

2010 REPORTS TO THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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1 **SECTION 2: CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND MINISTRIES OF NURTURE**

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4 **COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES — LONG ISLAND EAST DISTRICT**

5 **Rev. Gia Hall, Chairperson**

6

7 101. Our youth retreat focused on the various ways to praise God and was held at Camp Quinipet on Shelter
8 Island. Within the LI East District, 194 persons attended and the youth raised \$2,895 for the next Habitat For
9 Humanity United Methodist house building on Long Island.

10

11 102. Our District laity Worship Service was held on May 22nd at Smithtown UMC along with “Leaders to Leaders”
12 training sessions.

13

14 103. Talithacum Ministries held several seminars hosting speakers that included: Thomas Long, Barbara
15 Lundblad, Tony Campolo, Peter Steinke and Hal Taussing

16

17 104. During Lent our District Spiritual Nurture group visited each of our 74 churches and developed a wonderful
18 Clergy Day Apart that focused on prayer, team building and testimony, communion and rejoicing.

1 **SECTION 3: MINISTRIES OF ADVOCACY**

2
3
4 **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN**

5 Rev. Judy Stevens, Chair

- 6
7 101. This year, CCOSROW supported the work of the General Commission On The Status And Role Of Women
8 through monitoring and raising awareness about the status and role of women in the United Methodist
9 Church. CCOSROW monitored plenary sessions of Annual Conference, legislative section meetings, and
10 both the Commissioning and Ordination Services. The following categories were monitored: Clergy / Laity,
11 Male/Female, Race & Ethnicity, Younger / Older Adult, and Persons with Disability.
12
13 102. The categories were applied to persons presiding and presenting, and to those who were recognized to speak
14 from the floor. A full report has been forwarded to the Bishop and cabinet. These areas for improvement
15 were noted:
16 1. In general, women who were recognized as speakers during plenary sessions were white
17 clergywomen.
18 2. The number of women recognized as speakers during the administrative plenary sessions, i.e. CF&A
19 and Health Benefits, was less than 25% of the whole
20 3. In both the Commissioning and Ordination Services, the representation of women in a presiding
21 position was less than 25% of the whole.
22
23 103. CCOSROW worked to establish Listening Posts in each District, to share the full monitoring report. Thanks to
24 these women who agreed to facilitate a Listening Posts: Laura Galbraith, Maxine Nixon, and Koonae Lee.
25
26 104. In the coming year, CCOSROW plans to work toward empowering and equipping lay and clergy women for
27 leadership in our New York Annual Conference.
28
29

30 **PETITION #2010-313 — RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CALL TO ACTION ON IMMIGRATION**

31 Financial Implications: No

32
33 WHEREAS Throughout Scripture we see evidence of God's call to welcome the sojourner. We also see God sharing
34 good news to those who practice hospitality through the presence of the sojourner. As affirmed by General
35 Conference in 2008, we believe: "There is theologically and historically an implied nature of mutuality in migration.
36 Both the migrant and the native are meant to benefit from migration. Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of
37 mission; it is an opportunity to receive God's grace."
38
39 WHEREAS As receivers of God's grace we are called to engage in justice on behalf of those rejected and oppressed.
40 As United Methodists we believe that, Jesus' presence on earth initiated the Kingdom reality of a new social order
41 based on love, grace, justice, inclusion, mercy and egalitarianism, which was meant to replace the old order,
42 characterized by nepotism, racism, classism, sexism and exclusion. The broken immigration system in the United
43 States and the xenophobic responses to migrants reflect the former social order. The calling of the people of God is to
44 advocate for the creation of a new immigration system that reflects Jesus' beloved community. ("Welcoming the
45 Migrant to the U.S.," 2008 General Conference resolution)
46
47 WHEREAS "Jesus' beloved community" cannot be realized when immigrants live in fear and are subjected to
48 oppressive laws and practices. Throughout history, immigrants have come to the United States to be reunited with
49 their families, to find employment to support their families, or to seek refuge from persecution, and yet, they often work
50 the most difficult jobs for unfair wages and in unsafe conditions. Documented immigrants live with the same fear as
51 undocumented immigrants because they are not immune to facing suspicion and possible detention based solely on
52 the color of their skin and accent.
53
54 WHEREAS the current immigration debate has too often been characterized by fear and ignorance. Irresponsible
55 language by the media and some members of Congress has generated a dangerous atmosphere that has led to
56 racism and xenophobia against immigrants. This has resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 1070 in Arizona in April.

