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**Section 1: Ministries of Witness**

**Committee on Accessibility**

*Stephanie Parsons, Chair*

1. **This year members the NYAC Committee on Accessibility participated in several events across the conference.** In July of 2014, former Accessibility Chair Evy McDonald returned to NYAC to present *The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility and Advocacy*, the issues study for the UMW-sponsored Mission u. The Accessibility Committee also presented a shorter workshop to the entire body during a plenary session. This July, the three-day study will be taught again during Mission u at Western Connecticut State University’s Downtown campus. In January and February, members of the committee were invited to present a workshop for the Connecticut District’s Resource Day. Four workshops were presented over two days with more than 20 participants from across the district.

2. The committee is available for consultation and questions individuals or churches may have about local accessibility issues. Churches have reached out by phone, email and at the various workshops conducted by members. We encourage questions, comments and insights from the UMC community in hopes of making all the churches in this conference truly accessible to all.

**Mission u 2014**

*Patricia Knebel, Dean*

**Journeying from hole-ness to WHol-i-ness**

1. **Over 200 Mission u 2014 participants entered the journey from hole-ness to WHol-i-ness July 24-26 at Western Connecticut University in Danbury CT.** Mission u provided guideposts for the journey: worship, prayer, education, fellowship and fellow Christians to journey with. And Mission u classes taught tools for the journey: Prayer, knowledge, mentoring, awareness, advocacy, hospitality and being in ministry together with. Participants began a personal journey of transformation and a corporate journey to transform the world.

2. Worship service themes included “A Call to Holiness,” “I Have a Name—Not a Label” and “Called to be Transformed.” The worship center included three large puzzle pieces and other symbols that represented the three major study themes. As Mission u progressed, the puzzle pieces and the symbols began to blend together until they combined into one whole picture at closing communion. Simultaneously, participants learned more about their own gifts, needs and place in the world and also moved toward whole-i-ness.

3. Each person participated in in-depth class sessions on one of this year’s studies. Teachers leading these classes were:

- How Is It With Your Soul?
  - The Reverend Cecil Stone
  - Daryl Norman
  - Faye Wilson
  - The Reverend Juhye Hahn
  - Elaine Williams Nelson

- The Roma of Europe
  - Lija Kim

- The Church and People with Disabilities
  - The Reverend Evy McDonald
  - Ximena Varas
  - The Reverend Miyoung Kang
104. New this year was an expansion of the children/youth classes to three classes for students going into grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Each class was actively engaged in activities appropriate for their age groups. These classes were led by:

- K-4: Elise Boykin (assisted by Ian Wharton)
- 5-8: Byungkook Lee (assisted by Lee-Ann Lugg)
- 9-12: Gail Douglas Boykin (assisted by Tyrone Johnson)

105. An ice cream social introduced the mission fair on Thursday evening. Interactive displays were available on mission projects and issues and hands-on projects included assembling health kits, making banks to collect funds for No More Malaria and making recycled t-shirt bags. On Friday evening, Mission u again packed 10,000 meals that will be distributed by Stop Hunger Now—in even a shorter amount of time than last year. Teamwork accomplished the packaging, weighing, sealing, packing and cleaning up.

106. The New York Conference Committee on Accessibility presented their workshop, “Dissing the ‘Dis’ in Disability: Welcoming the Differently Abled.” UMW had opportunities to share experiences, ideas and plans. Late night fellowship took place at Deborah’s Den. The resource room provided lots of challenging and inspirational materials. The prayer room provided a quiet, peaceful, inspirational spot to be in conversation with God.

107. On Saturday, an additional group of Saturday @ Mission u students arrived for the day to get a sample of Mission u. They participated in a one-day intensive of How Is It With Your Soul? and joined the full “u” for closing communion.

108. Someone who attended Mission u would love to share what they learned with your unit or church. Just ask them. Check the conference web site for information about Mission u 2015. The journey continues.

Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences Connection

Annette Griffith, Co-chair

101. In 2014/15 the Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences Connection continued our relationship throughout the year with our brothers and sisters in Mozambique. Instead of traveling to Mozambique, this year we focused on raising funds for ongoing mission projects and have a trip planned for the spring of 2017. All interested in coming with us may contact annettegriffith@earthlink.net. Remember, you don’t have to travel to Mozambique to be a part of this important mission. There are many opportunities to help right here. We are in need of supporters who can write, work with finances or fundraisers or help in many other ways. Do you hear the call?

102. This year we supported four scholarship students in either a secular university program or the Cambine Bible School. One is studying agriculture, one is pursuing a doctorate to become a gynecologist, another will become a teacher of mathematics and computer science and the fourth will be a pastor and help spread Christianity in Mozambique. The Warwick, NY church supported younger students through a donation for school supplies to secondary and elementary schools in northern Mozambique. The Mozambique Connection is looking for sponsors to support the Beira English School, which is a Saturday program that enhances the study of English taught in the public schools. We are always grateful for past and future scholarship sponsors. Are you or your church able to sponsor a student or contribute to school supplies?

103. In November of 2015 there will be a round table held in Mozambique that will keep communications, transparency and cooperation open between those in mission together with The United Methodist Church in Mozambique. New York Annual Conference members will be attending by Skype.

104. The Gondola Training Center is holding classes to enable laity to effectively bring the word to those thirsting for meaningful worship and spiritual growth. The center is now branching out to teach agricultural best practices through their working farm and to host workshops on many topics. When we go to Mozambique we plan to visit the Gondola Training Center which we helped to open in 2012.
105. This year, for the first time, we held a car-show fundraiser, “Crusin’ for a Cause” in May at the UMC Monroe, CT. Please visit our booth at conference for information on how we did this year and for information on future car shows to benefit the Mozambique Connection.

106. All are welcome to become a part of this important mission. Please contact Annette Griffith for information about meetings and how to become involved. annettegriffith@earthlink.net

Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)

Myrna Clinton and Elaine Winward: Co-Chairs

101. Native American Ministry Sunday was celebrated at First and Wesley UMC, No. Haven, CT with Myrna and Walt Clinton sharing the service. Elaine Winward also spoke at her home church Jesse Lee Memorial, Ridgefield, CT on Native American Sunday.

102. Native American Ministry Sunday information was posted in The Vision. With gratitude we thank Joanne Utley for a fine job putting that together. The drawing on that flyer was by Bev Powless (Mohawk), cousin of Dan Winward, Elaine’s spouse.

103. The Clinton’s collect pennies at their church to send to American Indian Relief Council (www.nrcprograms.org). This is an ongoing ministry for them. This year at the CONAM table you will find a container in which to place pennies in to keep this ministry going. They also talk to the children of their church telling them where their pennies go, helping others.

104. In September Elaine was invited to give a talk on Native American women to the UMW of NY/CT District at the Danbury UMC. A collection was taken at this meeting which was sent to the Onondaga Nation School in Nedrow, NY. In addition, handmade items made by the UMW were mailed to the Onondaga School. With the help of her home church, Elaine has collected and sent winter coats, sneakers, beautiful hats and scarves and other items for the Onondaga Nation School in Nedrow, New York. This school happens to be across the street from the Onondaga United Methodist Church. Our program offerings have sparked the interest and enthusiasm in others to contribute to the school. Elaine and her husband have traveled to the Onondaga Nation many times since 1970 visiting her husband’s relatives.

105. Pastor Doug Osgood, his wife Carol and Dan and Elaine Winward visited the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, CT. They plan on traveling to the Onondaga Nation this year.

106. This coming October, the NY/CT CONAM will be hosts for the NE Jurisdictional members of CONAM at the Edith Macy Center in Briarcliff Manor, NY. With much help from Ann Pearson, Elaine has been coordinating with the center for a wonderful faith-filled conference. The Clintons, Osgoods and Winwards will be attending this conference.

107. We want to continue the conversations and healing that we have been inspired by in this year’s annual conference Healing of Relationships and Repentance with Indigenous People service. We are excited and proud that this is happening; the entire committee was involved in creating this service.

108. We hope you stop by the CONAM table with your pennies and your interest for Native American Ministry. Thank you.

United Methodist Men

Royston Bailey, Conference President

“Building Spiritually Fulfilled Men”

101. We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose. — Romans 8:28

102. The United Methodist Men began the year by encouraging the men in the local units to be involved in an intentional Bible study, “Jesus: His Powerful Life.”
103. **Prayer Ministry:** the UMM continue to see small growth in our Upper Room Prayer Line ministry. During our three-day, two-hour sessions at annual conference, we prayed for 33 people. Westchester UMM started operating a two-hour prayer line ministry once per week; Wakefield Grace’s is operated five days per week. Westchester UMM and Wakefield Grace UMM are the only two men’s units that operate a two-hour prayer line ministry.

104. **Scouting:** On Friday Nov. 25, Scouting Coordinator Malcolm Hall spoke to 570 scouts and their families in a three-session seating at the East Meadow UMC. Malcolm spoke on the 9th commandment – do not bear false witness and the history of the East Meadow church. Malcolm was ably assisted by Rev. Ann Morgan, pastor of the Merrick UMC, on questions pertaining to the polity of our church. During the fall, scouts and youths helped in the garden at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church which harvested over 1,200 lbs. of vegetables.

105. **Hispanic Men’s Day Apart:** In March the Hispanic UMM held their first Men’s Day Apart. 48 men and eight women attended the event. Rev. Arturo Maine gave a very interactive and inspiring talk. Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie – after learning that over 40 men were planning to attend – felt it was more important to be present than to send a video. Rev. Ewoodzie gave a presentation on the work of our Youth Ambassadors and the Clean Water Project. Royston presented the video “Church for Men,” which was well received. Malcolm gave a workshop on unity, which was interactive and joyful. Rev. Magaly Beltran was happy to witness the fruits of her seven years of labor to organize the Hispanic Men’s Ministry, saying, “It takes a woman to organize the men.” At the end of the event $212.00 was collected for the Clean Water Project. The first day apart was so successful that the Hispanic men decided to do a second Men’s Day Apart in September; 45 men and 14 women attended the event. Rev. Hector Rivera gave a very inspiring sermon. The video, “Why Men Hate Going to Church,” was shown and discussed with positive feedback.

106. **New York/Connecticut Men’s Day Apart:** Peekskill UMC had a small group of nine men in attendance. Rev. Narcisse Phillips gave the men a warm greeting. The men viewed the video, “Church for Men,” and a presentation on “Strength for Service to God and Community.” Rev. David Jolly was inspired by a new understanding of the purpose of UMM ministry that he decided to turn to St. James UMC, Kingston with a focus to reorganize the men. Rev. Jolly was also willing to financially support bringing David Morrow to the annual men’s retreat if 24 other pastors were willing to do so.

107. **Catskill Hudson Men’s Day Apart:** We wondered where is the good when we tried so hard and did not see the results we expected. Rev. James Moore worked hard to bring about a men’s day apart in the district. Men from ten of his best churches were invited, but only one man accepted the invitation; the event was canceled. The “good” is, we were reminded how difficult it is to start and sustain a men’s ministry.

108. **Mission:** A training event for Volunteers in Mission (VIM) was offered in March at Mamaroneck UMC sponsored by UMM; 11 women and three men including three pastors attended the event. Over nine units joined the Hispanic men who gave $100.00 in support of the Clean Water Project. Royston presented the video “Church for Men,” which was well received.

109. **Mission u:** Graham Greaves attended the event and gave his support when and where needed. He also helped transport attendees to and from the hotel and campus. Royston provided a video presentation on the Upper Room Prayer Line ministry during the work fair.

110. **Spiritual Growth:** Earlwyn Benjamin, conference prayer advocate, attended the four-day National Association Conference Presidents and Prayer Advocates annual meeting. Royston Bailey, conference president and Benjamin Nelson, Metropolitan District, attended the two-day Northeastern Jurisdictional Annual Retreat where the focus was on communication.

111. **Methodist Night at the Nets:** This event was well attended; 48 of the 50 tickets were sold; the Epworth UMC, Bronx had 15 people in attendance.

112. **Annual Men’s Luncheon:** This event was our best-attended event for 2014; fifty-two men and women attended. Our guest speaker was the Rev. Tom Vencuss, coordinator of disaster recovery ministries; he gave an informative talk and encouraged the men to get involved in mission projects. Benjamin Nelson gave a talk on colon cancer. We also celebrated the work of Ms. Evelyn Brunson, administrative assistant.
for three bishops, by presenting her the Life Membership Award. Ms. Brunson was pleased to witness the
diversity of people as she reflected on the days when she attended the event with Bishop Lyght and it
appeared that only members of the Metropolitan District were in attendance. District Superintendent Rev.
Denise Smartt Sears delivered the episcopal address in Bishop Martin McLee’s absence.

113. Annual Men’s Retreat: It was good to see the New York Conference concerned about the spiritual health
of the men in our conference. Together, we brought men’s ministry to the forefront. We lift up those
ladies whose love for our Lord inspired them to speak about the sexist tone of the book, “Why Men Hate
Going to Church.” We had a fruitful discussion on the book during the October Connectional Ministries
Vision Table meeting. Two pages of sexist content were pointed out. After lengthy discussion, District
Superintendent Rev. Betsy Ott, a person of reason, helped us agree that men should have intentional
discussions about the sexist tone of the book. The retreat was held at St. Paul UMC, Jamaica. Thirty-one
men representing ten churches attended the event. District Superintendent Rev. Sungchan Kim delivered
one of the most inspiring speeches I’ve heard at a men’s retreat. The training video on “Why Men Hate
going to Church” was the main focus of the event. We discovered that this small sample of our local units
were less than 50% involved in an intentional Bible study; less than 40% has a prayer advocate (spiritual
leader); and all units have a devotion before meetings, conduct fundraisers and financially support their
local churches.

114. The UMM continue to witness improved health in men’s ministry. Tremont UMM and Iglesia Methodista
Unida San Esteban UMM became newly chartered men’s units. We also witness small growth in
subscriptions to UMM Men’s Magazine led by the 30-member Janes UMC, Brooklyn men’s unit. Three of
the districts — LIE, LIW and NYCT — maintained their vitality. The Metropolitan District continued to
improve their ministry by “planting fresh seeds in new places” and continue on “the road ahead.” The
Metropolitan District developed a local men’s ministry specialist who visited new churches two Sundays
per month to organize local units and to advocate the importance of men’s ministry. Their annual day of
worship continued to be an inspirational tool to draw new men’s units into the ministry.

115. We look forward to the new year with renewed excitement to continue the hard work of bringing district
leadership to the Catskill Hudson and Connecticut Districts; and to our 2015 Annual Men’s Retreat where
we planned to coach pastors and local units on how to start and sustain a men’s ministry through the
book, “Man in the Morrow Ministry – NO MAN LEFT BEHIND.”

116. The United Methodist Men thank all those who helped in “Building Spiritually Fulfilled Men”: Bishop
Martin McLee, our district superintendents, plus local church clergy Rev. Arturo Maine, Rev. Magaly

117. I would also like to thank our officers who worked hard to help make a successful year: Wayne Carty, John
Lemon, Greg Holder, Malcolm Hall, Earwyn Benjamin, Ernie Searle, Wayne Redman, Henry Ortiz,
Benjamin Nelson, Graham Greaves, Robert Miller and Herb Brown.

United Methodist Women

Susan S. Kim, President

101. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the conference United Methodist Women president. As
my tenure is over at the end of this year, I would like to thank all of the team members for the faith, hope
and love that they put into action.

102. Theme for this year: Call to Mission in Our Time

103. Chartered/reorganized Units: We welcome the following local units: Shandaken Memorial UMC in the
Catskill Hudson (CH) District and Trinity UMC, Cuyler-Warren UMC and Richmond Hill UMC in the Long
Island West (LIW) District.
104. **Mission Pledge and Centenarians:** We celebrate exceeding our 2014 mission pledge of $120,000 as well as our centenarian members in the LIW and Met Districts.

105. **Membership Report:** CH District has 26 active units with 189 members, Connecticut (CT) District has 15 units and 572 members, Long Island East (LIE) District has 12 units and 292 members, LIW District has 23 units and 1,015 members, NY/CT District has 9 units and 235 members, and the Metropolitan (MET) District has 22 units and 650 members. This means that as of March 2014, we have 108 active units with 2,953 members in our conference.

106. **Limitless Too:** A young women’s unit was born in the LIW District after the Limitless national gathering of young women leaders took place three years ago.

107. **Local Mission:** The local missions we formerly supported were the Prudence Crandall Center in Connecticut for victims of domestic violence and the Women’s Advocacy Ministry in New York for incarcerated women and their children. This year we will support The Children’s Home in Binghamton, a home for less-fortunate children, a school for 250 children with special needs and an after-school activity center for those who are in need; Kairos Outside, an organization for women whose lives have been impacted by incarceration. The Children’s Home was started as an orphanage by our foremothers over 100 years ago.


109. **Human Trafficking and Poverty Issues:** The CT District held seminars on *Putting Brakes on Human Trafficking and Homelessness* and hosted the annual Ubuntu Mission Day at Prudence Crandall Center. The MET District hosted its annual Ubuntu Mission Day at the Riverdale Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center.

110. **Prayer Focus:** It is sent out by email and posted on Facebook, umwnyc. Our calendar of events and detailed information can be found at www.nyac.com/umw.

111. **Spiritual Retreat:** Rev. Ronell Howard of East Avenue UMC in CT facilitated for 120 women at CCUN called “Tension – Hope.” It was filled with inspiration and well received.

112. **Mission u:** This cooperative learning event with NYAC was held at Western Connecticut State University with the theme, “Journeying from hole-ness to Whol-iness.” 183 people, including 14 youth and 2 children, attended the entire program and 28 people joined for the Saturday program. Jo Gibson scholarships covered the $190 registration fee and were awarded to 25 first-time youth and adult attendees.

113. **Mission Fair:** Packaging of 10,000 meals for the hungry was another success, filled with enthusiasm and prayers. Converting old T-shirts into shopping bags, making piggy bank boxes for the Imagine No Malaria collection and assembling Health Kits for UMCOR were popular hands-on activities at Mission u.

114. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry again invited me to *Camp Lead* at Camp Epworth in August. It was an excellent opportunity to connect and share fellowship as we hope to have them join us for Mission u.

115. **Annual Meeting & Celebration:** It was held at the Bible Korean UMC in Dix Hills in October with about 300 women attending. LIE District members opened their homes to conference officers for overnight stays—such gracious hospitality. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Rev. Jong Il Kim for opening the church doors for our gathering and to Rev. Adrienne Brewington for leading the closing communion service.

116. **Voices:** The National Leadership Development Days for the language coordinators was held at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in February and was attended by Korean, Spanish and Ghanaian language coordinators and myself. It was an opportunity for participants to hear the silent voices of those who are not heard due to language and culture barriers.
117. **Korean Network:** Continues their missions in Mongolia and Kazakhstan this year. A group of five women went to each country for leadership and Sunday school teacher training.

118. **National Leadership Development Days:** Some conference and district officers attended this uplifting, informational and inspiring event at Lake Junaluska, NC.

**Petition #2015-AC101 — Celebrating John Street United Methodist Church’s 250th Anniversary**

WHEREAS Philip Embury, a Methodist lay preacher from Ireland, began holding class meetings and worship services in his Manhattan home in October 1766, and

WHEREAS Embury’s meetings and services are the genesis of John Street (NY, NY) United Methodist Church, the oldest continuous Methodist congregation in the United States, and

WHEREAS John Street United Methodist Church will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2016 with events in New York City and at the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church during its 2016 session provide John Street United Methodist Church with an opportunity to highlight the congregation’s unique contributions to the Methodist tradition in honor of its 250th anniversary, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of connectional ministries or another designated member of the NYAC staff will consult with John Street Church’s leadership in order to promote events related to the congregation’s 250th anniversary.

Submitted by: Jason Radmacher, Pastor of John Street UMC; Jim Hohenstein, Finance Chair; Scott Slobodnyak, Treasurer; Becky DeWeese, Financial Secretary; Alan Stapler, Lay Leader; Bob Holmes, Trustee; Ray Rogers, Trustee; Nicole Browand, Trustee; Jay Cardwell, Trustee; Jackie Landler, Member; Joan Kirkpatrick, Member
Section 2: Connectional Ministries and Ministries of Nurture

Camps Governing Board

Beth Ann Graf, Chair; Leslie Vachon, Vice Chair; Greg Nissen, Director, Camping & Retreat Ministries

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 serves to guide and supervise the executive director and camping staff in carrying out our mission and the ministry.

103. The current Camps Task Force has been meeting regularly for the last two years regarding issues related to the CRM. Increased communication has allowed for quick turnaround on important issues, such as the sale of Epworth.

104. Quinipet, Shelter Island Heights, NY (www.Quinipet.org) (25 acres - year round) Quinipet’s Christian sleep-away and day camps host about 500 campers over a six-week season. The community sailing program brings an additional 100 people to our shores. Offering day camp and community sailing programs helps offset the cost of the sleep-away and keeps pricing within reach of community and church families. Quinipet also hosts church and non-profit retreats. Approximately 35% are Methodist, similar to last year.

105. Quinipet had $1,343,000 in program revenue in 2014 vs $1,419,000 in 2013. Operational expenses totaled $1,354,000. There was $71,000 in direct contributions. Significant capital improvements totaling $195,000 were completed, including renovations of the sailing barn, road resurfacing and two building interiors. A mortgage for $703,000 was accepted (3% for 30 years) from the Small Business Association through the disaster recovery program to rebuild the entire half mile of bulkhead supporting the Quinipet shoreline.

106. Quinipet is blessed with a small and vibrant staff: Gregory Nissen, executive director; Lauren Ruiz, administrative director; Jennifer Martin, media and technology; Leah Buxton, summer programming; Justin Savarese, facilities and adventure education; and Chris Baer, food service director. A number of seasonal and part-time workers assist with programming, food service and facilities.

107. Kingswood, Hancock, NY (www.Kingswoodcampsite.org) (766 Acres - Seasonal) Kingswood offers several unique experiences: fully equipped campsites, tent and trailer sites for campers bringing their own gear and RV sites. Programs include family camp, Woodsmoke (two-week camp for youth in grades 5-12) and adult camps including welding, making Adirondack chairs and spirituality. Hathaway Farmhouse is available for retreats from October to May. The volunteer ministry includes over 80 volunteers donating from several days to weeks of time.

108. Earned revenue was $58,000, slightly lower than 2013, and the operating expenses were $67,000. Additional donations totaled nearly $14,000. 2014 capital improvements paid for by contributions and timber harvest proceeds are valued at about $16,000. Kingswood’s committed volunteer network accomplishes the majority of the work at the lowest possible cost.

109. Kingswood is run by longtime volunteer director Cheryl Winship; additional volunteer staff includes Mike Weinlein, Woodsmoke camp & capital project construction and Don Shogren, information technology, web site maintenance and communications. Holly Moore is the paid program director for the summer season and serves as primary contact for family camp reservations.

110. Improvements completed in 2014 include renovation of a bathroom in the farmhouse, barn stabilization efforts, kitchen upgrades in Cove campsite, clutch replacement on Kubota tractor and complete overhaul of the web site. Plans for 2015 include renovations to the craft area, nature center, bathroom in the farmhouse and a new online reservation process.
111. Epworth, High Falls, NY Justin Savarese continued as the property manager and sole employee until its sale in September, 2014. Greg and Justin worked diligently to prepare the property for sale. Epworth was on the market for seven months and sold for $3,225,000 to the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary. After a celebration held at the camp, it was with sadness that we said goodbye.

112. Proceeds from the sale (after closing costs) were applied as follows: The $1,053,000 mortgage on the Quinipet property was paid off. Debt to CCFA, incurred between 2005 and 2014, and improvement loans from the trustees, approximately $885,000 in aggregate, were paid off. The remaining proceeds from the sale of Epworth were divided into two funds, both maintained by the trustees and each just over $546,000. One is directed to conference capital expenditures and the other for camp capital expenditures.

113. The Camping Ministry With the sale of Epworth and the mortgage payoff, we look forward to an increasingly stable environment for Quinipet and Kingswood. Conference subsidy of $79,200 was disbursed throughout the ministry for operational use. In addition, $12,118 in Scholarship Sunday donations was collected during 2014. Scholarship distributions for both camps were made in the amount of $21,000.

114. 2015 will bring changes to the ministry. Most significantly the Camps Governing Board is in a search for a new executive director. After 12 years, Greg Nissen is leaving the camping ministry. The board wishes to thank Greg for his many accomplishments that will be felt throughout the camping program for many years to come. The Camps Governing Board is forever grateful for his tireless service to this ministry.

Camps Task Force

Ross Williams, Chair

101. The camping and retreat ministries (CRM) of the conference are a vital ministry and a place where people of all ages have come to share Christian-based experiences in natural settings. Many clergy of the conference first felt the call to ministry as a result of a camp experience. Countless laity also had deep, meaningful experiences forming the underpinnings of their devotion to their faith.

102. The Camps Task Force was reconstituted during 2013 and includes representatives from the cabinet, CRM, Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration (“CF&A”) and conference staff. The following positions are permanent members and those currently serving appear in parenthesis: director of CRM (Greg Nissen, through May 2015), chair of CRM (Beth Ann Graf), vice chair of CRM (Leslie Vachon), Board of Trustees president (Ginny Carle), district superintendent (Jim Moore), CF&A vice president (Eric Fjeldal) and the conference CFO (Ross Williams).

