The Conference Secretary shall prepare a written ballot with the names of all candidates for whom valid petitions have been received. A ballot shall be considered invalid if it contains more names than places to be filled on that ballot. A majority of the valid ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required for endorsement. Only the names of persons who have been elected shall be removed from subsequent ballots. The rules for the balloting process shall in accordance with those followed for Election of General and Jurisdictional Delegates (Rules 87 and 89 – 93).

104. The committee communicated by e-mail and met several times by conference call. In addition a small number of rules that directly impact the cabinet were forwarded to them for their discussion and decision. There were no requests for changes to the rules received by the chair. The members of the committee

who participated in the discussions regarding rule changes are: Gennifer Brooks, Veronica Darby, Vicky Fleming, Darlene Kelly, Beverley Peck Risi, Timothy Riss, Flora Vernon, Conference Secretary Fred Jackson, and Cabinet representative Adrienne Brewington.

105. Requests for changes to the Conference Rules of Order should be directed to Gennifer Brooks by email at Gennifer.brooks@Garrett.edu or by mail to 325 Beau Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

Rules Committee Recommended Changes to the Conference Rules of Order and Ruling of Law

Conference Rules ~~Of Order And Ruling Of Law~~

A. Conference Officers

1. **President -** The presiding bishop shall be the legal chairperson of the annual conference.

2. **Duties -** ~~S/he~~ The president shall decide all points of order raised by the members, as s/he deems necessary to conform to the Rules of Order, subject, in both cases, to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate; except that the chair and the appellant, in the order named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the chair. ~~When a member raises a point of order, s/he shall cite, by number, the rule s/he adjudges to be violated.~~

3. **Conference Secretary -** A secretary shall be elected at the first session ~~of each quadrennium~~ *after General Conference.* S/he shall be nominated by the Conference Cabinet. ~~S/he shall name his/her assistants at the opening of the Business Session.~~ *If the position is vacated during the term of office, the bishop, in consultation with the Cabinet, shall appoint an interim secretary until the next conference session (BD 2012 ¶603.7).*

4. **Duties -** The secretary shall *name his/her assistants at the opening of the conference as part of the Organizational Resolutions* ~~Business Session~~. *S/he shall* ~~keep a written~~ *verify the* record of the daily proceedings of the conference *created by the assistant secretaries,* which shall be approved by ~~a~~ *the* Committee on Examination of the Conference Journal. ~~and~~ When so approved and signed by the president and the secretary, *this record* shall become the official *minutes* of the conference*, and shall be included in the official Journal*. ~~**5.**~~ The secretary ~~**of the Conference**~~ ~~is authorized to~~ *shall* edit material to be included in the Journal as may be necessary to meet specifications for publication with special concern for brevity~~. There shall be no~~ *but without* substantive change. The district superintendents shall have responsibility with the secretary of the conference whenever this editorial license is exercised.

5. **Conference Treasurer */ Director of Administrative Services* -** The annual conference, on the nomination of the Council on Finance and Administration, shall at the first session of the conference after the General Conference elect a conference treasurer /d*irector of administrative services.* (*BD 2012 ¶619).* S/he shall serve *as business administrator of the conference* for the quadrennium or until his/her successor shall be elected. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the ~~commission~~ *council* shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference. An assistant treasurer may be elected with the power to serve in the event of the incapacity or inability of the treasurer to fulfill his/her duties.

6. ***Duties*** **-** The conference treasurer shall be the *business administrator of the conference and the* treasurer of the Council on Finance and Administration and have other duties as specified in the *Book of Discipline* or assigned by the council (*BD 2012 ¶619.*3). As an employee of the ~~council~~ *conference* s/he shall not be a member of *the council*, but may sit with the council and its executive committee at all sessions and have the privilege of the floor but without vote.

7. **Conference Statistician -** Upon nomination by the conference Cabinet, a statistician shall be elected at the first session ~~of each quadrennium~~ *after General Conference* to serve for the succeeding quadrennium ~~at period~~. (*BD 2012 ¶603.7).* ~~to serve for that period.~~ *The conference treasurer may be named to fill the role of conference statistician, but shall be elected for that position separately by the conference.*

8. ***Duties –*** *The conference statistician shall keep an accurate record of the statistics of the conference as required by the General Council on Finance and Administration* (*BD 2012 ¶606.8).* S/he *shall report annually to the conference by means of the Conference Journal.* S/he shall name her/ his assistants at the time of making her/ his annual report.

9. ***Conference Chancellor*** *– Upon nomination of the bishop, the conference chancellor shall be elected by the Conference each quadrennium* at the first session *after General Conference. The chancellor must be a member in good standing of a local church in the New York Conference and be licensed to practice law in the conference area.* (*BD 2012 ¶603.8).*

10. ***Duties*** *– The chancellor shall serve as legal adviser to the bishop and the conference.*

11. ***Conference Lay Leader*** *– The conference lay leader shall be elected by the lay and clergy members of the conference. S/he shall be a professing member of a local church in the annual conference.* (*BD 2012 ¶603.9).*

12. ***Duties*** *– The conference lay leader shall participate in annual conference sessions as a partner in ministry with the bishop.*

B. Organization of the Conference

13. *Following the opening of the conference by the bishop, the conference secretary shall present the Organizational Resolutions for adoption by the conference. These resolutions shall include the sections where members shall be seated for participation in the business of the Conference, designated the "Bar of the Conference," and the names of those persons who shall act as assistant secretaries during conference sessions.*

14. ~~The organization of the Conference shall not be complete until designation has been made of the section where members shall be seated for participation. This shall be referred to as the "bar of the Conference."~~ Only those persons who are members of the conference and who are seated within the bar of the conference, except as otherwise provided, may vote, be recognized by the president of the conference and participate in the conference proceedings. Others may be invited by the conference to have the privilege of the floor without vote.

15. There shall be a roll call of lay and clergy members at the opening of the conference session. The method of calling the roll shall be determined by the president and shall be the responsibility of the conference secretary. Other roll calls of members may be taken by having each member record attendance as prescribed by the *conference* secretary.

16. The *members of the conference may be divided into groups called "legislative sections,"* with such membership, powers and responsibilities as the conference shall determine, *for the purpose of dealing with the business of the conference.* ~~into specified legislative groups~~ The parliamentary procedures of such groups shall be guided by the Conference Rules of Order and the Rules for Legislative Sections.

17. The Commission on Conference Sessions shall consist of at least twenty members, ~~under the direction of the Dean of the Cabinet,~~ *including the director of connectional ministries, ~~and~~ the conference lay leader, the conference secretary, the conference coordinator of legislative sections, the host pastor and a member of the Cabinet. The commission shall be responsible for the organization and schedule of conference activities.* The members of the commission shall be elected by the conference upon presentation by the Conference Committee on Nominations *after an opportunity has been given to nominate members from the floor. The commission shall elect a chairperson for the coming year at its first meeting following the annual conference. The chair shall be allowed to serve in that position for up to four years, but shall be elected annually.* The commission's responsibility shall include program, administration, fellowship and publicity. If necessary, ad interim additions to the committee shall be made by the Committee on Nominations in consultation with the dean of the Cabinet, the conference director of Connectional Ministers, and the conference lay leader.

C. ~~Conference~~ Rules of Order

18. The rules of order shall be those *elected by the conference at its opening session and shall be those* of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as far as they may be applicable. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of business in all cases where these rules or those of the General Conference do not apply.

19. There shall be a Committee on Rules consisting of eight members, four of whom are to be clergy members and four lay members of the conference. The following shall be ex-officio members: The conference secretary, a Cabinet representative, and any present or former members of the Judicial Council who are members of or who reside within the bounds of the conference. To this committee shall be referred all proposed changes or additions to the rules of order. Such proposed changes or additions to the Rules of Order shall be presented to the committee, through its chairperson, by either electronic means or regular mail, no later than February 1 of each year. The committee shall report its recommendations upon all proposed changes to the conference for decision.

20. The Committee shall restudy periodically the Conference Rules of Order in light of changing General Conference and annual conference actions and procedures and shall recommend to the annual conference for its consideration and action such changes and adaptations as in its judgment are necessary.

D. Rules of Order for Legislative Sections

21. *Parliamentary procedures in the section shall be guided by the Conference Rules of Order (see Rule #18).* The leaders of the section will evaluate and prioritize the items before the section and present an agenda to be adopted by the seated members of the ~~respective~~ section~~s~~. Top priority items will be those with budget implications and those which appear to be most controversial.

22. ~~Parliamentary procedures in the section "shall be guided by the Conference Rules of Order."~~ The section may vote to amend reports which are before it. Amendments shall be written out and submitted to the chair. The section may also vote to refer the matter to some particular person or group for further consideration, rather than recommending that the conference itself take action. Amendments shall pass with a simple majority vote. *Amendments are not placed on the Consent Calendar for consideration separately from the motions they perfect.* Votes on referrals shall be counted and if such a vote achieves concurrence of 90% or higher, the referral shall be placed on the Consent Calendar for adoption by the conference.

23. When items have been fully read, discussed, and prepared for action by the conference, the chair shall call for the final vote. This vote must be counted. Section members may *vote concurrence (if they agree) or non-concurrence (if they disagree). If a member votes neither way, they will be counted and reported as having abstained.*

24. *Except for the conference budget,* if the final vote on any item in the section is 90% or better for or against concurrence, then that report will not be presented to the conference plenary session for

debate. ~~This does not apply to the Conference Budget. (See Section F Rule #36)~~ Abstentions are not counted in determining the percentage of concurrence or non-concurrence. Reports that achieve 90% or better for or against concurrence shall be listed on the Consent Calendar, and presented to the conference for adoption as a group. Before the vote on the Consent Calendar is taken, the bishop shall entertain motions to remove items for debate or amendment. Any member making such a motion, after a second, will be given two minutes to present the rationale for removing the item. The chairperson or representative of the Legislative Section will then be given two minutes to explain the action of the section, after which the vote to remove the item will be taken. A simple majority vote of the conference is needed for removal and presentation to the body for debate and action at the end of the agenda for section reports.

25. Members of the section may prepare a minority report ~~if~~ *that must be signed by* fifteen (15) members ~~are willing to sign the minority report~~ *of the section*. Minority reports must not be simply the reverse of the majority report, but must offer a substantial revision of the majority report. A minority report which simply wishes to defeat the *original* report may express itself in plenary debate, and vote "NO" on the report. The person organizing a minority report must inform the Legislative Section Leaders by the end of the Section meeting. A minority report shall be submitted in writing to the Section Leadership and will be printed in the Legislative Section report pages *for action by the conference*.

26. Only those ~~persons~~ *members* assigned to the section may speak or vote in the section. By common consent or by vote, the section may grant the courtesy of the floor to ~~another~~ *an unassigned member or other* person, for the purpose of bringing additional information or expertise to the attention of the section. Section assignments will not be changed in order to permit persons to vote in more than one section. Visitors shall be seated in sections after and separate from voting members as space allows. Visitors shall not interfere with the work of the section.

E. Reports, Resolutions, Petitions and Motions

27. All reports*, resolutions and petitions* to be considered by the annual conference shall be in the hands of the conference secretary six weeks before the beginning date of the annual conference in order to be included in the Conference Program Booklet. ~~Resolutions and petitions should also be submitted to the Conference Secretary six weeks before the beginning date of the Annual Conference deadline. Resolutions and petitions~~ *All items* that miss the "six weeks prior" deadline shall be submitted to the conference secretary at least five business days before annual conference to be given an appropriate number *and in a format that allows it to be made available to the conference membership on the conference web site*. Sponsors of such documents shall make the number of copies specified by the conference secretary, and deliver them to the document table in the registration area prior to the opening of registration, so that they can be available to conference members before the opening of annual conference registration. *Reports, resolutions and petitions failing to adhere to the five-day deadline shall not be considered by the annual conference.* ~~In the case wherein a petition or resolution addresses an issue which has arisen after the "six weeks prior" deadline, then as to such emerging issues the deadline for submission shall be extended until five business days before the opening session of the Annual Conference, and the Conference shall be responsible for printing the resolution/petition. It would be helpful, however, if the makers of the petition or resolution could reproduce the document (1,100 copies) after receiving from the Conference Secretary a petition number, which should be set forth at the top of the petition prior to reproduction.~~

28. All resolutions *or petitions* for conference consideration shall be signed by at least five members of the conference, with the exception of petitions from local churches, which shall have been adopted by majority vote of the respective church's ~~Administrative Board,~~ *Church Council (or equivalent structure)* or Charge Conference. Such petitions shall be submitted to the conference secretary six weeks before the beginning date of the annual conference in order to be included in the Program Booklet.

29. Petitions to the General Conference desiring approval from the annual conference shall be in the hands of the conference secretary at least eight weeks before the convening of the annual conference.

30. All materials other than conference documents must be pre-approved by the conference secretary and shall be displayed or distributed only in areas designated by the Commission on Conference Sessions. All material to be distributed shall identify the source from which it comes.