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1 This legislation is set to be enforced in August of this year and will:

2

- 3 • Require policing officials in the state to determine the immigration status of any person within which they
- 4 come into lawful contact, if the officer has reasonable suspicion that he or she is unlawfully present in the
- 5 U.S. If suspected of being here unlawfully, the person shall not be released until identification is properly
- 6 verified. If the person is found guilty, he or she is not eligible for suspension of sentence, probation or
- 7 commutation of sentence until the full sentence is served. The person will be turned over to Immigration &
- 8 Customs Enforcement;
- 9 • Declare that any person found present on public or private land within the state that is not in possession of
- 10 some form of U.S. identification or authorization will be fined, incarcerated and turned over to Immigration
- 11 & Customs Enforcement;
- 12 • Give Arizona citizens the right to bring suit against any official or agency that they feel does not enforce
- 13 these requirements;
- 14 • Make it illegal for any person to stop, pick up or solicit day laborers if they stop or impede the normal flow
- 15 of traffic; and
- 16 • Make it illegal to transport, conceal, harbor, or shield an unlawful immigrant in any building or means of
- 17 transportation.

18

19 WHEREAS though immigrants come to the United States from throughout the world, this law will potentially result
20 in racial profiling against Latinos and immigrants of color. Though we are called to love and serve all immigrants,
21 regardless of their legal status, this law could possibly criminalize those who minister among immigrant
22 communities. This legislation will force police officers to abandon their responsibilities to protect and serve
23 communities and force them to become federal immigration enforcement agents. This legislation has created a
24 climate of fear and terror and has done nothing to repair the broken immigration system.

25

26 WHEREAS The United Methodist Church advocates for just immigration reform which consists of:

27

- 28 • An opportunity for legal status for all undocumented migrants. Any pathway created for undocumented
- 29 migrants should have minimal obstacles and those requirements should not be designed to preclude migrants
- 30 from eligibility for legalization;
- 31 • Clearing the backlogs and reunifying families separated by migration or detainment;
- 32 • An increase in the number of visas for short-term workers to come into the United States to work in a safe,
- 33 legal, and orderly way. Opportunities for legalization should be available for those who wish to remain
- 34 permanently;
- 35 • The protections of all workers who come to stay for a certain period of time as well as for those who stay
- 36 permanently. The right to bargain for higher wages, to protest against poor working conditions, and to
- 37 preserve their human rights should be maintained by all workers, documented and undocumented alike.

38

39 WHEREAS it is clear that the Arizona law, SB 1070, falls short of the principles called for by the 2008 General
40 Conference and therefore this legislation, and all other bills like it should be opposed by United Methodists.

41

42 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we call upon the New York Annual Conference to stand with our brothers and
43 sisters in Arizona. We call upon all United Methodist churches within the New York Annual Conference to:

- 44 • Advocate for just immigration reform based on the above principles;
- 45 • Work closely with the Immigration Task Force of New York Annual Conference to spread awareness about
- 46 the need for immigration reform;
- 47 • Commit to engage in specific ministries of hospitality to newly arrived migrants;
- 48 • Begin a visitation program for migrants at a local detention center (see center attached);
- 49 • Research where local police are considering agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to
- 50 engage police in immigration enforcement and work to challenge such agreements (such as 287G, Secure
- 51 Communities);
- 52 • Financially support and volunteer for the ministry of Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinics;
- 53 • develop mutual, egalitarian relationships with immigrant churches;
- 54 • Participate individually and during the public corporate prayers times and public witness during the Week
- 55 of Prayer in support of our sisters and brothers in Arizona (June 20-26, 2010); and
- 56 • Joining faith coalitions within New York and Connecticut that advocate for the principles of just immigration
- 57 reform.