103. The financial situation at our camps has been a challenging one dating back decades. This is not unique – many UMC conferences throughout the U.S. struggle with the same questions of: 1) what is the unified vision for our camping program?; to what extent is the conference willing to fund such a ministry?; what actions should be taken if the ministry is not able to operate within that level of funding?, and how do we operate and finance our camps in ways to achieve long-term sustainability?

104. The task force’s primary role is to provide a forum where these questions can be discussed openly and matters of significance can be addressed and resolved. The small membership base of the task force consisting of key leaders within the conference has resulted in a well-coordinated and effective team. This group, operating in an environment of mutual respect and trust, has been able to effectively communicate and execute critical tasks quickly and efficiently.

105. The task force generally meets monthly and due to the travel distances for some, alternates between in-person and conference-call formats.

At each meeting, we have generally reviewed the following:

- Operations at Quinipet Camp & Retreat Center
- Operations at Kingswood Campsite
Progress toward sale of Camp Epworth

Conference billings and the status of reimbursements

Camp financials, forecasts, internal controls and cash position

Significant projects or capital expenditures

Other concerns

106. Conference Funding: For many years, the CRM has received funding from the conference of approximately $80k (a $90k budget that was paid out at a lower rate reflecting the percentage of apportionments received by the conference). This amount of funding has not been sufficient to operate the camps on a break-even basis. For 2016, and after conducting a detailed projection of future revenues and expenses, the CRM has requested funding of $150k. This greater level of funding better reflects the true costs to operate this ministry in a post-Camp Epworth environment. The increased funding request is supported by this task force.

107. Controls: Effective financial controls ensure that financial statements are accurate, costs are well managed and activities and decisions are undertaken with the appropriate level of authority. During 2014, the committee continued to review the control environment at our camps and suggest / evaluate actions that have been taken to strengthen such controls.

108. Sale of Camp Epworth: In 2011, the conference approved a plan to lease or sell portions or all of Camp Epworth. This decision was reached after a long history of financial drain associated with a declining use of the camp. During 2013 and 2014, the trustees, with input from CRM and this task force, went forward with a plan to sell the camp. The property was successfully sold at the end of September to the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary for a sales price of $3.225M. Net proceeds after expenses were used to pay off a loan from the Bridgehampton National Bank ($1.1M) and accumulated borrowings from the conference ($725k) and Board of Trustees ($160k). The remaining proceeds of $1.1M were split into two accounts being managed by the trustees. An amount of $546k was deposited into an account that will be used solely for future camp capital needs. Another $546k was deposited into an account that will be used to fund future capital needs of other properties owned by the conference. Those properties include the Conference Center in White Plains, the episcopal residence and our six district superintendent parsonages.

109. Quinipet Seawall Repairs: During 2012, Hurricane Sandy damaged approximately 2,350 feet of bulkhead at Quinipet. Repairs to the seawall were necessary both from an operational perspective and to prevent future erosion and other damage to the property. The total cost to repair the seawall, which is 90% complete, is estimated to be approximately $795k. External financing has been secured from the Small Business Association at a rate of 3% to fund the majority of project costs.

110. Indebtedness: As of March 31, 2015, CRM owed the conference $31,409 for the reimbursement of operational expenses.

111. Appreciation: I would like to express deep gratitude to each member of this task force who have sacrificed many evenings and who have moved forward in a spirit of cooperation to strengthen this vital ministry.

112. I would also like to express my profound appreciation to Greg Nissen, who has devoted his time and talents to this ministry for almost two decades. Earlier this year Greg announced his decision to pursue an exciting new opportunity, which will allow him to concentrate more on his passion for sailing. Greg started with the camping ministry as a seasonal employee in the summer of 1996. He was hired full time in 2003 to manage the staff and programs at Quinipet. Over time, Greg’s role was expanded to include oversight of Camp Epworth and the Kingswood Campsite. Greg has been instrumental in so many of the positive changes that the camping programs have experienced during this period. Most recently, Greg was the driving force behind getting the Epworth property in good shape to be marketed and sold. He has also been the project manager overseeing the Quinipet seawall reconstruction and was responsible for obtaining a very favorable SBA loan. His talents, dedication to the ministry, work ethic and easy-going manner will be missed greatly.
**Children’s Ministries**

*Cassandra Negri, Consultant*

101. In 2014, with the support of the connectional ministries office and the Perkins Foundation, children’s ministries delivered several VBS preview workshops throughout the conference. The churches that participated formed clusters to share resources and supplies. Decorating items and puppets were also available through the Perkins Learning Center in the Conference Center in White Plains for churches to borrow for their programs. The learning center also has previous year’s VBS curriculum for churches to borrow.

102. Children’s ministries also held Sunday school director training on several dates in different locations throughout the conference. Training was also held at the learning center in the fall. Participants were given tools and resources to help them in their new position. They were also shown how to use the resource library available at the learning center.

103. I continue to work with churches on an individual basis that request help with their children’s ministries programs.

104. Children’s ministries now has a Facebook and Pinterest page online.

**Connectional Ministries Vision Table**

*Rev. Ann A. Pearson, Consultant*

101. The theme for annual conference, 2014, was “The Prophetic Church: Pray about It, Talk about It, Be about it.” We celebrated our 18th year at Hofstra University. Hofstra staff were excellent hosts – thank you!

102. With the illness of Bishop Martin D. McLee – we welcomed three Northeastern Jurisdictional bishops to preside over the sessions of annual conference. Our thanks to Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop Alfred Johnson and Bishop Jane Allen Middleton. In addition – heartfelt thanks to our worship committee, program leaders, organizers, cabinet and staff who kept the conference exciting and on point.

103. The mezzanine was crowded with interactive ministry displays. Thank you to all those who displayed.

104. For the fourth year, 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. Our thanks to GNTV for their excellence in service to our conference.

105. Connectional ministries welcomes Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble as director of congregational development and revitalization. Derrick comes with extensive experience in new church starts and vital congregations.

106. With the retirement of Rev. Ann Pearson (14 years as DCM), NYAC welcomed Dr. Claude Gooding to the position of director of connectional ministries. Dr. Gooding immediately took on the challenge of communications, offering a survey for improvement. In addition, Drs. Noble and Gooding traveled the annual conference to familiarize themselves with our demographics.

107. The office of connectional ministries continues to prioritize the 2011 Call of the Council of Bishops to Action. We continued to send vital team representatives from the conference to national strategy gatherings, planning to continue vital congregation growth into the future. A vital congregation incubator course was created, leadership trained and textbooks published for both clergy and laity. Each district has been challenged to conduct incubator groups with pastors and pastor-led incubator groups with laity.

108. By the end of conference fundraising, June 2014, Imagine No Malaria funds totaled $431,451.87 moving toward our $1.2 million goal. Lynda Gomi continues leadership as field coordinator in continual contact with the UMC’s Imagine No Malaria campaign. In addition Lynda organized three events for 2014. Including skydiving and an appearance by the Harlem Wizards. Gift cards are available for donations at any time on the web site. www.nyac.com/inm
109. Rev. Tom Vencuss continues to serve as our staff as the coordinator of disaster recovery ministries. The ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery project employs staff for coordinating construction, training and volunteers, and relating to agencies and funding sources with reporting, family support and pastoral care. The Long Island Sandy Recovery eNewsletter can be found at www.nyac.com Sign up!

110. The office of connectional ministries supports “signage grants” this year for churches that were willing to upgrade or install highway signs. Others received grants that contributed to the replacement of outdated church signs.

111. Cassandra Negri serves 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 — all part of a creative team finding ways to inspire the best from church teaching staff. The Perkins Learning Center continues to supply resources for teaching all ages.

112. The budget of conference Vision Table continues to be adjusted to reflect the encouragement of new initiative ministries while supporting active committees.

113. 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. Won Tack Lee has joined our communications team for videotaping and editing work.

114. Rev. Jim Stinson continues to serve as consultant for older adult ministries. Jim has written and published a new book, “Just Because I Am Old.” He continues to lead district, cluster and local church seminars and is currently writing a very popular online column for Older Adult Ministries in The Vision.

115. Arturo Maine continues as our Latino coordinator building ministry and cooperation. His work has been gratefully appreciated by the Hispanic community.

116. 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. They continue to sponsor IGNITE annually.

117. Lynda Gomi has served her third year as assistant to the director of connectional ministries. She is the newsletter editor (twice a week), has taken on the Imagine No Malaria campaign and has taken leadership in vital congregations.

118. Dr. Claude Gooding left the position of director of connectional ministries in January, 2014. I submit this report in the role of consultant to connectional ministries which began the end of January, 2014. It has been my pleasure to serve the New York Annual Conference once more.

### Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization

**Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble**

101. I arrived in the NYAC in late June of 2014, and officially began working as the very first director of congregational development & revitalization (DCDR). Immediately, Dr. Claude Gooding, then director of connectional ministries, and I began touring each district with each superintendent in an effort to become familiar with the geographical and ministerial landscape of our conference. Those visits and listening sessions helped us to gain an understanding of where we might be able to focus our energies.

102. In the fall of 2014, I was privileged to have met many of our laity when I served as the presenter at the 3rd Annual Laity Convocation, held at the Edith Macy Center. So many of those in attendance shared how that gathering inspired them to go back to their churches and not only champion the need for congregational vitality, but it also armed them with some specific ideas and steps toward enabling congregational vitality to take place.

103. I gathered those who had participated in the Vision Bearers Program (the conference’s new church-start initiative) for a series of coaching sessions led by myself and my colleague from Path1, Paul Nixon. Our aim
was to give them support and feedback on their ministries, and to offer them guidance as they seek to grow these new congregations into vital, vibrant faith communities.

104. I designed and implemented the first annual NYAC Church Planters’ Boot Camp, an intense, 3-day (all day) event that will be required (with no exceptions) for anyone wanting to launch a new faith community in the NYAC. Whether or not the participants had previously been involved in a new church start, the plan for the boot camp is to give participants ALL of the tools one could possibly need in order to be successful with this type of exciting ministry. Some of the skills taught are as follows:

- How to determine and discern whether or not you have a church planter’s DNA
- How to design a comprehensive, 18-month ministry plan prior to launching your new church
- How to mobilize the right team with the right gifts to help you launch the right way
- How to effectively draw a crowd
- How to successfully assimilate new believers into ministry at every level
- How to raise $$$$$$$$$ and put your church on the early path to fiscal independence
- How to make stewardship a foundation of your ministry
- How to decide upon the best operational structure
- How to create dynamic, life-changing worship experiences
- How to establish a successful small group ministry
- How to know when you’re actually ready to launch public worship
- How to create lasting first impressions for guests and visitors, and MORE!

105. As DCDR, I have led and planned many, many workshops and seminars at local churches on topics ranging from “Bringing New Life to Your Church” to “Developing a Heart for Evangelism” to “How to Create and Implement a Vision Statement” to “Revitalization Is MORE Than Getting Butts in the Seats!” Many churches and church leadership teams have experienced a fresh wind of excitement and enthusiasm, and even more importantly have been able to implement some concrete ideas for revitalization that have led to a new sense of purpose and increases in attendance.

106. Understanding that the need for revitalization is much greater than one person–the DCDR–can humanly handle, we are in the process of designing a comprehensive NYAC Coaches’ Network which will seek to multiply the efforts of the DCDR throughout the entire conference with a group of trained laity and clergy who will walk alongside churches and help move them toward vitality. To prepare for this, I have personally undergone training to become a licensed, certified coach through the International Coach Federation. This training process was spearheaded by the Upper New York Annual Conference, and led by Rev. Chris Holmes. This will serve as a model for the design of our own coaching program for the NYAC.

107. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God by helping to bring renewed energy and vitality to established churches while also leading our efforts to start new, dynamic, fast-growing new faith communities for new people. The best is yet to come!

District Council on Ministries — Long Island East District

Marie Rouse and Rev. David Czeisel, co-chairs

101. The Long Island East District Council on Ministries (LIEDCOM) continues to embody the work of Jesus Christ through its witness on Long Island.

102. The LIEDCOM is extremely proud of its district youth council, which has not only maintained continuity through leadership transitions, but has even expanded its program.

103. Our Christian Education committee has altered its leadership training in order to allow for participants to engage multiple workshops in the same day.

104. Our lay servant committee is working to make the necessary trainings more accessible and to institute the changes to lay servant ministries, as structured by the 2012 General Conference.
105. The LIEDCOM is also happy to report the creation of a Disaster Relief Committee as of the May 2015 District Conference. This committee will work to educate congregations on disaster preparedness while coordinating our district’s response to disasters within our district’s borders.

106. Finally, we thank God daily for the ministry of our beloved District Superintendent Rev. Adrienne Brewington.

**Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members**

*Rev Eileen M Daunt, Chair*

101. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The local pastors and associate members are active and well in the New York Annual Conference.

102. The fellowship gathered very briefly at annual conference in 2014. There was much enthusiasm for getting an event started for retreat time, education/training, worship and, of course, making connections and fellowship. We hope to have a training session on Mission InSite either late summer or early fall.

103. It is my hope to work with our fellowship members to become more active in our conference. It will be with God’s grace and help that as a fellowship will become a great value for our members.

104. As chair, I attended the National Gathering of Associate Members and Local Pastors last September at St. Simons Island, GA. I came home with ideas and resources to share. I hope to attend the national gathering again this September in Gatlinburg, TN. I continue to encourage others to register for this valuable event which is attended by local pastors and associate members from all over the states.

105. The purpose of the conference fellowship is to provide support, fellowship and education for its members. We hope to continue to improve as we find our places in ministry here in the New York Annual Conference.

**Hispanic Consultant**

*Rev. Arturo Maine, Consultant*

101. The Hispanic Council supported by the presence and input of Bishop McLee and the National Hispanic Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministries, embraced the goal of working jointly in formulating a proposal to support and engage the Hispanic Latino ministries within the annual conference.

102. As the talk gathered steam the work required by the assigned body (Rev. Plaud, Rev. Laporta, Mr. Jorge Lockward and Rev. Maine) were given a deadline, coordinating with the Hispanic consultant to provide the needed element and statistical data to fulfill the proposal requirements. The settings were various, the Conference Center, 475 Riverside Dr. or Co-op City UMC. The team worked intensely to have the document reviewed by the bishop before forwarding it to the NHPLM Commission.

103. Bishop McLee’s absence provoked a rewrite of the original proposal thus providing the revision and focus, but we missed the deadline.

104. With Bishop Middleton we have continued the dialogue and look forward to accomplish the goals called for as we work with the National Hispanic Plan.

105. Other consultant activities include serving with the district in training Hispanic lay servants, coordinating with the Hispanic Council family camp retreat and visits and calls to other Hispanic activities.

**Learning Center**

*Lynda Gomi, Assistant to the Director of Connectional Ministries*

101. The Perkins 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 and elements for altar design.
The learning center continues to host workshops and provide space for meetings and day retreats for groups across the Vision Table and beyond. An important focus of the learning center space is the altar design connected to the Christian year.

The learning center houses the resource library. Clicking on the resource library logo on the web site connects to the catalogue or can be reached at www.nyac.com/learningcenterresourcelibrary.

Material can be ordered online and delivered and returned by mail.


Due to changes in the nyac.com web site, the resource library was moved to a new online catalog program in 2014.

The learning center continues to assist in providing resources for Safe Sanctuaries issues. Safe Sanctuaries regional consultants are available to lead workshops on writing and updating Safe Sanctuaries policies. Contact information is listed at www.nyac.com/safe-sanctuaries. The schedule for Safe Sanctuaries workshops can be found on the event calendar by clicking on the “Safe Sanctuaries” tab at the top of the page.

Mission and Outreach Ministries

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Coordinator of Mission and Outreach

My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love. This is the only way we’ll know we’re living truly, living in God’s reality. (1 John 3:18)

What does it mean to “live in God’s reality” and in what practical ways could our outreach ministries live up to this gospel truth? It is in light of this pertinent question and quest for answers that I present this report.

Ghana Mission Summit: The NYAC delegation fulfilled the late Bishop Martin D. McLee’s request to begin a formal dialogue between the Methodist Church Ghana and the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. On Saturday, September 6, 2014 the summit leadership team arrived in Ghana. The members of this summit leadership team are: Rev. Constance Pak, Rev. Linda Wiley, Rev. Luisa Martinez-Buck, Rev. Martha Epstein, Rev. Delores Barrett, Ms. Cheryl Fortune, Rev. Alpher Sylvester, Rev. Nathaniel Dixon, Rev. Joseph Washington, Rev. Jeffrey Hooker and Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie. Immediately after our welcome worship service in Ghana we received the message that Bishop McLee has passed away. After a night of weeping and praying, a memorial service was held on the next day, Sunday September 7, 2014 by the Presiding Bishop of Methodist Church Ghana Bishop Emmanuel Asante at Dzorwolu Methodist Church. My sincere gratitude goes to the summit leadership team whose spirit of dedication and perseverance ensured the success of the dialogue. In light of this event the main entrance center of The Methodist University College of Ghana will be named in honor and memory of Bishop Martin D. McLee. In order to raise $20,000 for the construction of the main entrance center, the Bishop McLee Memorial Fund was established by the New York Annual Conference with the approval of the cabinet and Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, the resident interim bishop of the New York Episcopal Area. The conference trustees and the members of the Council on Finance and Administration have embraced the vision and purpose for which this memorial fund was established.

Missionary Itineration and Covenant Relationship: First of all I would like to congratulate our local churches for their increase in missionary financial support. The GBGM Advance financial report indicated an increase of $57,704 from last year (2013). Our efforts in improving communication with our missionaries have yielded great results. We have been able to connect with missionaries in the following countries: Philippines, Mongolia, Cambodia, Japan, Taiwan, El Salvador, Honduras and Ukraine. In a very small practical way we are able to show God’s love with our missionaries via video prayer meetings (Skype or ooVoo). Individuals or organizations within the local church can set up a video prayer meeting with missionaries as part of their outreach ministry. The following missionaries are scheduled for itineration in our conference: Francine Mufuk, Ivory Coast, a newly commissioned missionary, May 14-20; Genilma
Boehler, Costa Rica, May 10-17; Jay and Grace Choi, Philippines, June 17-25, and David Guinkpa, Kenya, September 10-17. The only candidate that was recommended to the Global Missions for missionary assignment was Rev. Hector Laporta. We wish him God’s blessings as he pursues a new area of ministry. Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jill Wilson for her persistent effort in helping us connect with our missionaries all around the world.

105. **Youth Ambassadors in Mission:** The 2014 YAM group that went to Okroch, Cambodia helped build the foundation of a new church which is now completed. In addition to accomplishing construction work, the young people were nurtured in their faith journey. The success of the YAM ministry is due to the support from pastors, local churches, district superintendents and the chaperones.

106. **Volunteers in Mission:** Mission Journey is the new name for volunteers in mission because the emphasis is on the long-term spiritual effect that is experienced along the journey. In spite of the Ebola pandemic in the West Africa region (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) that claimed the lives of thousands of people, two separate groups journeyed from NYAC to Ghana in faith. I give thanks to God for their expression of God’s love even in the midst of possible life-threatening danger.

107. **Mission Glocal Award:** This new initiative is intended to bring both local and international mission ministry into focus. Local churches who participate in both local and international missions will receive the Mission Glocal Award as recognition for broadening the focus of their ministry.

### Societies, Institutions & Foundations

#### Africa University

**James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Development Office**

101. Africa University is grateful to the leadership and local congregations of the New York Conference for their investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2014. The New York Conference was one of 31 annual conferences—the highest number in Africa University’s 23-year history—to invest 100 percent of the asking to the AUF.

102. Thank you, New York Conference, for your contributions through the AUF, and through direct and endowed scholarships. You have been faithful, creative and immensely generous to Africa University over the past 23 years. Thank you for embracing and journeying with Africa University in transforming individuals and communities and bringing new people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

103. **As you gather for the 2015 Session of the New York Annual Conference, we pray that you will maintain your strong commitment and invest 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund and to other shared ministries for years to come. By continuing to invest, you help Africa University to remain in the forefront of disciple-making, leadership formation and positive change in Africa.**

104. **2014 Highlights:**

105. **Student Enrollment:** Full-time student enrollment at Africa University held steady in 2014 with 1,478 young men and women from 25 African countries. Female students were a record 53.4% of the total enrollment—a fact that is worth celebrating in a context where women consistently lag behind men in access to higher education.

106. **Graduation:** In June 2014, 480 young people were awarded degrees from Africa University at the 20th graduation ceremony, bringing the total number of alumni to more than 5,300. Without your support, a college education would have been unattainable for the majority of these students.

107. **Academic Programs:** Africa University remains a sought-after partner in addressing critical skills and capacity gaps in sub-Saharan Africa. A collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden supports a new master’s degree program in Human Rights, Peace and Development. Africa University is also preparing to launch its first PhD program, which links issues of Peace, Leadership, Governance and Development, and targets policymakers.
108. **Leadership and Service**: Africa University graduates are answering the call to serve, heal and uplift communities. Currently, more than a dozen graduates are serving as Global Mission Fellows and missionaries in Africa, Europe and Latin America. Alumni of Africa University are helping The United Methodist Church to advance its core mission of transformation as board members and staff at the general church level. And increasingly, Africa University is playing the role of feeder institution by providing the human capital for global initiatives in the four focus areas of United Methodist outreach.

109. Together, we give thanks to God for this Ebenezer moment (**1 Samuel 7:12**). But the work is not yet finished. For every individual who has been touched by the ministry that is Africa University, there are many others who are awaiting the miracle of an answered prayer.

110. Please continue to pray for Africa University.

111. Thank you, New York Conference, for what you have already done and for what you will do in the future. May God bless and keep you always in abundance.

**Black College Fund**

*Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Chair*

101. The Black College Fund (BCF) supports the 11 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) related to The United Methodist Church. Since 1972, the BCF 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 these colleges’ important work. 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 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:

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<th>Bennett College for Women</th>
<th>Bethune-Cookman College</th>
<th>Claflin University</th>
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<tr>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>Daytona Beach, FL</td>
<td>Orangeburg, SC</td>
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<td>Clark Atlanta University</td>
<td>Dillard University</td>
<td>Huston-Tillotson</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
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<td>Meharry Medical College</td>
<td>Paine College</td>
<td>Philander-Smith College</td>
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<td>Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>Holly Springs, MS</td>
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105. We presented a Lina H. McCord Ambassador (Black College Fund) to the annual conference, Ms. Kadrien Wilson. Ms. Wilson is a junior at Bennett College majoring in elementary education and a native of Greensboro, NC. Ms. Wilson is an active member of St. Matthews UMC. She is involved in the Daystar Dance Ministry, Student North Carolina of Educators and a member of the Bennett College Honors Program. The Black College Fund Committee continues to sponsor the annual luncheon. We were unable to sponsor the annual luncheon in March 2015. However, we are beginning to plan for March 2016.

106. We will be presenting another Lina H. McCord Ambassador to the 2015 annual conference in June.
Dear Colleagues in the New York Annual Conference:

101. Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! In this anniversary year, Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) celebrates 175 years of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We especially celebrate our students, alums and church partners, with whom we seek to serve God as transforming leaders in a multitude of local and global communities.

102. Breaking News

- The doctor of ministry in transformational leadership is well underway with outstanding students and eager teachers. In its first year, the program has attracted two cohorts of students from three countries, eight faith traditions, and a variety of church, educational, health care and other faith-based contexts.
- BUSTH celebrated art and creativity with four major art exhibits and receptions: James Crane’s motive cartoons; Robin Miller’s “African America in Art and Poetry”; John August Swanson’s poster art, and Beth Neville’s paintings.
- The STEWARD program, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, is preparing students for stewardship of all of life, including spiritual, physical and financial life.
- Raices Latinas, funded in part by the United Methodist Church Young Clergy Initiative, has begun! It invites and supports Latino/a young adults toward a life-giving journey in ministry. BUSTH also works closely with the UMC in leadership of the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy. Both focus on education, mentoring, service learning and spiritual formation.

103. Milestones

- **175 Years:** The founders of BUSTH were abolitionists, pastors and lay leaders who envisioned a school to carry the spiritually rich, socially transformative, leadership-forming legacy that centered their own lives. Our annual theme, *Leading in Transformation*, honors that vision and reflects on how to reshape it in response to changing social realities.
- **Women in the World:** This year, the Anna Howard Shaw Center celebrates 30 years of its Women in the World Conference, a witness to women’s leadership in the church and a celebration of their brave, audacious ministries.

104. Partnering for Transformation

Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- **Partnering in transformational learning** through courses in congregations with church leaders and students together.
- **Serving the church** through workshops and mutual projects, especially in church renewal, mission and the cultivation of difficult conversations that enhance dignity and justice.
- **Traveling across the globe** through seminars where students engage with diverse cultures and traditions. In this year, students and faculty have explored the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel and Palestine, Ephesus and Mexico.

105. Celebrating Justice

From Selma in 1965 to the Arizona-Mexico border and the streets of U.S. cities, we celebrate transformational leadership and explore paths to just peace.

