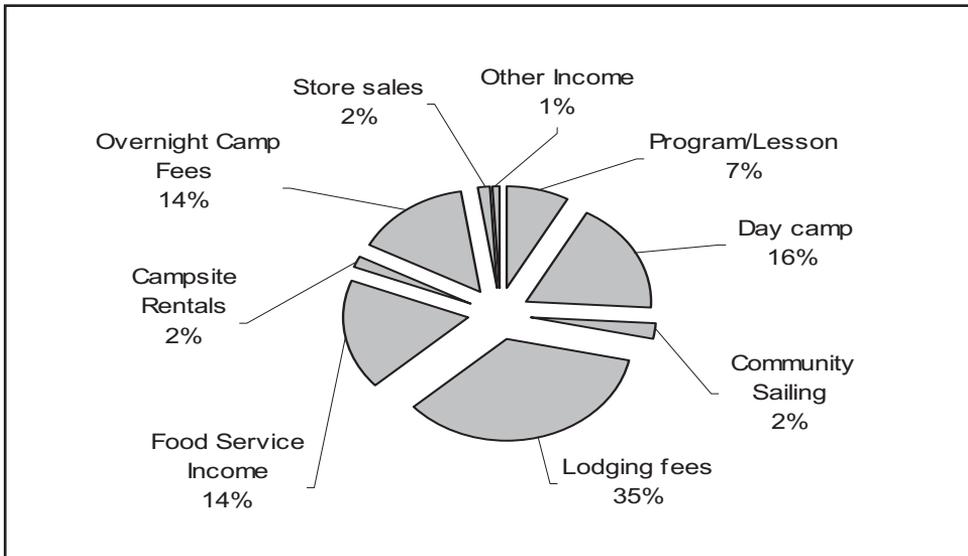


LEGISLATIVE SECTION 2

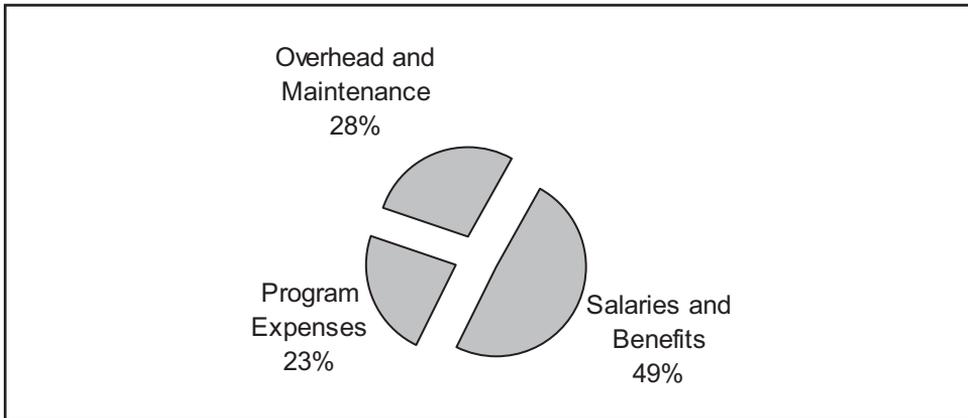
REPORT OF THE CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRY

Site and Ministry Contacts: Betty Slavicek-Gastelua – Governing Board Chairman; Rev. Ann Pearson – Connectional Ministries; Gregory Nissen – Staff Liaison, Quinipet Director; Terry Cianci – Epworth Center Director/Manager; Julie Wityk – Kingswood Correspondence

101. The Camping and Retreat Ministry's Capital Campaign slogan is **Renewing Our Sacred Common Ground**. These words speak volumes. Our camps truly provide the natural environment and Christian setting to find God among the serenity of nature and the comfort and support of fellowship.
102. Through the retreat ministry and summer camping experience God touches lives forever.
103. Our busy schedules are full of action and service that often wears us down. Constantly being on-the-go we miss God's "little miracles" and life passes us by.
104. Each of our camps, Epworth, Kingswood and Quinipet, offer unique opportunities to spend time apart in pray, study and fellowship. Listening for God's small voice can energize us for the work God has planned.
105. We are proud to report that the camping programs continue to increase the numbers served by the ministry. About 100 different United Methodist Churches benefited from and were represented in the program usage this year. Large growth in 2005, 2006 and 2007 drastically increased usage, however 2008 saw modest growth to about 2 or 3 percent bringing the estimate of those served to between 18,000 and 20,000 visitors, campers, and guests.
106. The combined earned revenue for the camping program in 2008 was \$1,560,000 that represents an increase of about 15 percent. This was primarily due to an increase in the volume of school group usage, new food service usage, and day camp usage at Quinipet and some at Epworth. The program saw approximately \$153,000 in contributions to be used for capital, infrastructure, and scholarships. At above right is a chart of income:



107. The combined expense for the camping program is \$1,443,000 and is broken into categories in the chart below:



108. The 2006 audit results are attached in the appropriate conference journal. An accounting application called QuickBooks On-line was adopted by all three camp properties and 2006 was the first year of consistent and uniformed accounting. The camps underwent the first external audit performed by O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobins, LLP certified public accountants that will be completed this spring. It is anticipated that future audits will be completed in a more timely fashion and we anticipate both the 2007 and 2008 audit to be printed in the 2009 Conference Journal. The office of the treasurer of the New York Annual Conference was happy to report a "clean" audit. Items

such as a defined and independent personal policy are being considered for 2009 forward.

- 109.** Capital expenditures for 2008 were approximately \$283,000. These expenditures were on projects required to continue current operations of the properties. The above mentioned \$117,000 of surplus was first used to pay for the expenditures. A commercial line of credit was established to pay for the balance of the expenses in anticipation of the results of the capital campaign. Planned and much needed infrastructure maintenance and improvements have been deferred as a result of the approaching capital campaign.
- 110.** Property insurance for 2008 was \$93,703, of which, \$39,952, \$46,953 and \$6,798 was allocated to Epworth, Quinipet and Kingwood, respectively. The NYAC has pledged to pay the first \$70,000 of assessed premiums. Conference Finance and Administration along with the camps Governing Board are working together to ensure this expense is carefully administrated. All other forms of insurance are handled directly by the Governing Board via the sites directly making payments to the carriers themselves.
- 111.** Scholarship funds are in approximately 13 separate accounts held and managed by the United Methodist Frontier Foundation with an aggregate fair market value as of December 31, 2008 of \$117,055. Estimated earnings in 2008 were approximately \$5,107 of which we dispersed \$3,718 for scholarship needs in 2008.
- 112.** The Capital Campaign Steering Committee is well under way with the important details of the campaign. Lead by Rev. Karpen as the campaign's chairperson the committee has effectively facilitated the refinement of the campaign materials including a wonderful new video, which are being used in our lead gift and small group presentations.
- 113.** Our team of major gift solicitors is being trained and we are actively building our list of potential givers. Smaller sub-campaigns with-in the larger campaign is being developed for focused and site specific projects.
- 114.** In spite of the challenges of the national economic situation we understand our campaign will succeed with the grace God gives us and the time and effort of our staff and volunteers.
- 115.** As a reflection of God's blessings on this important Christian undertaking, the Camping & Retreat Ministries Governing Board has 100 percent commitment with over \$100,000 in personal pledges.

116. Epworth's Major Achievements -Directors Karen and Terry Cianci Epworth had a steady year of modest growth all around, while mindfully trimming expenses. The retreat group volume grew by 12% reaching a total of 92 groups. An additional 800 users experienced the wonders of Epworth, which is a 19.7% higher that last year for a total of 4,856. Revenue from the retreat ministry increased 9.6% for a total of \$160,000.
117. The YMCA joined efforts with Epworth to expand day camp from approximately 80 campers per week to 250 per week. A five-year commitment has been made to jointly sponsor this program and attract such a large group of children to this ministry.
118. A new preschool day camp called the Chickadees was launched receiving 81 campers over the 8-week session.
119. The garden continues to thrive as do 4 horses, 6 Barbado blackbelly sheep, 7 guineas, 2 ducks, 11 chickens, and Marmalade the cat who lives at the Dining Hall. The garden was enhanced by the development of a one acre food forest. This was built by a class, which will be returning in 2009 to continue plantings there. We also have beehives nearby which provide honey and pollenization.
120. Marbletown Township mapped a biological survey on Epworth's riparian habitat.
121. The Sustainable Farmhouse outside shell was completed, demonstrating the future of living in balance with nature. Trees were harvested from Epworth in January, and milled on the site in April. Seminars for stone masonry, timber framing and straw bale construction helped build the house and also train others.
122. Wesley bathrooms were gutted and renovated with tile walls last January.
123. Many work groups contributed numerous projects including the Climate Confluence built 2 nice, handicap accessible outhouses. Kentucky UMC reconstructed and sealed the basement of the Directors house, opened the trail between the pump house and the dining hall, and built one high and two low ropes elements.
124. New emergency stairs were constructed on the barn. Saugerties UMC youth group painted the stairs.
125. **Kingswood's Major Achievements - Director Cheryl Winship** The Kingswood facility operates with a break-even financial structure. The family

camping program saw a large increase to 474 camper nights in their equipped camping sites.