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1
2 Submitted and endorsed by The New York Annual Conference Task Force on Immigration, Methodist in a New
3 Direction(MIND) the NYAC Board of Church and Society (CBCS),
4
5 Signed by: Rev. Hector Laporta and Ximena A. Varas, CLM (Task Force on Immigration); Dorothee Benz (MIND);
6 Rev. Jeff Wells (CBCS), Pastor Oscar Destruge
7
8

9 ICE Federal Detention Centers in NYAC

10 From: <http://detentionwatchnetwork.org/dwnmap>

11
12 Federal Correctional Institute, Danbury, CT
13 Hartford Correctional Center, Hartford, CT
14 Osborn Correctional Institute, Somers, CT
15 Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, Uncasville, CT
16 Washington County Jail, Salem, NY
17 Varick Detention Facility, New York, NY
18
19

20 PETITION # 2010-314 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OVERSIGHT OF 21 HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PROCESS

22 Financial Implications: None
23

24 WHEREAS, ¶160 in the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, under our Social Principles, states “All creation is the Lord’s, and we
25 are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal
26 life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are
27 useful to human beings.” This paragraph goes on to further state under subheading (A) “We urge development of
28 international agreements concerning equitable utilization of the world’s resources for human benefit so long as the
29 integrity of the earth is maintained.” Under subheading (B) this paragraph states “Affirming the inherent value of
30 nonhuman creation, we support and encourage social principles that are directed toward rational and restrained
31 transformation of parts of the nonhuman world into energy for human usage and that de-emphasize or eliminate
32 energy-producing technologies that endanger the health, the safety, and even the existence of the present and future
33 human and nonhuman creation.”; and
34

35 WHEREAS, “rising energy costs and fears of more volatility in the future, the natural gas industry is now searching for
36 additional fuel sources. One such source is the natural gas-rich Marcellus Shale, an ancient rock formation that
37 spans 600 miles and four states including New York. Innovations in drilling technology have made it more attractive
38 to tap the approximately 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas stored in the Marcellus Shale”¹; and
39

40 WHEREAS, one of these drilling innovations is a process known as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” whereby large
41 quantities of water combined with chemicals and sand are injected into a borehole under high pressure in such a way
42 that the fluid/chemical mixture enters cracks and fissures in the rock and expands and propagates them, opening
43 them up and allowing greater quantities of natural gas to be extracted from the rock formation; and
44

45 WHEREAS, energy companies were granted an exclusion from the Safe Drinking Water Act in 2005 for the hydraulic
46 fracturing process following an EPA study released in 2004² that found that hydraulic fracturing posed “little or no
47 threat” to drinking water supplies.³ And,
48

49 WHEREAS, a series of contamination incidents has raised questions regarding the scientific validity of the 2004 EPA
50 study;⁴ and
51

52 WHEREAS, reports of drinking water contamination have continued to surface from states where the hydraulic
53 fracturing process is used, including Colorado, Texas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania; and
54

55 WHEREAS, the exclusion of the hydraulic fracturing process from the Safe Drinking Water Act allows energy
56 companies to not disclose the chemicals that are used and injected into the ground in this process. Energy
57 companies have further refused to voluntarily disclose the chemicals used in the process, citing trade secrets.

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1 Without knowing the chemicals that are being injected into the ground it is impossible to monitor drinking water
2 supplies for possible contamination and to accurately assess environmental impact; and

3
4 WHEREAS, “two of the world’s largest oil-field service companies [Halliburton and BJ Services] have acknowledged
5 to Congress that they used diesel in hydraulic fracturing after telling federal regulators they would stop injecting the
6 fuel near underground water supplies.”⁵ This was in violation of a Memorandum of Agreement signed between
7 energy companies and the EPA in 2003 which limited the amount of diesel used in hydraulic fracturing. The use of
8 diesel in the process poses a health hazard by contaminating water supplies with benzene and other toxic chemicals;
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, one million acres of the Marcellus Shale are in the New York City watershed and 9 million New Yorkers
12 depend on the watershed for clean, unfiltered water; and

13
14 WHEREAS, energy companies are aggressively targeting land owners in the upstate New York region, offering
15 lucrative financial deals in exchange for drilling rights, taking advantage of the severe economic downturn of the last
16 couple of years and people’s vulnerable financial situations; and

17
18 WHEREAS, U.S. Reps.. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) are sponsoring House measure H.R.
19 2766, and U.S. Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) are sponsoring Senate bill S. 1215, known
20 collectively as the “Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act,” or “FRAC Act,” which would require
21 energy companies to disclose the chemicals used in the fracturing fluids and remove the energy companies’
22 exemption from federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Congress has mandated and authorized in fiscal 2010 a study by the EPA into the effects of hydraulic
25 fracturing in shale plays on underground and surface water supplies;

26
27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York Annual Conference send a letter to our U.S. Representatives
28 and Senators in New York and Connecticut expressing our support for the FRAC Act and urging our legislators to
29 support and continue moving this legislation forward; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York Annual Conference send a letter to the New York State Department
32 of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urging the DEC to adopt an approach to regulating natural gas drilling in the
33 Marcellus Shale at the state level that is fully protective of the environment and the health of New York residents.