- **Retracing history** by commemorating civil rights milestones with: Walter Fluker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership, and a panel of alumni and faculty on “Selma at 50, Ferguson Today.”
Moving forward to understand and build justice, engaging with Cornell William Brooks—BUSTH alumnus and president of the NAACP—and with our students, faculty and alumni who seek to build justice in Boston, Ferguson, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Uganda and beyond.

As we look back on the last year—and the last 175 years—we celebrate transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God’s world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.

Candler School of Theology

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

101. For 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Here, students are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus. This unique approach ensures that our graduates are ready to serve wherever God leads.

102. One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. We are one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in the city of Atlanta offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 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. During the 2014-2015 academic year, Candler celebrated its Centennial, marking our 100th anniversary with a series of commemorative events highlighting memories of the past and visions for the future. The yearlong celebration began in the fall of 2014 with the dedication of the final phase of our new LEED-certified building and the premiere of Religion and Reason Joined: Candler at 100, a new book on our history. The commemoration continued through the spring of 2015 with guest lectures, exhibits and “Prophetic Voices,” a major academic conference addressing the challenges and opportunities facing theology in the 21st century.

104. Not only has Candler expanded its physical space this year—we have expanded degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler introduced five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the doctor of ministry, the master of religious leadership, the master of religion and public life, and two dual degrees with social work and development practice.

105. Candler’s student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 447, with 320 seeking the master of divinity, 43 the master of theological studies, 14 the master of religious life, 20 the master of theology, 29 the doctor of ministry, 10 the doctor of theology and 11 enrolled as non-degree students. The student body is 52 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 42 denominations, with nearly half identifying as United Methodist.

106. 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 the real world.
Claremont School of Theology

Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President

A Year of Engagement

101. The last year has seen a rise in the number of United Methodist students attending Claremont School of Theology (CST). The increase from 47 to 62 students represents a 32% increase from the previous year. But the numbers only begin to tell the story of CST's engagement of The United Methodist Church over the last year.

102. CST's commitment to engaging the life of the church is embodied in its President Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan. He models an approach that the best way for the seminary to be responsive to the needs of the church is to be present within it. President Kuan spends most Sundays visiting congregations outside of Claremont — frequently as a guest preacher. Last summer, President Kuan participated in five annual conference gatherings within the Western Jurisdiction, which he intends to repeat in 2015. He has also presented at church conferences, including a lecture on leadership for the United Methodist Asian American and Pacific Islander Clergywomen Conference, hosted by CST in October 2014.

103. This has been a productive year for the Center for Global Methodism (CGM), which serves the Methodist community at CST. Two small groups composed of United Methodist students have met throughout the academic year: a vocational discernment group and a commissioning support group. CGM has also sponsored several opportunities throughout the year for United Methodist students to be formed by opportunities to meet and engage with church leaders on multiple levels. On a local level, students met with Rev. Nicole Reilley on new ministries within the California-Pacific Annual Conference (Cal-Pac). They also benefitted from a lunchtime conversation about missionary opportunities with Rachel DeBos, a missionary within the General Board of Global Ministries.

104. United Methodist speakers of national and international renown were also welcomed to the CST campus over the last year. CGM co-sponsored a set of lectures by Prof. Joerg Rieger of Perkins School of Theology. And in March 2015, CST welcomed Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS to deliver the Wallace Chappell Lectures.

105. In January 2015, the Young Clergy Initiative was launched in partnership with Cal-Pac. Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño appointed the Rev. Allison Mark to assume leadership of the program, which is housed on the CST campus. The initiative aims to foster a “culture of call” amongst the congregations that make up Cal-Pac. In addition to providing office space, CST provides faculty and administrative support to the program. The YCI addresses the need for future generations of clergy to provide leadership and spiritual guidance capable of sustaining the church’s global mission.

106. In November, CST and Cal-Pac launched a new podcast called “The Branches,” that focuses on the challenges of Christian life in the 21st century. The first episodes featured interviews with Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño and CST President Jeffrey Kuan during the Advent season. The two leaders were invited to reflect on their memories of Advent and Christmas from their early years in ministry and their present practice in a season of giving.

107. On February 22, 2015, CST and Cal-Pac celebrated Claremont Sunday—a day set aside to lift up its relationship with its seminary in nurturing future generations of United Methodist clergy. The day was marked with prayers, offerings and presentations about CST at congregations throughout Cal-Pac. Ten CST students and faculty were welcomed as guest preachers at congregations from Palm Springs to Lakewood to Torrance, providing faces, names and voices to CST’s mission of educating the future leaders of the church.

108. On July 11, 2014 Bishop Carcaño joined the Episcopal bishop of Los Angeles in calling for a Weekend of Compassion for Unaccompanied Migrant Children. CST responded, marshaling its academic and pastoral resources to produce accessible information to assist congregations. In a series of essays and videos, CST faculty and alumni/ae offered historical, scriptural, theological and pastoral context to the situation.
109. The year ahead promises to be full of impactful ministry for CST, as its online-hybrid MDiv program enters its second year and the Young Clergy Initiative takes shape. Stay connected to life at CST by visiting cst.edu or following CST on social media on Facebook and on Twitter @CST_News.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Lallene J. Rector, President

101. Greetings from Garrett-Evangelical!

102. Early in the calendar year, I met with various constituencies of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, including alums, faculty, staff, trustees and students regarding their hopes and concerns for the school. As a result, we began the 2014-2015 academic year with the following priorities:

- To prepare and equip our graduates as public theologians,
- To nurture a more diverse community at Garrett-Evangelical so that the entire community develops cultural competency,
- To value and promote inclusivity at Garrett-Evangelical, and
- To construct a sustainable model for theological education.

Public Theology

103. This year we launched a Public Theology Lecture Series to help the Garrett-Evangelical community understand more about the intersection of theological perspectives and shared values held in the public arena as persons in ministry work with others toward the common good and the wellbeing of all persons and creation. The lecture series included:

- December 3, 2014: Dr. Mark Lewis Taylor, Maxwell M. Upton professor of theology and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary considered structures of the global orders and everyday living which public theologians may claim to engage and where “the powers and principalities” are always in contestation in “public” life.

104. In the fall, we will offer a course, “Public Theology in the City,” taught by Dr. David Frenchak, former president of Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). The class will collaborate with the mayor’s office in Evanston on an anti-violence initiative. Dr. Frenchak will also provide a public theology lecture this spring.

Cultural Competency & Inclusivity

105. As part of the commitment to nurturing a more diverse community, we welcomed a new Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Luis R. Rivera, our first Latino academic dean. Our current ethnic/racial profile is:

- 20% black; 6% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino; and 54% White; 14% International
- More than 33 religious traditions, four continents, 15 countries and 36 states are represented in the student body
- 232 students are United Methodist with 25 additional students from other Pan-Methodist denominations
- 94 new students began their studies at Garrett-Evangelical this fall, raising total fall enrollment to 365 (FTE of 305)
- The average age of the entering master of divinity student is 31
- 52% of the study body is women

106. Consistent attention to issues of inclusivity, justice and grace within the seminary setting are critical for preparing future leaders to enter an increasingly diverse world. To respond to these concerns, Garrett-
Evangelical will offer a number of Circle of Trust conversations this spring for trustees, faculty, staff and students. Our goals are: 1) to provide safe space to discuss difficult topics, 2) to reduce any gap between stated values and actual behavior, both personally for participants and institutionally and 3) to update our 1997 statements of inclusivity.

**Sustainable Theological Education**

107. Garrett-Evangelical is beginning work on a Sustainable Theological Education Model for the school. We are guided by a commitment to generational stewardship of our resources and to maintaining a thriving seminary for the future. We will attend to the areas of business, academics programs and external programs.

108. Our priority continues to be making seminary education affordable. To this end we award more than $2.5 million in scholarship aid to students each year and we lead all United Methodist seminaries in the Dollars for Scholars program with 45 recipients. In October, the seminary publicly launched The Final Lap of its $100 million Forging Our Future campaign, and announced that $88 million has been received to date. Much has already been accomplished, but more remains to be done (expanding the number of new leadership scholarships from 80 to 100, renovating Sherman apartments, endowing several more faculty positions, continuing to grow the unrestricted endowment), gifts for any of these goals are always welcome.

109. Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are dedicated to serving The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical and our work, I encourage you to visit our web site, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus.

**About Us**

110. Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

**General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**

**General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Office of Communication**

101. Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! In 2014 and 2015, GBHEM staff has been busy with a number of initiatives assigned to the board by the 2012 General Conference, including the Young Clergy Initiative and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. Here are some of the ways GBHEM has been working to resource our church:

102. GBHEM continues to train group candidacy mentors, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) members, BOM staff, District Committee on Ministry members and district superintendents on ministry legislation and best practices for navigating the ordination process with new candidates.

103. Work continues on the Young Clergy Initiative (YCI). Forty-six YCI grants were awarded during the second round of applications in August 2014, bringing the total amount awarded to $5.5 million. The grants support programs geared toward increasing the number of young clergy in the UMC and supporting young clergy already serving the denomination.

104. The Commission on Central Conference Theological Education continues to distribute the $5 million fund for theological education in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. So far, the commission has awarded 130 grants to fund training for local pastors, faculty development, and provision of e-readers, curriculum development and libraries at theological schools across 22 countries.
105. **Africa University** continues to graduate scholars who are changing the face of Africa. The $50 million Endowment Campaign, a fundraising plan to ensure Africa University's financial independence, is well underway. Contribute online to Africa University at the new giving web site, support-africauniversity.org.

106. More than 680 college students, campus ministers and chaplains attended Imagine What's NEXT last fall, an event which focused on helping students plan how they can be active in God’s dreams for their communities and the world.

107. For the 2014-2015 academic year, GBHEM’s Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded 2,293 recipients a total of over $5 million. Explore all scholarship opportunities within the UMC using the scholarship portal at scholarship.umc.org.

108. Registration is open now for **Exploration 2015**, a three-day event where young adults ages 18-26 come to hear, discern and respond to God’s call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. This year’s event will be held in Orlando, FL, November 6–8. Read more or register at gbhem.org/exploration and follow @explorecalling on Twitter for updates.

109. Technology enables us to make our training resources more readily available to the church. The UMC **Cyber Campus** provides free video training sessions and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education courses, at umccybercampus.com.

110. GBHEM and Discipleship Ministries continue to expand the **E-Reader Project**, a simple, sustainable and cost-effective way for theology schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia to access current textbooks. Through financial support from annual conferences, local churches, universities and individual donors like you, we’re making theological education available to more people in more places than even before. Learn more or donate at umcereader.org.

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**Iliff School of Theology**

*The Reverend Doctor Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer*

101. Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the church and offering a compassionate presence to the world.

102. The Iliff School of Theology’s commitment to the Wesleyan tradition of providing intellectually alive and spiritually grounded theological education for our students continues. From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to Delhi, Missouri to Mexico, Iliff students and graduates are holding constructive tension with the human condition as it is and courageously standing with those who seek justice.

103. This past year saw one of Iliff’s largest enrollments since its founding by The United Methodist Church in 1892—333 students, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist—all actively engaged in both the classroom and a host of ministry contexts. Some are leading congregations toward revitalization while others are doing ministry by establishing new forms of community.

104. Interest in online and hybrid classes continues to grow from across the nation in our Journey MDiv Program—one of the first to bring quality theological education online. As a concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities, many MDiv students are also participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a $250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

105. We welcomed participants to our first Spanish-Speaking Local Pastors Licensing School hosted in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Conference and participated in healing events for commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition, Iliff students participated in an immersion trip to Africa University and are planning an additional experience this year. We look forward to continuing these vital relationships.

106. Iliff created numerous events for area clergy and supporters. Via forums on leadership, policing, the role of faith in world events and more, campus speakers included: Amy Goodman, Garry Kasparov and the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, this year’s Jameson Jones Preacher. Bridging theological education to new arenas was
further cultivated through Iliff’s Authentic Engagement™ Program with trainings for civic and non-profit

groups. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary’s Center for Faith and Service

when we were named as one of the nation’s “Seminaries That Change the World.”

107. We continue to look to the future with courageous theological imagination. We are grateful for our
denominational connection.

108. www.iliff.edu 1-877-887-7822

The Long Island Council of Churches

Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, Executive Director

101. The mission of the Long Island Council of Churches is to help diverse Christians 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, sometimes more than 2,300 people a month.
Despite cuts in what Nassau County reimburses us for work they ask us to do, we have kept the shelves
from going empty—thanks to the help of people like you. We distributed hundreds of Thanksgiving and
Christmas baskets, fed hundreds 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 has now presented more than 300 educational programs, helping us to understand
and to reach out to neighbors of other faiths. This unparalleled project sends volunteers from 11 faith
communities into schools, workplaces and houses of worship. 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! And 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 financial education workshops, tackling 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. Perhaps you would like us to do a workshop in your
congregation? Perhaps as part of your stewardship program?

105. This past year we offered the “New Dollars/New Partners” program in conjunction with the Partners for
Sacred Spaces, helping a dozen congregations use their facilities more effectively in ministry and find new
support to maintain them. In addition, attorney Howard Capell has provided free legal consultations for
religious leaders on building use and other issues.

106. Our new Dialogue Committee has taken road trips to visit the Jain Center of America, a Sikh gurdwara, the
Brahma Kumaris’ Global Harmony House, a Hindu temple, a Mormon stake, the Bay Shore mosque, the
Bahai Center, the Ahmadiyya Community in Amityville and a new congregation of the New Apostolic
Church—and we received the New Apostolic Church as a new member denomination of the LICC. We do
not imagine that we can unite the broken Body of Christ, but we can 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!
New York State Council of Churches

The Reverend Dr. Paula J. Gravelle, Executive Director

101. The preamble to the NYSCC Constitution states the biblical mandate undergirding our mission: “to declare God’s just will among the powers and principalities.” Since 1889 the New York State Council of Churches (NYSCC) has enabled Protestant denominations across the state to offer a progressive Christian voice in the halls of our government and in the penal institutions in our state. The eight founding bodies of the NYSCC (American Baptist Churches, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Presbyterian Church (USA), New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, The Reformed Church in America, The United Church of Christ and The United Methodist Church) as well as The Empire Baptist Missionary Convention (a member denomination), work together in areas of public policy, state institutional chaplaincy, education, worship, and witness.

102. The highlights of the year are below:

Social Witness

103. Participated in Moral Mondays at the State Capital to support a just and moral budget for the people of New York State.

104. Participated in Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC with focus on gun violence.

105. Coordinated a Youth Leadership Forum at the United Nations for 25 Senior High Youth from across the state. They studied gender issues looking at how they are justice and public policy issues for Christians across the state.

106. In partnership with Faith for a Fair New York, sponsored a two-day teach-in in which participants looked at economic and social justice issues and had the opportunity to network with others from across state who knows that the voice of people of faith needs to be heard in the halls of our government.


Institutional Chaplaincy

108. Continued certifying chaplains for ministry in our state institutions

109. Organized a three-day retreat for chaplains doing ministry in state and county prisons. A goal is to expand this retreat to include chaplains in any institutional ministry throughout the state.

110. Preached in several state prisons and participated in a grief seminar for inmates at the facility in Coxsackie.

111. Advocated for changes in our prison system, i.e., the use of solitary confinement; injustices in parole boards and support for family of inmates

Unity in Worship, Education and Action

112. Prayed that our work together would inspire the worship and witness of each member denomination and congregation in NY State.

113. Increased effective communication through improved use of social media. Our web site is: www.nyscoc.org and we invite you to “like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

114. Met with leaders of State Councils of Churches from across the United States to share best practices and better understand the obstacles and opportunities for people of faith desiring to have a voice in public policy – who yearn to do justice as part of their Christian Calling.

115. Prayerfully considered the direction of the New York State Council of Churches for the future and committed to continuing the work we do on behalf of Christians throughout the state.
116. In the year ahead we will be reaching out to invite Christians throughout the state to join us in the work we are called to do as the body of Christ in this time and this place.

The United Methodist Frontier Foundation, Inc.

Susan Ezrati, President, Interim Executive Director

101. 2014 continued to rebound nicely from the tumultuous ups and downs of 2012. The financial markets responded with solid advances, as indicated below, with only the bond market remaining relatively flat throughout the year. The UMFF took advantage of the positive 2014 results and continued to implement an aggressive strategic plan that will guide the Foundation through 2016.

102. The UMFF manages funds for nearly 450 churches and institutions throughout New York, western Connecticut and north-central Pennsylvania. In 2014, churches and conference entities opened 11 new accounts totaling just under $1.5 million. Total new contributions to new and existing accounts amounted to $4,838,831. For the same period, an exceptional number of accounts closed and from these accounts $3.6 million was withdrawn from the foundation. In addition, income and on-demand distributions from existing accounts totaled just over $1.9 million. Investment income and capital gains for the year totaled some $2.4 million. At year end, total assets under management including funds in money market instruments and gift annuities totaled just under $38 million.

103. The Rev. Keith Muhleman, who had served as the Frontier Foundation’s president and executive director since 2008, left his position on May 1, 2014, due to a serious health situation and on January 8, 2015, he died. Rev. Muhleman inherited the foundation with $28 million under management and left it with over $35 million under management. Not only did he bring the foundation to an improved financial position, but his gentle thoughtfulness opened doors to solving financial problems in many churches as well. He made friends throughout our service area. We hear daily from those who mourn his passing. A program to celebrate Rev. Muhleman’s life took place on March 14 at the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church.

104. With Rev. Muhleman’s departure, the foundation implemented an interim leadership team to guide the foundation until such time that a new president and executive director would be named. The interim leadership team consisted of Susan Ezrati, president and interim executive director and Joe Andreana, interim deputy executive director. Concurrent with this anticipated change in foundation leadership, the foundation undertook an extensive organizational restructuring analysis, led by Diversified Non-Profit Services (DNS), a firm qualified to assist the UMFF Board of Directors to analyze every aspect of the foundation’s organization and service-delivery model. The final analysis report is scheduled to be completed and presented to the UMFF BOD for their approval early in 2015.

105. The foundation continues to utilize the professional fund management services of John G. Ullman and Associates in Corning, New York. We offer four pooled funds to churches and individuals investing church funds or funds for United Methodist purposes. The funds are: the Bond Fund, the Balanced Income Fund, the Growth and Income Fund and the Diversified Equity Fund. 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 applaud the increasing focus on supporting investments in corporations and enterprises that are supportive of environmental health.

106. The UM Frontier Foundation works 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. Our executive director and our very able and knowledgeable team of field consultants lead this effort. We are indebted to the ministry of this field staff, who include: Rev. Fred Kelsey, Ms. Heather Brown, Rev. Vernon Lee, Ms. Margaret Howe, Mr. Lum Lee, Mr. Tom Nichols, Mr. Ed Ruppmann, Rev. Bob Knebel and Mr. Ronald Salyer. During 2014, Joe Andreana served as the consultant coordinator, a position designed to provide better materials and coordination of efforts relating to the field consultant staff.
107. 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. During 2014, the consultant staff presented over 60 local church-focused seminars addressing the topics above. We also participated with the Board of Ordained Ministry in the mandatory annual pastoral education program regarding local church stewardship and personal finance.

108. Our ministry to the church is important to us. Nearly all of the services we provide to local churches and individuals are provided at minimal charge. Although we cannot provide legal or financial 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.

109. For local churches, we provide stewardship programs. 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. When capital campaign is required, we 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 the campaign. We offer seminars on planned giving and preach in local churches in conjunction with the planned giving and stewardship issues. We also give guidance on how to initiate endowment giving and investment.

110. Effective ministries cost money to establish and maintain, and that is true of the work of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation as well. From time to time, we receive much-appreciated financial support for our stewardship services from the conference, but the bulk of our revenue is derived from fees on accounts invested through our funds. 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 a delay in the payout of requested funds. We guide annual and capital campaigns for a negotiated fee, not a percentage of the monies raised.

111. Our office is staffed by Ms. Sally Evans, our office administrator, who performs data entry on our investment accounting system for funds we manage for two conferences, three districts and 400 churches. Mr. Charles Rhuda, our accountant, balances our books and ensures we operate in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. In 2014, a par-time accounting clerk position was added to our office staff. Kate Pendzuk assumed that position to assist both Ms. Evans and Mr. Rhuda.

112. Members of the Board of Directors continue to be the backbone of the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. Their enthusiastic participation and involvement guides our ministry and provides the stability and energy required to keep the UM Frontier Foundation moving forward.

113. It has been my privilege to serve as the interim president, executive director 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.

United Theological Seminary

Wendy J. Deichmann, President

1101. Is God calling you to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Come and check out amazing opportunities for study and spiritual growth in person or online at www.united.edu!

1102. Why United?

- United offers an excellent, accredited MDiv degree required for ordination in The United Methodist Church.
- United students participate in a community of deep faith and avid learning.
Degree programs include traditional and/or online classes.
United specializes in preparing persons for ordination and pastoral ministry.
Join our graduates’ long track record of successful service!
United’s focus on church renewal will prepare you to become an agent of new life and revitalization, Spirit led, a faithful leader in the mission of Jesus Christ!
At United you can enroll in a hybrid UM Course of Study program.
United’s DMin program leads the nation through the faithful ministries of its pastoral graduates.
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 interesting, important or exciting?
In addition to expanding residential offerings in Dayton, Ohio, United continues to extend its service across the U.S. and the world. United’s degree programs are accessible anywhere with Internet service in conjunction with periodic intensive weeks of class and community activities in Dayton.

Please let us know if you have questions about how United can best assist you.
If you would like to help make it possible for a future pastor to study at United, please let us hear from you.
We invite you to call or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu.
Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Wesley Theological Seminary
The Reverend Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

At Wesley, we are a church-based seminary committed to multiplying the number of people who love God and love their neighbor locally, nationally and globally. Our degrees and programs – traditional and new alike – reflect our dedication to the Great Commandment and Great Commission. We ask you to pray for us, hold us accountable and join us in this Kingdom work.

Equipping Faith Leaders through Degree Programs
In fall 2015, our new master of divinity curriculum launches. We thoroughly redesigned the MDiv to prepare leaders for both church and society. This 81-hour degree offers flexibility and an excellent core curriculum focused on empowering passionate, mission-focused leaders.
Wesley also offers a 36-hour master of arts and a 60-hour master of theological studies to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or a wide range of ministries.
In our doctor of ministry program, we continue to offer the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. These include leadership excellence, pastoral counseling, arts and new mission-focused tracks. Wesley is accepting applications to two tracks based in Cambridge, England. These tracks, Transformative Leadership in Wesleyan Perspective and Creative Ministry for Church Renewal in a Changing World, are each limited to 20 students.
Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary.
Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.

Providing Resources to Faith Communities and Leaders
Wesley’s Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be the go-to resource for actionable best-practices for clergy and laity. The center’s free Leading Ideas e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 15,000 people. Visit www.churchleadership.com for resources in:
Taking Church to the Community, Doing Good Well, Funding Your Congregation’s Vision and Reaching New Disciples. Also, learn about the newest book by the Rev. Tom Berlin and the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., *High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader*.

108. In early 2015, we developed the **Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown** to help the church turn itself inside-out. The institute encompasses the existing Urban Ministry Program and the Missional Church Program, which includes Heal the Sick, an initiative to congregations for public health work in their parishes.

109. The third component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley’s emerging **Center for Public Theology**. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, we are developing this center to provide churches and their leaders and seminary students tools to help navigate the connection between faith and public policy.

110. The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The center celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dadian Gallery in late 2014.

111. Wesley faculty members are continually development resources to the faithful, including books by Drs. Carla Works, Deborah Sokolove, F. Douglas Powe Jr., Cedric Johnson and Lovett H. Weems Jr.

112. Throughout the academic year, Wesley hosts Second Mondays—a series of lectures on campus and streaming live. This year we explored “Living Matthew 25 – Focusing on the Big Things.” In this chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus challenges us to heal the sick, feed the hungry and welcome the stranger. In their lectures, **Wesley’s faculty unlocked the Holy Scriptures and the church’s history, traditions and theology to clarify these Gospel imperatives**. These presentations are available at www.youtube.com/c/wesleyseminaryedu and via live stream at www.ustream.tv/channel/wesley-seminary. Sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter **eCalling** at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling to be reminded of this opportunity.

113. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu about the exciting ways Wesley’s resources are equipping people to spread the love of God and love of neighbor.
Section 3: Ministries of Advocacy

Board of Church & Society

Mary Ellen Kris, Chair

101. A beloved community of hope cares deeply about and responds to poverty and injustice, not only as it affects those who belong to or attend our local churches, but all of God’s children—indeed, all of God’s creatures. Injustice, poverty and suffering very often result from or are exacerbated by societal systems and institutional structures. Getting at the root of those problems and bringing about changes in public policies and social norms requires both education about social concerns and policies and engagement in civil society.

102. The Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) is called to resource, equip and engage local churches in the NY Annual Conference in learning about and responding to poverty and injustice, including familiarizing church members with the United Methodist Social Principles and the social concerns to which they are addressed. We strive to do that by offering trainings, supporting programs sponsored by other groups, writing legislation for the New York Annual Conference and General Conference, distributing resource materials from the General Board of Church and Society, notifying members of our list serve of developments and opportunities to engage in advocacy on justice issues.

103. CBCS has been privileged to be able to create and fund a part time staff position of organizer/coordinator for social concerns and social justice advocacy and education for the CBCS. This conference staff position is funded by donations that church members make annually on Peace with Justice Sunday and reports to the chair of CBCS. This position is currently vacant, but should be filled under the leadership of the incoming chair of the Conference Board of Church and Society.