126. The increase is attributed to high gas prices and the hanging financial troubles on world markets; we believe families traveled closer to home and used Kingswood as a low cost vacation. Holley Moore was again the program director for the family camp and plans to serve again this coming season in the same role.
127. The Kingswood Woodsmoke program had 68 campers with Ginny Stevenson as the program director. Cynthia Price served as Ginny's intern and will be the program director for Woodsmoke for the 2009 season. The Rev. Bob Kersten and Rev. Dale Ashby served as the Woodsmoke Chaplin's.
128. The Woodsmoke youth built Personal Energy Transport (PET) units for handicapped people in developing countries under the direction of Don Muth. Kingswood also hosted an American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class. Unfortunately, the second week of Woodsmoke youth camp had an outbreak of the Norwalk Virus, which ended the week early for some campers.
129. The Kingswood Site Committee is currently meeting twice a year to organize the site happenings. Major infrastructure projects included new barn siding, a new porch on the farmhouse and further pond and dam evaluations.
130. **Quinipet's Major Achievements - Director Gregory Nissen** It has proven easy to keep Quinipet at maximum weekend capacity during the prime season since the site sells itself in the typical "East-End" fashion. However, weekends only represent a portion of the "usable" time. We are beginning to see some organizations and churches scale back on their retreat experiences but are filled with hope from the new groups looking for more cost effective solutions to the hotels they typically retreat in.
131. Our focus is to remain near full capacity during midweeks and weekend times in our prime season: with summer overnight camps, day and sailing programs and other groups. The 2008 season was a particularly good summer season with record numbers in all programs sponsored by Quinipet along with many of the groups whom we host. New ideas about numbers of beds and properties full capacity are being considered to exceed what we have considered "full".
132. The summer overnight camps had a total of 450 campers, which is about the same as 2007. Approximately 15 campers received scholarships at some level from the camping scholarship funds and 6 scholarships through the

SCOPE Foundation were distributed to children for free or reduced school lunches. Between day camp and overnight camp, Quinipet distributed just under \$23,000 in scholarships. We were reimbursed from Scholarship Funds about \$4,500 and received \$3,000 from the SCOPE Foundation. All scholarships given not covered by the fund or the Foundation, are taken directly out of our operational accounts. Many churches also assist in offsetting the cost of the camp experience for their campers.

- 133.** The 2008 overnight camping program generated approximately \$189,000 of revenue, resulting in a 5% increase over 2007 revenue. (NOTE: Family Camp fees were removed from summer camp line items to the retreat income line items.) The day camp program, which is operating at maximum capacity, did very well; generating an additional \$35,000 more than 2007 and \$46,000 increase over 2006 revenue. The day camp is responsible for \$198,000 in come, this year surpassing day camp. The newly launched community sailing program also generated approximately \$35,000, thus helping to pay for the higher cost of operating a full waterfront experience and is a great tool for connecting with local donors and sailing enthusiasts.
- 134.** The most effective expansion and growth for Quinipet lies in the school group market, since our facilities are available and equipped for their needs. Many of the services provided for schools are also attractive to church and civic groups. Our low-ropes course provided to be a wise return on investment along with our dedicated school group and environmental education coordinator.
- 135.** At the close of the 2007 season, Quinipet ended the relationship with Aramark (the food service company) and will move forward in 2008 with our own full-time food service manager. The full time food service manager also proved to be a wise investment. The retreat food program actually created a small surplus, which we used to reinvest back into the property. Unfortunately our agreement with Aramark is still not put to rest and we have retained an attorney to protect the camps and the conferences best interests.
- 136.** The future is good.....God's hand continues to guide and direct this ministry through the faithful and dedicated efforts of many.
- 137.** Isaiah 40: 29-31 says, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES VISION TABLE