34
35
36 *Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action*

37 Rev. Dale Ashby, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. Evelyn McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Timothy J. Riss,
38 Rev. Judy Stevens

39
40 ¹ “Protecting New Yorkers’ Health and the Environment by Regulating Drilling in the Marcellus Shale,” Natural
41 Resources Defense Council (NRDC) website (www.nrdc.org) October, 2009.

42 ² http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/pdfs/ch1_6-4-04.pdf

43 ³ “Energy Industry Reps Greet House Fracking Probe with Shrug,” The New York Times, February 22, 2010.

44 ⁴ “Drilling Process Causes Water Supply Alarm, The Denver Post, November 17, 2008,
45 http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_11001835

46 ⁵ “Two Oil-Field Companies Acknowledge Fracking with Diesel,” The New York Times, February 19, 2010.

47

48

1 **SECTION 4: COMMISSIONING**

2
3

4 **PETITION # 2010 – 401 — RESOLUTION: “PULPIT SHARING/EXCHANGE SUNDAYS”**

5 Submitted by CCORR, Inday Day, Chair

6

7 This resolution is a part of the 2010 Annual Report of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR)
8 presented to the 2010 New York Annual Conference (NYAC). Its intent is to create an awareness of the CCORR
9 mission in its pursuit of equal opportunity for **service** for ethnic and racial group members of our local churches. It
10 does **not** require any budgetary apportionment. It does require commitment and implementation from clergy and local
11 churches.

12

13 WHEREAS, a measure of leadership development entrusted to CCORR by the 2008 General Conference (Section
14 XIV, General Commission on Religion and Race, The Book of the Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008,
15 pages 684-688) is to:

- 16 1. Ensure ethnic and racial inclusiveness for **service** at every level of the Church's life and ministry,
- 17 2. Challenge local churches to provide full and equal participation opportunities for their ethnic and racial
18 constituency (members),
- 19 3. Encourage recognition and provide visibility for those members who have emergent potential for future
20 leadership roles to share their gifts and talents beyond the local church,

21

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the New York Annual Conference designate the third (3rd) Sunday of
23 October, and the third (3rd) Sunday of March as Pulpit Sharing/Exchange Sundays.

- 24 • That this concept be **implemented** for the 2010-2011 Conference Year;
- 25 • That clergy and churches **commit** to share/exchange their pulpit on these respective Sundays with persons
26 from ethnic and racial groups,
- 27 • That clergy and churches dialog to **recruit** such persons, regardless of sex, from their local churches, to
28 preach the gospel and share the good news;
- 29 • That clergy who share/exchange their pulpits **report** their action to their District Superintendent,
- 30 • That the District Superintendents, in turn, **report** these actions to the Chair of the CCORR on a timely basis,
- 31 • That the CCORR review and monitor the results and **report** them to the 2011 New York Annual Conference.

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1 **CORPORATE SESSION:**

2

3

4 **NOMINATION OF CONFERENCE TREASURER, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

5

6 To the people of the New York Annual Conference:

7

8 On behalf of the CCFA, I would like to introduce you to Ross Williams, whom we will nominate to be the next
9 Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services of our Annual Conference.

10

11 Ross is a life-long United Methodist. He grew up in Yonkers, attending the Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist
12 Church. As a young adult, he belonged to the New Canaan UMC, and for the past twelve years he's been a member
13 of Darien UMC. He helped bring Natural Church Development to Darien and currently serves as the chairperson of
14 the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee.

15

16 Ross comes to us from Cognizant Technology Solutions, a \$4 billion global provider of Information Technology
17 services with over 85,000 employees. From 1998 to 2004, he was Cognizant's Vice President and Corporate
18 Controller. Since 2004 he has been Vice President and Chief Risk and Compliance Officer.

19

20 He became a Certified Public Accountant in 1992, the year after earning the M.B.A. from Fordham University. While
21 there he was a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. He graduated cum laude from the State University
22 of New York at Brockport, with a B.S. in Finance/Economics.

23

24 In an email to CCFA, he wrote, "I was not active in the job market when learning of this position. I applied for the job
25 because I felt it would be a unique opportunity to apply my accounting and finance background to the service of my
26 Christian faith."

27

28 Ross has been married to Brenda for seventeen years, and they are the parents of three children: Nicole, 15;
29 Danielle, 13; and Graham, 7.