104. Although the official membership of the CBCS is selected through the Conference Nominations Committee and vote of members at annual conference, CBCS continues the tradition of encouraging participation by any and all conference members who have a heart for justice. We refer to these dedicated volunteers as “Friends of CBCS.” We are fortunate to have several hundred “friends,” many of whom have served as official board members in the past, but many others who are with churches that may not have been very engaged with CBCS in the past. Some of those friends are among our most active and faithful participants.

105. Encouraging more diverse participation in the work of Church & Society is a priority commitment of CBCS and a trend that we hope and expect will lead more and more people and places from our conference to engage with CBCS regarding issues of concern to their churches and communities.

106. Working for social change typically involves working in coalitions to build momentum and broad public engagement. That is true for CBCS as well. We are continuing the tradition of working with and supporting other groups within the NYAC—on legislation, advocacy and programming.

107. We also have been cultivating relationships with some of our counterparts in other conferences, especially the relatively new organized Church and Society group in the Upper NY Conference, which goes by the Wesleyan name of “the Social Holiness Committee.” We look forward to collaborating with Upper New York on issues of common concern including casinos, fracking, and prison ministry, and potentially including the Upper NY Conference in Church & Society trainings in this conference.

108. Another avenue for cultivating relationships with other conferences and sharing best practices is by participating in training and networking meetings sponsored by the general agency, GBCS. In March 2014, GBCS held a two-day gathering in Washington for peace with justice coordinators from conferences throughout the U.S. To encourage participation in a two-day annual event known as Ecumenical Advocacy Days, the Peace with Justice Meeting was held immediately before Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Steve Derby (a CBCS board member from the Connecticut District) represented NYAC at the Peace with Justice Gathering in Washington in 2014 and is willing to collaborate with others in this conference on peace with justice matters.
109. Later in 2014, Rev. Alex Souto offered to serve as our peace with justice coordinator, in collaboration with Steve Derby and others who are called to address violence (including gun violence) and to encourage non-violent means of conflict resolution.

110. CBCS’s broadest outreach takes place each year at annual conference in multiple ways: the report we submit; legislation we sponsor or support; the resources we distribute at the CBCS resource table, and inspirational and educational guest speakers at our dinner.

111. At annual conference 2014, we distributed a very large quantity of Social Principles, Church and Society Fact Sheets and other resources on a range of social policy areas, as well as T shirts from the Swords Into Ploughshares Gun Violence Initiative that we began the prior year.

112. At the CBCS Dinner at annual conference 2014, two powerful guest speakers (Doug Walker of the General Board of Church and Society, and Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, national director of the Healing Communities Initiative) introduced the large gathering to a congregation-based prison ministry known as The Healing Communities. This dinner program was intended to encourage churches to engage in prison ministry as called for in the prison initiative legislation that was adopted at 2013 annual conference. Our dinner speakers did indeed energize those in attendance to want to know more about and how to engage in healing communities. Our intention is to offer follow up healing communities training in the conference to equip churches to engage in ministry with those at risk of incarceration or reentering society from prison.

113. Another step we took in 2014 to support expansion of prison ministry in this conference was to create and distribute a survey to assess the extent of existing prison ministries and expertise in our conference and interest in starting new prison ministries. We received 51 responses to that survey. The next step will be to collate those responses and tap into those connections and expertise.

114. Our more recent activities and plans include the following:

- CBCS co-sponsored a three-part civil rights series on the legacy of slavery that was organized by Rev. Jeff Wells, held at Massapequa UMC, and was open to the whole conference.
- CBCS is discussing with the co-chair of the NYAC Immigration Task Force, and representatives of the NYC New Sanctuary Coalition, and Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) to explore opportunities for collaboration among CBCS and these immigration groups. In particular, we are likely to offer “Accompaniment Training” to local UMCs that wish to engage in ministry with immigrants.
- CBCS is exploring the possibility of collaborating with the Board of Elders to offer training on the UM Social Principles later this year.

Immigration Task Force

Paul A. Fleck and Natassia Velez, Co-Chairs

101. This year has been an eventful one in immigration issues, both in the New York Annual Conference and beyond.

102. Immigration Task Force members Anne Brackett, Jacob Dharmaraj, Paul Fleck and Alex Souto participated in a protest and organizing training event July 31-August 1, 2014. Revs. Bracket, Fleck and Souto, along with faith leaders from The United Methodist Church, leaders of other faith communities and other immigration activists, were arrested protesting in front of the White House seeking to have President Obama expand the executive action he had taken earlier with respect to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

103. “On November 20, 2014, the President announced a series of executive actions to crack down on illegal immigration at the border, prioritize deporting felons not families and require certain undocumented
immigrants to pass a criminal background check and pay taxes in order to temporarily stay in the U.S. without fear of deportation.”¹

104. “These initiatives include:

- “Expanding the population eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to people of any current age who entered the United States before the age of 16 and lived in the United States continuously since January 1, 2010, and extending the period of DACA and work authorization from two years to three years.
- “Allowing parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to request deferred action and employment authorization for three years, in a new Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents program, provided they have lived in the United States continuously since January 1, 2010, and pass required background checks.
- “Expanding the use of provisional waivers of unlawful presence to include the spouses and sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents and the sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.
- “Modernizing, improving and clarifying immigrant and nonimmigrant visa programs to grow our economy and create jobs.”²

105. Due to a federal court temporary injunction order issued February 16, USCIS was barred from beginning to accept “requests for the expansion of DACA on February 18 as originally planned and has suspended implementation of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents. The court’s temporary injunction does not affect the existing DACA. Individuals may continue to come forward and request an initial grant of DACA or renewal of DACA under the original guidelines.”³ The court’s order has been appealed by the Obama Administration to the 5th Circuit, and will likely go all the way to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the suit on the merits of the action will proceed.

106. Irrespective of the President’s Executive Action, underlying immigration reform at the federal level continues to be a pressing priority for the task force.

107. The Immigration Task Force leadership continues to work in coalition with other partner organizations in Connecticut through the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance (CIRA) to promote immigrant rights at the state level. CIRA has worked on a number of legislative initiatives including the TRUST Act (which seeks to bar local law enforcement from cooperation with ICE), institutional aid for undocumented students, a domestic workers bill of rights and implementation of driver’s licenses for undocumented residents.

108. In March 2015 both Paul Fleck of the task force and Mary Ellen Kris of the Conference Board of Church & Society (CBCS) met with Ravi Ragbir and Rev. Donna Schaper of the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC. Discussion centered around how the task force and CBCS could aid in engaging United Methodist churches in the city in New Sanctuary’s work, especially its very successful accompaniment program. Mr. Ragbir, an undocumented immigrant himself under threat of deportation, will be the featured speaker at the CBCS dinner on Friday, June 12.

109. In April 2015 task force leadership met with Bishop Middleton to enlist her support in their efforts. Representatives from Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) were also present for that meeting. We explained the roles, missions and needs of our respective organizations. During that meeting Bishop Middleton pledged to assist JFON in four areas: 1) deepening its board leadership, 2) assisting in seeking out funds to increase JFON capacity, 3) helping JFON to secure office space and 4) aiding JFON in identifying United Methodist churches in New York City where JFON can make presentations regarding their services and offerings. Bishop Middleton also pledged her support for the task force in its efforts to increase the involvement of the conference’s ethnic caucuses in the cause of immigration reform.

² Ibid.
³ Ibid.
110. A joint meeting of the task force and CBCS will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, New York. Agenda items will include electing task force leadership and reviewing grant proposals for accompaniment trainings/JFON. All who are interested in the pressing social justice issue of immigration reform are invited to attend.

**NYAC-Justice for Our Neighbors (NYAC-JFON) Immigration Project**

**Mr. Robert Bobb, Chairperson**

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 the New York Metro region at four church-based clinics: Chinese United Methodist Church (UMC) in Chinatown, Manhattan; John Wesley UMC in Bedford-Stuyvesant/Clinton Hills, Brooklyn, founded in 1999; La Promesa Mission in Flushing, Queens, founded in 2000 and Hicksville UMC in Hicksville, Long Island, founded in 2014.

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. In May 2009, The United Methodist Church’s Council of Bishops’ Statement on U.S. Immigration says, “God chose to be incarnated as a migrant in Jesus, who as a tender child became a refugee to Africa... We believe that welcoming the sojourner is so vital to the expression of Christian faith that to engage in this form of hospitality is to participate in our own salvation.”

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** – The core of NYAC-JFON’s services includes offering monthly clinics at each of our four partner churches, where undocumented immigrants can receive one-to-one legal advice free of charge. We also engage in advocacy for immigrants’ rights and offering education to communities of faith and the public. Trained and dedicated volunteers staff each clinic, while our managing 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, VAWA, U-Visa, DACA, asylum, asylee-refugee adjustment, TPS and religious-worker petitions.

106. **Past Year** – NYAC-JFON opened its fourth legal clinic, and first outside of New York City, at Hicksville United Methodist Church in Hicksville, Long Island. The clinic began in the fall of 2014, and it has already helped several dozen clients in its few short months of operation.

107. We are currently training two additional volunteer attorneys to help us more efficiently manage our caseload. The strategic use of volunteer attorneys has also enabled us to serve a larger number of the economically disadvantaged undocumented immigrants who need reliable, high-quality legal services.

108. Looking Forward – At its January retreat, the NYAC-JFON Board set the following three strategic goals for 2015: Transform the four legal clinics into resource hubs for immigrants; diversify sources of funding, and increase pro-bono legal resources.
Commission on Religion and Race

Roena Littlejohn, Chair

101. The NYAC Commission on Religion and Race is delighted to report on the progress made since the last annual conference. Being forced to cancel two consecutive training events due to an insufficient number of participants, we felt the need to re-vamp our program. In the fall we offered a “one-time only” All-District Weekend Training Event, which drew 17 participants. This was a major breakthrough; all 17 completed evaluations filled with glowing comments. Listed below are responses to a few of the questions:

102. **How do you see this training impact your work as clergy in the UMC?** “I will be more of a humble and non-anxious presence.” “It has helped me to re-evaluate the culture of the congregation and have conversation with them to learn more about their individual culture.” “How to bring respect and understanding to committee meetings.”

103. **What did you learn during the training that you find most helpful or useful?** “Work on the anger cycle helpful not only for myself but also for understanding others.” “Both the iceberg model and the mapping culture orientation and delving into church culture via each of these models.” “I learned that we all have biases. The main issue is **how** we are able to use our biases to make disciples of Jesus Christ by using our biases to do positive things.”

104. We were encouraged and blessed to have Bishop Middleton meet with us and offer her support as we shared our hopes and dreams for CORR in 2015. Rebranding our training brought such positive results; we scheduled two training events for this spring. Part of rebranding included changing the name of the training to downplay “anti-racism title.” “Effective Christian Leadership in a Multicultural World,” is the new title. There were 25 participants who completed the spring training events. Another question: **What learning did you gather?** “All need to try to move past stereotypes before we can truly grow. Although I still feel I do pretty well dealing with racism and multicultural issues. But I learned I’m not as far along as I thought I was and I still have a long way to go.”

105. Going forward, each training will be “all-district” events, they will be advertised on the NYAC calendar and web site and registration will continue to be made online. We submitted a budget in the amount of $35,250 a 1.3% increase over 2015 budget. We engaged The Rev. Dr. Grace Cajiuat to conduct the training and believe that we are prepared to move forward to successfully complete the task by annual conference 2016. The all-district training events appear to draw a good mix of participants and reduces the pressure of a single district to identify enough participants to run a training. CORR continues to advocate for inclusiveness, equity and bring equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituencies in the UMC. As of April 2015, a total of 353 participants have completed the training.

106. It is our goal to be contextually relevant as we work with the diverse members of the NYAC and strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Shortly, we will begin our last year of the mandate to offer “Effective Christian Leadership in a Multicultural World Training,” which fulfills the anti-racism requirements.

107. CORR takes its leadership from the General Council on Religion & Race. We strive to adopt its vision, mission and core values. “The core values are based on the biblical imperative of right relationships of Love, Grace, Equity, Justice, Respect, and Mutual Accountability.” To that end, CORR spent a couple of years developing a workshop for local church leaders. While our budget doesn’t support mandatory training for local church leaders; CORR has completed a 3-hour workshop, “Intercultural Competency for Church Leaders.” This workshop will equip leaders with tools and methods to develop intercultural competence and enhance communication in meetings and relationships with clergy after complete their mandatory training. The cost is: **FREE! Invitation must come from the pastor.** Please contact CORR Chair Roena Littlejohn or a member of the CORR.
108. It is with deep appreciation and gratitude to The Rev. Vicki Flippin for her devotion, excellent skills, knowledge, support and service as secretary to CORR; we accept her resignation and wish her God’s blessings as she transitions into another role of leadership in the NYAC.

109. It is not customary to name members of a committee unless they are specifically acknowledged, correct?


Petition #2015-GC301 – Petition to Combat Attacks on Voting Rights

Total Number of Pages: 3
Suggested Title: Petition to Combat Attacks on Voting Rights
Resolution Number: N/A
General Church Budget Implications: None
Global Implications: None

WHEREAS the Voting Rights Act as passed by Congress in 1965 has been hailed as the most effective piece of legislation ever passed by Congress. The enactment of the Voting Rights Act called for a nationwide prohibition against the denial of the right to vote based on literacy tests or devices, and

WHEREAS the law prohibited racial discrimination in voting. Since 1965, the Supreme Court has issued several key decisions upholding the constitutionality of Section 5 and affirming the broad range of voting practices. However, in 2013, the Supreme Court dealt a blow to the heart of Section 5 and provisions that allowed Congress to renew and keep the Voting Rights Act in force, and

WHEREAS Since the 2010 mid-term elections, states have enacted laws that have a direct effect on the voting rights of citizens across a broad spectrum: African Americans, Hispanics, citizens with single language challenges, students, disabled persons, the elderly, persons of color, Asians, Native Americans, women, citizens convicted of crimes who have served their time yet are still disenfranchised, and immigrants of all colors. Among the tactics used to discourage and suppress voting are:

- Redistricting/gerrymandering
- Shortening early-voting periods (FL from 14 to 8 days; OH, in-person window from 35 to 17 days; absentee voting by mail from 35 to 21 days)
- Ending Election Day registration (ME ended a 38-year history of registering to vote on Election day)
- Restrictions on third-party registration (FL and TX passed laws making it more difficult for League of Women Voters, United Methodist Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and groups that bring voter registration to students on campus and to supermarkets for shoppers)
- Stricter voter ID laws (Over a dozen states passed legislation to require a photo ID to vote)
- Purging of voter rolls (the governor of FL ordered the FL Division of Elections to send a list containing nearly 2,700 voters flagged as possible “non-citizens…”)
- State felony disenfranchisement laws (FL, IA and KY have extreme policies of disenfranchising for life anyone with a felony conviction. These states also disproportionately suppress the voting rights for black citizens), and

WHEREAS, according to the ACLU:

- One in five people eligible to vote have a disability.
- In FL and KY, approximately one in five black citizens is disenfranchised due to a prior conviction.
- Wisconsin’s voter ID law is among the most restrictive in the nation, requiring voters to produce one of a few specified forms of photo ID in order to vote. Research commissioned by the ACLU indicates the law has a disproportionate impact on Black and Latino voters, who are more likely to lack photo ID accepted for voting in Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS voter registration and voting are civic duties of all eligible citizens. With Amendments 15, 19, 14 and 24, the U.S. Constitution guarantees all citizens that right, including African Americans, women and citizens over
18 years of age. The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church offers us guidance as we work through social community and justice issues. The 2012 Book of Discipline says of the social community, “The rights and privileges a society bestows upon or withholds from those who comprise it indicate the relative esteem in which that society holds particular persons or groups of persons. We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God.” It further states, “Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible and inalienable rights,” and

WHEREAS in order to justify voter-suppression laws and reduce participation in the voting process, opponents of fair voting rights have attempted to create the perception that widespread voter fraud exists. Yet, after the George W. Bush administration initiated a crackdown on voter fraud, a five-year Justice Department investigation turned up virtually no evidence of any organized effort to affect federal elections. As of 2006, 120 people had been charged and 86 convicted. Many of those charged had mistakenly filled out registration forms or misunderstood eligibility rules. In a Wisconsin case, United States District Judge Lynn Adelman investigated the evidence of voter fraud in the state and ruled in April 2014 that “virtually no voter impersonation occurs” in Wisconsin and “no evidence suggests that voter-impersonation fraud will become a problem at any time in the foreseeable future.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference and the General Conference of The United Methodist Church call upon the U.S. Congress to reinstate the protections of the Voting Rights Act. We call on Congress and state legislatures to eliminate all barriers to registration and voting and to create systems and procedures that make it simple and easy to register and to vote, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the Conference Board of Church and Society to advocate at the state level and the General Board of Church and Society at the federal level for fair and just voting rights legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference secretary of the NY Annual Conference will mail this petition to all members of the NY State and Connecticut legislatures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the 2016 General Conference will mail this petition to every member of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and that the secretaries of each annual conference in the U.S. will mail it to all of their state legislators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage local churches to advocate for fair voting rights with the representatives in the districts in which they are located.

Endorsed by:
Asian Council (NYAC); Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR); Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS - NYAC); Korean Caucus (NYAC); Methodists in New Directions (MIND); Methodist Federation for Social Action (NYAC); Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM - NYAC); Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR); United Methodist Women (NYAC)

Signed by:
Roena Littlejohn, chair, CCORR; Monique Blount, president, BMCR; Rev. Adrienne Brewington, BMCR; Fred Brewington; Rev. Kun Sam Cho, chair, Asian Council and Korean Caucus; Jayson Dobney, MIND; Rev. Paul Fleck, MFSA; Rev. Vicki Flippen, MIND; Susan Kim, president, UMW; Mary Ellen Kris, CBCS; Claris Skerritt, director of social action, UMW; Rev. Christine Stopka, Asian Council; Rev. Scott Summerville, MIND; Rev. Sara Thompson Tweedy, MIND; Rev. Jeff Wells, MIND, and Elaine Winward, CoNAM

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Petition #2015-GC302 – Racism and Excessive Police Force against People of Color

Total Number of Pages: 4

Suggested Title: Racism and Excessive Police Force against People of Color

Resolution Number: N/A

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

WHEREAS the recent murder of Walter Scott, who was shot multiple times in the back by South Carolina Police Officer Michael Slager has reminded us all of the threat to the lives of people of color when law enforcement officers are too quick to use force, and

WHEREAS Walter Scott’s murder is just the latest of a string of well-publicized incidents of excessive police force that ended in the death of a person of color, including, but not limited to Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ramarley Graham, Noel Polanco, Andy Lopez and Jonathan Ferrell, and

WHEREAS throughout the United States Native American, black and brown persons are disproportionately more likely to be killed by police, with Native Americans (who comprise .8% of the U.S. population) representing 1.6% of police-related killings, African Americans (who comprise 13% of the U.S. population) representing 26% of police shootings and Hispanics/Latinos being victimized by police killings at a rate 30% above average, and

WHEREAS even limited data reveals that between 2005 and 2012 white police officers killed black suspects an average of two times per week, and


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WHEREAS past FBI data indicates that approximately 25% of the police-related shooting deaths reported to the bureau by local law enforcement agencies involved white police officers and black suspects and shows that 18% of black suspects were under the age of 21 when killed by police, as compared to 8.7% of white suspects killed, and

WHEREAS there is no standardized criteria for when a local law enforcement agency is expected to report police-related shootings and/or deaths to federal oversight institutions, and

WHEREAS while the FBI assembles data in this area, reporting by police departments is voluntary and only approximately 750 of 170,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies report their statistics to the bureau, and

WHEREAS the vast majority of excessive-force allegations are ultimately ruled as “justified,” thus reducing the likelihood that such incidents will be reported to oversight agencies, and

WHEREAS incidents of police force that do not end in the suspect’s death are usually not reported at all, and

WHEREAS approximately 98% of excessive-force allegations are ultimately ruled as “justified” by self-policing law enforcement entities, rendering any available statistical information unreliable, in that it very likely under-represents the frequency of police related uses of force and/or shootings and/or deaths of suspects, and

WHEREAS because of the foregoing, the number of incidents in which force is used by police or against police cannot be fully and accurately tracked, and

WHEREAS the lack of a comprehensive national repository on use of force is considered by at least one expert to be a major failure for oversight of police practices, and

WHEREAS the lack of a comprehensive national repository on use of police force against civilians has been a major stumbling block in accomplishing effective nationwide oversight of law enforcement personnel, and

WHEREAS the lack of standardized criteria for reporting instances of police force, the paltry, non-mandatory participation of law enforcement entities in reporting incidents of police force, and the lack of a comprehensive national repository on the use of police force render it highly likely that the well-publicized killings of Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ramarley Graham, Noel Polanco, Andy Lopez and Jonathan Ferrell are merely the tip of a very wide, very deep iceberg of excessive police force used against people of color across the United States, and

WHEREAS the first step to understanding what is really going on in our communities and in our country is to gather more and better data related to those who are arrested, those who are confronted by police personnel and those who are alleged to initiate confrontation with police personnel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference will, through its Board of Church and Society, actively advocate before the appropriate legislative and law enforcement agencies for the standardization of the definition of police force that disallows the exclusion of incidents found, through internal investigation, to be “unsubstantiated,” “unfounded” or “justified,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference will, through its Board of Church and Society, actively advocate before the appropriate legislative and law enforcement agencies for mandatory reporting of every incidence of use of force by every law enforcement agency in the country to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and

13 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference will, through its Board of Church and Society, actively advocate before the appropriate legislative and law enforcement entities for the mandatory retraining of law enforcement personnel to clearly address issues of systemic, institutional and personally held racism and matters relating to cross-cultural sensitivity and tactics and strategies for de-escalating hostility in confrontations with members of the public, especially with regard to black and brown persons, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urges other denominations to join us in the work of ending the systemic, racially biased mistreatment of black and brown persons at the hands of law enforcement authorities.

Endorsed by:

Asian Council (NYAC); Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR); Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS - NYAC); Korean Caucus (NYAC); Methodist Federation for Social Action (NYAC); Methodists in New Directions (MIND); Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM - NYAC); Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR); United Methodist Women (NYAC)

Signed by:

Monique Blount, president, BMCR; Rev. Adrienne Brewington, BMCR; Fred Brewington; Rev. Kun Sam Cho, chair, Asian Council and Korean Caucus; Jayson Dobney, MIND; Rev. Paul Fleck, MFSA; Rev. Vicki Flippin, MIND; Susan Kim, president, UMW; Mary Ellen Kris, CBCS; Roena Littlejohn, chair, CCORR; Claris Skerritt, director of social action, UMW; Rev. Scott Summerville, MIND; Rev. Christine Stopka, Asian Council; Rev. Sara Thompson Tweedy, MIND; Rev. Jeff Wells, MIND; Elaine Winward, CoNAM

Petition #2015-GC303 – Racism and the Mass Incarceration of Persons of Color

WHEREAS the United States imprisons more of its own people that any other country in the world.\textsuperscript{20} While the U.S. comprises 5% of the total global population, it accounts for a staggering 25% of the world’s prison population,\textsuperscript{21} and

WHEREAS the U.S. prison population is not representative of the nation’s population as a whole. For instance, while African-American males comprise only 13.2% of the U.S. population,\textsuperscript{22} they make up 37% of those in

\textsuperscript{22} U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html.
Almost 3% of black males of all ages were imprisoned in 2013, compared to 0.5% of white males; simple math therefore tells us that an African-American male is six (6) times more likely to be imprisoned than a white male. While one in 30 men between the ages of 20 and 34 is behind bars, for black males in that age group the figure is one in nine. The imprisonment rate for black females is twice the rate of white females. As Adam Gopnik pointed out in a January 30, 2012 issue of The New Yorker:

Mass incarceration on a scale almost unexampled in human history is a fundamental fact of our country today—perhaps the fundamental fact, as slavery was the fundamental fact of 1850. In truth, there are more black men in the grip of the criminal justice system—in prison, on probation, or on parole—than were in slavery then. Over all, there are now more people under “correctional supervision” in America—more than six million—than were in the Gulag Archipelago under Stalin at its height.