31. Reports and resolutions printed in advance and distributed to the members shall not be read in full to the conference. Reports, resolutions, and amendments if enacted are not to be considered fully approved until the member offering the same shall have furnished a written text of the ~~report~~ *item* to the secretary. If acted upon unfavorably such actions shall not be printed in the Journal, but their substance shall be noted in the minutes.

32. Any approved petition which instructs the conference secretary and/or any other agent of the conference, regarding its communication to outside agents, shall be accompanied by all information adequate and necessary to implement said instruction. This information must include appropriate title(s), name, address, with zip code or country code, *email address as available* and telephone number *and persons to help mail copies to those designated by conference actions.*

33. Any material for the Journal not in the hands of the conference secretary within ten days after the adjournment of the conference shall be held over for the Journal of the ensuing year at the discretion of the conference secretary.

34. ~~Unless previously arranged and announced by the Commission on Conference Sessions or by majority of the Conference, reports are to be completed within the time allotted by the Commission on Conference Sessions as specified by the printed program. Otherwise action is to be postponed until the end of the daily agenda.~~ *[All paragraphs below will be renumbered]*

35. A motion made and seconded, or a report or resolution duly offered and seconded, shall be deemed to be in the possession of the conference. Any motion, resolution or report may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the conference, at any time before amendment or decision. As soon as a motion is accepted by the conference body, it must be written legibly and submitted to the conference secretary.

36. Persons representing other interests, not included as part of the regular conference program, or presented as a part of a regular report, shall be heard only upon recognition by the president of the conference and approval by majority consent of annual conference.

37. When a report, resolution or motion is presented to the conference, a motion to lay on the table shall not be in order until the member who presented it shall have had three minutes to explain the same.

F. The Conference Budget

38. The proposed budget of the New York Annual Conference as prepared by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall be included in the pre-conference materials posted on the conference web site.

39. The budget shall be presented to and reviewed with the entire conference in a plenary session prior to its discussion in legislative section.

40. Designated members of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall be present in the legislative section where the budget is discussed, to provide additional information as needed. These persons shall not take the place of the section leadership.

41. Any changes approved by the legislative section in which the budget is reviewed shall be included by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration in the final budget figures to be presented to the members of the annual conference.

42. ~~If the budget achieves concurrence in the legislative section, it shall be included on the Consent Calendar, but presented with appropriate detail as a separate item for approval by the conference.~~ *[All paragraphs below will be renumbered]*

G. Membership

43. All clergy, both active and retired, shall be members of the New York Conference. This includes elders and deacons in full connection, provisional, associate and affiliate members, and local pastors under full- or part-time appointment to a pastoral charge. (*BD 2012* ¶602)

44. *Active d*eaconesses, *and active* home missioners *under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the conference*, and diaconal ministers, both active and retired*,* shall be lay members of the annual conference.

45. Lay members of the annual conference shall be elected at the Charge Conference annually. A lay member may be elected to succeed him/herself.

46. Lay members shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active in The United Methodist Church for at least four years prior to their election. (*BD 2012* ¶602.4). This rule may be waived for young persons under twenty-five (25) years of age, however such persons must be active members at the time of election.

47. A charge having less than 200 members shall elect one lay member of the annual conference. A charge having 200 to 599 members shall elect two lay members. A charge having 600 to 999 members shall elect three lay members and a charge having 1,000-1,399 members shall elect four lay members. An additional lay member shall be elected for each additional 400 members above 1,400. A church's entitlement shall be based upon the membership figure reported to the preceding session of the annual conference. Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment. (*BD 2012* ¶602.4).

48. In accordance with Paragraph *32* of the *2012 Book of Discipline*, the following persons shall be members of the conference: the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, *the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay),* the president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries*, the president (or equivalent officer) of the conference young adult organization,* and the *chair* of the conference college student organization, the district lay leaders, *one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and eighteen (18), and one young person between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age from each district.* ~~Up to two district lay leaders from each district shall automatically be members of conference. Where there are more than two district lay leaders, the other persons may be included in the at-large category of members from the district.~~

49. *By virtue of their positions within the New York Conference, the following persons, if lay and if they have not been elected by a local charge or district, shall be members of conference: the conference secretary, the director of connectional ministries, conference treasurer /*d*irector of administrative services, and the ~~chairs~~ leaders of the program and administrative subcommittees ~~divisions~~ of the ~~Committee~~ Commission on Conference Sessions~~, the On-site Coordinator, the Housing Coordinator, the Registrar~~.*

50. To complete the number needed to equalize lay membership with clergy membership, each district conference shall elect members-at-large in equal numbers from their respective districts. The number each district may elect shall be determined by the ~~Rules committee~~ *conference secretary* before September 1 of each year, based upon the statistics reported at the end of the previous reporting year. The conference secretary shall report to the district superintendents the necessary number to be elected. If the number to be thus elected is not evenly divisible by 6, the next higher multiple of 6 shall be used. The number thus reported will be effective for the next elections. *The at-large members shall be elected by the district conference, and they shall include any lay campus ministers, lay directors of Wesley foundations. If there are chaplains, campus ministers or directors of Wesley*

foundations who are clergy in any district, the district at-large members shall include balancing counterparts from either the campus ministry board of directors or a student from that ministry or foundation (BD 2012 ¶602.1e).

51. If not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference, the conference chancellor shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote.

H. Duties and Rights of Members

52. No person may participate in conference proceedings, unless s/he is a member of the conference, except by majority consent of the members of annual conference.

53. Reserve lay ,embers shall be given the privilege of the floor only if and when the reserve lay member has been duly seated as the official lay member for that session and the secretary has been notified of the fact and has given the proper certification.

54. All matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy shall be considered by the clergy members of the conference in full connection, and the elected lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

55. Provisional clergy members and local pastors may not vote on constitutional amendments, matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

56. In debate, upon recognition by the presiding officer, each member shall identify him/herself to the conference by name and shall speak for no more than three minutes unless authorized by a majority vote of the conference. No member shall speak more than once until every member desiring to speak shall have spoken, and a member shall not speak more than twice on the same issue.

57. A committee making a report shall in all cases be entitled to three minutes to open the debate, to oppose a motion, to lay the report on the table and to close the debate on a motion to adopt.

58. When a motion is under consideration on the floor of the conference, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain, when s/he recognizes a member of the conference on which side the member proposes to speak. The presiding officer shall not assign the floor to any member proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding, if any other member desires to speak on the other side. Each member shall speak for no more than three (3) minutes unless authorized by vote of the conference. If sustained by a two-thirds vote, the conference may designate the number of persons that may speak on each side of each motion.

59. It shall be in order to "move the question" for any measure pending before the conference, except in cases where character or conference relations are involved. If sustained by a two-thirds vote, the question shall be moved. It shall be in order under this rule to move to recommit, to divide, or to lay on the table after the previous question has been ordered.

I. Nomination and Election to Conference Agencies

60. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall consist of the district superintendents, the conference secretary, the director of connectional ministries, one youth and one young adult under the age of twenty-five (25) from each district, nominated by the district superintendent in consultation with the district youth and young adult organizations, and *twenty-four (24)* members elected for terms of four years in two equal classes. Each class shall be composed of one clergyperson and one layperson from each district, elected by each district conference in even numbered years. In addition, there shall be two clergy or lay persons representing minority groups as at-large members in each class, nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations. No elected member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible to succeed him/herself. When a vacancy occurs on the Conference Committee on Nominations, the district superintendent of the district in which the vacancy occurs, shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election.

61. All institutions requiring election or confirmation of their trustees, directors, or other officers by the annual conference, must submit the names of such persons to the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Nominations in time for inclusion in its report. Such nominations shall be included in the pre-conference materials posted on the conference web site.

62. ~~In so far as practicable, members of the Conference shall be nominated by~~ The Committee on Nominations *shall present to the conference for election the names of members to serve on conference agencies, except if the Discipline provides otherwise.* ~~to at least one committee, commission or board.~~ No one, with the exception of those who are members of ~~committees~~ agencies by virtue of their office, shall be nominated for more than three committees or commissions, or to more than one board and two committees or commissions. Staff persons of the conference ~~Council on Ministries~~ and district superintendents shall be assigned as members of *agencies* ~~boards or agencies~~ by their respective bodies.

63. The Committee on Nominations shall not nominate any person to serve more than two consecutive terms on any quadrennial or triennial board, commission, or committee; nor to serve more than six consecutive years on any board, commission, or committee elected biennially. After a lapse of one year a person shall again be eligible for re-nomination to the same board, commission or committee. Any person serving fifty percent or more of a term shall be considered as having served a full term. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as precluding nominations from the floor.

64. The chair of each board, commission and committee shall report annually to the chair of the Conference Committee on Nominations the names of those who have not attended meetings during the preceding year. Those who absent themselves from such meetings without valid reason will not be eligible for re-nomination, including nominations from the floor. In the case of quadrennial and triennial agencies, such absences may be considered to constitute vacancies to be filled by Disciplinary or conference procedures at the discretion of the agency involved and the Committee on Nominations.

65. All boards, committees, and commissions shall elect their officers as part of their organizational process, at the first meeting of the body following the election of new members by the annual conference. This may be done at the site of annual conference, but should be done within thirty days after the conclusion of annual conference.

66. At least one year of active membership on a committee shall be prerequisite for a member to be elected as chair of that committee. The terms of presidents or chairpersons of those committees nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations shall not be more than five consecutive years.

67. The conference may elect members-at-large to any committee or board up to 10% of the established membership thereof, upon request of the committee or recommendation of the Conference Committee on Nominations. District representatives disqualified by transfer from their district may be continued as at-large members until the end of their term.

68. The Committee on Nominations shall fill all vacancies in committees, boards and commissions under its responsibility, including those whose membership is elected for the quadrennium. Vacancies shall be deemed to exist when caused by death, removal from the conference or, in the case of district representatives, transfer from the district.

69. All nominations, unless otherwise provided by the *Discipline*, shall be made by the Committee on Nominations. In the case of corporate bodies, primary consideration shall be given to the recommendations of said bodies by the Committee on Nominations. Nothing herein shall be construed as precluding nominations from the floor.

70. The conference may create such special committees as desired but no special committee shall be appointed to do the work of a regular standing committee.

J. Nomination and Election of Conference Lay Leader

71. Nominations for conference lay leader shall be made from the conference floor by any member of the annual conference. Only lay persons may be nominated.

72. All lay and clergy members shall be entitled to vote for the conference lay leader within the bar of the conference only.

73. A majority of the ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required to elect. A tie vote between the top two persons shall be disregarded and another ballot cast.

74. Balloting may be written or electronic as determined by the conference secretary.

75. The conference lay leader ~~shall be elected quadrennially and~~ shall serve no more than two quadrennial terms.

K. Elections of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

76. Clergy and lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected at the session of the annual conference ~~in the calendar year proceeding the sessions~~ *held not more than two annual conference sessions before the calendar year preceding the session* of the General Conference (*BD 2012* ¶¶ 34 & 502.3).

77. Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be the delegates to special sessions of respective conferences.

78. The number of clergy and lay delegates from the New York Conference to the General Conference shall be determined by the provisions of *BD 2012* ¶502.*2*.

79. The number of clergy and lay delegates from the New York Conference to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be determined by the provisions of *BD 2012* ¶514 provided that the duly elected clergy and lay delegates to General Conference shall be delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, and additional clergy and lay delegates shall be elected to complete the total number to which the New York Conference is entitled.

80. The additional Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in order of their election shall be reserve delegates to the General Conference.

81. Clergy and lay reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference shall be elected in accordance with the direction provided by the secretary of General Conference to the conference secretary.

82. Electronic balloting will be used for the election of clergy and lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

83. Clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference shall be elected first by separate ballot, to be followed, after all the delegates to the General Conference have been elected, by balloting for the delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

84. After all Jurisdictional Conference delegates have been elected, an additional ballot shall be cast, and the clergy and lay persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as the reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with the number provided by the conference secretary.

85. Clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by the clergy members in full connection with the annual conference.

86. All clergy in full connection shall be eligible for election on any ballot.

87. The following voting process will be used for electing clergy delegates:

a) For electronic voting, a number will be assigned to each eligible clergy member of the New York Annual Conference who is a prospective delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. A list of prospective delegates with their assigned number will be provided to all voting clergy members with the first ballot.

b) At the time of registration for annual conference, any eligible clergy members of the New York Annual Conference may withdraw their names from consideration as prospective delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. This does not preclude them from then requesting reinstatement of their names at a later time.

c) The balloting process shall begin during the Executive Session (clergy session) using the previously assigned number.

d) After the first ballot, only members receiving five or more votes shall be listed on subsequent ballots.

e) Nothing herein shall preclude the right of clergy members to write in the names of eligible clergy members throughout the entire election process. If these members receive more than 5 votes, their names shall be added to subsequent ballots.

88. Lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by the lay members of annual conference without regard to age.

89. To be eligible for election, prospective delegates shall have been a member of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years prior to their election. In addition, lay members must be members of a church within the annual conference electing them at the time that the General and Jurisdictional Conferences to which they have been elected delegate are held. (*BD 2012* ¶36 Article V)

90. The following voting process will be used for electing lay delegates:

a) An eligible lay person shall declare her/his candidacy to be a delegate by submitting a nomination statement upon which s/he has affixed her/his signature. The nomination statement is to be on one side of an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper, and submitted to the conference secretary by April 1 of the year elections are to be held. Each nomination statement shall be accompanied by a biographical sketch not to exceed one side of an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper. A photograph may be included. In addition, each nomination of a person not a lay member of annual conference shall be accompanied by a certification from the nominee's administrative board chairperson or church council chairperson, verifying that the nominee meets the membership and activity requirements set out in ~~Paragraph 83 of the Conference~~ Rule 89. The annual conference shall copy the biographical sketches and collate them into packets. The conference secretary shall ensure that there is a packet available at the laity session preceding the annual conference for each lay member of conference.

b) The names of the lay persons placed in nomination according to the above procedure shall be read aloud in the laity session. At the option of the nominee, s/he may take the stage as her/his name is read. When the nominations are read, the reading shall be limited to the name of the nominee and the name of the church and district from which the nominee comes. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the laity session at annual conference. Those who are nominated may provide copies of their biographies.

91. For electronic voting, numbers will be assigned to all lay nominees. A list of all nominees and their assigned numbers will be provided to all lay members with the first ballot. Nothing herein shall preclude the right of lay members to write in the names of eligible lay members throughout the entire election process. If these members receive more than five votes, their names shall be added to subsequent ballots.

92. Lay members shall be entitled to vote for lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. If a lay member is absent, the properly seated alternate lay member shall be entitled to vote.

93. Clergy and lay members shall be entitled to vote ONLY within the bar of the conference.

94. A ballot shall be considered invalid if it contains more or less names than places to be filled on that ballot. To be considered valid, a ballot shall contain markings for only the number of delegates to be elected.

95. A majority of the valid ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required to elect. A tie vote between two persons when but one place remains to be filled shall be disregarded and another ballot cast.

96. If a ballot contains the number of a person already elected, that number shall be disregarded. Other valid numbers on the ballot will be accepted.

97. The conference secretary shall administer the election process and shall appoint such tellers as are deemed necessary to expedite the election procedure.

98. Before each ballot the president shall announce the number of candidates that the ballot may elect.

99. The report of the results of all ballots shall be made only to and announced by the president.

L. Endorsement of Episcopal Candidates

100. The annual conference may endorse one or more persons for Episcopal candidacy. *Members may submit the names of persons to be considered using Conference* Petition forms *that* shall be made available on the annual conference web site. ~~and~~ Members are encouraged to submit their petitions prior to annual conference. Petition forms shall also be available in printed form from the conference secretary at the site of the annual conference. Each petition must be signed by ten (10) lay and ten (10) clergy members of the annual conference in order to be considered valid. Only elders in full connection are qualified to be elected to the episcopacy. Candidates do not have to be members of New York Annual Conference.

101. At the beginning of the process, one of the annual conference members of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy shall present to the annual conference the number of episcopal vacancies to be filled by the Jurisdictional Conference. The decision to endorse candidates for the episcopacy must be ordered by a two-third vote of those members present and voting.

102. Once a decision is made to proceed with endorsement, the presiding officer shall open the floor for motions regarding the number of candidates that may be endorsed. The decision regarding the actual number that will be endorsed shall be made by vote of the conference and shall be ordered by a majority of vote of those members present and voting (i.e. 50% + 1). The presiding officer shall specify the *latest* time by which petitions must be received by the conference secretary in order to be considered for endorsement by the annual conference *and t*he time for completing the process for endorsement of candidates. ~~shall be determined by the presiding officer.~~

103. The conference secretary shall prepare a written ballot with the names of all candidates for whom valid petitions have been received. A ballot shall be considered invalid if it contains more names than places to be filled on that ballot. A majority of the valid ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required for endorsement. Only the names of persons who have been elected shall be removed from subsequent ballots. The rules for the balloting process shall in accordance with those followed for Election of General and Jurisdictional Delegates (Rules 87 and 89 – 93).

M. Finances

104. No officer, Board, Commission, Committee or Agency created by the conference shall involve itself or the conference in any debt or financial obligation, unless authorized to do so by the conference.

105. All propositions before the conference involving budget appropriations shall be referred to the Council on Finance and Administration. Those that involve program considerations shall be referred to the *Connectional Ministries Vision Table. It is not in order for a legislative section or the conference plenary to vote on such a proposition before hearing a response from the Council or the Table, respectively.*

106. The Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to defer action until the following year on those requests reaching the Council after its duly announced hearing date.

N. Statistics

107. The conference year statistics shall be for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

Conference Secretary's Office

Rev. Fredric O. Jackson, Conference Secretary

101. A highlight of the year was participating in the GCFA *Quadrennial Training 2013*. I was able to attend the event in Albuquerque, NM, while several conference staff persons joined an earlier session in Jacksonville, FL. In addition to inspiring worship and helpful presentations, a particular blessing was to meet and become acquainted with some of the 35 conference secretaries present. I am encouraged by the occasional support of former New York Conference secretaries and the online Yahoo group of my secretarial colleagues across the connection.

102. One management principle I subscribe to is: "surround yourself with competent staff and employ persons smarter than you." While this principle is appropriate in the local church, it doesn't apply at the conference center. The staff I serve with is a given, I didn't choose them; they were selected by "upper management." Ross Williams, director of administrative services, along with the personnel committee, continues to employ competent personnel upon whom I depend for my effectiveness. My immediate network includes: Barbara Eastman, manager of information and technology; Sally Truglia, benefits administrator and Beth Patkus, archivist. They are professionals who employ humor while serving the church of Christ.

103. Communication with families of deceased clergy is supported by Jean Strong, receptionist, and my link to the episcopal office is Cheryl Fortune, administrative assistant to Bishop McLee. Beyond the walls of the conference center, I give a "shout out" to Tim Riss, as my "go-to-person" for a variety of complex issues related to *The Book of Discipline.* With the realization that I have some influence regarding the executive session of the conference, I asked Mark Davies, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry to create a plan to hold the appropriate officers of BOOM accountable for specific questions in the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC), including those that are the responsibility of the cabinet, and the conference secretary. The goal is to present to the clergy and appropriate laypersons present at the session, eventually the entire conference, a report that is complete and accurate. Thank you for your leadership, Mark!

104. Lest anyone believes the conference secretary's role is limited to taking minutes at the sessions of the annual conference, let me instruct them: that is false. This is a year-round job that is best summarized as: Responsibilities in preparation for the annual conference, during the event and reporting the actions of the annual conference, primarily through the *Annual Conference Journal.* Acknowledging my responsibility for the minutes, I am pleased to announce this year's team of assistant secretaries: Elizabeth Mortlock, Kent Jackson, Sung Moy and Michael Zukowski. Inclusiveness, a goal we strive for in our conference, is affirmed in a unique way this year through the presence of two men serving as secretaries.

105. Last year, "Legislative Section 6: Administration" gave unanimous approval to a recommendation in this report that the 2012 Directory be provided on a reproducible CD, with "search" features. As with all changes, this major one from print to electronic publication was not greeted with unanimous approval. However, the overwhelming response expressed approval for finally moving into the electronic age, convenience of computer installation, major cost reduction and eco-friendliness. Speaking of cost savings, just printing and shipping the Directory in 2011 cost our local churches $12,563 in apportionments. Our

first CD edition in 2012, incurred an expenditure of $1,182. Postal costs were virtually eliminated by placing the CD inside the Journal prior to shipping. A recommendation regarding the *2013 Journal* follows,

106. RECOMMENDATION: The *2013 Journal & Yearbook* of the New York Annual Conference be available only on a compact disc and the conference web site, thereby providing a major cost reduction in this annual publication. The conference budget will realize a saving in printing of approximately, $12,000 (a few copies will need to be printed for the General Boards and Agencies as required by the *Discipline*), and additional cost savings by mailing the much lighter CD.

Strategic Economic Analysis Task Force

Timothy J. Riss, Chair

101. The annual conference established this task force in 2010, giving authority to the resident bishop to appoint its members and chair. Our original members included John Cole, Oscar Destruge Sandoval, Albert Hahn, Wendell Harris, Sabrina Johnson Chandler, David Mantz, Jim Moore, Joyce Palevitz, Ann Pearson, Tim Riss, Bill Shillady, Renata Smith, Ross Williams, and Dennis Winkleblack. In 2011, Bishop Park added Jeanette Bassinger-Ishii, Richard Hayes, Wongee Joh, Vicki Flippin, Kristina Hansen, Bill Pfohl, and Ximena Varas to the task force, while Dennis retired. John Cole was our chairperson. The task force is deeply grateful for all he did to make us what we are. He was especially filled with energy, spirit, and grace in the last few months before the 2012 Session of Annual Conference, when he led us through a long sprint of weekly meetings, culminating with a statement we presented to the annual conference. The 2012 Annual Conference adopted the statement of our preferred future with some clarifying language, which we believe marks the beginning of a new epoch for us. We are sorry John retired, and we hope the conference will continue to remember the strong role he played in bringing us to this new era.

102. This is the statement adopted by the annual conference:

Within 5 years the NYAC is flourishing: We are increasing discipleship, ensuring financial stability, and demonstrating Christian leadership across our mission field—while empowering and expecting our congregations to do the same.

- *Twice as many people are received by profession or reaffirmation of faith as have been lost through death or have moved away.*
- *In a region marked by the diversity of every kind, it is our goal that our churches and their leadership reflect the fullness of that diversity.*
- *Income is 10% more than expenses in our operating budgets so that an adequate reserve is maintained for emergencies and unforeseen expenses.*
- *Cabinet and BOM recruit five new clergy candidates every year (from within or without NYAC) who hold promise for excellence in multicultural and transformational ministries.*
- *5% of local church laity on average are lay servants, certified lay ministers or similarly trained or utilized in the church's ministry.*
- *NYAC requires all expenditures to be investments in increasing discipleship, achieving financial stability or forming and strengthening Christian leadership.*

103. Bishop McLee understands that some members of the task force were appointed to represent specific agencies. He determined that Tim Riss would take the role of chairperson, while Gillian Prince would represent the Council on Finance and Administration; that Kevin Mulqueen would represent the Board of Trustees instead of Joyce Palevitz; and that Bob Walker would serve as his representative instead of Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii (who retired). Joyce was engaged as a consultant by the task force after its first meeting, providing us with clarity, organization, document preparation, and real-world expertise, along with continuity and a deep understanding of the conference and its possibilities.

104. The task force has worked diligently to develop tracking indicators and strategies and to identify responsible agencies, available resources, troublesome issues, and next steps to be taken for each of the

six bullet points of the statement about our preferred future. We have opened dialogues with most of the conference agencies that we believe are crucial to the realization of this future. We understand our role to be similar to what a think tank does. We advise the conference agencies that are accountable for our corporate welfare and empowered to lead us into the future.

105. We are not quite finished with our work. First of all, we believe we need another several months to finish negotiating with conference agencies about the development of "strategies to realize our preferred future," which the conference last year charged us to do. But even more important than this, we have come to realize that there needs to be ongoing strategic planning in this annual conference, and we would like to present to the 2014 Session a proposal for how that might be done. So our first recommendation this year is that the annual conference continue the Task Force for one more year.

106. We have a second recommendation that comes from conversations Bishop McLee has been having with the Cabinet, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Parish Development Commission. We understand that the PDC has voted unanimously to support the hiring of a full-time director of congregational development. We understand that CFA has budgeted for this position without raising the line item for Parish Development (with the consent of the PDC). We understand the Cabinet has been developing a job description and compensation package.

107. As we have considered different strategies for realizing our preferred future, thinking specifically of increasing discipleship and professions of faith, we thought a full-time director of congregational development would be very helpful. This person could facilitate new church starts, cooperative ministries, and plans for church growth, while assisting churches in transitional situations. We are grateful for the vision our bishop has cast, and we have the privilege of bringing this recommendation for annual conference consideration.

108. **Recommendations:** We recommend that the annual conference continue the Task Force for one more year 1) to finish working with conference agencies about strategies to realize our preferred future and 2) to design and propose an agency that will provide ongoing strategic planning.

109. We also recommend the establishment of the position of director of congregational development, a full-time position, with job description, qualifications, and compensation to be worked out between the Cabinet, the Parish Development Commission, and the Personnel Committee, and with funding from within the current budget of Parish Development.