30

31 CCFA is very grateful to a wonderful search committee, and we would like to thank each one of them for lavishing
32 such time and care on this task: Rev. Noel Chin (Chairperson), Sabrina Chandler, Myung Rae Kim, Jorge Lockward,
33 Rev. Ann Pearson, Rev. Stephen Phillips, Gillian Prince, and Rev. William Shillady. We thank Bishop Jeremiah Park
34 for his leadership in forming the committee.

35

36 Finally, although this is an introduction to Ross, we cannot let the opportunity pass to thank Ernest Swiggett for his
37 twenty-three years of service, his extraordinary helpfulness in the search process, and his going the second mile to
38 make the transition seamless.

39

40 *Rev. Timothy J. Riss, President*

41 *NYAC Council on Finance and Administration*

2010 REPORTS TO THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **CORPORATE RESOLUTIONS**

2

3 **2010 NYAC RESOLUTION E — MERGER OF SOUTH THIRD UMC & KNICKERBOCKER UMC**

4

5 WHEREAS, over the past decade, the membership and full ministry of South Third United Methodist Church has been
6 in continual decline with less than 35 active members participating in worship, and

7

8 WHEREAS, the Knickerbocker UMC has been in continual decline with less than 12 active members participating in
9 worship, and

10

11 WHEREAS, the building of South Third UMC has been in a state of deterioration, beyond the congregation's ability to
12 repair, making it necessary for the congregation to vacate the premises because of the possibilities of physical bodily
13 harm, and

14

15 WHEREAS, the United Methodist City Society, title holder of this building, has made a decision to sell the property
16 and has made available the Knickerbocker property for the merged congregation, and

17

18 WHEREAS, there has been study, conversation, and exploration of feasible alternatives for continuing ministry of the
19 congregation of South Third UMC, and

20

21 WHEREAS, the option of merging with Knickerbocker UMC, seemed an agreeable alternative to the people of South
22 Third and Knickerbocker, and

23

24 WHEREAS, at a duly called Charge/Church Conference of Knickerbocker UMC on December 12, 2009, and South
25 Third on January 24, 2010, those members present voted by majority to be merged as one congregation, and

26

27 WHEREAS, the decision was approved by the Church Location and Building Committee of the Long Island West
28 District on May 28, 2010, and

29

30 WHEREAS, the decision of the congregations was approved by the Cabinet on May 26, 2010:

31

32 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the
33 corporate body in which South Third UMC and Knickerbocker UMC exist, at this 2010 session of the Annual
34 Conference, declares that South Third UMC and Knickerbocker UMC shall be merged as one church, meeting as a
35 community of faith at the Knickerbocker UMC location at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11237, under the
36 suggested new name of New Jerusalem UMC.

37

38

39 **2010 NYAC RESOLUTION F — MERGER FOR GLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 40 AND MASPETH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

41

42 WHEREAS, the Maspeth United Methodist Church in Maspeth, NY, has for many years provided life-giving and life-
43 changing ministry to her community; and

44

45 WHEREAS, the Maspeth United Methodist Church, tragically lost its church building due to fire on June 9, 2009, and
46 currently has no church building from which to worship; and

47

48 WHEREAS, both the Maspeth United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of Glendale, feel that a
49 merger will help both churches more effectively fulfill their ministry; and

50

51 WHEREAS, at duly constituted church conferences, Maspeth United Methodist Church on March 14, 2010, and the
52 United Methodist Church of Glendale on March 21, 2010, both approved resolutions stating that a merger is in their
53 best interest; and

54

55 WHEREAS, the Long Island West District Committee on Church Building and Location on April 26, 2010 approved
56 this merger; and

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1

2 WHEREAS, the bishop and cabinet of the New York Annual Conference have approved the action proposed in this
3 resolution;

4

5 BE IT RESOLVED: That the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, at this 2010 session of the
6 Annual Conference, hereby recognizes that the Charge Conferences of the United Methodist Church of Glendale and
7 the Maspeth United Methodist Church shall be merged as one local church and charge on the records of the Annual
8 Conference, subject to the completion of a corporate merger on terms approved by the District Superintendent of the
9 Long Island West District, and

10

11 BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the name of this new congregation shall be Glendale Maspeth United Methodist
12 Church.

13

14 BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that location of worship of the above mentioned church shall be 66-14 Central Avenue,
15 Glendale, New York 11385.

16