Albert Hahn, Chairperson

- 101.** The Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) seeks 1) to envision the ministries necessary to live out the mission of the church in and through the annual conference; 2) to create nurturing relationships and connections among the local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries; 3) to provide encouragement, coordination, and support for the ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness in districts and congregations for the transformation of the world, 4) ensure the alignment of the total resources of the annual conference to its mission, 5) to develop and strengthen ethnic ministries, including ethnic local churches and concerns, and 6) to provide for advocacy and monitoring functions to ensure that the church is consistent with its stated values. [2004 The Book of the Discipline par. 607]
- 102.** The CMVT leadership includes Albert Hahn, chairperson, Fred Brewington, vice-chairperson, Renata Smith, 2007-08 chairperson, Ann Pearson, Connectional Ministries Director, Ken Mosig, budget chairperson, Shelley Mitchell, Connectional Ministries Administrative Assistant. Its membership includes all District Superintendents, DCOM chairpersons and various ministry representatives. We are very grateful for Bishop Jeremiah Park's active leadership and support in the CMVT.
- 103.** The CMVT searches for creative ways to narrow the gap between our vision and our current reality. The New York Annual Conference Vision statement articulates our preferred future, and the Natural Church Development (NCD) surveys reveal that passionate spirituality continues to be our conference minimum factor. Based on this reality, we have been intentionally keeping our emphasis on the passionate spirituality.
- 104.** Rev. Betsy Ott has organized a team to develop a 5-year plan to promote passionate spirituality and outdoor evangelism. The plan will begin with the Long Island East District as a pilot project and spread to other districts. The final stage of this process will include, but not limited to, a large outdoor evangelism celebration in Central Park, New York City.
- 105.** From January 29th through February 1st, the CMVT leadership, including all DCOM chairpersons and district superintendents, has attended "Living the United Methodist Way: Turning the World Upside Down," a conference sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship. Through plenary sessions and workshops, we learned about four foci of this quadrennium: 1) developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, 2) new places for new people and renewing existing congregations, 3) engaging in ministry with the poor and 4) stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

106. Six DCOM chairpersons have agreed to have conference calls with CMVT leadership regularly for the purpose of 1) enhanced communication, 2) mutual coaching and encouragement and 3) collaboration. Since our annual conference has a limited number of program staff and rely heavily on the district level programming, strengthening DCOM will be critical in developing program ministries of our annual conference.
107. For the upcoming year I recommend that future leadership focus on strengthening DCOM's and promoting passionate spirituality. With the chairperson of the CMVT changing every year, it takes a discipline to keep its consistent focus. I also recommend frequent communications among DCOM leaders offer mentoring relationship to them.
108. Lastly, let me express my deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the chairperson this year. I especially appreciated support from Ann Pearson, Shelley Mitchell, Renata Smith, Fred Brewington, DCOM chairpersons and district superintendents. As I mentioned earlier, Bishop Park has been very active in providing leadership for CMVT. On behalf of the whole team, let me express our deep gratitude for his leadership and support.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES - Part 2

Ann A. Pearson – Director of Connectional Ministries

101. The 2005 Annual Conference introduced a new Quadrennial Theme, "For Such a Time as This." The secondary theme for 2007 was "Together We Make a Difference." New secondary themes will provide a particular focus for each of the remaining two years. For 2008, the secondary theme is "The World Will Know Us By Our Love."
102. A quadrennial logo was designed by *Todd Pick* and introduced at the 2005 Annual Conference. Additional panels were added to the logo design to represent the Conference theme for 2007.
103. Bishop Park invited 1000 Youth to participate in the Saturday morning session of Annual Conference. He challenged each of them to bring \$10.00 to conference to benefit the *Nothing Buts Nets* collection. Hoping to receive \$10,000, Bishop Park offered to match the funds up to \$10,000 from the Bishop's Partners in Mission. In an amazing "moment" – the total money collected totaled \$92,000. These funds were matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of \$184,000 in giving. 18,400 families received nets given by the Youth of the New York Annual Conference to protect them from malaria! We want to thank especially Neal Bowes, Emily Peck-McClain and the Youth Design Team for this amazing event.