United Methodist City Society

Annual Report — 175th Anniversary

Reflections from our President Mr. Wendell Harris

My Dear Friends,

101. The United Methodist City Society began 175 years ago for the purpose of caring for children and the poor, both physically and spiritually. We began our journey caring about the needs of the disenfranchised populations of this great city, including helping them find God. As scripture tell us in *Hebrews 11:10 "For he looked forwarded to the City that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."*

102. Today, we continue that mission of building both the temporal and spiritual within areas of the New York Annual Conference and the greater New York metropolitan region, acting as an agent of change for our United Methodist churches and for the community at large. We have built on the foundation of generations of "good people" doing "good works" as the Methodists have been known. The City Society continues to sponsor programs and create partnerships to help churches develop into vital places of ministry, through the offering of spiritual, management, leadership, consultative and financial resources.

103. As we look forward to the future, we must face the difficult reality of the allocation of resources, both financial capital and human capital. We must discern and pray about our choices in helping our communities of faith in their struggles to be "vital congregations" within today's modern urban society.

104. The United Methodist City Society will continue its legacy of building "bridges" of help and hope. We remember our Wesleyan roots of serving others, as we strive for perfection in serving God's kingdom and seeking to achieve positive social impact. In our hearts, we allow the words of the prophet Jeremiah to call us forth to our preferred future, "*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says The Lord, plans for our peace and prosperity and not for harm, to give you a future with hope". — Jeremiah 29:11*

Peace Be With You,
Wendell Harris, President (2009-2013), United Methodist City Society

105. In the early 19th century, the Methodist spirit of Wesley and the evangelic fires of Methodism continued their expansion westward. However, rather than camp meetings and crusades, Methodists, specifically Methodist women, began to see the enormous social needs in the lower areas of Manhattan. During the early 1800's, a flood of immigrants from Europe were willing to work in unsafe conditions, in sweat shops, and for unfair wages. Many lived in tenement housing, in conditions of squalor, gang activity, addictions and abuse. Children were also victimized and used as child labor. It was to these unjust societal conditions that the compassionate concern for the needs of children and their mothers gave birth to the zeal of the Methodists organize ways to feed, educate, and begin to uplift people from the chains of poverty that held them down.

106. Similarly, the need to support Methodist congregations whose wealthier members moved uptown and away from these changing neighborhoods (lower Manhattan known as Five Points) led to the formation of the Society in New York and then in Brooklyn to care for church buildings and to support congregations. As the populations of the suburbs grew, so did the need for church extension and expansion, and so the two predecessor Societies; The Brooklyn and Long Island Church Society of the Methodist Church and the New York City Society of the Methodist Church became the institutions through which care for the disenfranchised and poor was spearheaded throughout the region, care for transitioning congregations and neighborhoods, and capital investments for church expansion were funded.

107. The Societies also ministered to many of the diverse immigrant communities from early in our history – Germans, Irish, Swedish, Hispanics, Asians, those from the Caribbean, from all areas of Africa and to this day, we celebrate this wonderful diversity.

108. In 1971, after the merger of our denomination and the different conferences that existed on either side of the East River, the Societies merged to become The United Methodist City Society. We celebrate 175 years since the formation of the New York City Sunday School Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and continue to care for children, the poor, the disenfranchised, the immigrant, and work with the New York Annual Conference to help transform and transition congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ "for the transformation of the world."

109. To make this all possible we say thank you to all our member churches in the four districts that comprise the membership of the Society — the Long Island East, the Long Island West, the Metropolitan, and the New York-Connecticut Districts. We give thanks for the churches and individuals who give of their time, financial gifts and talents to help us achieve this 175th year milestone.

110. We want to acknowledge and thank all the individuals, the local churches, the foundations, the Board of Directors, and the staff that support the work of the UMCS and all the programs under our umbrella. We are thrilled that our grants and direct support amounted to nearly $650,000 in 2012. This is $100,000 more than last year. (See detailed listing in addendum.)

111. We promise to work with the NYAC to provide for better stewardship of all our assets, especially church-related properties. And we will continue to work with local congregations to help them find a better future and a new reality for ministry to all God's children.

112. The year 2012 was such a time for The United Methodist City Society, which continues to provide the transforming leadership for the urban ministry work of the New York Annual Conference by doing new things in new ways. Bishop Martin D. McLee has become our new episcopal leader and he has added our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady to the Extended Cabinet. We believe this is a important new direction in the relationship between the New York Annual Conference and the Society.

113. Over the last few years, in order to survive and thrive into the future, we have eliminated our deficit spending and are attempting to secure the principal of our endowment to provide generated income to fund our programs well into the next 175 years. We have changed our financial landscape and are doing more with less. Our funding and grants to programs have actually increased as we have lowered administrative and insurance costs.

After-School Program

114. The City Society's Children's Program is a unique project designed to increase the number and strengthen the quality of church-based after-school and summer programs.

115. Currently there are 12 churches serving over 2,000 children in this project. Since its inception, this initiative has had an impact on over 45 church-based children's programs in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. We have sought to establish relationships with churches on Staten Island, but as of now, we have no programs there.

116. Participating churches receive financial support and program assistance to help with center operation and management. Through this project UMCS staff provide assistance to local church representatives in such areas as program development, budget preparation, student recruitment, staff management, fundraising and marketing.

117. This project has also led to the formation of a UMC childcare network of providers who meet on a regular basis to discuss current activities, best practices, as well as strategies for improvement of services.

118. Currently, there are 12 churches throughout New York City participating in this project: 82nd Street Academics at Community United Methodist Church (Queens); Bethany United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Brooks Memorial United Methodist (Queens); Bushwick United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Chinese Methodist Center Corporation (Manhattan); Epworth United Methodist Church (Bronx); Kings Highway United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); St. John's Elmont United Methodist Church (Queens); St. Paul United Methodist Church (Queens); St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Tremont United Methodist Church (Bronx); Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church (Bronx) and Westchester United Methodist Church (Bronx).

Head Start

119. The City Society has a rich and extensive history in the operation of Head Start programs. The City Society became involved with the Head Start model soon after the program's inception in 1964. The Head Start program's philosophy to provide preschool children from lower socio-economic backgrounds with additional assistance that will better prepare them for success when they attend public school was consistent with the goals and objectives of the Society.

120. In 1966 the City Society sponsored nine Head Start programs. Over the years these programs were gradually managed by the local churches or closed. During the year 2012, New York City issued a request for proposal for a new "Early Learn" program to replace Head Start. Unfortunately, UMCS did not win a contract. And our two Head Start programs at Christ United Methodist Church in Brooklyn and People's United Methodist in Long Island City were scheduled to close.

121. Our Head Start programs were excellent and had high ratings from all NYC's evaluations. We did a great job of assisting children between the ages of 3 and 5 years in the development of their social, emotional, academic and motor skills.

122. Though the NYC Administration for Children Services did not award us a contract, we did win a City Council Discretionary Contract from City Councilwoman, Sara M. Gonzalez of Sunset Park and Speaker Christine Quinn. Our Head Start program in Brooklyn at Christ United Methodist Church currently serves 72 children in two classrooms during two half-day sessions. The Center has been in operation for 29 years under The City Society's sponsorship. Mamie Anguiano is the director of our program. The population served at this center is very diverse and reflective of the community in which the center is located. Unfortunately, our People's program site was given to another agency and it had to end.

Summer Day Camp Programs

123. The Summer Task Force of the City Society provides financial support to local churches that operate summer day camp and vacation bible school programs.

124. The task force makes grants to programs on an annual basis through an application process. Award amounts are based on community need, proposed program activities, program length and number of children served. Grants range from $500 - $2,000 per church. In 2012 we provided funding for the following churches serving 1,500 children.

125. The following churches received awards from the Summer Task Force in 2012: Asbury United Methodist Church (Mt. Vernon); Bethany United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church (Queens); Bushwick United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Chinese Methodist Center Corporation (Manhattan); Epworth United Methodist Church (Bronx); John Wesley United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Kings Highway United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); Metropolitan Koryo United Methodist Church (Manhattan); New Jerusalem United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); St. Johns Elmont United Methodist Church (Queens); St. Mark's United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Brooklyn); St. Paul United Methodist Church (Queens); Southhampton United Methodist (Suffolk); Tremont United Methodist Church (Bronx); Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church (Bronx) and Woodycrest United Methodist Church (Bronx.)

Olmsted Center

Olmsted Center is managed by Five Points Mission, a subsidiary of the United Methodist City Society.

Camp Olmsted

126. Five Points Mission, the entity that owns and operates Olmsted Center, has been in existence for over 150 years. It is one of the oldest missions in New York City and the oldest Methodist mission. Five Points Mission was named for the region just north of City Hall where five streets converged at an open square. In the 1800's this area was characterized by all types of social ills and its residents were the "undesirables" of society.

127. In 1848 the Ladies of the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church devoted their attention to the Five Points community. Their mission work involved transforming the destructive city environments of dependent mothers and children into healthier, positive environments.

128. At the turn of the century there was a need for a camp to take the children and their mothers during the summer. In 1901, Camp Olmsted was opened as the Olmsted Fresh Air Home of Five Points Mission in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York. The purpose of the camp was to serve as a "vacation" away from the depressed living conditions in the city. The 21-acre parcel of land was given to Five Points by Sarah and John Olmsted.

129. Today Camp Olmsted, which is part of the camp and retreat program at Olmsted Center, sits on 78 acres of land. UMCS with Five Points Mission was able to purchase additional property in partnership with "Scenic Hudson," a land conservation group. Restrictive covenants are both a blessing and a curse as the board of both agencies seeks better fiscal health for the camp for the future.

130. The Olmsted sleep-away camp program serves boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13 years and often provides the first opportunity these children have to experience a rural environment. Quality camp

experiences give children the opportunity to learn powerful lessons in character-building, values, skill development and healthy living in a meaningful, engaged and participatory environment. Camp programs also promote a sense of community. They create great spaces that show kids how to live together and care for one another. These are the experiences children are able to have at Olmsted. In 2012 the summer programs at Olmsted combined to serve 200 children.

131. The fee is $395 per camper per session which does not cover the operational costs of the program. Also while it is a modest fee, it is still far above the means of many of the families we serve. Last year, over 65% of the children attending the Camp Olmsted received financial assistance. Donations from local churches and individuals help Five Points Mission provide the necessary scholarship support to these campers.

Olmsted Retreat Program

132. Olmsted offers facilities for church groups, not-for-profit organizations, schools and families to host retreats, confirmation classes, youth meetings, reunions and other gatherings.

133. Our year-round facilities include the Manor House, our largest facility, which can accommodate 30 people; the Victorian-style Kirkwood House, which can accommodate up to 20 people and is perfect for smaller groups and personal retreats; and three cabins which can accommodate up to 23 persons each and offers a more rustic experience. Carla Maisonet is the director of the center and will work with every group to insure a wonderful and terrific retreat experience. Radical hospitality and incredible food are the hallmarks of our staff and facility. Please visit www.campolmsted.org to make your inquiries.

134. In 2012, 1,164 persons from 50 groups used our retreat facility, down slightly from the 1,213 served in 2011. A shift from day retreats and events to more overnight retreats has been an important factor in our increase in retreat fee income.

135. Over the last several years the facilities at Olmsted have undergone a number of renovations and upgrades which have not only enhanced the appearance of the property, but have also expanded the usage capabilities. These changes include the expansion of the dining hall/kitchen, addition of a pavilion and upgrades to guest rooms, common areas and meeting spaces.

Urban Ministry Scholarship Program

136. As we seek to bring new clergy to leadership in our urban churches, we want to empower them through their college and seminary education. We are investing in creative, entrepreneurial urban pastors who will bring transformational spirit to our churches. The City Society awards scholarships to persons who are planning to serve in urban ministry settings. There is an application process and our Scholarship Committee selects the winners. In 2012, we awarded seminary scholarships to New York Theological Seminary Students Prince Donkor and Lori Hartman and Drew Theological Seminary students Juyeon Lee, Byoung Jeon and Elon Sylvester. College Scholarships were given to Natalie Alvarez-Plaud (Hofstra), Brendon Samuel (Howard) and Priscilla Wong (Penn State).

137. Moving forward, our scholarships will be awarded to ministerial candidates who are in seminary. We will work with the district committees on ordained ministry and the Cabinet to insure that those awarded these scholarships are mentored toward urban ministry and will be utilized in the appointment process for the same.

Stewardship of Property

138. The City Society holds title to nine churches, two apartment buildings, Olmsted Center, one of the Anchor House properties and two cemetery plots. In 2012, we sold our one rent-controlled building at 2085 Fifth Avenue. The office space of the Camp Service was no longer utilized and this building was in need of major capital repair. We were able to sell this asset and invest the funds in the endowment so that the income generated in the future can be used for mission and ministry and not be tied up in property.

139. It is our desire to invest in effective ministry and people rather than Band-Aid approaches to fixing old buildings which will not attract new people for a variety of reasons. The Board of the Society has worked

with the Cabinet and made some difficult and important decisions in the year 2012. We will need to sell certain properties so that we can invest in people and ministry.