Hispanics comprise 17% of the U.S. general population, yet 22% of the U.S. prison population. One in every 106 white males age 18 or older is incarcerated. One in every 36 Hispanic males age 18 or older is incarcerated. One in every 15 black males age 18 or older is incarcerated. The incarceration rate of Native Americans is 38% higher than the national rate. Law enforcement agents arrest Native Americans and Alaskan Natives at twice the rate of the greater U.S. population for violent and property crimes. On average, Native Americans receive longer sentences than non-Native Americans for crimes. They also tend to serve longer time in prison for their sentences than non-Native Americans, and

**Biblical and Theological Grounding**

WHEREAS when Jesus returned to Nazareth near the beginning of his ministry, he read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah:

> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. (Luke 4:18), and

WHEREAS the prophet Isaiah likewise spoke out:

> Woe to you who issue unjust laws, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice, and to rob the poor of my people of their rights... (Isaiah 10:1-2a), and

WHEREAS the Apostle Paul wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member, but of many... God has so arranged the body... that there may

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be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it... (1 Corinthians 12: 12-26), and

WHEREAS as Christians who claim the teachings of the Hebrew and Christian Testaments, the Prophets and the Gospels, we are responsible for speaking and acting prophetically when the laws of the land are not just or fair to all communities, and

WHEREAS as Christians we are responsible for proclaiming release to the captives and to let the oppressed go free..., and

WHEREAS our system of mass incarceration of persons of color represents a system of unjust laws and oppressive statutes that turn aside the needy from justice and rob the poor... of their rights..., and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church identify and recognize the mass incarceration of persons of color in the United States as an international civil and human rights crisis on a massive scale, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirms its commitment to speak and act prophetically to dismantle the growing prison industrial complex in the United States, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to turn this tide of institutional racism by mass incarceration in the United States, that the Restorative Justice Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church (Resolution #5034, Mission Plan for Restorative Justice Ministries, 2012 Book of Resolutions) work to develop and implement plans to dismantle the unjust and oppressive laws that lead to mass incarceration of persons of color as follows:

- That the General Board of Church & Society continue to advocate for a criminal justice system that is not racist, advocate for less punitive sentences for non-violent and drug-related offenses and develop a comprehensive strategy for dismantling the currently racist criminal justice and mass-incarceration systems, and

- That the General Board of Discipleship develop and implement a curriculum of study grounded in scripture, tradition, reason and experience that equips local congregations to understand the institutional racism embedded in our criminal justice system and prison-industrial complex and to advocate to dismantle it, and

- That the General Board of Global Ministries work with the General Board of Church & Society in the implementation of the “Healing Communities” mission and social justice program to work with those incarcerated to reenter society and reduce recidivism.

Endorsed by:
Asian Council (NYAC); Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR); Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS - NYAC); Korean Caucus (NYAC); Methodist Federation for Social Action (NYAC); Methodists in New Directions (MIND); Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM - NYAC); Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR); United Methodist Women (NYAC)

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Resource List on Mass Incarceration of Persons of Color:
**Petition #2015-GC304 – Racism and Economic Injustice against People of Color in the U.S.**

Total Number of Pages: 4

Suggested Title: Racism and Economic Injustice against People of Color in the U.S.

Resolution Number: N/A

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

**Biblical and Theological Grounding**

WHEREAS the prophet Isaiah spoke out:

> Woe to you who issue unjust laws, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice, and to rob the poor of my people of their rights... (Isaiah 10:1-2a), and

WHEREAS Jesus taught the foundation of the law and the prophets was to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself and he made clear that everyone is our neighbor, and

WHEREAS Jesus proclaimed the essence of his ministry when he read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah:

> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. (Luke 4:18), and

WHEREAS the prophet Isaiah proclaimed God’s condemnation of economic injustice, saying:

> Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.... Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (Isaiah 58:3b-4, 6-7), and

**Background and Motivation**

WHEREAS this condemnation applies directly to the reality of racial injustice and economic inequality in the U.S., and

WHEREAS the U.S. has the most unequal distribution of income and wealth of all developed nations, and

WHEREAS in 1967, when Jim Crow segregation was wounded, but still alive, median household income was 43 percent higher for white, non-Hispanic households than for black households, yet by 2011, with legal segregation eliminated, that figure had risen to 72 percent, and

WHEREAS despite steadily rising overall wealth in the U.S., the “wealth gap” between whites and African Americans went from 12 to 1 in 1984 to 19 to 1 in 2009. Significant disparities exist at all income levels. So, for example, in the bottom fifth of households, poor whites have an average of $24,000 in assets. Poor black households have, on average, $57 in assets, for a ratio of 421 to 1. In the middle income level, the ratio is 5.2 to 1 and even at the highest income level, white households have, on average 3.2 time more wealth than black households, and

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32 Ibid.

WHEREAS “African Americans are twice as likely as whites to be employed in low-wage jobs and twice as likely
to be unemployed,” even when the job climate is good. In addition, on average, black men remain unemployed
seven more weeks than white men and black women are out of work five more weeks than white women, and
WHEREAS while median income for Asian Americans is higher than that of whites, Asian Americans earn less
than whites at same educational level, and many Asian Americans still live in poverty, and
WHEREAS slavery, Jim Crow segregation, the sharecropping and tenant-farmer system, the convict slave-labor
system, thousands of lynchings, KKK terror and other historical practices prevented the accumulation of wealth
and property by most African-American families and the legacy of those systems of oppression still affects many
families, recent studies show that ongoing mass disparities between whites and blacks in the U.S. can be directly
attributed to current racist policies and practices:

One study showed that African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans have more than a one-in-three
chance of suffering discrimination in any given job search, concluding that roughly 600,000 blacks, 275,000 Latinos, and 150,000 Asian Americans face job discrimination each year.

In studies of service-industry employment, research showed that even when researchers sent African-
American testers who were more qualified; white applicants were more likely to get an interview.

A Princeton study using black, white and Latino test applicants who were trained to have the same
communication styles, physical characteristics and demeanor found that white applicants were far more
likely than applicants of color to be called back. It also found that even white men claiming a felony
record were slightly more likely to be called back than black applicants with no criminal record, and
WHEREAS the deliberate de-industrialization of the U.S. in the 1970s and ’80s led to massive job losses among
people of color, who had only gained access on a large scale to good-paying blue-collar jobs. This is directly
linked to the re-impoverishment of a large proportion of African-American households, to urban decay (as
incomes and tax revenues plummeted) and the dramatic rise in the jail and prison population (starting around
1980). People of color (especially African-American and Hispanic men) became an unneeded surplus labor force
and mass incarceration became one of the primary solutions to that problem, and
WHEREAS widespread discrimination against people of color continues in the U.S. in housing, education,
healthcare and the policing and criminal justice system, and
WHEREAS we need a vision of a beloved community, founded on social and economic justice and motivated by
self-giving love. This vision includes removing the power of police oversight and discipline from the police
themselves; substantially reducing sentences for minor crimes and dramatically reducing the prison population;
eliminating the “prisons for profit” system; providing genuinely equal education opportunities for all; creating an
economic system that provides for an equitable distribution of wealth, with much larger programs to assist
developing nations; reinstating and strengthening voting-rights protections; and strengthening investigation and
enforcement against discrimination in employment, housing, education and healthcare, and
WHEREAS racial injustice and inequality still constitute the cornerstone of U.S. economic and social policy and
practice, and
WHEREAS intense and ongoing systemic and institutional racism is still greatest barrier in the U.S. to building
beloved community.

34 Ibid., 66-67.
35 Ibid., 95.
36 See Douglas A. Blackmon, Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World
37 Wise, 88.
38 Ibid., 90-91.
39 Ibid., 88-89.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church advocates, encourages and will support a new
multiracial, mass movement for racial and economic justice in the U.S., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every annual conference in the U.S. mandate anti-racism training for every active
clergy member and for all members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees on
Ordained Ministry, and, that this training be offered as well to other key leaders among laity in each conference.
We note that anti-racism training must address white privilege and focus on intentional struggle and advocacy
against racism in our churches and in society at large. So-called “diversity training” or “sensitivity training” is
insufficient, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every annual conference, district and local church should be engaged,
tentionally, in being an anti-racist church, not merely on paper, but in action. Church bodies at every level
should seek to educate themselves on the extent of racism in business, education, government, housing and
healthcare and find ways to advocate for the elimination of specific instances locally and nationally.

Endorsed by:
Asian Council (NYAC); Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR); Conference Board of Church and Society
(CBCS - NYAC); Korean Caucus (NYAC); Methodist Federation for Social Action (NYAC); Methodists in New
Directions (MIND); Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM - NYAC); Conference Commission on
Religion and Race (CCORR); United Methodist Women (NYAC)

Signed by:
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Kim, president, UMW; Mary Ellen Kris, CBCS; Roena Littlejohn, chair, CCORR; Claris Skerritt, director of social
action, UMW; Rev. Christine Stopka, Asian Council; Rev. Scott Summerville, MIND; Rev. Sara Thompson Tweedy,
MIND; Rev. Jeff Wells, MIND; Elaine Winward, CoNAM

Resources on Racism and Economic Justice for People of Color:
Tim Wise, Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equality (San Francisco: City
Lights Books, 2010).
Joseph Brandt, Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness (Minneapolis: Fortress Press,
2011).
Charles Marsh, The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to
Douglas A. Blackmon, Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to
ColorOfChange.org – “we keep our members informed and give them ways to act on pressing issues facing black
people in America.”

Petition #2015-GC305 – The Impact of Racism on the Health of People of Color in the U.S.

Total Number of Pages: 5
Suggested Title: The Impact of Racism on the Health of People of Color in the U.S.
Resolution Number: N/A
General Church Budget Implications: None
Global Implications: None

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults,
the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life;
and to the rights and dignity of all persons.  

40 The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, ¶166.
“If racism was constructed, it can be undone. It can be undone if people understand when it was constructed, how it functions, and how it is maintained.”
– People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (www.pisab.org)

WHEREAS a good and just healthcare system delivers quality services to all people, when and where they need them, the exact configuration of services varies from country to country, but in all cases requires a robust financing mechanism, a well-trained and adequately paid workforce, reliable information on which to base decisions and policies, well-maintained facilities, and logistics to deliver quality medicines and technologies, and

WHEREAS the Social Principles of the UMC states that, “Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being…. Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and the government owes all, a responsibility the government ignores at its peril.” It also states that, “healthcare is best funded through the government’s ability to tax each person equitably and directly fund the provider entities,” and

WHEREAS currently non-communicable diseases (NCDs) kill 38 million people each year. Almost 75% of these deaths (28M) occur in low- and middle-income individuals. Prior to age 70, NCD accounts for 16M deaths; 82% of these “premature” deaths occurred in low- and middle-income people globally. Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.5 million people annually, respiratory diseases 4M, diabetes 1.5 million, and

WHEREAS the legacy of imperialism and colonialism along with continued economic exploitation by developed nations is responsible for high levels of poverty and poor healthcare in developing nations. Maternal mortality is a health indicator that shows very wide gaps between rich and poor, urban and rural areas, both between countries and within them. Reproductive health problems are responsible for one third of health issues for women between the ages of 15 and 44 years. Maternal mortality and maternal childcare study show that during 2013, about 800 women died daily due to complications of pregnancy and child birth. The risk of a woman in a developing country dying from a maternal-related cause during her lifetime is about 23 times higher compared to a woman living in a developed country, and

WHEREAS diseases are often driven by circumstances related to unequal access to adequate healthcare. Joseph Barndt, in his book, Understanding and Dismantling Racism, points out that over the course of U.S. history, African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos and others were brought to the continent either as slave labor or as cheap and easily exploited wage laborers to serve the predominantly white landowners and businesses. They were subject to racist treatment as well as harsh working and living conditions. The associated stress contributed to the higher than average incidence among people of color of four key health issues: high blood pressure, overweight/obesity, diabetes and cardiac disease, and

WHEREAS race and racism were invented by 16th century Europeans, imported to the Americas, codified and perpetuated throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, to establish white dominance over other races and justify exploitation and oppression. While the concept of race is a false and misleading social construct without basis in science, it is still a very powerful socially perceived reality, whose effects we must address and combat, and

WHEREAS a study published in the American Journal of Public Health estimated that 880,000 deaths of black Americans could have been avoided between 1991 and 2000 if black mortality rates were the same as those of whites, and

WHEREAS people of color in the U.S. suffer from poorer health than whites in most categories of health and the discrepancy cannot be explained by income level, education or health behaviors. For example:
• Black women with a bachelor’s or higher-level degree experience a higher rate of infant mortality than white women who dropped out before high school.

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42 Ibid.
44 Joseph Barndt, Understanding and Dismantling Racism (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007).
45 Joseph Barndt, Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010).
For women with college degrees, the infant mortality rate is three times higher for black women than for white women.46

While white women who begin life poor manage to raise their economic status see improved birth outcomes, this does not hold true for African American, Latina immigrant or South Asian Indian women whose economic conditions similarly improve.47

Foreign-born black women tend to have rates of infant mortality and low-birth weight babies comparable to white women in the U.S. However, when African women immigrate to the U.S., within one generation, their daughters show significantly higher rates, comparable to African-American women.48

Black immigrants from majority-black nations, when they come to the U.S., are generally healthier than blacks from mostly white areas than blacks already in the U.S. However, their health deteriorates after a short time in the U.S. to the level of African Americans, and

WHEREAS all of this evidence, which is a small sampling of a very large phenomenon, indicates that being black in the social conditions of U.S. contributes to poor health, and

WHEREAS “more than a hundred studies have found a relationship between racial discrimination and negative physical health outcomes for people of color.”

- “Racial discrimination increase[s] stress levels...thereby elevating blood pressure and correlating directly with worse health.”
- “Racial bigotry causes the brain’s hypothalamus to send an alert...resulting in a release of adrenaline along with the release of endorphins in the brain and cortisol (a stress-related hormone) throughout the body. Over time, these experiences can damage the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis.”49
- Racism is a significant factor leading to stress causing increase in wear and tear of the body. It increases the biologic response and, during pregnancy, crosses through the placenta to the fetus and can trigger premature birth of the fetus,50 and

WHEREAS the abundant data available make it clear that the effects of bigotry and racism are very bad for one’s health in a relatively short time frame and the effects are cumulative.

WHEREAS powerful evidence points to unequal and discriminatory treatment of people of color by physicians and healthcare institutions:

- African-American women are 25 percent less likely to receive a mammography screening.
- African Americans are 60 percent less likely to receive coronary angioplasty or bypass surgery, even when compared with white patients of the same age and gender in the same area.51
- A large research study published in 2008 found significant differences in the way white doctors treated, communicated with and coordinated care with patients of color.52
- In a 2001 survey, 20% of Asians, 19% of Hispanics, and 14% of African-American respondents reported being treated with disrespect or being looked down upon during a patient-provider encounter.53 In another survey,


50 “Boston Resident Deaths,” Massachusetts Department of Public Health


53 Blanchard J, Lurie N., “R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Patient report of disrespect in the
“63% of the 76 participants indicated they had experienced discrimination in their interactions with their healthcare provider because of their race or color.”\textsuperscript{54} Such discriminatory treatment often leads victims to avoid particular providers or facilities and even to hesitate in seeking health services in general.\textsuperscript{55}

WHEREAS “addressing racism as it relates to racial/ethnic health disparities requires an assessment of its prevalence and an understanding of the specific manner in which it operates, not only in the social environment, but in healthcare delivery systems as well,”\textsuperscript{56} and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church, in all of its expressions, will work with governments, healthcare providers and other organizations and individuals to find solutions to end the pattern of inequities and disparities in treatment and create the conditions for equal access to quality healthcare to all. We will mobilize to work toward the elimination of racism and economic and social injustices that lead to higher rates of disease and death for people of color. As part of that effort, we will seek to eliminate the continuing expressions of racism in the body of Christ, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church, in an effort to reduce stress and increase whole-person health, advocate for increased availability of healthy, nutritional foods, safe environmental conditions, improved and adequate housing and access to adequate healthcare in neighborhoods that are predominantly people of color, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church work to eliminate stigmas and stereotypes of people of color, including Latinos/Hispanics, Native Americans, Filipinos, Japanese and African Americans by governmental, institutional, social organizations and individuals. We urge conferences, advocacy organizations and local churches to dialogue with organizations, stakeholders, institutions and politicians on ways to improve, educate and empower all persons to maintain and sustain improved health and wholeness.

Endorsed by:
Asian Council (NYAC); Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR); Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS - NYAC); Korean Caucus (NYAC); Methodist Federation for Social Action (NYAC); Methodists in New Directions (MIND); Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM - NYAC); Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR); United Methodist Women (NYAC)

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Resource List:
Joseph Barndt, \textit{Understanding and Dismantling Racism} (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007)
Joseph Barndt, \textit{Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness} (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010)


\textsuperscript{56} Vickie L. Shavers and Brenda S. Shavers, “Racism and Health Inequity Among Americans,” \textit{Journal of the National Medical Association} 98:3 (March 2006), 388.
Section 4: Leadership/Commissioning

Conference Lay Leader

Renata Smith

101. It continues to be a privilege to serve in a position that supports laity in the ministry of the church. In addition to serving on various conference committees, the lay leader works with a dedicated team of laypersons on the Board of Laity.

102. We were off to a running start to fulfill the goal of equipping laity to make disciples for Jesus Christ and increasing the vitality in our congregations, when we had our Third Annual Laity Convocation on October 20th at the Edith Macy Conference Center. Our theme was “You Gotta Have Heart.” Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, coordinator of church development and revitalization was the event’s speaker. He led a riveting plenary session which enhanced our perceptions and understanding of evangelism. His spirited, timely and thought-provoking presentation provided convincingly practical and workable ways laity can evangelize. We were challenged to ask ourselves “What does my church have to offer a hurting world?” If the answer is “Nothing” or “Not much” we were asked to consider, “What can I begin to do to change it?” Reports from laity indicate that many are beginning to put what they have learned into practice.

103. In a move to put the talk about vital congregations into more meaningful action, a team of laypersons, Margaret Howe, Lisa Bosworth, Mary Brevigleiri and Kim Childs worked with Kwasi Kena and Safiyah Fosua to revise the incubator training materials to make them more laity friendly. I later joined the team. With the blessing of the bishop and the cabinet, Margaret will facilitate an incubator training group in the late spring in the Catskill Hudson District, while Lisa and Margaret will lead one in the Connecticut District in the fall. We are excited about this venture and look forward to having other districts join in at a later date.

104. District and associate district lay leaders convened training events in their districts in order to equip local church lay leaders for their leadership roles. We are pleased that many clergy attended.

- Connecticut, led by Lay Leader Mitch Underwood, reviewed the role of the local church lay leader and did an overview under the thematic consideration The Church in 2035 and How to be Prepared for It. Mary Brevigleiri did an overview of the lay servant/lay speaker program.
- Long Island East, under the leadership of Lay Leader Lorraine Leak, had a District Pentecost Worship Celebration with clergy and laity in attendance. Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble was the speaker. There was also a workshop at their district meeting for lay members of annual conference.
- The Lay Leader as a Servant Leader was the theme in Long Island West District with a focus on prayer. Junior Dixon is their lay leader.
- The theme in the Metropolitan District was Clergy/Laity Partnership. Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble was the speaker. He shared the characteristics of a growth environment and what it takes to create a team. Daisy Tavarez is the lay leader.
- New York/Connecticut had trainings in two locations in their district. Henry McCarter serves as lay leader.
- Catskill Hudson will have their clergy/laity event in the fall. Margaret Howe is their lay leader.

105. We are extremely grateful for the leadership of Rev. Noble.

106. I facilitated the training for local church lay leaders and lay members to annual conference in the Long Island West District and highlighted the importance of the lay members’ role at annual conference at the Metropolitan District Meeting. A Handbook for Lay Leaders and A Lay Member’s Guide to Annual Conference, two very useful resources for laity, have been updated and are on the conference web site under Resources.

107. Thanks to the faithful lay persons who prayed daily for the success of annual conference during the weeks leading up to it. We are grateful to God for the remarkable recovery which Peter O’Neill, former director of lay servant ministries is making. May God continue to bless and heal him. A special thanks for the
leadership of Bishop Middleton with whom I meet on a regular basis to discuss matters relating to the laity. To God be the glory!

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

*Bill Pfohl, Chair; Lydia Lebron-Rivera, Vice Chair*

101. Integrity, transparency and accountability in the grace of Jesus Christ; these are core values and emerging competencies for disciples of our Lord who pursue the holiness of God. Each of us, clergy and laity, are called to minister in the world so that the transformation willed by God will be actualized. This of course is not fundamentally the consequence of our power, but of God’s willingness to pour God’s riches into the earthen vessels that we call our lives, our churches, our conference and our world. God is the creator, sustainer and redeemer, and we are invited to be agents and ambassadors through which God will accomplish cosmic and earthly transformation. The Board of Ordained Ministry has eagerly and enthusiastically sought to name and claim what we believe to be God’s will, to foster an environment where all can recognize and cooperate with God, and where we may speak the truth in love so that “the branches” to which “the vine” gives life will produce much fruit (John 15).

102. It is with this in mind that BOOM has articulated the current and emerging standards of effectiveness (see 2014 Journal or the Clergy Effectiveness Guidelines page on the conference web site: http://www.nyac.com/clergyeffectivenessguidelines) in collaboration with the cabinet (¶ 635.r) and is actively seeking “to provide support services for the ordained (and licensed) minister’s career development, including personal and career counseling, continuing education, formation in servant leadership and continuing spiritual growth in Christ, assistance in preparation for retirement, and all such matters pertaining to clergy morale. In providing such support, the board in cooperation with the cabinet, shall give training and guidance to each local committee on pastor-parish relations regarding its work and role.” (Paragraph 625.o)

103. After presentations of the clergy effectiveness standards at the fall tri-district retreats, BOOM is pursuing strategies to help clergy and local churches identify pathways for continuing and expanded faithful, fruitful ministry. This will involve a means of evaluation, and a process for conversation about how disciple making for the transformation of the world may be advanced for Jesus’ sake. In the next year we will seek to begin “training and guiding each local PPR/SPRC committee.” We understand this to be necessary (and disciplinary) for actualizing the pursuit of integrity, transparency and accountability in the grace of Jesus Christ. Augustine’s prayer articulates the expectation of cooperation and empowerment we assume from God and through the annual conference, “God demand what you will, and give what you demand.”

104. **BOOM Activities:**

105. The clergy effectiveness standards were shared and discussed as a part of the 2014 tri-district retreats. A BOOM task force for training SPRCs is exploring helpful ways for clergy and congregations to facilitate appropriate goals and strategies to improve the effectiveness of our ministry. We expect SPRC training to begin in the fall of this year in hopes of clarifying the effectiveness standards, describing the pathways to increasing and maintaining clergy health, wellness and practical education, encouraging clergy and congregations to identify promising future church leaders, as well as, to work more collaboratively with other colleagues and congregations.

106. Resolutions developed by the taskforce on clergy health, wellness and education has sought to affirm and remind clergy and churches of the need for clergy spiritual formation and renewal and the expectations of time set apart to intentionally invite the Holy Spirit to transform us.

107. The support of candidates for ministry is substantially aided by the training and resourcing of candidacy and clergy mentors. Randy Nugent and Steve Allen coordinated two clergy mentor training events, and two candidacy mentor training events. We also conducted two ministry orientation events for those exploring candidacy.
108. Eileen Daunt served as the dean for the NYAC’s first Local Pastors Licensing School. The school was held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT. There was one module held each month for four months. The students arrived on a Thursday evening and classes were held on Friday and Saturday. The four modules were 1) Worship & Preaching, 2) Sacraments, Spirituality & Pastor as Educator, 3) Pastoral Care & Special Worship Services and 4) Mission/Outreach and Administration. Each student also completed the General Board of Discipleship’s “United Methodism 101.” All of the modules had practical homework assignments.

109. A total of 19 students attend the school of which four were from outside the NY Conference (New England, Greater New Jersey and Peninsula-Delaware). Fifteen completed all the sessions in NY. All in the process of becoming licensed local pastors. Two of our students completed their LPLS by attending the modules they had been missed in another school.

110. Our staff of nine instructors were excellent and the students were very grateful for the learning experience. The next session of the Local Pastor’s Licensing School will be held this autumn.

111. Evaluation Events – St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT was the site for our interview events. In November the board considered five candidates for ordination, and in March considered 14 candidates for commissioning.


113. The Board recommends approval of one candidate for commissioning as a provisional deacon: Arletha Miles-Boyce. The board recommends approval of ten candidates for commissioning as provisional elders in the New York Annual Conference: Karina Feliz, Melissa Hinnen, Steve Young Dong Kim, Yountae Kim, Joyce Jayoon Lee, Sunjoo Lee, Sharon Petgrave-Cundy, Alison VanBuskirk Philip, Siobhan Sargent and Derrick Watson.

Compass Report

114. Compass is a non-evaluative program for residents in ministry that provides opportunities for clergy relationships and diverse ministry experiences to foster positive collaborative relationships and fruitfulness in ministry.

115. Compass includes everyone who has been commissioned (known as a resident in ministry) and provisional members from other conferences or denominations transferring into the New York Annual Conference. Associate members from the NYAC are also invited to participate in Compass.

116. In 2014-2015 we had 35 residents in ministry (34 from the NYAC and one from the Detroit Annual Conference); 22 were in their first two years of residency which are the most active Compass years. All 35 are followed by Compass and meet regularly with their clergy mentors until they are ordained, or discontinued. The newest members are involved in our orientations sessions and retreats.

117. We had a wonderful day-long orientation meeting in September of 2014 which included time with the cabinet. This was the opportunity for residents to get to know each other, the conference staff and the district superintendents.

118. Every fall the Frontier Foundation sponsors a three-day Clergy Finance Training seminar giving the residents helpful information on church and personal finances.

119. In between the many February snow storms we made a trip to Washington D.C. were we were hosted by Rev. Clayton Childers of the General Board of Church and Society. Participants met with Chaplain Barry C. Black, chaplain of the United States Senate, attended a presentation by Rep. John Lewis, and had conversations with representatives from Bread for the World, the Islamic Society of North America and Gallaudet University. It was an enlightening experience.
120. Every spring the residents have the wonderful opportunity to experience a three-day spirituality retreat led by Rev. Tilda Norberg. It is an anticipated and appreciated component of the Compass program.