104. Visitors accepted Bishop Park's invitation to attend Saturday at Annual Conference. They experienced a box lunch, a "Partners in Mission" Celebration, Youth Event and Ordination. Bishop Park closed conference with the Hallelujah Chorus.
105. Special thanks to our Annual Conference Techno team under the leadership of *Rev. Charles Van Houten* for their attention to detail in video preparation for and during conference.
106. The centerpiece of our table display was Youth Ministry. Interactive displays brought attention to Youth ministry and opportunities, local church and beyond.
107. Thanks to the momentum established by youth in June, plans were made by a Youth Design Team for an (annual) event to be held in February of 2007, called *Ignite, Three in One*. Plans are being made to reorganize the leadership of Conference Youth to capture varied interests and gifts for ministry. Special emphasis in this new design is the empowerment of youth leadership. Over 150 youth traveled to Greensboro, NC, for *Youth 2007*, a denomination-wide event. *Thelma Fortune Little* organized a Black College Tour in the late winter of 2006.
108. The work of the Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) continues to prioritize its ministry in line with the Conference Vision Statement, adopted in 2006. To "build up a healthy body of Christ", Natural Church Development was introduced to the Annual Conference in 2006. By the fall of 2007, 750 church leaders from 250 local churches attended orientation event opportunities to learn about the possibilities when we are a healthy church. Response to this process and the search for the minimum factor has been overwhelming. As we ended the calendar year, appointments with local churches for orientation visits number 101 churches. We have trained 112 coaches conference-wide. Churches engaged in the process are already showing positive result. Orientation gatherings and coach assignments are being managed by the Office of Connectional Ministries. The web site for the Natural Church Development is www.ncd-international.org.
109. The Office of Connectional Ministries in partnership with District Council on Ministries will schedule 6 events related to Passionate Spirituality, called *The 3 Colors of Ministry*. The events will begin in the winter of 2008 and be completed by May 2008. Materials for these events feature Natural Church Development resources.
110. We want to thank THE VISION editor, *Rev. Don Collier*, for his years of dedication to communications to this annual conference. Don re-retired in November of 2007. In addition to THE VISION, he worked with the Igniting Ministry and with One Great Hour of Sharing. While in search of a new

Communications staff person, the work of THE VISION and Igniting Ministries is being managed by the Office of Connectional Ministries, principally by *Shelley Mitchell*. Our thanks to *Joanne Utley* for her editing skills!

- 111.** *Neal Bowes* continues to consult in the area of *Youth Ministries*. This year, Neal designed and led the program associated with the Bishop's Confirmation Rally at Valhalla UMC and led a Confirmation Kickoff at Camp Epworth in the fall of 2007. Neal writes a column for THE VISION called *From the Youth Guy!* Youth Leader Training Seminars are being held throughout the Annual Conference, at the invitation of districts, clusters, and local churches. Attendance at these workshops has been strong, clearly indicating a need for conference level youth emphasis. Neal writes for Youth through the General Board of Discipleship. Check out the Youth website www.umyouth.com
- 112.** *Rev. Jim Stinson* continues to serve as consultant for *Older Adult Ministries*. He has led district, cluster, and local church seminars and is currently writing a very popular column for *Older Adult Ministries* in THE VISION.
- 113.** *Lorrie Landry* continues in her role as consultant in the area of *Children's Ministries*. She continues to work with local churches upon request and has presented cluster and district workshops. Safe Sanctuaries is an important component of the training for Children's Ministries.
- 114.** The Email Newsletter from the Learning Center has become a major tool for information sharing from The Office of Connectional Ministries. The online newsletter reminds local congregations of opportunities and share interesting and effective links to ministry ideas. The listserv reaches more than 3100 email addresses. Special thanks to *Shelley Mitchell* for her work to create the database and her creative editing.
- 115.** Connectional Ministries continues oversight of the Camping and Retreat Ministries of the New York Annual Conference. Their report will show financial stability, aggressive program development and site improvements reflecting a preferred future. A Capital Fundraising Organization was selected and a Three Phase Campaign is underway. An informational DVD was distributed in the fall of 2007 to bring us up to date about opportunities through camping.
- 116.** The Budget Committee of Conference Vision Table continues to adjust its budget to reflect the encouragement of new initiative ministries while supporting active committees.
- 117.** *Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie* continues to bring energy and passion in Mission and Outreach to the Office of Connectional Ministries. International Volunteers in Mission from the New York Conference are involved in remarkable life changing work. Teams traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi continue

the important work of rebuilding homes after Hurricane Katrina. Joseph continues to train folks in the area of Disaster Relief. He travels with his message of mission when invited by local churches or districts. Joseph's "Going for the Goal" program has brought outstanding response throughout the conference. Are you wearing the mission hat? *Daryl Lindholm* is assisting part-time in the Mission and Outreach office.