140. This is a model for the future. The United Methodist Churches of the New York Annual Conference have over $1.4 Billion in property. Yet we have limited resources for ministry, for caring for God's people. Many assets are held captive in old, tired and inefficient buildings. We need to free up the funds tied up in building and property, usually in inaccessible and run-down property to invest in people and ministry.

141. The Society is seeking to find new ways of investing in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Currently some of the new growing congregations in the United Methodist denomination meet at coffee shops, schools and public spaces. They do not have the worry of building repairs or maintenance. New models of faith communities must be tested and shared.

Anchor House

142. In the 1960's, Anchor House began under the leadership of the Rev. Alfredo Cotto-Thorner who began this ministry to the addicted on the streets outside the South Third Street UM church in Brooklyn. He served this UM City Society-titled church for 38 years. The Society invested heavily in time, personnel and finances in the start up of Anchor House as a residential program. For the last 50 years this ministry has become a significant United Methodist Witness. To truly see the transformational power of Christ, we need only to look at this program, where men and women become "new creations" after a life of addiction. They move back into society with a job, an apartment and a faith that will anchor them from the storms of life.

143. Anchor House, so named because it provides residents with an "anchor" in a safe harbor from which to fight the destructiveness of substance abuse, offers a Christ-centered approach to recovery and self sufficiency. Anchor House is a subsidiary of the Society and is the only faith-based program funded by the State of New York. Anchor House provides a residential program which includes individual and group counseling, psychological assessment, vocational counseling and recreation. The integration of these activities with a spiritual base and religious teachings helps nurture the individuals we serve.

144. The programs' executive director is Rev. Enrique Lopez. The men's program at the Bergen Street in Brooklyn serves up to 50 men under the leadership of Rev. Roger Jamison. The women's program began in 1997 on Park Place. The women's facility has seen a tremendous resurgence under Alison King, MSW, director. Under the leadership of these two house directors, our program is thriving and moving forward. We feature the "new" women's program in this report.

145. The women's program has undergone a new birth through the theme of "Bridging the Gaps and Raising the Bar." In bridging the gaps the program responds to the variety of women, who found themselves in emotional, spiritual, societal and economic deprivation. Anchor House is in ministry to a group of women who never experienced generational chemical dependence, jail, prostitution or economic poverty as traditionally known. The women are cross cultural, from different socioeconomic and educational levels, who may have never understood "faith" and its relationship to self sufficiency.

146. Anchor House had to fill in the gap and provide services for this diverse group. In addition to some of our traditional groups we have added an onsite Christ-centered 12-step group, women's health group, life skills, transitional living, chemical dependency education, family support groups, leadership, home economics and trauma group. Artistic workshops teach the women how to create a living space that reflects themselves as women. A new ***Family Program*** engages the women, children and other family members into the treatment process almost immediately. These groups orient and educate family members to substance abuse treatment and how to receive support for themselves as well as support their loved ones. Anchor House has increased our partnerships with those whose mission is mother and family focused. New programs focus on family structure and parenting skills. A new ***Trauma Group*** allows for women to process issues ranging from low self-esteem, depression, abuse, family violence and more. Another area of focus is our ***Mentorship Program*** which provides a mentor for each resident. A mentor will act as a sponsor, big sister and/or spiritual mother for the duration of that resident's treatment and

after if so desired. Traditional treatment works well however; Anchor House believes in discipleship as a staple requirement for success.

147. One of the ministries of Anchor House is their willingness to visit your church with their choir or band. The testimonies and the music remind us that God is alive and well. We encourage our UM churches to invite the Anchor House choir to your services and to provide for fundraising while they are present.

United Methodist Center of Far Rockaway

148. The Brooklyn and Long Island Church Society and the New York City Society became partners with the deaconess movement in caring for the poor. The deaconess movement met the spiritual, education and physical needs of the poor — feeding them, clothing them, providing medical care, and education.

149. Since 1982, The Far Rockaway Mission has served in the spirit of the deaconess movement before them. This hospitality is done with dignity and fosters self confidence and pride in each human being who comes through the doors.

150. This program under the Society began as a women's crisis center which was desperately needed as pastors in Far Rockaway saw an increasing number of abused women in crisis coming to their churches for help. What has evolved over the years is a program that provides hot meals, a food pantry, clothing, referrals and counseling services to over 200 persons per day from the surrounding community. Referrals are made to many local social service agencies as well as education and spiritual growth opportunities for those who come to the Mission. The program also offers employment to "job force" volunteers and the mentally challenged who assist in the food pantry program. Those who come to our Mission include children (25%) and the elderly (20%) in addition to the working poor and unemployed.

151. In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, this center has expanded its service and hours to accommodate the needs of the community of Far Rockaway. Partnerships with the mayor's office and the governor's office have led to additional resources and recognition for this program.

152. Many United Methodist churches volunteered to make meals, gave donated items, came and worked many hours helping to distribute clothing, healthcare kits, flood buckets, and hope and love. Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie provided generators the weekend after the hurricane so that we could operate more effectively. Without power for nearly two weeks, we provided many needed and necessary items, but most especially the love of God through Jesus Christ.

153. We thank Olmsted Center and Five Points Mission for allowing us to borrow the camp van for nearly two months. Without all of this we could not have cared for the nearly 300 to 400 people who came to the center daily. We thank Bishop McLee for the special contributions he secured and also we collected nearly $20,000 in extra donations because of the Hurricane Sandy appeal by the Society and by the many donations received at the center. We probably distributed over $100,000 in donated items during the two months following Sandy. We are proud to be your agency on the front line.

154. Those who come to our center for help are mostly the undocumented who are afraid to go to government programs for fear of being deported. One of the realities in the Rockaway's is that many of these undocumented lived in terrible conditions before the storm. Now their landlords hope to make a profit in selling their properties after the storm. So they are doing very little in repairs or improvement, making the living conditions of many of our clients even worse.

155. Many United Methodists support our Mission in a significant way, but the Far Rockaway Mission is truly the focus and passion of the Long Island West District. Many of the churches of that district support the Mission with donations of funds, food, and clothing. The LIW District, United Methodist Women and Men, the district superintendent, the pastors and the laity all respond to the need. Support for the center also comes from United Way, Island Harvest, Rock n' Wrap, Temple Sinai, NYC Food Bank, and many other organizations.

156. The Far Rockaway Mission is located at 1032 Beach 19th Street in Far Rockaway and we are one of the major feeding programs in Queens. This dedicated storefront in a new mixed-use building has provided the opportunity for more ministry and mission to take place.

157. Under the superb leadership of Lay Speaker Marie Davis, we now have a worship service every Sunday that attracts twenty to thirty people. A lunch is also served with many volunteers from the Long Island West District team of lay speakers. Special services are held on Christmas and Easter, and Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month.

158. Far Rockaway is truly a mission creating a new community in a new space. The service invites many from the program and neighborhood to be fed spiritually as well as physically.

159. Mearl Grant is the director who leads the transformation and the flexibility. He is a retired corrections officer with a big heart. He has thrown his heart and soul into caring for God's children in Far Rockaway. Ann Marie Cutright is our cook. These are the only paid employees. We have many work force volunteers and many church volunteers as well. Mr. Denis Stewart is the president of the Board, another subsidiary board of the Society.

Our Mission Grants

160. Because of the sale of discontinued church properties and our relocation of congregations over the 175 years of its ministry, the Society has an endowment which helps to fund its annual budget and most especially the following mission grants. We hope to welcome new programs to apply for grants. However, they must be in the Society's catchment area of the previous mission societies.

161. The Board of the Society is a partner with the New York Annual Conference **Vision Bearers'** ministry. This is a program designed by the Rev. Kenny Yi and the annual conference to create new faith communities for new people. Financial support of $50,000 in 2012 provided for the funding of eight vision bearers who are offering alternative worship experiences for new people. Rev. Dr. William Shillady, Rev. Leo Curry and Mr. Wendell Harris are ex-officio members of the Vision Bearer's task force.

162. The City Society also provides support and assistance to many other church and community-based projects throughout the New York Annual Conference. In addition to the Vision Bearers, UMCS provides substantial support to Justice for Our Neighbors, the Connecticut District Mission Society, the Council of Churches of the City of NY and Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement.

163. The City Society also provides program support, mission funding, property insurance, staff mentoring and consultation to many churches and community partners in our metro region. **In 2012, $646,233 of direct program support was given to 65 churches and programs.** We have increased this mission-giving dramatically in the last few years. This is over $100,000 more than last year.

United Methodist City Society - Budget Worksheet 2013

	2012 Insurance	2012 Grants	2013 approved
Anchor House, Inc.		25,000	25,000
Contingency Grants		10,000	13,000
Conn. Dist. Mission Soc.		800	800
Council of Churches of the City of NY		5,000	5,000
Council of Churches of the City of NY(special gift)		5,000	
Harlem Cong. For Com. Improvement (Dues)		400	400
Head Start Program		3,000	5,000
St. Mark's UMC, Manhattan (Pastoral Support)			

United Methodist City Society - Budget Worksheet 2013

		2012 Insurance	2012 Grants	2013 approved
Scholarships for Urban Students			30,000	30,000
Summer Programs			30,000	30,000
United Methodist Center in Far Rockaway			20,000	25,000
Far Rockaway Hurricane Appeal			23,979	
Kings Highway Brooklyn Afterschool		—	—	2,000
Subtotal		—	153,179	136,200
Churches: Parish Development				
Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew - Campus Min.	M		6,000	6,000
John Wesley UMC - JFON	LIW		10,000	10,000
Epworth UMC, After School	M		10,000	10,000
New Day UMC	M	**note	7,100	5,325
Metropolitan Jobs Training				4,000
Madison Ave. - Children/Prision/Feeding Min.	M		2,000	
Subtotal			35,100	**35,325**
Churches with insurance:				
Cuyler Warren Street	LIW	6,650		6,850
Grace UMC	M	12,187		12,555
Knickerbocker Ave. UMC	LIW	3,939		4,060
Madison Avenue — Insurance		8,452		8,710
San Pablo UMC	LIW	8,966		9,250
St. Stephens	M	7,780		8,015
Trinity UMC	M	15,814		16,300
Wakefield Grace UMC	M	3,622		0
Willis Ave. UMC	M	17,002		17,525
Madison Avenue — Insurance		9,300		9,600
Head Start		—	—	400
Insurance Costs		93,712	—	**93,265**
Total		93,712	281,991	**264,790**
Designated Funds:				
Designated funds received			20,000	20,000
Five Points Mission			200,000	200,000
Olmsted Scholarship Funds			16,742	
Knickerbocker Ave. for Parsonage			30,000	30,000
San Pablo UMC - REEL Approved	LIW		16,500	10,000
Vision Bearers			50,000	50,000
Peoples UMC - REEL approved	LIW	—	26,000	26,000
		—	359,242	**336,000**
*Challenge Grants			641,233	**600,790**
** includes insurance ($2000 program grant)				
Other expenses (legal, notices, fines			5,000	5,000
		—	646,233	**605,790**

164. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors and the staff of the Society for their dedication and commitment to all that we do for the building of God's kingdom here and now. I thank Ms. April Callender, associate executive director, Mr. Simeon Saturn, chief financial officer, Ms. Young Huh, senior accountant, Ms. Pui Fong Monk, bookkeeper, Ms. Aisha Campbell, children's program director, and Ms. Leticia Saa Johnson, office manager.

165. And finally to all of you, the members of the society, the churches and the individuals who support our work through your prayers and your gifts.

In God's love, joy, and humor, Rev. Dr. Bill Shillady, Executive Director/CEO

United Methodist City Society Ecclesiastical Mortgages

166. This list of ecclesiastical mortgages is presented to the New York Annual Conference and to the Conference Board of Trustees as a claim for future reimbursement should a congregation cease to exist and the property is sold.

167. An ecclesiastical mortgage was a grant given to a church for capital projects or the property purchase. An ecclesiastical mortgage can be given by other church agencies like the General Board of Global Ministries.

168. We thank **Grace United Methodist - Lindenhurst** and **United Methodist Church of Uniondale and the New Rochelle United Methodist Church** for paying their ecclesiastical mortgages in full in the last few years. This provides the opportunity for the UM City Society to "pay it forward" to other churches in the future.