121. There is a Compass planning team that puts together these events, all with the goal of making a newly commissioned member of our annual conference feel more connected, supported and effective in their ministry. My thanks to all the members for their hard work.

122. The Residency in Ministry program, of which Compass is a part, has included a Book of Discipline-required “Ministry Project” since 2012. We have been gradually developing and unfolding our requirement so that provisional deacons and elders would have the time necessary to use and learn from this experience. We expect our ministry project program to be fully actualized in 2016 and it will include a review of each candidate’s written project proposal and a site visit to the candidate’s ministry setting by a BOOM led and trained team.

123. **Looking ahead**

124. In this coming year BOOM will seek to collect and catalog our processes and expectation into a “User’s Manual.” It is our hope that this will make our communications clearer to candidates and the conference as a whole, in addition to serving as a supportive foundation for the 2016-2020 BOOM.

125. Two separate district committees on ordained ministry training days have been calendared in order to enhance the quality and the consistency of our process at the district level.

126. The majority of conferences in the United States employ at least a part-time staff person to resource BOOM work. Such a person provides greater continuity and fosters improved connections between all 28 of the BOOM’s disciplinary-assigned responsibilities (see ¶ 635) and the expanded connections that emerge for cooperation’s sake. We encourage the NYAC to explore what such a person could mean for us, and the fruitfulness of our ministry.

127. This year has been challenging. We have all sought to respond faithfully to our call in the midst of our grief and sadness at the passing of Bishop McLee, and the interim leadership of our other bishops. We are so grateful for the commitment and consistency now blessing us with Bishop Middleton and look forward to the final year of the quadrennium as one filled with fruitful possibilities. It is my special blessing to serve with the members of BOOM who take their calling and service to God and the New York Annual Conference so very seriously. We do not always agree with each other, but we do trust that God will bring to completion what God has begun in all of us until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nursing**

**Deaconess Claris Skerritt**

*Changing is not just changing the things outside of us. First of all we need the right view that transcends all notions including of being and non-being, creator and creature, mind and spirit. That kind of insight is crucial for transformation and healing.*  

(Thich Nhat Hanh)

101. I am pleased to report that with the assistance of the New York Annual Conference staff, Reverend Ann Pearson and Lynda Gomi, and through UMCOR health resources, conference calls with the Parish Nurse Ministries of New York, Inc., the parish nurse/faith community nursing continues to be a vital ministry to all in the pursuit for wholistic health.

102. The following persons have obtained the certificate of completion:

- Cecelia Williams Nelson—certified dietitian, has gone on to become a deaconess, educating others on nutrition and health.
- Adrian Johnson—physiotherapist by profession, has now gone on to further studies to become a public health nurse.
- Donna Madden—registered nurse is the NYAC Nurse’s Unit coordinator.
Reverend Sonia Jermin—continues to work diligently with the NYAC older adult ministries (OAM) planning camps and retreats for the older adults with the OAM committee members. Delores Arnold—retired registered Nurse, coordinates the older adult ministry at her church.

103. These are highlights from the conference year:

104. **Older Adult Camp**—The first Older Adult Camp for the NYAC was held in the fall at Camp Quinipet. I presented health and wholeness and spirituality. As we continue to spread the word of FCN and the mission of healing we are reaching out to others through the good news on ways we can care for our bodies along with the medical practitioners, remembering we are the best caretakers of our bodies our spirits reside in it.

105. **The Metropolitan District Leadership Training**—Held in various locations again this year and I must thank Reverend Sonia Jermin and Reverend Dr. Denise Smartt Sears, superintendent for allowing me the opportunity to lead one of the sessions on health and wholeness.

106. **The 59th Annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59)** was held March 9-20, 2015 at the United Nations, Church Center for the United Nations and various venues in New York City. United Nations Women—the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women—represents women from 193 countries. I was fortunate to be a delegate for United Methodist Women national office to which I am very grateful, and I also had the opportunity to participate on the panel for maternal and child health which was sponsored by UMW and the YWCA during CSW59.

> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
> Be not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8)

107. **Ecumenical Women Worship**—Telling personal stories through a worship experience was organized by the Ecumenical Women’s group. Each morning a different group or organization presented the service on one of the areas of concern to be addressed during CSW. The United Methodist Women role play: Engaging in Wholistic Care for Self and the Community through personal stories.

108. **Watch for the Foundations Faith Community Nursing course.**
Section 5: Clergy Care & Conference Finance

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Rev. Gunshik Shim, Chair

101. The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation as expressed in the 2012 Book of Discipline is to “support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference” (¶625.2).

102. This includes “recommending conference standards for pastoral support... administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation... providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations... and submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference.” (¶625.2)

Recommendations for the year 2016:

103. The Commission recommends to the annual conference that the Equitable Salary Fund be set at $140,000.

104. That the Salary Adjustment Fund be set at $80,000.

105. That the Minimum Salary Schedule be increased across the board by 1.3% in every category.

106. That the minimum equitable salary for ¾-time pastoral appointments shall be ¾ of the required minimum; that the minimum equitable salary for ½-time pastoral appointments shall be ½ of the required minimum; that minimum salary for less than ½-time appointments shall be determined by the cabinet in consultation with the pastor and the local church.

107. That the minimum professional reimbursement account remains at $5,550.00, and that pastors under part-time appointments receive a minimum of $1,387.50 for each ¼-time increment.

108. That pastors serving multi-church charges are to receive an additional $750.00 professional reimbursement OR an additional $750 salary increase for each church after the first church on their circuit, whether serving in a part-time or full-time appointment.

109. That the 2016 minimum equitable salary for all pastors serving under full-time appointments is as follows:

New York Annual Conference
2016 Minimum Salary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Local Pastor</th>
<th>Probationer</th>
<th>Associate Member</th>
<th>Elder/Permanent Deacon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>$36,974.50</td>
<td>$39,253.75</td>
<td>$39,760.25</td>
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<td>$37,202.43</td>
<td>$39,507.00</td>
<td>$40,038.83</td>
<td>$40,823.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$37,430.35</td>
<td>$39,760.25</td>
<td>$40,317.40</td>
<td>$41,127.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$37,658.28</td>
<td>$40,013.50</td>
<td>$40,595.98</td>
<td>$41,431.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$37,886.20</td>
<td>$40,266.75</td>
<td>$40,874.55</td>
<td>$41,735.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$38,114.13</td>
<td>$40,520.00</td>
<td>$41,153.13</td>
<td>$42,039.50</td>
</tr>
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<td>$38,342.05</td>
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<td>$42,647.30</td>
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<td>$38,797.90</td>
<td>$41,279.75</td>
<td>$41,988.85</td>
<td>$42,951.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>$39,025.83</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$42,267.43</td>
<td>$43,255.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$39,253.75</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>$42,824.58</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>$39,709.60</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$43,103.15</td>
<td>$44,166.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>$39,937.53</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$43,381.73</td>
<td>$44,470.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service year “0” covers the first twelve months of a pastor’s first appointment (i.e. July 1st – June 30th)

Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCF&A)

Geoffrey Fowler, President

101. For the last six years, it has been a pleasure to serve on the conference’s CCF&A committee. Over that time, committee members have worked hard to understand the complexities of our conference and interconnected organizations. Committee members have not only actively participated at CCF&A meetings, but at the meetings of those interconnected boards. Challenges have been many, but positive results have been achieved from those efforts.

102. Along the way, CCF&A has looked at its role, determining certain functions that once were important might be accomplished in different ways. An example might be the vice president of finance no longer populating a spreadsheet that the conference office prepares anyway, freeing up resources to audit-related entities such as our district superintendent offices. With the changing role, CCF&A interaction has extended to GCF&A, pointing out that while the conference has managed to pay 100% of our apportionments, this has not come through a like collected percentage – therefore, what is GCF&A doing to contain costs and the burden on our local churches? Engaging in this dialogue led to Moses Kumar of the General Council on Finance & Administration coming to White Plains for a full day of training on what the changing role of CCF&A is and how we can better serve our conference.

103. With the highly professional and competent staff we now enjoy, full transparency of all that takes place, conference members are assured that the stewardship of conference resources is taken very seriously.

104. The table below details our conference commitment and the recognition that smaller gifts combined into larger ones effect transformative change throughout the world:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Shared Ministries</th>
<th>HealthFlex (Actives)</th>
<th>CRSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

105. It is important to remember that we have three apportionment formulas, each calculated individually, and which are approved by this body when you accept the reports and recommendations of CCF&A and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB).

106. HealthFlex for Active Clergy is apportioned by taking the estimated premium billed to the conference, adding about 4% (this number can vary), and dividing by the number of pastors and conference employees participating in the healthcare plan. The extra 4% is to make sure we raise enough to cover the bill, expecting that some churches and pastors will fail to pay their share. This number is called the “Uniform Rate” and is what actually is apportioned to the local 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 plan, like a pastor’s decision to set aside money for a Medical Savings Account (MSA), will increase the billing that goes to a particular church, but since that 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 is over the “Uniform Rate.” If these items are not deducted, they are considered to be taxable income to the recipient and must also be reported on Table II of the Statistical Tables.

107. The local church does not pay the actual cost of a pastor’s health insurance, but instead an amount apportioned to it by this formula. We have discovered that 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 a “Uniform Rate,” and we clearly state that this is not the actual cost for health insurance for the pastoral staff of any church.

108. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a pension for those clergy serving at 75% or greater and is apportioned by taking the salary and housing allowance (or just adding 25% of salary for those pastors who have parsonages) for every appointed pastor on the charge, and billing the church 11.8% of that number. Unfortunately, this formula has not provided the income that is needed to pay the entire bill which the denomination presents to us and monies in a fund that is held for pensions has been used to cover the shortfall.

109. The local church does not pay the actual 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. The denomination bills the conference, leaving to the conference all decisions about how to pass the bill along to local churches. We have decided to apportion the bill to local churches based on the pastoral compensation package. For those churches who do not pay their apportionment for CRSP, the conference must find this money somewhere else – typically from BOPHB reserve funds.

110. Shared Ministries are apportioned 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 church’s “apportionment base”). Adding up all the local church apportionment bases produces the “conference’s apportionment base.” Now for each local church, divide its apportionment base by the conference’s apportionment base. This is expressed as a percentage. For example, a church reported expenses so that its apportionment base was $200,000. The conference apportionment base for the same period was $33,000,000. This particular local church’s apportionment base was therefore 0.6060% of the conference’s base. We multiply that percentage by the major budget categories for Shared Ministries (Clergy Support, Administration, World Service and Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, Black College Fund, Missional Priority Fund and Africa University Fund), and bill those amounts to the local church for its fair share of Shared Ministries.

111. You will note the number of members of a church is not included in any of these formulas. Local church membership has no effect on how the conference apportions these three funds. It does have a bearing on the apportionments the denomination assigns to the conference. Our apportionments for ministries beyond our borders are less than those of conferences that have similar economic strength, but larger membership.

112. The apportionment base of the conference has suffered decline over the past few years. Listed below are the numbers from the past nine years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$38,268,314</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$33,908,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$33,866,629</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$32,851,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$34,081,904</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$32,365,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$34,696,632</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$31,995,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$34,059,412</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

113. Camping and retreat ministries (CRM). With the sale of Camp Epworth, the longtime financial and managerial drain on the rest of the camping and retreat ministry has been removed. The CRM budget
request this year showed a large increase but one that is more in line with what the CRM requires to be viable and protect the conference from unexpected capital needs.

114. We have been blessed by the many people who continue to work on CRM matters, especially our Director Greg Nissen (who we are saddened to see leave but are appreciative of the opportunity he has to move on to other challenges), Vice Chair Leslie Vachon, Trustee President Ginny Carle, CF&A Vice President Administration Eric Fjeldal and our CFO Ross Williams.

115. Thanks and Appreciation. The Church of God never lacks gifted people. I wish to thank Ross Williams for his dedication to the ministry of conference finances, our Bishop Jane Allen Middleton for her encouragement, and every person on CCF&A who showed up on a meeting night, for a budget hearing, or at annual conference. God Bless.

2016 Recommendations

116. Equitable Salaries: CCF&A concurs with the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation which recommends a budget of $140,000 for minimum salary support.

117. Salary Adjustment Fund: CCF&A concurs with the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation which recommends a budget of $80,000 for the Salary Adjustment Fund.

118. District Superintendent Salaries: CCF&A concurs with the recommendation of the Superintendency Committee to set salaries for our district superintendents at $86,027 plus the provision of a district parsonage.

119. CFO & Director of Administration, Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization Salaries: CCF&A recommends the salaries of these positions be set at $111,027. Traditionally, these positions have had both a base salary (currently $84,340) and a housing allowance (currently $25,000).

120. 2016 Calendar Year Budgets: CCF&A recommends three budgets, each with different formulas for apportioning.

121. Shared Ministries Apportionment (see 110 for a breakdown) 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 be apportioned to local churches is $8,143,308, which is an increase of 1.9% compared to 2015.

122. The HealthFlex Uniform Rate for Active Clergy Apportionment will be $14,904 for each local church employing one participating clergyperson (as defined in the BOPHB report) of which the clergyperson will pay $1,200 (approximately 8%) and the church will pay $13,704 (approximately 92%).

123. CRSP Apportionment for those serving 75% or greater will be 11.8% of appointed clergy compensation (salary plus housing as defined in the BOPHB report). CPP for those serving 100% will be 3.0%. 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 later in this document for more details about these items.

124. Pensions and Benefit Issues: CCF&A concurs with the report and recommendations of the BOPHB and congratulates Chair Bill Shillady and this committee on their good work.

125. Conference-wide Appeals: CCF&A recommends that appeals to local churches be limited to the following causes:
   A. Anchor House
   B. Bethel Homes, Inc.
   C. Brooklyn United Methodist Home
   D. Camping & Retreat Ministries
   E. The Children’s Home of Binghamton
   F. Far Rockaway Mission
   G. NYAC Justice for Our Neighbors
Greetings! 2014 was a challenging year for the finance and administration office due to the many transitions outside of our office that required our support. During 2014 we supported the needs of four bishops, helped to hire and acclimate a new director of congregational development and a new director of connectional ministries, handled the accounting for the sale of Camp Epworth and six discontinued churches and supported leadership transitions on both CF&A and the Parish Development Committee. We also unexpectedly said goodbye to our beloved Bishop Martin D. McLee. It was a year of great change and progress made bittersweet by a sense of tremendous loss and sadness.

I hope what follows will illuminate the work that we do, the challenges we face and some of the things we have accomplished.

The most important thing I’d like to say is that we are here for you—the pastor, the church treasurer, the Finance Committee chair and anyone else in need of support when it comes to finance matters. We take this commitment very seriously. In fact, we have an internal policy that all inquiries, whether via phone, e-mail or in person, receive a “same day or next business day” response unless they involve substantial research. I believe that we achieve this goal in the vast majority of cases.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are descriptions of the services and activities of the finance office.

Accounting: The finance office provides accounting services for the following organizations:

- Camps (payroll processing)
- Conference Budget (all services)
- Disaster Recovery Ministries (all services)
- Episcopal Office (all services)
- Frontier Foundation (payroll processing)
- Justice for Our Neighbors (all services)
- Conference Trustees (accounting and disbursements related to legal matters & discontinued churches)
- Volunteers in Mission (accounting & processing of receipts and disbursements related to mission trips)

Audits: The finance office coordinates and supports the audits of CF&A (conference budget), the episcopal office (bishop’s office), the conference trustees and our camping and retreat ministries. Copies of audit reports are included in Conference Journals and are available at: www.nyac.com/cfa

Annual Conference (June annual meeting): The finance office reviews and executes contracts, provides staffing and processes transactions for our annual conference gathering each June. We also handle the accounting of registration fees received via the conference’s on-line registration system.

Benefits: The finance office administers the benefit programs offered to our active and retired clergy and lay employees. This involves serving as a single point of contact for questions, maintaining accurate participant data and issuing bills / depositing receipts. During 2014, the finance office serviced the following benefit areas:

- OneExchange for retired employees (approximately 420 retirees and spouses)
- HealthFlex for active employees (approximately 285)
- Health reimbursement accounts for retired and active clergy
- Pension for active clergy and lay employees
- Financial assistance grants for retirees
Wellness programs (Virgin Pulse, Blueprint for Wellness, HealthQuotient, etc.)

Long-term disability

Healthcare reform education

Retirement seminars for retiring clergy

Funding plans for pension liabilities

109. **Benefit Payment Delinquencies:** (also see report of Board of Pensions and Health Benefits) A significant amount of time is spent each year dealing with benefit-payment delinquencies of both churches and pastors. While the vast majority of churches and pastors faithfully pay their healthcare and pension billings, there are others that are chronically behind and even some that make no payments at all. When this occurs, the finance office is required to implement the termination policies set by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. These policies require us to send written communications to those behind in their payments and either attempt to collect such monies, reach repayment agreements or proceed with termination of coverage. As of year-end 2014 there were 89 churches and pastors that owed $208,630 for healthcare costs and 58 churches that owed $126,422 for pension costs. Dealing with such delinquencies stretch the resources of this office and interfere with our ability to manage our cash flow effectively.

110. **Budgets:** The finance office coordinates the conference’s annual budget process which includes:

- distributing budget templates to committee and department heads, consolidating budget submissions,
- preparing budget packets for the Budget Hearings, advising CF&A on budget and finance matters and participating in budget discussions at annual conference. Once approved, the finance office is responsible for allocating the budget based upon the submission of financial information from member churches. Such information is received via the Statistical Tables process, which typically runs from mid-February to mid-April. Monthly statements are mailed by the finance office to each church confirming the receipt of all monies forwarded to the conference. In addition, the finance office prepares and submits the annual budget for the episcopal (bishop’s) office.

111. Listed below is a five-year history of budgets for the conference. Assuming the proposed 2016 budget is approved, the cumulative decrease in the budget since 2011 will be 5.3%. A few significant factors driving these decreases have been a) more stringent internal controls, b) cost-saving actions across all areas but especially in the area of benefits administration and c) increases in the annual contribution from the Board of Pensions to cover retiree healthcare costs.

- **2016:** $8,143,308 an increase of $148,901 or 1.9% (*proposed* budget – not approved)
- **2015:** $7,994,407 a decrease of $290,675 or 3.5%
- **2014:** $8,285,082 a decrease of $54,132 or 0.6%
- **2013:** $8,339,214 a decrease of $288,495 or 3.3%
- **2012:** $8,627,709 an increase of $33,151 or 0.4%

112. **Cash Flow:** With the many sources and uses of funds that flow through the finance office, it can be daunting to make sense of it all. The good news is that the conference is in a much stronger cash position than in previous years. Our two biggest cash-flow challenges have been:

1) To bring ourselves “current” on all financial obligations (pay within one month)
2) To build a reserve account that can be used for emergencies and unexpected needs

113. The chart below shows how payment lags (months between when an obligation is due and when it is paid) have been reduced over the past five years. We are now “current” on all obligations except for apportionments where we are now on a one-month lag. After five years of reducing this lag by one month each year, we expect to remit apportionments in the same month as when due during 2016.
114. The chart below depicts the history of our cash flow reserve from 2010 through March of 2015. While it appears that we started with a healthy reserve balance in 2010, since bills were not being paid on time, this is deceiving. From August 2010 through January 2012, we depleted our reserves to bring ourselves current on our payables. Since then we have been rebuilding our reserves through the collection of amounts owed (primarily from the camps), the implementation of spending controls and the recovery of past benefit overpayments. The General Council of Finance & Administration (GCFA) recommends that annual conferences maintain a reserve balance of half their annual budget. For us, that would be about $4.0 million—so with a reserve balance as of March 31, 2015 of approximately $2.1M we are just slightly more than half-way there!

115. **Committee/Meeting Participation**: As conference CFO, I actively serve on and provide support to the following conference committees:

- Audit Committee
- Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
- Camps Task Force (Chair)
- Council on Finance & Administration
- Equitable Compensation
- Extended Cabinet
- Long Range Planning
- Parish Development
- Personnel
- Board of Trustees
116. **Communications:** We strive to provide timely and accurate information to make the jobs of those we serve a little easier. During 2014, the finance office issued a number of standard communications to pastors, treasurers and other church leaders. Topics addressed were church audits, statistical tables, stewardship, annual conference budget, electronic giving, apportionments, church budgets, housing allowances, workers’ compensation insurance, year-end key dates and property & casualty insurance.

117. If you or other church leaders are not receiving these communications, it is because we do not have correct email addresses on file. We receive these addresses when churches submit their “Online Charge Conference Summary Report.” For information on how to submit this report, please refer to our web site (www.nyac.com/conf-forms#online) or contact the office of your district superintendent.

118. **Conference Center:** The finance office administers the operation of our Conference Center in White Plains, NY. This includes administering contracts and coordinating maintenance associated with the equipment and systems within the building. In addition, we provide administrative and transaction support to the trustees related to their plan to renovate the building.

119. **Disaster Relief & Recovery:** In late 2012, we witnessed one of the most damaging hurricanes the Northeast has ever seen. Coordinating the “relief” phase for Hurricane Sandy victims was the job of our mission & outreach office. In the summer of 2013, a new organization was formed to coordinate the “recovery” phase of our efforts. During 2014 the finance office supported the disaster recovery program by:

- Serving as the repository of grants and donations
- Processing disbursements
- Administering the hiring and termination of personnel
- Processing payroll and administering benefits
- Providing detailed accounting of inflows and outflows for grant reporting
- Coordinating audit preparation

120. **Fund Administration:** While the budget of the conference is currently about $8.0 million, the value of the funds that we transact business for is actually much larger. Listed below are the names and values as of 3/31/15 of all funds of the conference, which at that date had a combined value of approximately $74.3 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOARD OF CHURCH &amp; SOCIETY</th>
<th>COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace with Justice</td>
<td>Native American Awareness $ 69,585.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Church Fund</td>
<td>DISASTER RECOVERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Metro &amp; LIW)</td>
<td>12 Hurricane Sandy - Newsday 16,118.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenpoint Polish</td>
<td>13 Hurricane Sandy - UMCOR 500,330.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maspeth UMC</td>
<td>14 Hurricane Sandy – American Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millenium Fund</td>
<td>$ 32,092.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quadrennial mission Focus</td>
<td>$ 484,357.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF&amp;A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Fund</td>
<td>EPISCOPACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 Episcopal Office - Checking 146,332.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Episcopal Fund 22,948.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 Bishop’s Fund for Leadership Develop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 Bishop’s Discretionary Fund 6,911.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Bishop’s Partners in Mission 8,169.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Young Clergy Debt Assistance Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>206,458.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 391,904.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOM</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>$ 315,349.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CABINET</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet Church Fund</td>
<td>5,977.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Pearl Fund</td>
<td>55,819.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Church Fund</td>
<td>141,167.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Metro &amp; LIW)</td>
<td>151,585.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenpoint Polish</td>
<td>1,010,978.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maspeth UMC</td>
<td>15,974.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millenium Fund</td>
<td>359,091.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quadrennial mission Focus</td>
<td>$ 1,740,593.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF&amp;A</td>
<td>10 Reserve Fund $ 2,131,719.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Conference Center – Operating</td>
<td>2,217,459.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Conference Center – Payroll</td>
<td>85,719.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Grant - Color Beyond the Lines</td>
<td>5,136.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Grant - Imagine No Malaria (UM Comm)</td>
<td>11,876.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Grant - New Brazilian Church Start</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>$ 2,321,691.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Justice for our Neighbors</td>
<td>93,235.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Bolivia Mission</td>
<td>3,000.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Cambodia Mission</td>
<td>2,479.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Clean Water Project</td>
<td>2,012.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Costa Rica Mission</td>
<td>392.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ecuador Mission</td>
<td>3,890.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Emergency Response Teams</td>
<td>5,337.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Ghana Mission – Project Dorcas</td>
<td>2,997.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Ghana Mission - School</td>
<td>(53.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Haiti Mission</td>
<td>11,767.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Jamaica Mission</td>
<td>9,129.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Youth Ambassadors Ministry</td>
<td>13,416.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>$ 54,370.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MISSION & OUTREACH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Bolivia Mission</td>
<td>3,000.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Cambodia Mission</td>
<td>2,479.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Clean Water Project</td>
<td>2,012.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Costa Rica Mission</td>
<td>392.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ecuador Mission</td>
<td>3,890.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Emergency Response Teams</td>
<td>5,337.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Ghana Mission – Project Dorcas</td>
<td>2,997.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Ghana Mission - School</td>
<td>(53.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Haiti Mission</td>
<td>11,767.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Jamaica Mission</td>
<td>9,129.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Youth Ambassadors Ministry</td>
<td>13,416.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>$ 54,370.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Black College Luncheon</td>
<td>1,349.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Conference Merit Scholarship (NYES)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Immigration Task Force</td>
<td>1,071.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Clergy Day Apart – Order of Elders</td>
<td>12,997.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Retired Pastors Fellowship</td>
<td>2,883.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Youth Service Fund</td>
<td>3,684.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>$ 21,985.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARISH DEVELOPMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Revolving Loans – Investment</td>
<td>560,570.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Revolving Loans – Checking</td>
<td>311,695.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>New Church Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>1,781,981.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>District Capital &amp; Ministry Needs</td>
<td>1,896,014.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Missional Priority Fund</td>
<td>57,928.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Vision Bearers Fund</td>
<td>26,344.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>$ 4,634,535.61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOARD OF PENSIONS & HEALTH BENEFITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Deposit Account</td>
<td>436,741.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Health Benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Reserve Account</td>
<td>20,108,873.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Pre-82 Account</td>
<td>28,767,602.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Integrity in Pensions</td>
<td>1,472,286.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>381,376.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Retiree HRA Funding</td>
<td>126,487.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Phinney Pension Fund</td>
<td>72,216.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>$ 51,365,584.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRUSTEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Conference Center Fund</td>
<td>485,709.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Danke Trust Fund</td>
<td>648,597.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Dier Trust Fund</td>
<td>3,968,541.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Epworth - Camp Capital</td>
<td>557,351.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Epworth - Other Capital</td>
<td>557,351.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Trustees - Investment</td>
<td>82,126.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Trustees - General</td>
<td>227,931.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Permanent Endowment</td>
<td>17,624.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Proceeds of Church Property</td>
<td>1,058,712.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Perkins Learning Center Fund</td>
<td>60,931.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>South Norwalk UMC</td>
<td>1,589,415.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>$ 1,405,882.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

121. **Grants:** When a conference agency or local church receives a grant, the grantor requires that the funds be administered by our office. This involves the establishment of segregated accounts and the receipt and disbursement of funds. During 2014, the following grants were administered by the finance office:

- General Board of Global Ministries to Woori Korean UMC
- General Board of Global Ministries to Brazilian New Church Start
- General Commission on Race & Religion to NYAC Metropolitan District
- Global Health Initiative/Imagine No Malaria to NYAC Imagine no Malaria
- UMCOR/Newsday/McCormick/American Red Cross/Other to NYAC Disaster Recovery
122. **Insurance**: The finance office administers and bills the following insurance coverage:

- Workers Compensation – All churches and church-controlled preschools (Church Mutual)
- Property & Casualty – Conference Center, district parsonages and discontinued churches (Church Mutual)
- Umbrella & D&O – Conference Center and Committees (Philadelphia)
- Auto – Mission & disaster vehicles / trailers (Church Mutual)

123. **Integrity in Pensions**: The *Integrity in Pensions* program was a 30-year funding mechanism that was inaugurated in 1982 to address the underfunding of the Pre-82 Conference Pension Plan. Churches were allocated a “fair share” of the underfunding and asked to commit to one of four methods of payment. Although the plan concluded at the end of 2012, as of March 31, 2015 there are still 75 churches that have not paid their obligation in full. The finance office works in conjunction with our Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to encourage these churches to remain faithful to this obligation. All collections are directed to the account used to fund Pre-82 pension obligations.