118. In 2007, the Office of Connectional Ministries was pleased to partner with Conference Finance and Administration to hold Stewardship Academies in three locations.
119. The Learning Center has been the host to local congregations for event/worship planning, has increased its lending of resources "many fold" over the year and held year-round events. In cooperation with the ongoing Natural Church Development priority, print and video resources have been cataloged according to the Eight Quality Characteristics of NCD to accommodate our churches in process. The Center has been the host for councils and committees of the conference with a capacity of 50 people. We want to thank Christ UMC, New Rochelle, for accommodating Connectional Ministries events with larger audiences.
120. Connectional Ministries could not function with my Administrative Assistant, *Shelley Mitchell*. She is the "bring order out of chaos", "how to," "where is it," database expert! AND artist in residence! Did you know that Shelley designs and created the crosses we use on the annual conference altars? Shelley works continually to provide altars for the Learning Center. Shelley – thank you!
121. Annual Conference 2008 will welcome 1000 children to a Saturday morning event. The mission emphasis will be the Heifer Project. We are please to announce that Heifer International has agreed to send their animal resources to United Methodist ADVANCE locations that are support by the New York Annual Conference. We are pleased to be in this partnership for 2008.
122. As Director of Connectional Ministries, it is my role to be a "listener" around the conference, to respond to the educational needs raised by committees, boards, the Cabinet and to be ever aware of the sparks of a new idea that may be developed into amazing ministry. It is my role as DCM to work with the vision of our Bishop Park and the Conference Vision Statement, toward a preferred future of ministry. In addition to my portfolio, I have visited over 85 churches in the role of introducing NCD to local churches. Within the Connection, I serve as the President of the Jurisdictional Director of Connectional Ministries (2006 – 2007) as well as serve on the Jurisdictional Vision Table.

- 123.** I celebrate what God is doing through The United Methodist Church and the pockets of superb ministry that I encounter. I see evidence of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” everywhere I go! “We are the people of The United Methodist Church.”

CATSKILL-HUDSON DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Donna Jolly, Chairperson

- 101.** The Catskill-Hudson District has been a busy place and God has been so good to us! This past year has been a great one for us northerners.
- 102.** We held two different training events. The fall one, Jump Start the Year, was held in September and offered workshops on Stewardship, Sunday School, Spiritual Practices and Lay Speaking Enrichment. The spring one, Spring Ahead, was held in March and included workshops on Vacation Bible School, Creating Worship Centers, Caring Ministries, Using Technology and Leading a Meeting Worth Going To. These events were very well attended. We appreciated all the work the leaders put into these sessions.
- 103.** We have yet to hold our Camp Meeting; District Conference at Camp Epworth. It is planned for May 16th. There will be activities such as spelunking, ropes course, canoeing; or quiet time for meditation at the Chapel in the Woods, walking the Labyrinth, and sitting with friends over a cup of coffee and of course there will be great food. Music will be all around us as we celebrate Rev Moore’s “The Shortest District Conference in History”. We will so blessed to have Bishop Park be a part of this day as well. We are fortunate to have Camp Epworth available for this great event.
- 104.** Margaret Howe led three training sessions for the statistical reports that were greatly appreciated by the pastors.
- 105.** There were six young people from Catskill Hudson District that went on the Youth Ambassadors in Mission trip to Costa Rica in March! They had a life changing experience.
- 106.** A number of churches are involved with the NCD program. They are progressing through this process well and seeing positive results from their work.
- 107.** We had the privilege to host the first ReThink Church workshop event in Kingston, NY. There was representation from a few of our Districts. It was a wonderful event with great information. Complete with handouts, DVDs, checklists and supporting information. It was a worthwhile gift to all who were able to attend.

108. Our thanks to Rev Moore for his great leadership and hard work, and to Holly for her gifts and graces God has blessed us to be a blessing! Praise be to God!