United Methodist City Society - Ecclesiastical Mortgages
December 31, 2012

	Date of Loan	District	Balance 12/31/12
Brooklyn, Christ UMC	8/84	LIW	5,625.00
Manhattan, First Spanish UMC (Ch.of the Saviour)	12/30/67	M	86,295.50
East Meadow, Community UMC	04/27/56	LIE	10,000.00
Massapequa, Community UMC	01/11/50	LIE	5,000.00
The Bronx, Elton Ave. UMC	10/31/72	M	16,024.67
The Bronx, Elton Ave. UMC	06/30/70	M	170,000.00
The Bronx, Epworth UMC	03/20/08	M	97,000.00
The Bronx, Fordham UMC	09/11/31	M	20,000.00
The Bronx, Ghana UMC	09/01/10	M	50,000.00
Hicksville, UMC	03/13/59	LIE	4,500.00
Brooklyn, Janes UMC	05/09/72	LIW	13,068.69
Brooklyn, Janes UMC	12/31/86	LIW	18,600.00
Brooklyn, Janes UMC	12/31/86	LIW	48,370.00
Manhattan, Korean UMC	12/30/50	M	8,000.00
Merrick UMC	10/28/63	LIE	32,000.00
Manhattan, Metropolitan Community UMC	11/20/46	M	10,000.00
Manhattan, Metropolitan Community UMC	10/31/54	M	10,000.00
Manhattan, Metropolitan Community UMC	04/14/80	M	7,000.00
Manhattan, Metropolitan Community UMC	07/10/98	M	50,000.00
Manhattan, Mt. Calvary UMC	01/28/73	M	129,443.33
Mt. Vernon, Asbury UMC	11/19/92	M	15,000.00
First UMC of Roosevelt	02/16/12	LIE	5,000.00
Greenpoint, Polish/Am.UMC	01/31/81	LIW	6,216.00

United Methodist City Society - Ecclesiastical Mortgages
December 31, 2012

	Date of Loan	District	Balance 12/31/12
Pound Ridge UMC	01/05/55	CT/NY	1,890.00
Ozone Park, Community UMC	06/18/87	LIW	5,570.00
Manhattan, St. Mark's UMC	12/31/57	M	42,918.26
Manhattan, St. Mark's UMC	02/25/02	M	15,000.00
Brooklyn, St. Mark's UMC	12/31/90	LIW	10,000.00
Brooklyn, St. Mark's UMC	12/31/80	LIW	15,000.00
Hartsdale, St. Paul's UMC	05/12/55	M	5,000.00
The Bronx, Tremont UMC	05/16/28	M	17,184.08
The Bronx, Tremont UMC	12/08/98	M	7,000.00
Richmond Hill, Trinity UMC	12/20/50	LIW	1,000.00
Franklin Square, Wesley UMC	05/31/50	LIE	16,000.00
West Hempstead, Church of the Good Shepherd	06/28/00	LIE	24,698.00
Woodhaven Parish UMC	01/30/27	LIW	15,603.54
The Bronx, Woodycrest UMC	02/27/13	M	5,000.00
St. Albans, Grace UMC	03/05/01	LIW	40,000.00
Total			1,039,007.07

169. **Financial Picture of the United Methodist City Society**

170. Over the last few years, the UM City Society and its subsidiaries have been diligently working to bring their expenses in line with their income. As you can observe from the following pages, the first two pages show the income and expenses of the core operation of the Society. Since 2010, we have reduced the major trend of deficits of the Society for many years. We are proud to say that we have had three consistent years of surpluses without reducing programming or mission grants.

171. We are grateful to our many contributors, both churches and individuals and foundations who have helped us to achieve this success.

The United Methodist City Society and Subsidiaries
Consolidating Schedule of Financial Position
December 31, 2012

	United Methodist City Society								
	General Fund	Grace Church 2085 Fifth Ave and Apartments	Head Start	UM 104th Street, LLC	Anchor House, Inc.	UM Center of Far Rockaway	Five Points Mission	Eliminating Entries	Total
ASSETS									
Cash	$ 360,701	$ -	$ 141,858	$ 258,027	$ 6,722	$ 6,325	$ 28,608	$ 19,692	$ - $ 821,933
Cash restricted for food stamps						6,551			6,551
Resident's fund cash						8,399			8,399
Cash restricted for tenant's security					$ 40,589				40,589
Loans receivable	765,206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(29,980) 735,226
Other receivables and prepayments	462,379	-	320,594	-	35,027	62,683	27,299	393	(410,300) 498,075
Investments	16,397,621	-	440,986	-	-	-	196,921	-	- 17,035,528
Deferred financing costs	-	-	-	-	-	78,225	-	-	- 78,225
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	129,049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 129,049
Property and equipment, net	2,537,947	-	2,743,249	-	514,293	3,393,889	54,435	1,218,054	- 10,461,867
Restricted Investments	203,315								203,315
Intercompany	(992,753)	991,404	162,386	-	(161,741)	-	-	704	- -
	$ 19,863,465	$ 991,404	$ 3,809,073	$ 258,027	$ 434,890	$ 3,556,072	$ 307,263	$ 1,238,843	$ (440,280) $ 30,018,757
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS									
Liabilities									
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 138,011	$ -	$ 16,894	$ 258,027	$ 366,230	$ 355,891	$ 1,181	$ 4,166	$ (410,300) $ 730,100
Borrowings under lines of credit	523,154	-	-	-	-	172,951	-	-	- 696,105
Deferred revenue	-	-	-	-	-	115,051	-	16,025	- 131,076
Tenant's security deposits	-	-	-	-	40,589	-	-	-	- 40,589
Funds held for others	517,009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 517,009
Notes payable	-	-	-	-	-	93,726	-	-	(29,980) 63,746
Mortgage payable -men's residence	-	-	-	-	-	664,500	-	-	- 664,500
Mortgage payable -women's residence	-	-	-	-	-	2,866,160	-	-	- 2,866,160
Ecclesiastical mortgages payable	481,601	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 481,601
Total Liabilities	1,659,775	-	16,894	258,027	406,819	4,268,279	1,181	20,191	(440,280) 6,190,886
Net Assets									
Unrestricted									
Undesignated	3,741,851	991,404	1,048,930	-	(486,222)	(653,661)	251,647	598	- 4,894,547
Board designated	12,010,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 12,010,000
Net investment in property	2,056,346	-	2,743,249	-	514,293	(58,546)	54,435	1,218,054	- 6,527,831
	17,808,197	991,404	3,792,179	-	28,071	(712,207)	306,082	1,218,652	- 23,432,378
Temporarily restricted	63,129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 63,129
Permanently restricted	332,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 332,364
Total Net Assets	18,203,690	991,404	3,792,179	-	28,071	(712,207)	306,082	1,218,652	- 23,827,871
	$ 19,863,465	$ 991,404	$ 3,809,073	$ 258,027	$ 434,890	$ 3,556,072	$ 307,263	$ 1,238,843	$ (440,280) $ 30,018,757

United Methodist City Society
Approved budget with
Actuals as of 12/31/09, 12/31/10, 12/31/11 and 12/31/12

	Actual 12/31/2009 Total	Actual 12/31/2010 Total	Actual 12/31/2011 Total	Actual 12/31/2012 Total	2013 Budget Total
Income					
Contributions					
Designated					
Various - other	2,500	2,753	1,148	-	3,000
Churches and Individuals	8,671	6,329	9,765	10,293	7,000
Trudy Grove Scholarship Fund	-	-	5,170	14,700	
Board Members	2,740	3,000	1,770	5,100	5,000
Designated Mailings - Individuals	6,965	5,310	5,570		7,000
- Churches	-	100	445	28,467	-
- Board Members	-	850	1,025	-	-
- Other	-	395	-	-	-
subtotal designated contributions	20,876	18,737	24,893	58,560	22,000
Unrestricted				-	
Churches	22,261	35,639	29,389	39,845	35,000
Individuals	23,149	36,417	77,310	24,933	35,000
Board Members	31,443	34,685	31,624	30,030	35,000
175th Anniversary fundraiser-net					30,000
Other	-	5,209	2,378	3,955	3,000
City Society Presentations	900	2,125	2,306	2,675	2,500
subtotal unrestricted contributions	77,753	114,075	143,007	101,438	140,500
subtotal all contributions	98,629	132,812	167,900	159,998	162,500
Rental Income - Grace Apartments	60,487	104,567	100,000	100,000	100,000
2085 Fifth Ave.	46,027	21,333	18,750	34,535	-
Cell Tower / Other	-	-	27,900	43,672	37,500
Budgeted Portfolio Income -					
5% return policy	834,961	688,400	725,000	838,000	850,848
Draw down from sale of Peoples/San Pablo	26,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	36,000
Draw down for Ghana UMC Ecc.Mtge	-	50,000	-	-	-
Draw Down from sale of So.3rd St.	-	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Draw Down for Vision Bearers	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Draw Down Brown Fd for distribution	-	-	17,112	-	-
Other Income					
Net Balance on Sale of Ch of Our Saviour	-	27,591	-	-	-
Mortgage/Loans Interest	6,142	11,599	16,075	12,813	15,000
CD/Savings Cert/Sav.Accts	6,443	6,878	7,189	6,738	7,000
Laundry Machine Income	6,925	7,725	6,000	6,150	7,000
Grant from Park Ave. Trust	50,000	-	-	-	-
Grant from Gen.Bd.Global Min. for HUMM	15,000	-	-	-	-
Development Fee				94,659	120,000
Repayment Ecc.Mtg. Uniondale UMC	-	-	2,000	-	-
Repayment Ecc.Mtg.St. Luke's UMC, NR	-	-	45,100	-	-
Repayment Eccl.Mtg. Grace, Lindenhurst	-	6,800	-	-	-
Funds to Be held for NEJ	-	8,617	-	-	-
Reimbursement of Expenses So.3rd St. UMC	-	65,000	151,460	-	-
Reimb.from Ch.of Our Sav. For ins/ws	57,981	-	-	-	-
NYC reimb.Real.Estate Taxes - AHI	-	-	15,643	-	-
Insurance settlement for FPM	-	-	4,950	-	-
A J Gallagher refund on insurance	-	-	38,094	-	-
Church reimb.of insurance premiums	-	-	1,952	-	-
NYS Unclaimed funds - UMCS Insurance	-	8,733	-	-	-
Reimbursement Adm/Acct/Rent					
Linden Hill Cemetery	52,500	75,000	80,000	80,000	82,400
Linden Hill Cemetery - previous years		54,997	55,000	55,000	55,000
Metropolitan District Office reimb. Rent	3,591	3,591	6,120	6,257	7,000

United Methodist City Society
Approved budget with
Actuals as of 12/31/09, 12/31/10, 12/31/11 and 12/31/12

	Actual 12/31/2009 Total	Actual 12/31/2010 Total	Actual 12/31/2011 Total	Actual 12/31/2012 Total	2013 Budget Total
Transfer of Temporarialy Rest. Funds					
Misc.Reserve for Scholarships	-	6,950	-	-	-
HUMM reimbursements	-	5,761	-	-	-
Nordis Trust Funding	-	9,600	-	-	-
Educational Opportunity Scholarships	-	7,000	-	-	-
Total Revenue	1,264,686	1,385,940	1,608,745	1,560,322	1,560,248
Expenses:					
Personnel Costs					
Salaries	369,553	387,630	460,630	501,649	521,900
Related Payroll Charges	188,961	180,810	146,432	142,364	144,892
Total Personnel Costs	558,514	568,440	607,062	644,013	666,792
Professional Fees	75,226	59,857	72,676	80,326	62,700
OTPS					
Rent	103,463	109,163	107,497	111,797	117,000
Telephone/Internet services	10,910	11,229	11,345	11,700	8,700
Equipment rep & Maint., rental	15,025	15,802	9,988	14,103	14,360
Insurance	8,525	7,667	7,684	6,769	9,000
Supplies & Postage	12,489	11,262	14,902	11,516	17,100
Travel	13,508	17,105	13,149	11,751	13,000
Annual Report/Publications/etc.	6,494	3,864	4,064	4,707	4,500
Development	10,643	6,257	10,790	12,343	21,200
Annual Dinner/Meetings & Conferences	10,990	12,341	16,280	15,683	13,000
T. Grove Retirement Expenses	-	-	6,397	-	-
Misc. Adv., Corp. Taxes, Dues/Memberships	9,630	10,573	19,150	13,810	13,500
Total OPTS	201,677	205,263	221,246	214,179	231,360
Progam Expenses					
Pastoral Support	7,500	2,500	-	-	-
Direct Payments	174,015	244,311	144,125	150,294	171,525
Restricted funds received	76,821	16,629	17,594	58,560	20,000
Peoples UMC and San Pablo UMC	26,000	42,500	34,250	42,500	36,000
Five Points Mission grant - Reg	-	-	75,000	200,000	200,000
Five Points Mission -- emergency grant	-	-	60,000	-	-
Vision Bearers	-	-	100,000	50,000	50,000
Ghana UMC Eccl. Mrtg.	-	50,000	-	-	-
Hanson Pl.-Balance of Nordis Trust	-	9,600	-	-	-
Transfer of Temp.Res.Fds. NEJ Urban Network	-	6,882	-	-	-
HUMM Churches	-	7,441	1,148	-	-
Reserve for Trudy Grove Scholarship Fund	-	-	5,170	-	-
New Jerusalem for parsonage	-	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Distribution of Brown Fund to beneficiaries	-	-	17,112	-	-
Distribution to Beneficiaries	-		1,733	-	-
Insurance	138,728	104,142	69,665	84,412	86,850
Other Program Expenses, i.e. rent, violations	46,025	7,911	5,611	3,517	5,000
Total Program Expenses	469,089	491,916	561,408	619,283	599,375
Total Expenses	1,304,506	1,325,476	1,462,392	1,557,801	1,560,227
Net Operating Result	(39,820)	60,464	146,354	2,521	21

Corporate Reports

Board of Trustees

Virginia Carle, President

101. Following in the footsteps of Joyce Palevitz, immediate past president of the Board of Trustees, has been both rewarding and challenging. Rewarding because of the model for leadership and the commitment to the annual conference demonstrated by Joyce during her tenure as president; and challenging, because as she departed the board, our workload increased ten-fold, and the entire board was faced with moving into Mach-speed under a new leader! I would like to offer special thanks to Joyce for her ongoing availability to speak with this greenhorn and to give advice, support, and information. I'd also like to thank out-going members Michael Denny, who served the board faithfully for eight years, the most recent as our liaison to the conference center; and Rosemary Walker, who left the board to assume the leadership position of conference sessions coordinator.