124. **Legal Matters**: The finance office interacts with our Conference Chancellor Lawrence McGaughey on a regular basis. Some typical areas of involvement are:

- Lawsuits or claims against the conference
- Referral of legal questions from member churches
- Work associated with real estate transactions
- Contracts
- General legal advice and counsel

125. **Loans**: The finance office administers loans and grants to member churches approved by the Parish Development Committee. This involves issuing promissory notes and amortization tables, disbursing monies and depositing/applying payments from churches. During 2014 the finance office coordinated the administration of approximately 65 Parish Development loans.

126. **Personnel Management**: The finance office oversees the following personnel matters:

- Personnel Manual updates and compliance
- Employee grievance administration
- Compensation administration
- Performance evaluation administration

127. **Technology**: Wherever possible, we adopt technology to reduce administrative costs of the conference. A few examples that have resulted in considerable savings are:

- The introduction of electronic distribution of benefit billings. As of March 31, 2015, 126 churches and pastors (22%) are receiving their statements electronically.
- The conversion to electronic paystubs for all employees whose payroll is processed by the conference (conference staff, disaster recovery, Frontier Foundation, camps and episcopal office). As of March 31, 2015, 57 individuals (100%) are receiving their paystubs electronically.
- The adoption of ACH and other electronic payment forms. For the quarter ended March 31, 2015, 43% of all payments processed by the conference were done electronically.

128. **Training**: We believe that regular finance training is of great value to clergy and other church leaders. During 2014 we conducted training for new clergy at Compass and at 13 District Resource Days held in January, February and March.

129. **Trustee Properties**: The finance office administers the bills of discontinued churches that are temporarily held by the conference trustees. During 2014, the finance office processed transactions (utility bills, maintenance, professional fees, insurance, etc.) for the following properties:
Armonk UMC Parsonage (sold 2/14)
Camp Epworth (sold 9/14)
Embry UMC
Embry UMC Parsonage
Germantown UMC (sold 3/14)
Germantown UMC Parsonage (sold 3/14)
Phillipsport UMC
Portchester UMC (sold 10/14)
Portchester UMC Parsonage (sold 4/14)
Rye UMC
Rye UMC Parsonage
South Norwalk UMC (sold 5/14)
Summitville UMC
Tompkins Corners UMC (sold 4/15)
Westbrookville UMC
Woodmere-Lawrence UMC (sold 11/14)

130. Costs associated with properties temporarily held by the trustees are accumulated by the finance office and then recouped from the net sale proceeds. This requires the finance office outlay cash, usually for a minimum of 1-2 years, to maintain these properties until they are sold.

131. **People:** There are so many people and relationships that are vital to the effective operation of our office. It would be impossible to list the many dedicated volunteers that have helped us to further the work of this conference. At a minimum I would like to thank the members of the committees below and especially the chairs who we have partnered with.

- Archives & History – Leslie Reyman, chair
- Board of Pensions and Health Benefits – Rev. Dr. William Shillady, chair
- Camps Governing Board – Beth Ann Graf, chair
- Conference Sessions – Rev. James Moore, chair
- Council on Finance & Administration – Geof Fowler, president
- Equitable Compensation – Rev. Gunshik Shim, chair
- Extended Cabinet – Presided over by Bishop Martin D. McLee, Bishop Neil L. Irons, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght and Bishop Jane Allen Middleton
- Parish Development – Rev. Marjorie Nunes, chair
- Personnel – Margaret Howe, chair
- Board of Trustees – Rev. Virginia Carle, president

132. I also want to acknowledge our current Resident Interim Bishop Jane Allen Middleton, and our six district superintendents. Each of these individuals have been helpful to and supportive of me: Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, Rev. Sungchan Kim, Rev. Jim Moore, Rev. Betsy Ott and Rev. Denise Smartt Sears.

133. And last but most important of all, I believe the finance office is truly blessed to have the right mix of dedicated professionals who are committed to service excellence and the mission of the conference.

134. Those dedicated professionals are: (in alphabetical order)

- Fran Collins – Accounts Receivable Coordinator
- Barbara Eastman – Information and Technology Manager
- Gail Kamerman – Accounts Payable Coordinator
- Heman Persaud – Billing Coordinator
- Sam Rosenfeld – Disaster Recovery Finance Manager
- MaryLynn Salerno – Senior Accountant
- Jean Strong – Receptionist and Facilities Coordinator
- Susan Tedesco – Controller
- Sally Truglia – HR & Benefits Manager

135. *I continue to feel privileged to serve the clergy and laity of the New York Annual Conference in this role. With your feedback, prayers and support, I hope to do so for many more years into the future.*
### Proposed 2016 Budget

**New York Annual Conference**

<p>| An &quot;F&quot; next to a budget line item indicates that it is to be partly or wholly &quot;fully funded&quot; |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;Discipline&quot; paragraph reference in left-most column</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>vs. 2015 Budget</th>
<th>vs. 2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>($)$ (%)</td>
<td>($)$ (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I.</strong> Income from Shared Ministry Apportionments</td>
<td>7,104,991</td>
<td>7,994,407</td>
<td>8,143,308</td>
<td>148,901</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II.</strong> Income from registration fees &amp; donations</td>
<td>444,770</td>
<td>557,533</td>
<td>570,315</td>
<td>12,762</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>III.</strong> Income from reserve funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IV.</strong> Reserves spent for General Church Apportionments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>V.</strong> Transfer from Bishop's Partner's in Ministry Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VI.</strong> Prior Year Apportionments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>7,751,780</td>
<td>8,551,940</td>
<td>8,713,623</td>
<td>161,683</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Budge**                                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| **814.2a C. Other Administrative Expenses**           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| **614.1a A. District Superintendent expenses**        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1. Salaries (District Superintendents, Elders & Asst's) | 617,979 | 650,892 | 788,255 | 137,363 | 21.1% | 170,276 | 27.6% |
| 2. Benefits & taxes                                   | 184,808 | 189,968 | 197,764 | 7,796 | 4.1% | 12,958 | 7.0% |
| 3. Professional expenses                              | 167,348 | 174,677 | 174,499 | (177) | -0.1% | 17,511 | 4.3% |
| 4. District Trustees (DS Parsonages)                  | 221,886 | 121,685 | 127,448 | 5,763 | 4.7% | (94,438) | -42.6% |
| 5. Technical support                                  | 12,405 | 18,000 | 16,140 | (1,860) | -10.3% | 3,735 | 30.1% |
| 6. Reserve for full funding                           | 0 | 127,741 | 126,558 | (1,183) | -0.9% | 126,558 | N/A |
| **Total District Superintendent Expenses**            | 1,204,426 | 1,282,963 | 1,430,665 | 147,702 | 11.5% | 226,239 | 18.8% |
| **814.1b B. Episcopal Fund (GCA**)**                  | 307,215 | 308,592 | 326,593 | 18,001 | 5.8% | 19,378 | 6.3% |
| **814.1c C. Conference share of Bishop's Housing**    | 19,263 | 25,000 | 25,000 | (312) | -10.1% | 2,778 | N/A |
| **Total Conference Share Bishop's Housing**           | 19,263 | 28,090 | 27,778 | (312) | -1.1% | 8,515 | 44.2% |
| **814.1d D. Pension and Benefits**                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1. Retiree medical benefits                           | 1,172,565 | 1,350,227 | 1,369,484 | 39,257 | 2.9% | 216,919 | 16.5% |
| 2. BOPHB contribution to retiree medical benefits     | (777,393) | (993,067) | (1,000,544) | (7,471) | -0.8% | (223,151) | -28.7% |
| 3. Repayment of loan from Board of Pensions           | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | - | 0.0% | - | - |
| 4. HealthFlex for those on Incapacity Leave           | 68,400 | 95,060 | 89,393 | (5,667) | -6.0% | 20,993 | 30.7% |
| 5. Reserve for full funding                           | 0 | 55,892 | 53,148 | (2,744) | -4.9% | 53,148 | N/A |
| **Total Pension and Benefits**                        | 473,572 | 518,112 | 541,481 | 23,368 | 4.5% | 67,909 | 14.3% |
| **814.2e E. Equitable Compensation**                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1. Equitable Compensation (bring to minimum)          | 135,867 | 170,000 | 140,000 | (30,000) | -17.6% | 4,133 | 3.0% |
| 2. Salary Support (supplements above minimum)         | 66,976 | 80,000 | 80,000 | - | 0.0% | 13,024 | 19.4% |
| 3. Professional expenses (travel, fees, etc.)         | 1,077 | - | - | - | N/A |
| **Total Equitable Compensation**                      | 203,920 | 250,000 | 220,000 | (30,000) | -12.0% | 16,080 | 7.9% |
| **814.2f F. Other Programs of Clergy Support**        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1. Reserve for full funding                           | 0 | 3,090 | 2,778 | (312) | -10.1% | 2,778 | N/A |
| **Total Clergy Support**                              | 2,413,197 | 2,709,707 | 2,846,841 | 137,134 | 5.1% | 433,645 | 18.0% |
| **814.2g G. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| **Total Finance & Administration**                    | 636,511 | 750,502 | 745,137 | (5,365) | -0.7% | 108,627 | 17.1% |
| **814.3a H. Other Administrative Expenses**           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1. Board of Trustees                                  | 235,652 | 233,581 | 225,876 | (7,705) | -3.3% | (29,776) | -11.6% |
| 2. Camping & Retreat Ministries                       | 79,200 | 90,000 | 150,000 | 60,000 | 66.7% | 70,800 | 89.4% |
| 3. Conference Secretary & Journal                    | 20,541 | 30,607 | 28,700 | (1,907) | -6.2% | 8,159 | 39.9% |
| 4. Conference Sessions                                | 392,395 | 414,965 | 420,945 | 5,980 | 1.4% | 28,550 | 7.3% |
| 5. Property Administration                           | 236,625 | 232,501 | 237,965 | 5,363 | 2.3% | 1,340 | 6.6% |
| 6. Commission on Archives and History                 | 38,969 | 73,556 | 73,671 | - | - |
| 7. Commission on Sexual Ethics                        | 0 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 0 | 0.0% | 44,702 | 89.0% |
| 8. Technical Support                                  | 14,711 | 16,800 | 14,580 | (2,220) | -13.2% | (131) | -0.9% |
| 9. Reserve for full funding                           | 0 | 75,315 | 68,327 | (6,986) | -9.3% | 68,327 | N/A |
| **Total Finance & Administration**                    | 636,511 | 750,502 | 745,137 | (5,365) | -0.7% | 108,627 | 17.1% |

Note: Certain prior year amounts have been restated to conform to the current year presentation.
Proposed 2016 Budget
New York Annual Conference

An "F" next to a budget line item indicates that it is to be partly or wholly "fully funded"

### III. World Service & Conference Benevolences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>vs. 2015 Budget</th>
<th>vs. 2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Benevolences (Programs)</strong></td>
<td>32,695</td>
<td>547,825</td>
<td>547,715</td>
<td>(110)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 814.2b D. Episcopal Area Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>vs. 2015 Budget</th>
<th>vs. 2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Episcopal Area Administration</td>
<td>87,819</td>
<td>140,478</td>
<td>130,474</td>
<td>(10,005)</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 814.2b F. General Administration Fund (GCA**) | 126,970 | 124,195 | 122,319 | (1,876) | -1.5% |

#### 814.2b G. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (GCA**) | 28,235 | 27,639 | 27,216 | (423) | -1.5% |

#### 814.2a H. Contingency funds (incl. Committee travel & hospitality) | 60,884 | 46,000 | 48,000 | 2,000 | 4.3% |

#### H. Contingency funds (incl. Committee travel & hospitality) | 60,884 | 46,000 | 48,000 | 2,000 | 4.3% |

#### I. Other (overall budget reduction - to be identified) | 0 | 0 | (47,856) | -100.0% |

**Total Expense** | 7,545,121 | 8,551,940 | 8,713,623 | 161,683 | 1.9% |

**Without Reserve for Full Funding:**

| **Total Other Administrative Expenses** | 1,341,108 | 1,474,719 | 1,597,050 | 122,331 | 8.3% |

**Total Expense** | 7,545,121 | 8,551,940 | 8,713,623 | 161,683 | 1.9% |

**Proposed 2016 Budget**

**New York Annual Conference**

**Note:** Certain prior year amounts have been restated to conform to the current year presentation.

**2015 Pre-Conference Reports/Petitions/Resolutions to The New York Annual Conference – Page 67**
## Proposed 2016 Budget

### New York Annual Conference

#### Income from Registration Fees, Contributions and Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>($)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Church &amp; Society (World Service &amp; Conference Benevolences)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Sundays</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Booklets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Ordained Ministry (Clergy Support)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidacy Fees</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>17,050</td>
<td>17,050</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency Fees for Compass</td>
<td>5,710</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Elder/Deacon/Local Pastor</td>
<td>4,119</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastor Licensing School</td>
<td>15,825</td>
<td>19,225</td>
<td>17,600</td>
<td>(1,625)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>36,654</td>
<td>47,525</td>
<td>45,900</td>
<td>(1,625)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Trustees (Administration)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danke Estate Trust Income</td>
<td>30,538</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>(500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>30,538</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>(500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commission on Archives &amp; History (Administration)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEJ Conference Fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>(9,700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commission on Conference Sessions (Administration)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees</td>
<td>242,442</td>
<td>259,000</td>
<td>242,442</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>242,442</td>
<td>259,000</td>
<td>242,442</td>
<td>(16,558)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connectional Ministries Vision Table (World Service &amp; Conference Benevolences)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees</td>
<td>53,180</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>53,180</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immigration Taskforce (Administration)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory Sales</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commission on Religion &amp; Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Local Church Grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Secretary &amp; Journal (Administration)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/Commissions</td>
<td>1,485</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>1,485</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>(1,450)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Development (World Service &amp; Conference Benevolences)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding from Parish Development</td>
<td>79,682</td>
<td>157,208</td>
<td>157,073</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dier Trust income desig. for PD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>79,682</td>
<td>157,208</td>
<td>197,073</td>
<td>39,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$444,770</td>
<td>$557,533</td>
<td>$570,315</td>
<td>$12,782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Certain prior year amounts have been restated to conform to the current year presentation.
### Proposed 2016 Budget
New York Annual Conference

An "F" next to a budget line item indicates it is to be "fully funded"

**Discipline** paragraph reference in left-most column

#### Other Programs of Clergy Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.F.</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr) 2015 vs. 2014</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr) 2016 vs. 2014</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>($)</th>
<th>(%)</th>
<th>($)</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Programs of Clergy Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### III.B. 1.

**614.3 Connectional Ministries**

1. Program Funds - District and Conference COM
   a. Category I - program entities within districts
      17,760 50,000 50,000 - 0.0% 32,240 181.5%
   b. Category II - across districts (broader) training
      9,830 50,000 50,000 - 0.0% 40,170 408.6%

2. Travel and Training / Conference Funds
   a. Delegate Travel & Board/Committee Travel
      1,954 12,000 12,000 - 0.0% 10,046 514.1%

3. Operating Funds
   a. Program, Literature & Supplies
      5,997 2,000 2,000 - 0.0% (3,997) -66.7%
   b. Memberships
      0 2,500 2,500 - 0.0% 2,500 N/A
   c. District Council on Ministries
      10,560 12,000 12,000 - 0.0% 1,440 13.6%

4. Programming Support
   a. Farmworker & Migrant Ministry Fund
      14,960 17,000 17,000 - 0.0% 2,040 13.6%
   b. Appalachian Ministries Network
      2,040 3,000 3,000 - 0.0% 300 13.6%
   c. Mission U (annual school of mission run by UMW)
      4,640 6,500 7,500 1,000 15.4% 2,660 55.0%
   d. Mission Program Support
      18,000 18,000 N/A 18,000 N/A
   e. Local Church Community Outreach
      1,250 5,000 5,000 - 0.0% 4,500 13.6%
   f. Chinese ministry
      0 1,000 1,000 - 0.0% 1,000 N/A
   g. Haitian ministry
      0 0 0 - N/A - N/A
   h. Hispanic ministry
      6,450 7,500 7,500 - 0.0% 1,050 13.6%
   i. Korean ministry
      0 4,500 4,500 - 0.0% 4,500 N/A
   j. Black Methodists for Church Renewal
      0 2,000 2,000 - 0.0% 2,000 N/A
   k. Asian Council
      0 500 0 (500) -100.0% - N/A

5. Ecumenical Relations
   a. Christian Conference of Connecticut
      0 8,500 0 (8,500) -100.0% - N/A
   b. NY State Community of Churches
      7,480 8,500 8,500 - 0.0% 1,020 13.6%

6. Program Funding
   a. Board of Laymen
      18,007 15,000 15,000 - 0.0% (3,007) -16.7%
   b. Youth Ministries
      41,701 45,000 15,000 (30,000) -66.7% (26,701) -64.0%
   c. Children
      1,750 7,500 7,500 - 0.0% 7,500 N/A
   d. Young Adults
      9,500 9,500 N/A 9,500 N/A
   e. Older Adults
      500 500 N/A 500 N/A
   f. Emering Ministries
      18,000 49,500 49,500 (50,000) -27.2% 30,500 61.6%

7. Resources, Media, Training, Equipment Funding
   a. Learning Center
      17,086 25,000 25,000 - 0.0% 8,914 46.3%
   b. Safe Sanctuaries
      4,106 5,000 5,000 - 0.0% 894 21.8%
   c. Communications (f/k/a Newspaper/Vision)
      33,449 31,882 (1,567) -4.7% 31,882 N/A
   d. Equipping local church outreach
      2,249 25,000 20,000 (5,000) -20.0% 17,751 789.3%

8. Fixed Expenses
   a. Age-Level Ministries Stipends
      15,012 20,000 25,000 0 0.0% 9,988 66.5%
   b. Hispanic Consultant
      12,000 12,000 12,000 0 0.0% 12,000 N/A
   c. Stewardship Education - Frontier Foundation
      12,000 18,000 18,000 N/A 18,000 50.0%
   d. Walk to Emmaus
      0 2,000 2,000 - 0.0% 2,000 N/A

**614.3 Connectional Ministries**

$238,072 $437,949 $438,382 $433 0.1% 200,310 84.1%

Note: Certain prior year amounts have been restated to conform to the current year presentation.
Section 6: Administration

Commission on Archives and History

Leslie Reyman, Chair

101. The Commission on Archives and History acts as a catalyst to learn from our past and to inspire our future. 2014 was an exciting year with many changes.

102. In March, a records management workshop was held at the UMC of Westport and Weston, in Westport, CT. More than ten people attended the hands-on workshop.

103. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History annual meeting (May 6-8, 2014) was held at Drew University in Madison, NJ. The theme was “Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury and Methodism in Colonial New Jersey”. Speakers included retiring GCAH General Secretary Dr. Robert Williams, Dr. Frank Greenagel and Reverend John Callanan, in addition there was the much-loved bus tour of historically significant places. Archivist Beth Patkus and Chair Marilyn Hatch along with others represented the New York Annual Conference. At the meeting, NYAC made available newsletters, brochures and Chico Bags for those participating. Chair Marilyn Hatch gave the report of the New York Annual Conference.

104. In May, the General Commission on Archives and History announced the election of its third General Secretary the Reverend Alfred “Fred” T. Day, III, who would start his new duties on July 1, 2014. Day had just prior to his election been the pastor at historic St. George’s UMC in Philadelphia, PA.

105. The commission through unanimous vote, created a local church grant program to begin in 2014. One thousand dollars will be set aside yearly to fund these grants. The grant will help local churches take care of their records management, historical documents and archives. In its inaugural year, nine churches applied for a grant. Requests came for technological and equipment support. After much deliberation, the commission awarded grants to Christ UMC, Beacon NY; Immanuel-First Spanish, Brooklyn, NY; First and Wesley UMC, New Haven, CT and Simsbury UMC in Simsbury, CT.

106. At annual conference, held at Hofstra University, the Commission on Archives and History honored two long-serving Hispanic churches: Immanuel-First Spanish, Brooklyn and First Spanish, Manhattan. Both churches began in 1920, with vibrant ministries to their respective communities. During the evening program on Thursday, members of the two churches were honored with a brief history of ministries and given a plaque to be taken back to their communities.

107. At annual conference 2014, Vail’s Gate UMC in New Windsor, NY was designated a Registered Methodist Historic Site. The church is a strong active congregation and is a church in mission. The trustees are committed to serve as stewards of this historic site.

108. During August, with funds from the Conference Board of Trustees, new compact shelving was installed into the archives room. This shelving has allowed the C. Wesley Christman Archives to have additional storage space without expanding to other rooms in the Conference Center building. Now with the new shelving and the current rate of acquisitions, it will take 20 years to fill all the space. This has made it easier for the addition of materials from closed churches and boards from the conference to be housed in stable environmental conditions.

109. In September, the Commission on Archives and History mourned the premature death of Bishop Martin D. McLee. While attending the NYAC CAH’s Strategic Planning Session in January of 2014, Bishop McLee expressed his vision for our commission to take on a more activist role in the conference. One of his initiatives was to honor, at annual conference, the longest serving Hispanic church (and other ethnic churches throughout the conference in subsequent years). In addition, he was to share his own historical research on the life of Rev. John Mars, the first African American to be ordained and appointed in the New England Conference, at the Northeastern Jurisdiction’s Commission on Archives and History Annual Meeting in May 2015. Bishop McLee was a champion of history and his passion for history will be missed.
Much of the commission’s time in the past year has been coordinating the annual meeting of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History. The conference will be held at the UMC of Westport and Weston in Westport, CT. The 3-day event will begin on May 12, 2015.

**Conference Archivist**

**Beth Patkus, Archivist**

101. In 2014-15 I continued to work with the Commission on Archives and History to update the vision, mission and goals of the CAH and the archives, and to begin implementing the new ideas that were developed in early 2014. I also continued the day-to-day activities of managing the archives collections, answering reference inquiries and providing services to local churches. Specifically, I worked to:

102. **Answer inquiries.** From January to December 2014 the archives responded to more than 160 requests for information, covering genealogy, church history and records management, pastoral records and conference activities. Thus far in 2015 we have received 65 inquiries. Donations totaling $310 were made to the CAH in 2014. The C. Wesley Christman Archives is housed at the Conference Center in White Plains, NY, and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with assistance from volunteer Ron Schultzel. The archivist works four days per week and can be reached at any time via email to archives@nyac.com.

103. **Manage the archives collections.** The archives took in approximately 30 linear feet of local church and conference records over the past year. I continue to work on our “catablog,” which provides an online catalog of the CAH collections (at www.nyac-umc.org). Collections are first cataloged in the Archivists Toolkit computer program and then entered into the catablog. This continues to be a work in progress. The installation of compact shelving in our storage room was completed in August 2014 and has eased our space problems as well as making it much easier to work with the collections.

104. **Develop and present workshops.** Records management workshops for local churches were presented in February and March 2015 in the Catskill Hudson District and at the Conference Center in White Plains. These were well received by those attending. I hope to add a “Telling our Stories” workshop later in 2015 to help churches create exhibits and conduct oral histories. Workshops, manuals and on-site help are always available for local congregations.

105. **Administer the local church grant program.** Grant recipients last year were First UMC in Beacon, NY; First and Wesley UMC in West Haven, CT; Immanuel-First Spanish UMC in Brooklyn, and Simsbury UMC in Simsbury, CT. This year I revised the guidelines and application for the program (see www.nyac.com/archives/localchurchgrantprogram for more information), gave advice to churches interested in applying and helped the CAH evaluate the applications. Grant recipients for this year are to be announced in May 2015.

106. **Engage in outreach to publicize the archives.** I continue to maintain the archives web pages found at www.nyac.com/archives and to devise new ways to share the history of our conference. The archives produces a newsletter 3-4 times per year and maintains a Facebook page (search C. Wesley Christman Archives). I also maintain a table at annual conference, and this year will organize the recognition of the conference’s longest-serving Chinese church.

107. Help plan the NEJCAH Meeting hosted by NYAC in May 2015. Planning for this meeting, held in Westport CT from May 12-14, 2015, took up a great deal of time for myself and the CAH this year. Our conference CAH was responsible for organizing hotel, meals and programs (including a one-day bus tour of historical sites in the New Haven, CT area) for 60-70 attendees and was pleased to be able to host CAH representatives from throughout the Northeastern Jurisdiction.
**Commission on Conference Sessions**

*Rev. James Moore, Chairperson*

101. The Conference Sessions Commission has the responsibility of organizing and implementing an event in which some 1000 clergy and laity come together for four days of inspiration, fellowship, work and decision-making. A whole year of preparation precedes this four-day gathering and the tasks require people with many diverse gifts: worship preparation, financial management, arranging for the feeding, housing and transporting of 1000 people, negotiating with our hosts at Hofstra, management of a very tight agenda, communication, etc... The members of our commission – conference staff as well as volunteers – deserve a huge Thank You for the innumerable ways in which they labor to make the annual conference session a reality.

102. A year ago, while evaluating the 2014 gathering, our commission had a dialogue about the very basic question of “Why do we have an annual conference session?” Reading and discussing several articles about the original conferences called by John Wesley, we were struck by the assertion that conferencing (including the meeting of the annual conference) was considered a “means of grace.” Our Methodist ancestors came together not just to do the business of the church, but for what one author has called “revival, fraternity and polity.” Whether we use those terms or not, we modern Methodists are equally in need of inspiration and community and wise decision-making, and an annual conference session has the potential to provide these gifts, sending us home to our places of service with renewed energy, faith and conviction.

103. In that spirit it is our hope that the 2015 session of annual conference will indeed be a means of grace for all who will attend, and that everything we do – business, worship, fellowship, etc. – will be shaped by our grace-filled intentions, and will be a vehicle by which others will experience God’s grace.

104. One significant new element of this year’s session is that we will be offering childcare during the morning and afternoon meeting times. This had not been the case in recent years, but we are grateful that the many legal and logistical challenges related to childcare have been addressed and this gift of grace for delegates with young families can now be provided.

105. A considerable portion of the preparation for the conference session is done by a few significant individuals. I am especially grateful to the following “saints” whose labors – often behind the scenes – are so vital in making the conference session a reality:

   - Barbara Eastman: Business and logistical matters
   - Fred Jackson, Conference Secretary: Communications
   - Ann Pearson: Program and agenda
   - Charles Ryu and Heather Sinclair: Worship

106. I am likewise grateful to Bishop Jane Middleton, who joined us mid-year and has made numerous helpful contributions in our efforts to make this annual conference a “means of grace.”

**Parish Development- Missional Priorities (EMLC) Commission**

*Rev. Marjorie E. Nunes, Chair*

101. **Introduction:** We serve the churches of the annual conference by making loans and grants throughout the year. We do this in order to assist churches with facility improvements, along with empowering them to begin new ministries and for continuation of fruitful existing ministries, as they seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Let me express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the members of our committee, who faithfully come to meetings at the Conference Center in order to provide this necessary service to our churches. 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 ten at-large members elected to two-year terms with a six-year maximum. It also includes chairs of all the District Parish
Development Committees, all district superintendents, the director of connectional ministries, the
director of congregational development & revitalization, the conference CFO, 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 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) developing and implementing plans to redeploy
funds from the sale of discontinued churches, and 4) taking on other responsibilities as defined by the
conference and the committee.

103. **Revolving Loan Fund:** This fund is used to make loans and grants to churches in need of capital repairs and
improvements. The maximum loan/grant value is typically $50,000 with the grant representing about 8%
of the total. As of December 31, 2014, the fund balance was $775,998. During 2014 we issued four loans
for a total of $145,464 and issued three grants for a total of $12,000. We had a total of 64 loans receivable
with a total due of $1,955,953 (principal $1,681,268; interest $274,685). We had 20 delinquent loans
amounting to $592,572 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. Our interest rate—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:** This fund is used for church starts or expansion of church or
annual conference ministries. The fund started the year with $696,330, disbursed $144,259 to support the
office of the newly hired director of congregational development & revitalization, disbursed $72,000 for the
Vision Bearers Project, received $885,126 from the proceeds of discontinued churches, and received $52,929
in appreciation, interest and dividends net of fees. We ended the year with a balance of $1,418,126.

105. **District Capital & Ministry Needs Fund:** This fund is used for capital or ministry needs with special
consideration given to the district from which the funds arose through the sale of a discontinued church.
The fund started the year with $689,029; we received $885,126 from the proceeds of discontinued
churches, and received $37,796 in appreciation, interest and dividends net of fees. We ended the year
with a balance of $1,611,951.

106. **Mission Funds:** This fund is used to make ministry and mission grants to local churches and other related
entities. The committee reviews requests from each district, the cabinet and the United Methodist City
Society and tries to fairly distribute the available funds at our November meeting. The 2014 conference
budget provided $160,000 for Mission Grants and $130,000 for Missional Priority (for minority churches).
There was also a balance of approximately $68,607 in the Missional Priority Fund as of the end of the year.
During 2014 Mission Grants and Missional Priority Grants totaling $287,481 were made to 42 ministries in all
six districts for disbursement on a quarterly basis in 2015. Details can be seen in the following spreadsheet.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/Church</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Missional Priority Approved</th>
<th>Mission Grant Approved</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton Avenue</td>
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<tr>
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<td>990</td>
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<td>Reservoir</td>
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<td><strong>CatHud Totals</strong></td>
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<td>Summerfield</td>
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<td><strong>CT Totals</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>New York/Connecticut</td>
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<td><strong>NY/CT Totals</strong></td>
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</table>

**Grand Totals**

- $151,434
- $136,047
- $287,481

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**Conference Personnel Committee**

**Margaret Howe, Chair**

1. The Personnel Committee is a human resource (HR) committee for the NYAC, especially the Conference Center. We are called to assure a framework of consistency and standards among those employed in service to the ministry to the annual conference.

2. The committee continued and completed many of the tasks that have been outlined on our “to do” list to make the personnel profile of the Conference Staff more professional and comprehensive.

3. The revised Employee Evaluation/Performance Review process was successfully used for all employees at the NYAC Conference Center. Ongoing training sessions will be held to assure that this process and these forms are current.

4. Annually we review existing positions to ensure they are classified properly according to the Fair Labor Standard Act.

5. Personnel Committee, in consultation with the office of connectional ministries, updated and revised the job description of the administrative assistant for the office of connectional ministries. A job search was conducted and a new administrative assistant was hired.

6. Job description for director of connectional ministries was updated and a new job search was conducted. As of this writing the search committee which has representation form the Personnel Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for that position.

7. Job description of the district superintendents has been updated and revised with input from the administrative assistants and district superintendents. This is an ongoing effort as the nature of the job is ever changing in the area of technology. The Conference Center staff now conducts quarterly training sessions to update all the district admins together on new and revised requirements – such as learning the updated dashboard, revised conference forms via the Internet, etc.

8. The Personnel Committee has been consulted on issues relating to HR and personnel issues within the annual conference.

9. Personnel Committee reviewed the salary structure of members of conference staff compared to other conferences and similar jobs in the geographic region. Recommendations were made to CF&A.

10. Represented on the search committee for the hiring of a new director of camping and retreat ministries.

11. Working with the coordinator of mission/outreach in revising job description and conducting a search for part-time administrative assistant.

12. Continue the review of the Personnel Policy Manual to update, revise and add policies that are consistent with the conference mission and that keep the conference legally compliant.
113. Consult with the webmaster to create a place for current and relevant personnel information.

114. In this next year assess and evaluate the unique human resource policy issues related to the camping and retreat ministries.

115. In addition to the specific tasks, the Personnel Committee serves to assure that all employees are nurtured, supported and encouraged to meet their potential.

Corporate Session

Board of Trustees

*Virginia G. Carle, President*

**Board of Trustees Members:** President Rev. Virginia G. Carle; Vice President James W. Perkins, Esq.; Secretary Grace Bryant; Treasurer Susan Bynum; Assistant Treasurer Rev. Dr. John E. Carrington; Deborah Bass, Rev. Koonae Lee, M. Myers Mermel, Pastor Kevin Mulqueen, Rev. Joseph Piccirillo, Dr. David Rim

**Legal Counsel:** Conference Chancellor Lawrence McGaughey

**Financial Consultant:** Conference CFO Ross Williams

**Liaisons:** Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, Cabinet; Wendy Fowlkes, CF&A; Beth Ann Graf, Camping & Retreat Ministries

101. a. This has been a very busy year for the Board of Trustees and many members are carrying at least one portfolio. John Carrington continues to be a huge blessing to the board, as he has negotiated sales and treacherous legal waters on three properties and assisted with a fourth.

b. Susan Bynum, as our treasurer, with the help of Kevin Mulqueen, has been of tremendous value to the board, helping establish the board with its new investment manager, and bringing to the conference monies that were left in various accounts from the closing of some of the churches.

c. Grace Bryant, secretary of the board, stepped up to fill this vacancy, and has done a marvelous job for the conference. Her gentle spirit is a calming addition to the board.

d. We welcomed two new members to the board this year: Dr. David Rim and Alfida Figueroa (who resigned mid-year).

e. Myers Mermel has stepped up to help with various projects this year, and works with Jim Perkins, Kevin Mulqueen and myself (Virginia Carle) on the Conference Center renovations project, as well as newly required documentation of relationships with health and welfare agencies.

f. Deborah Bass has taken over the duties of the Chancellor Task Force.

102. I am 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. We have grown together as a working body, and have become sacred space for each other through the personal losses and changes experienced by some of our board members. Our devotions are led by the members at the beginning of each meeting to ensure that our work is firmly grounded by our faith in God and the tasks that are set before us for such a time as this.

103. I would like to acknowledge and thank Larry McGaughey, conference chancellor, for his work, guidance and discernment on legal issues. Larry truly is a gift to the conference.

104. I also wish to thank Ross Williams, whose guidance in things financial is bedrock for a good portion of the work of the board (and the annual conference). Besides being a whiz at finance, Ross possesses a deep spirit, and is attuned to the holistic needs of the board, not just fiscal issues. His wisdom is a true gift to the Board of Trustees and to the conference. Gail Kamerman, from Ross’ office, has kept our toes to the line in making sure invoices are properly paid in a timely manner.

105. The Board of Trustees is charged with representing the conference in matters of property, insurance, investment and legal issues, under the authority of the annual conference (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 2512). This board understands 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 conference in this decision?” We also have continued to use email more readily for some of our work, realizing that it 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.
106. **Investments.** Effective January 1, 2014, the investment management of the funds for which the Board of Trustees has fiduciary responsibility has been with Wespath, the investment management division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church. Wespath has simplified our access to investment performance information and streamlined providing benefits to fund beneficiaries. At the same time, we are assured that investments meet United Methodist guidelines for socially responsible investing including environmental, social and governance factors. The funds are managed for accounts of the conference as well as trust accounts for local churches and other organizations within the conference.

107. **Trust Funds.** Local churches and other organizations within the conference may deposit their funds, within the constraints of the original bequest, with Wespath through the Board of Trustees. Opening balance for the trust portfolio in 2014: $1,371,897; year-end balance: $1,383,652.

108. **Conference Center Fund.** This fund contains money received from the sale of the former Conference 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. Opening balance of the fund: $482,818; year-end balance: $474,948.

109. **Trustees Fund.** This fund contains money received from older sales of discontinued churches as well as recent bequests. The funds are used to support the operational expenses of the trustees as well as a source for loans that have been necessary for our camping and retreat ministries. Opening balance of the fund: $120,035; year-end balance: $180,251.

110. **Conference Center Renovations.** At the moment, the trustees are in the process of planning for major renovations at the Conference Center. We are working with Peggy Danneman, a certified architect from Connecticut, and are in the process of selecting additional people necessary to complete the major renovations necessary for a safe and environmentally sound facility. We are also mindful of the “first impressions” of visitors to the Conference Center. The current project is slated to begin work in the spring of 2016.

111. **Perkins Learning Center Fund.** This fund provides monies for upgrading resources in the learning center. Opening balance: $58,581; year-end balance: $59,696.31.

112. **Permanent Endowment Fund.** At the 2002 annual conference session, this fund was established to attract and receive gifts and bequests to the conference. Funds are to be used for operating needs of the conference. Opening balance: $16,660; year-end balance: $17,267.

113. **Young Clergy Debt Assistance Fund.** Under the guidance of the late Bishop Martin D. McLee, the trustees helped establish the Young Clergy Debt Assistance Program. This is a fund established for the purpose of providing a gift of up to $5,000 to individual young clergy to help repay their often massive college and seminary debt. These gifts allow our younger clergy to accept appointments without regard to ability to make loan payments in the first years of their deployment. Distributions during 2014: $53,500.00. Year-end balance: $199,963.

114. **Dorothea H. Dier and Raymond Dier Trust Fund.** Rev. Raymond Dier, a former elder of the conference now deceased, left a trust fund for the benefit of his widow, Dorothea, with the conference as the residuary beneficiary or a donor restricted trust fund. The conference was notified of Dorothea’s death in 2013, and arrangements were begun for the court approval of the settlement of the trust’s accounts and transfer of the remainder to the conference. This was completed in 2014 with the receipt of funds totaling approximately $3.8 million. The trust provides that the income will be divided 1/4 to Methodist-affiliated colleges with primarily black students for tuition aid, 1/4 to UMC missions with Native American children and youth for assistance with their education, and 1/2 to the conference to support new churches and church growth. These directives are actively being funded through the efforts of the Trustees. Fund balance: $3,944,438.
115. **Proceeds of Church Property Fund.** This fund was established in 2011 and holds the trustee’s portion of proceeds from the sale of unused, abandoned or discontinued church property for which the conference owns or has taken title. Opening balance: $433,887; year-end balance: $894,509.

116. **Sale of Property.**

Norwalk First UMC was sold for a gross price of $1,225,000 to the Macedonia Church of Norwalk. This is the culmination of over six years of work, including legal actions re: historical designations.

Camp Epworth (see Camp Report below) was sold in September to the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary for a gross price of $3,225,000.

Woodmere/Lawrence UMC, Woodmere, NY was sold for a gross price of $850,000.

Port Chester/Summerfield UMC, Port Chester, NY was sold for a gross price of $1,150,000.

Port Chester UMC parsonage sold for a gross price of $417,000.

Rye UMC, Rye, NY is pending for a gross price of $2,500,000. (Closing date is pending due to title issues).

Tompkins Corners UMC, Putnam Valley, NY was sold for a gross price of $160,000.

Also sold in 2014, but reported last year are: Germantown UMC, for a gross price of $160,000 less seller’s concession of $10,000; and Armonk UMC, for a gross price of $1,300,000 and Armonk parsonage for $575,000.

Legal agreements and transfers for no consideration are still pending on the former Church of All Nations at 48 St. Marks Place in Manhattan to the BrokenBuilders UMC, and the former Embury UMC of Queens Village to the Flushing Chinese UMC.

117. **Legal Matters.** 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. The case is presently listed as “stayed.”

2. Askin v. City of New York (NYAC) – A sidewalk slip and fall case against Calvary UMC, the Bronx, also names the conference as a defendant. The conference is being represented by insurance counsel. The case is in mediation, and it is expected that in the unlikely event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be within the insurance limit.

3. Hershbein v. NYAC – This is a personal injury case arising out of an alleged non-work related vehicle accident driven by a family member at Camp Epworth. While it is too early in the case to know the extent of any damages, the conference is being represented by insurance counsel, and it is expected that in the event a judgment is entered against church defendants, it will be within the insurance limits.

4. NYAC v. Light and Life Korean Methodist Church – After protracted negotiations, this lawsuit has been brought by the trustees against a break-away Korean congregation which joined the Korean Methodist Church denomination and conveyed the property over. The defendant has made a motion to dismiss and NYAC has counter moved for summary judgment. The judge has directed the parties to attempt to find a settlement. If settlement is not achieved, the next stage will be a ruling by the judge on the motions.

118. **Conference Properties List.** The following is a list of known properties in which title is held by the conference or abandoned or discontinued properties in which the conference 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 Quinipet, Shelter Island, NY
- Camp Kingswood, Hancock, NY

Properties which have been declared abandoned and in which the conference has a trust interest but not covered by conference insurance (they are active local churches that carry their own insurance):
- (Greenpoint) Polish UMC, Brooklyn, NY (1/01)

Abandoned/discontinued and vacant properties with title not in the conference name, in which the conference has a trust clause/real property interest:
- Smithtown Landing UMC, Smithtown, NY
- Cemetery, Germantown, NY
- Rye Manor, Rye, NY (This is a non-profit interfaith corporation with the purpose of promoting low income housing. Five churches, including Rye UMC, elect members of the board. John Carrington serves on the board of this agency on behalf of the Board of Trustees).
- Church of All Nations (1/01)
- Embury UMC, Queens, NY
- Summitville UMC, Mamakating, NY
- Phillipsport UMC, Mamakating, NY

Churches in transitional status:
- Westbrookville UMC, Westbrookville, NY became a chapel church in September 2014, and is holding occasional prayer services pending resolution of some legal issues affecting the title.

The Board of Trustees affirmed the paid 1/4-time position of a properties manager, and in January 2014 hired Justin Savarese, already an employee of the conference at the camps, to oversee the maintenance and repair of the many properties now under the board’s supervision. Justin is worth his weight in gold! His time, effort and wisdom on behalf of the Trustees have been incredible.

District properties (title held by district trustees, not necessarily in current district name):
- Connecticut, Hamden, CT
- New York/Connecticut, Stamford, CT
- Catskill Hudson, Woodstock, NY
- Long Island East, Hauppauge, NY
- Long Island West, East Williston, NY
- Metropolitan, Scarsdale, NY

At the request of the cabinet, the relocation of the district parsonage in NY/CT was approved by the trustees for the purpose of placing the district parsonage and office nearer to the center of the district. The sale of the distinct parsonage in Stamford has been delayed due to issues surrounding the submerged oil tank and the environmental concerns raised by the tank’s removal. There is currently a mechanic’s lien on the property filed by a contractor who has not been fully paid, as the work for which he was contracted does not appear to have been performed at all, or performed in a sub-standard fashion. The trustees are currently addressing this issue, and hope, in consultation with the Chair of the District Board of Trustees, to have the sale of the Stamford property and purchase of a new, more centrally located district parsonage back on track in the near future.

Properties in which the conference holds a legal reverter (renewal/end date):
- Cochection Center, NY (October 28, 2023-2026)
- West Settlement/Ashland, Ashland, NY (2012-2019)
- Stained glass windows at First UMC, South Norwalk, CT (2014-2021)
Property in which NYAC may hold mineral rights:
- Morehouse Parish, LA

Properties owned by separate legal entities in which the conference has a controlling interest:
- Asbury Cemetery, Saugerties, NY; title held by “NYAC Asbury Cemetery, Inc.” Insurance provided by NYAC.

119. Camp Epworth: SOLD. We continue to work with the Camps Governing Board and the conference Camping and Retreat Ministry Task Force in a post-Epworth environment to develop and implement a long-range plan for the development of our camps. The proceeds of the Epworth sale were used to 1) pay off a mortgage held by the Bridgehampton National Bank, 2) repay monies borrowed from the conference and the trustees, 3) provide a capital fund for exclusive used of the camping and retreat ministries ($547,064) and 4) additional monies to the trustees for needed capital improvements on properties owned by the conference ($547,064).

120. The Camps Task Force was recreated in 2013 to address ongoing needs of the camps programs through the leaders of particular bodies within the conference. Under the leadership of Ross Williams, Camps Governing Board Chair Beth Ann Graf, Camps Executive Director Greg Nissen, Camps Governing Board Vice Chair Leslie Vachon, CF&A representative Eric Fjeldal, Board of Trustees President Virginia Carle and District Superintendent Jim Moore have met monthly throughout the last year. We believe it is imperative that this group continue, as communication was a primary source of confusion and conflict over the past 40 years. This Task Force bids farewell to Greg Nissen, Jim Moore (retiring this year) and Virginia Carle (finishing two terms on Board of Trustees).

121. Farewell to Greg Nissen. The trustees have deeply valued the relationship they have had with Camps Executive Director Greg Nissen, and appreciate the 12 years he has served the conference well. The Camps Governing Board report will indicate some of the many areas Greg has improved the camping and retreat ministries of the conference. We wish him Godspeed as he moves on to another position. The Camps Governing Board Report also contains information on the search for a new executive director. The trustees hope that the same level of communication will continue under the new leadership.

122. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan. Additionally, following the vote of the annual conference in 2013, the trustees cooperated with the Camps Governing Board in securing a loan from SBA for the repair of the bulkhead at Camp Quinipet, which was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The estimates for repair came in higher than the originally announced $500,000. The trustees authorized an increase, now totaling $702,300 at 3% interest over 30 years. At this writing, 80% of the seawall has been reconstructed, and the work is within the amount authorized by the trustees. We hope to announce that the entire job is completed by the annual conference session.

123. Chancellor Task Force. The Chancellor Task Force exists to examine the role of chancellor across the denomination, and to assess and prescribe how that role might best be defined for the conference. The work continues, as we look to the next quadrennium and how the legal work of the conference might best be completed in the future.

124. Proposed Sale of Episcopal Residence. The Board of Trustees, under the guidance of Bishop Middleton and the Episcopacy Committee, are engaged in determining the future of the current residence, with the possibility of sale of the New Rochelle property, and the purchase of a new episcopal residence in preparation for receiving a new bishop in September 2016.

125. Other. The workload of the Board of Trustees has increased dramatically over the last three years. With the closing of several churches this year, more people with experience in church sales/real estate is a central issue. As all members of the board are volunteers, and the time needed to deal with each situation can be extensive, the conference will need to look at ways to utilize additional persons for these tasks.

126. Personal Reflection. This year concludes my eight years of service to the conference on the Board of Trustees. I came on the board with much trepidation. I knew I didn’t have a clue what the board did, or
if/how my gifts and grace for ministry would be of use to the conference through this board. Looking back,
I can say that I need to learn not to ask so many questions! After innocently asking what those
“abandoned properties” were all about, I took on a task which became mammoth through the years. I
have learned so much, and shared this ministry with some pretty phenomenal people. The following
properties were sold directly through my intervention: East Pearl, Platte Clove, Ashland/West Settlement,
Chelsea, Germantown, Beaverkill, Norwalk First, Tompkins Corners and Camp Epworth. I have initiated
sales proceedings at Summitville, Phillipsport and Westbrookville. While I served as president, John
Carrington led in the sale of Port Chester (and parsonage), Armonk (and parsonage) and Rye; and Jim
Perkins led in the sale of Woodmere/Lawrence. A guidebook is in process to assist those who will take
over the task of the sales of the many church properties coming across the table of the trustees in the
near future. We also have been through multiple litigations, major and minor, and are working to effect
deed transfers from one UMC congregation to another at three properties; one previously occurred while
I served as a member of the board. We made major transitions in our financial investment management
and policies. We have begun the laborious process of identifying the connection between the conference
and other agencies who bear the name United Methodist in our area. We assisted the bishop in setting up
(and partially funding) a young clergy debt assistance program. We have forged a solid working
relationship with the camps, and added a Camps Governing Board representative as liaison to the board.
And we have (finally) embarked upon the huge task of our Conference Center renovation.

127. I wish to thank Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii for pushing me onto this board and into this work. It has been
one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. (I believe I may be the only one [or one of only a couple
of people] in the history of the conference to have served both as co-chair of the Board of Ordained
Ministry and president of the Board of Trustees.) I leave the board with a debt of gratitude for the board’s
trust and willingness to partner with me in this ministry. Our conference is rich in talented and willing
servants of Christ and his church. I have been so blessed to be a small part of this ministry.

128. May God bless you all as you move in new directions under new leadership.