102. I am overwhelmingly indebted to the members of the board who have committed long hours, both at meetings and in work beyond meetings, to ensure that the work entrusted to this board is accomplished with grace and integrity. Without their insights, lively debate, and conscientious responses, the workload of this year would have been disastrous. Thank you all, and God bless you for your time, your commitment, and your spirit!

103. I would like to acknowledge and thank Larry McGaughey for his fine work, guidance, and discernment on legal issues. Larry truly is a gift to the New York Annual Conference. **We enthusiastically recommend, on nomination from the bishop, the continuation of Mr. Lawrence McGaughey for his fifteenth year as conference chancellor on retainer.**

104. I would like to thank Ross Williams, whose wisdom and guidance through the miasma of things financial is the bedrock for a good portion of the work of the board.

105. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the support and encouragement of our Bishop Martin McLee. Bishop McLee attended his first NYAC Trustees meeting in November 2012 — likely the longest trustees meeting in the history of the annual conference — and worked with us until the end! His ongoing availability and insight are a rich blessing to the Board of Trustees.

106. The Board of Trustees is charged with representing the New York Annual Conference in matters of property, insurance, investment, and legal issues, under the authority of the annual conference (*Discipline* ¶ 2512). This board has grown to understand that its role is not solely fiduciary, but in large part also ministerial. Thus, our decisions are governed not only by dollars, but by the very real question, "What is the best thing we can do for Christ and for the annual conference in this decision?" We also have used the Internet more readily for some of our work, realizing that the Internet provides a more rapid response, and allows a quicker decision on time-sensitive issues which we have already discussed in our face-to-face meetings.

107. **Investments.** The trustees hold funds on deposit with the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. The funds are managed for accounts of the NY Annual Conference as well as trust accounts for local churches and other organizations within the conference. Sue Bynum, our treasurer, has spent countless hours tracking down additional sources of funds from vacated accounts within some of our discontinued churches, as well as researching possible uses of older funds under the NYS Prudent Investment of Institutional Funds Law (2011). The trustees receive regular reports on all funds within the Frontier Foundation, and carefully monitor and manage fund portfolios to ensure that both long-term growth and fixed-income objectives are met. This year, the trustees reallocated percentages of several of the funds in order to gain a better yield. The trustees are also striving, at the bishop's request, to develop a special fund from which urgent needs within the conference can be addressed. To this end, a corporate resolution is being introduced at this session of the annual conference.

108. **Trust Funds**. Local churches and other organizations within the annual conference may deposit their funds, within the constraints of the original bequest, with the Frontier Foundation to be monitored by the Board of Trustees. The board works with the Frontier Foundation to specify the investment mix that best suits each account's needs. Opening balance for the trust portfolio in 2012: $1,194,115.00; year-end balance: $1,205,564.

109. **Trustees Conference Center Fund**. This fund contains money received from the sale of the former center at Rye, NY, as well as additional money from the Conference Center fundraising program. At the 2011 annual conference session, a resolution was passed to re-direct the funds from the Bryant Avenue property to the current Soundview Avenue property for capital use. At the bishop's request, the trustees have begun the task of procuring an architect for the purpose of ascertaining the priority list for current and future repairs/upgrades. Additionally through Ross' guidance, we refinanced our current mortgage to gain a lower overall cost. Opening balance of the fund: $390,336.00; year-end balance: $415,470.

110. **NY Conference Perkins Learning Center Fund.** This fund provides monies for upgrading resources in the Learning Center. Opening balance: $46,638.00; year-end balance $42,034.

111. **Conference Permanent Endowment Fund**. At the 2002 annual conference, this fund was established to attract and receive gifts and bequests to the annual conference. Funds are to be used for operating needs of the conference. Opening balance: $12,798.00; year-end balance: $13,822.

112. **Sessions Woods and Darling Funds.** The income from this fund supports camping and retreat programs. This fund has been jointly managed with the Camping & Retreats Board since 2008. Opening balance: $135,860.00; year-end balance: $35,491.

113. **New Church Growth and Development Fund**. This fund was transferred to the portfolio and management of Parish Development.

114. **Proceeds of Church Property Fund**. This fund was established in 2011 and holds the Board of Trustees' portion of proceeds from the sale of unused, abandoned or discontinued church property for which the NY Annual Conference owns or has taken title. Opening balance: $425,506; year-end balance: $127,829.

115. **Insurance**. The Insurance Committee consists of four persons: the conference treasurer, the chancellor, and two others, one of whom must be a trustee. During the year 2012, insurance for conference-owned properties was provided by Philadelphia Insurance Company. The use of this company ended 12/31/12; the new company is Church Mutual.

116. **Sale of Property.** The former West Settlement Church in Ashland, NY, which had been in dispute for five years, was settled and sold for a gross price of $10,000.00, with the requirement of a plaque on the Historical Association's wall indicating that it was the former West Settlement ME/UM Church, and the dates of operation, plus a 7-year reverter.

117. The vacant lot at King Hill, NY was sold for a gross price of $750.00

118. **Legal Matters**

Closed cases:

- NYAC v. Travelers (Hankins v. Light) - The law firm of Saul Zabell negotiated a settlement with Travelers over reimbursement of the Conference's legal fees in the Hankins v. Light case. The final settlement netted $106,167 in reimbursement to the annual conference.
- Castle Hts. IRS Tax Claim - An IRS claim for unpaid 1999 payroll taxes against the former Castle Heights UMC (discontinued and sold in 2003) came to light in 2010. The statute of limitations ran out in May 2102; thus our tax attorney (Duane Henning, Esq., from CA) advised us that the case is now closed.

119. Matter of Application of Methodist Episcopal Church Second Society (West Settlement) – This case was settled as part of the sale reported in ¶ 117 above.

The following civil litigation is active for the annual conference:

1. Lyons v. Grace UMC (Queens) – In this case the plaintiff alleges defamation, intentional emotional distress and conversion arising out of a report of suspected physical abuse of a child. The church defendants include the Grace UMC, the former pastor, several lay church members and the Long Island West District. The insurance company is providing a defense to the district and pastor, and it is expected that in the unlikely event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be within the insurance limits. The court has dismissed all the allegations except the defamation claim.

2. Hilario v. Christ UMC (Brooklyn) & NYAC – A lawsuit has been brought against a local church, which also names the conference as a defendant, on account of a playground injury to a child of the Head Start program that occurred on April 23, 2009. The conference's defense council made a motion for dismissal based on the fact that the conference had no ownership interest in the property which was granted.

3. Tyndale v. Brooks Memorial – A slip-and-fall case has been brought against a local church. The plaintiff is seeking court consent to amend the complaint to add the conference as a defendant which the conference has opposed. The conference is being represented by insurance counsel, and it is expected that in the unlikely event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be within the insurance limits.

4. Garcia v. NYAC a/k/a United Methodist City Society – A sidewalk slip-and-fall case has occurred outside Trinity: Morrisania Church in the Bronx, title to which is held by the United Methodist City Society. The case also names the conference as a defendant. The case is being defended by the insurer. The conference has no ownership interest in the property, and it is expected that in the unlikely event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be well within the insurance limits.

5. Askin v. City of New York (NYAC) – A sidewalk slip-and-fall case that occurred outside Calvary UMC, the Bronx names the conference as a defendant. The conference is being represented by insurance counsel, and it is expected that in the unlikely event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be within the insurance limits.

6. NYAC (Camps Governing Board) v. JHM& Associates – Suit brought by Camps Governing Board for breach of contract and related causes arising out of a contract for consulting on a fundraising program. Discovery is completed without the cooperation of the defendant, and the case is likely to come up for trial in the coming year.

7. Green Phoenix v. NYAC - This claim was initiated by the Green Phoenix organization (Wilton Duckworth and Joan Ewing) for alleged breach of contract and damages arising out of their business agreement with Epworth Camp. The parties are attempting to reach a settlement which, if not successful, will be followed by the discovery process.

8. Norwalk First UMC - An application was made by a local preservation group with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Council to have First Church listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Without any consent from the owner, and with little attention paid to the NYAC representatives, including Mary Jo Andrews, a Hartford attorney and specialist in preservation law, the state designation was voted in November, 2012. Under state law, listing on the State Register in and of itself does not impact a potential purchaser's plans for the property unless those plans involve use of state funds. However, immediately the same applicants made a new application to the State Historic Preservation Office to have the property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The filing of this application has the effect of staying any attempt to demolish the property. This halted any action toward sale until the process could run its course. The property cannot be listed in the National Register without the owner's consent. But, if the National Park Service determines the property is eligible for listing, it would have the effect of ruling out certain potential buyers (such as banks) from being potential purchasers. We anticipate the listing process could take as long as through the end of 2013. In the meantime, the property is vacant and seriously deteriorating.

120. **Conference Properties List**. The following is a list of known properties in which title is in the NYAC, or abandoned or discontinued properties in which NYAC may have a real property interest:

Properties with title in NYAC

- Conference Center, 20 Soundview Ave, White Plains, NY
- Episcopal Residence, New Rochelle, NY
- Camp Epworth, Marbletown & Rochester, NY
- Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, NY
- Camp Kingswood, Hancock, NY
- Former Maspeth UMC property, Queens, NYC
- 5 Epworth Lane, Marbletown, NY (a small separate parcel from the Camp)

Properties which have been declared abandoned and in which NYAC has a trust interest but not covered by NYAC insurance policy (there are active local churches that carry their own insurance):

- Church of All Nations (1/01)
- (Greenpoint) Polish UMC, Brooklyn, NY (1/01)

Abandoned/discontinued and vacant properties with title not in NYAC name, in which NYAC has a trust clause/ real property interest:

- Smithtown Landing UMC, Smithtown, NY
- First Norwalk, S. Norwalk, CT
- Tompkins Corners, Putnam Valley, NY
- Beaverkill, Roscoe, NY
- Germantown, Germantown, NY
- Rye, Rye, NY
- Summerfield/Port Chester, Port Chester, NY
- Armonk, New Castle, NY
- Woodmere/Lawrence, Woodmere, NY

(Due to the overwhelming need to manage routine care on these properties, the Board of Trustees affirmed the paid position of properties manager. Mr. Wendell Harris was hired by the board for this position; upon his subsequent resignation for health reasons, Mr. Thomas Collins was hired by the board to provide maintenance on these properties.)

District properties (Title held by district trustees, not necessarily in current district name)

- Catskill Hudson, Woodstock, NY
- Connecticut, Hamden, CT
- Long Island East, Hauppauge, NY
- Long Island West, East Williston, NY
- Metropolitan, Scarsdale, NY
- New York/Connecticut, Stamford, CT

Properties in which NYAC holds a legal reverter (renewal/end date)

- Cochecton Center, NY (October 28, 2023-2026)
- West Settlement/Ashland, Ashland, NY (2012-2019)

Property in which NYAC may hold mineral rights:

- Morehouse Parish, LA

Properties owned by separate legal entities in which NYAC has a controlling interest:

- Asbury Cemetery, Saugerties, NY; title held by "NYAC Asbury Cemetery, Inc." Insurance provided by NYAC.

121. **Camp Properties Review**. We continued to work with the Camps Governing Board and the Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry Task Force to develop and implement a long-range plan for the development of our camps. To this end, the liaison position for the Camps Governing Board president was added to the Board of Trustees. The Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry Task Force's recommendation to sell Camp Epworth was affirmed by all necessary bodies in October/November 2012. However, this was not able to be implemented pending litigation or settlement of a lawsuit filed by the Green Phoenix organization, which, through a convoluted pathway, had taken up residence at the camp. See ¶ 118 (7) above.

122. **Quinipet Mortgage.** Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the 2012 New York Annual Conference, and with the consent of the Suffolk County Supreme Court, the trustees took a $1,100,000 line of credit secured by the Quinipet camp property from the Bridgehampton National Bank, N.A. This loan was primarily to reimburse the conference for funds previously advanced for camps capital needs and to create a capital improvement fund.

123. **Final comments**. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus admonishes his disciples, "be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Some of the difficulty in which churches find themselves stems from being serpents in spiritual things and innocent or naive in tangible things. Some folks don't enjoy hearing that the church is also a business, but there is truth in that statement. We must be gentle and innocent as doves when speaking of matters of the spirit, when discerning what Jesus would do in matters of inclusion or justice or compassion. But we must learn to be wise as serpents when dealing with matters of law, real estate, and finances.

124. This year taught us that it is essential that our churches refrain from seeking historic preservation status/funds or landmark designations. While it is nice to think that our local church must remain as is in perpetuity (really an idolatry in itself, if you think about it), what these designations actually accomplish is a limitation on full ministry, should the local needs in ministry change, which is often the case. Not adapting facilities to the contemporary need is frustrating and often leads to the closing of the facility. In that case the annual conference is left with a property that is often impossible to sell, and thus becomes a drain on conference funds, which could be better used to under-gird new or creative ministries.

125. Secondly, we have learned that local churches need to pay attention to the details of their property ownership, and to "clean up" any outstanding realty issues as a proactive course. Property boundaries are often fuzzy, due to years of laissez-faire use; when the contiguous property is listed for sale, local churches find themselves ceding valuable property because the "everyone knows where it belongs" theory no longer applies. In other words, be sure your title insurance and survey are current, any liens are paid off, and the trust clause is in your filed deed. It will be worth its weight in the long run to care for this now. Contact a trustee for assistance with these matters.

The United Methodist Frontier Foundation, Inc.

Rev. Dr. Keith A. Muhleman, President and Chief Executive Officer

101. 2012 was another tumultuous year for natural disasters such as hurricanes, drought, flooding and hunger along with human disasters from war and general avarice. Even if you are not a proponent of global warming, you must notice that climate changes dominate our socio-economic geo-political settings throughout the world. The financial markets responded with ups and downs leading off with a strong beginning first quarter and a great ending quarter but a flat to depressed center of six months. Despite this ebb and flow, the funds of UMFF finished the year in positive territory.

102. The UMFF currently manages funds for nearly 500 churches and institutions throughout New York and western Connecticut. In 2012 churches and conferences placed new accounts totaling $1,110,991. We

paid out nearly $2,370,000 to churches and conferences for their use in ministry and capital projects including roof repairs and boiler replacement. At year-end the Foundation was managing over $30.25 million for ministries and individual trusts. Individual charitable gift annuities managed for UMFF at year end totaled over $650,000.

103. In early December of 2012, the successful 30-year Integrity in Pensions Program was closed with the return to more than 90 churches the lump sum Option IV investment they made to pay off the past pension debt incurred when the new pension program for clergy was created in 1982. The total was $1.1 million. This money was used to pay the debt annually for those churches, keeping the principle intact to be distributed back to the churches this year. These funds were returned to churches with the gratitude of the conference and the Board of Pensions.

104. We currently utilize the professional fund management services of John G. Ullman and Associates in Corning, New York. All our investments are socially screened to comply with the United Methodist Social Principles by following the guidelines set by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. We continue to support the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its advocacy with those corporations constructively involved in the Middle East and encourage the efforts of the General Board in seeking peace and justice in that region.

105. The UM Frontier Foundation continues to work with local churches to raise capital funds with long- and short-term programs for needed repairs, renovations and expansion of facilities. We assist them with stewardship planning for annual campaigns, planned-giving seminars and endowment development. This work is provided by our executive director and our very able and knowledgeable team of consultants. These individuals are the first line of contact with local churches. We are indebted to the ministry they carry out for the Frontier Foundation. Our serving consultants include: Ms. Susan Ezrati, Rev. Fred Kelsey, Ms. Heather Brown, Mr. Joe Andreana, Rev. Vernon Lee, Ms. Margaret Howe, Mr. Lum Lee, Mr. Tom Nichols, Rev. David Nicholls, Mr. Ed Ruppmann, Rev. Bob Knebel and Mr. Ronald Salyer.

106. A major focus of our ministry is to develop stewardship leaders and create a stewardship culture in the local church. We encourage individual financial responsibility with our Stewardship in Action Program (now “Sower: Seeds of Faith and Finance”) led by Ed Ruppmann and other consultants. This program helps local church members understand their current finances and their options for planning for the future while embracing Christian values. We participate also in the seminars offered in district settings and in local churches dealing with annual campaigns, memorial funds, endowment development and the promotion of planned giving. We also participated with the Board of Ordained Ministry in the mandatory annual pastoral education program regarding local church stewardship and personal finance. This three-day event for new clergy has been joined by tax seminars for all clergy.

107. Our ministry to the church is important to us. Nearly all of the services we provide to local churches and individuals are provided at no charge. Although we cannot provide legal or accounting services, we help individuals get ready to speak with their own advisors and then work with those advisors to put in place the plans the individuals want to set up.

108. For local churches, we provide stewardship consultation when we evaluate what they are doing financially and make recommendations for changes, including creative and successful ways to conduct their annual campaign and developing alternative income streams. We offer an initial conversation about getting ready for a capital campaign and provide a fee-related proposal for services for the church to consider. We meet with the financial leadership of a church to help them set up an endowment program. We offer seminars on planned giving and preach in local churches in conjunction with the planned giving and stewardship issues.

109. Ministry costs money, and that is true of the work of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. We receive a small stewardship consulting payment from the conference. We charge our account partners only 1.25% per year for funds that we manage up to $250,000 and 1% for any amount over that cumulative total. There are no processing fees or transaction fees charged to our partners nor is there

normally a delay in the payout of requested funds. We conduct annual and capital campaigns for a negotiated fee, not a percentage of the monies raised.

110. Our office is staffed by Ms. Sally Evans, our office manager who performs data entry on our accounting system for funds we manage for two conferences, three districts, and five hundred churches. Mr. Charles Rhuda, our accountant, balances our books and ensures we operate in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

111. Members of the Board of Directors are the backbone of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. Their enthusiastic participation and involvement guides our ministry and provides the stability required to keep the UM Frontier Foundation steady.

112. It is my privilege to be the chief executive officer and president of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. I look forward to the future of our ministry together that as Christians we use the gifts God has placed in our keeping to find new ways to serve and make disciples in the world.

Corporate Resolutions

2012 NYAC Resolution A – Resolution for the Discontinuation of a Local Church: Embury United Methodist Church

WHEREAS the Embury United Methodist Church of Queens Village, in the borough of Queens of the State of New York, was founded in 1924 and has had a long and proud history, and

WHEREAS because of the interest of 100 families who were interested in starting an English Methodist Church, a survey was conducted for the German Methodist conference and in 1924, the church known as Queens Evangelical Church, located at 91st Avenue and 213th Street, was incorporated, and In 1925 Rev. William H Stewart became the first pastor , and

WHEREAS in 1926 the Church was incorporated as The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Queens Village, and in 1949, the name Embury was included in the church's name, and

WHEREAS Embury had experienced new growth post World War II, but because of changes in demographics, there was a reversal of growth, and during the years 1993 – 2001, the growth and development declined, and

WHEREAS after exhaustive efforts to revive the vitality of the church, members agreed that they can no longer continue as a church. This lack of vitality is marked not only by a greatly diminished membership, low attendance , and a lack of interest in activities focused on building up the body of Christ, and

WHEREAS Rev. Kenny Yi, district superintendent, has met with and guided the congregation of Embury United Methodist Church, and has assessed the potential of Embury United Methodist Church, including the past, present and potential ministry of the local church, and

WHEREAS Rev. Kenny Yi, district superintendent, has determined that Embury United Methodist Church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, as a vital congregation, and has recommended that Embury United Methodist Church be discontinued pursuant to the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, and

WHEREAS the Charge Conference of Embury United Methodist Church voted unanimously on October 12, 2012 to discontinue the church, and

WHEREAS Rev. Kenny Yi, district superintendent, has recommended that upon discontinuation, all real and personal property of Embury United Methodist Church be transferred to the Annual Conference, to be sold and the net proceeds of such sale be disposed of in accordance with the 2010 Conference Resolution for disposition of proceeds of discontinued or abandoned property, and

WHEREAS Rev. Kenny Yi, district superintendent, has recommended that the membership of Embury United Methodist Church be transferred to other United Methodist churches as the individual members select, and

WHEREAS the bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Long Island West District Board of Church Location and Building met on April 5th 2013 and have all duly resolved and unanimously consented to Rev. Kenny Yi's recommendations with respect to the discontinuation of Embury United Methodist Church, the future use of the real and personal property and the transfer of membership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Embury United Methodist Church be and hereby is discontinued effective as of July 1, 2013, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all real and personal property of Embury United Methodist Church be and hereby is transferred to the New York Annual Conference, which may hold, lease, or sell the properties, and the net proceeds of any sale shall be allocated in accordance with the Conference Resolution for disposition of proceeds of discontinued or abandoned property as in effect on July 1, 2013, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of Embury United Methodist Church be transferred to other United Methodist Churches as the individual members select.

2013 NYAC Resolution B – Proceeds from Sale of Discontinued and Abandoned Property

WHEREAS *The 2012 Book of Discipline* in paragraph *2549* gives guidance to an annual conference in managing discontinued and abandoned local church property, and

WHEREAS paragraph 2549.7 of *The Book of Discipline* provides guidance on the distribution of sales proceeds to an annual conference if the property sold is in an urban center of greater than 50,000 people, and

WHEREAS the distribution of assets of property in non-urban centers is not specifically addressed by the *Book of Discipline* and previous Conference policies have become outdated, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist City Society holds title to several church properties in New York City, and is the grantor of numerous ecclesiastical mortgages within the metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS churches have often not paid their Shared Ministry Apportionments and/or benefit obligations, and/or the balance remaining for the Integrity in Pension liability, and/or Parish Development Loans and/or United Methodist City Society ecclesiastical mortgages, at the time of discontinuance or abandonment, and

WHEREAS there are costs associated with properties before their sale, including those for property maintenance and operation that are presently borne by the annual conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that accumulated expenses borne by the Annual Conference , related to the maintenance, operation and selling activities of said property, will be fully repaid to the Annual Conference prior to the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of properties, unless the Cabinet, Board of Trustees, and Committee on Finance and Administration agree otherwise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case of sale of properties which have ecclesiastical mortgages with the United Methodist City Society, those mortgages will be fully repaid prior to any other distribution of the proceeds of the sale of properties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case of sale of any church property with any outstanding Parish Development loans, those loans will be fully repaid prior to the distribution of sales proceeds, unless the Parish Development Committee, Board of Trustees, Committee on Finance and Administration, and the Cabinet agree otherwise,and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case of sale of any church property with any outstanding Integrity in Pension obligations, those obligations will be fully repaid prior to the distribution of sales proceeds, unless the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, Board of Trustees, Committee on Finance and Administration, and the Cabinet agree otherwise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case of sale of any church property with any outstanding Shared Ministry Apportionments and/or benefit obligations for up to two calendar years prior to the year of closing and extending to the completion of that calendar year, those obligations will be fully paid prior to the further distribution of sales proceeds, unless the Committee on Finance and Administration, Board of Trustees, and the Cabinet agree otherwise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once all previously noted obligations have been fulfilled, the net proceeds from the sale not affected by paragraph 2549.7 or restricted by other covenants will be divided as follows:

- 40% to the New Church Growth and Development Fund for new church starts or expansion of local church ministries or expansion of annual conference ministries to be managed by the Parish Development Committee in consultation with the Cabinet and provided that money spent for capital needs is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and
- 40% to be used by the Conference Parish Development Committee in consultation with the Cabinet, with special consideration given to the district within which the property is sold, for special capital or ministry needs within the districts of the annual conference, provided that money spent for capital needs is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and

- 20% to the NYAC Board of Trustees to be invested -from which Board of Trustees capital expenses, not provided for in the annual conference budget, may be expended through the appropriate approval process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the proceeds of a discontinued or abandoned church are not sufficient to satisfy all of the obligations listed, the obligations will be satisfied sequentially in the order listed, unless the Cabinet, Committee on Finance and Administration, Board of Trustees, (when applicable) the Parish Development and United Methodist City Society agree otherwise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the distribution of proceeds as adopted in this resolution will apply to all discontinued or abandoned properties effective with the 2013 Annual Conference and following and is not applicable for properties that were closed or sold prior to that date.

General Conference – Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments, The United Methodist Church

Voted General Conference April-May 2012

I. (¶ 6) The proposed amendment acknowledges God's action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

II. (¶ 14) The proposed amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.

III. (¶ 32) The proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the spiritual gifts of the laity.

IV. (¶ 40) The proposed amendment gives the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On April 30, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 865 Yes, 50 No (Calendar Item 211, *DCA* p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

After "it will" add "pray."

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

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

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 731 Yes, 181 No (Calendar Item 205, *DCA* p. 2430). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

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

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

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 3, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 618 Yes, 306 No (Calendar Item 54, *DCA* pp. 2672-73). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missioners under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.
If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 848 Yes, 57 No (Calendar Item 207, *DCA* p. 2431). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

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

New York Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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