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Laura Perregaux, Chairperson

101. Grace and Peace to you. The Connecticut District was busy the past year. In September of 2007 planning began for upcoming year. We held our annual District Resourcing day in January 08 at Mary Taylor Memorial UMC in Milford. The goal of our District Council has been to equip church leaders so they may minister effectively and make Disciples for Christ.
102. Our Lay Speaking program continues to grow strong despite the fact that we have lost a true friend and faithful disciple in James Fleegal. He will be truly missed.
103. Our Missions continues to grow. We had teams from our conference go to Biloxi and our youth continue to attend UMARMY.
104. We on the DCOM had high hopes this year. We wanted to pull off three events and while we only were able to accomplish two of them, the Resource day and the District Conference we feel that we have made great strides.
105. In the fall of 2008 the DCOM will be hosting a Bell Choir Concert and Music exchange. We will continue to work on missions.
106. We also hosted a Three Colors of Ministry workshop in Trumbull at Nichols UMC. Thank you to that host church.
107. I wish to thank my committee especially Rev. Heather Sinclair from Shelton UMC for her hard work and her support of me my first year as Chair. Congratulations to Heather on her addition of a baby to her family. Our district continues to grow. Thank you to George Engelhardt for his tireless effects to the DCOM and his work as DS.

LONG ISLAND EAST- DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Marilyn Becht, Chairperson

101. The Long Island East District Council on Ministries continues its work of ministry in our communities of eastern Long Island this past year. We are grateful that God blesses our work with his amazing grace.
102. The District Conference was held in May where it was announced that

Reverend Adrienne Brewington was appointed our new Long Island East District Superintendent beginning her work in July, 2008. A joyful celebration for Adrienne's installation was held at the Bible Korean Church in September.

- 103.** The DCOM held regular meetings throughout the year for reporting and to give oversight to the various ministries and projects that the District has been involved with. In June Kwasi Kena came to the Conference Center to talk about Passion Groups. This involved other Districts in the Conference as well. In the fall, our DCOM held a Day Apart on October 4, 2008 at the District parsonage to begin to brainstorm about our vision for the long range plans for the District. It allowed Adrienne and I who are both new to our positions to work with the Council to see where we have made forward strides and where we hope to add new ideas. We are looking at a 3-5 year plan to "Risk Ourselves for Hope". The church needs to be a voice for the community in these tough economic times. We continue to focus on "Passionate Spirituality" in our planning.
- 104.** Peter O'Neill continues to do an excellent job directing the District Lay Speakers. There is a focus on lay speakers at annual conference this year. We are hoping to send many from this district to annual conference to participate in what will be an exciting event. Lay Speakers are a great resource in the local church and there is a need to have more training opportunities for them. A wonderfully attended Lay Speaker Convocation was held on September 27, 2008 at Babylon UMC. A keynote address was given by Rev. Betsy Ott on "Passionate Spirituality and Evangelism". Other clergy were there to offer workshops and worship time. Rev. Adrienne Brewington addressed the group with her vision for the district and led the closing, communion worship. In February and March of 2009, basic Lay Speaking classes will be held in three locations. The advanced lay speaking class will focus on lay speakers as servant leaders. We again offer lay speaking classes in Spanish.
- 105.** The Habitat for Humanity house in Bay Shore was dedicated on Dec. 20, 2008. There is hope of beginning another house this year. Thanks to the hard work of many, this was a special accomplishment for the community.
- 106.** "Leader to Leaders" will take place on two dates: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 and Sunday, February 8, 2009 and two locations to accommodate east and west ends of our district and make attendance a possibility for more people. Rev. Adrienne Brewington, our District Superintendent will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Betsy Ott will lead us in worship. Many training workshops will be offered.
- 107.** The District Youth Leaders, Rev. Glenn Adone and Donna Catandella, reported on the youth activities of the District. Chelesea Osiedki came to represent the youth at our last meeting and she told us of the youth plans.

There will be a District youth retreat at Quinipet on April 18, 2009. The youth are planning mission trips and also plan to put on a District production of "Godspell" in February or March of 2009.

108. Rev. Lee Gangaware has attended meetings and reported on the work of the Parish Development Committee. Several churches in the district are receiving the benefit of grants from Parish Development this year. We have interfaith resources through the Long Island Council of Churches. It is our hope to address such issues as hunger, housing, health and diversity utilizing community resources and possibly schools.
109. The date for District Conference is May 16, 2009.
110. We hope to plan a District Retreat at Quinipet at a future date when we've had some time to work together and plan what kind of weekend would truly be a time for fellowship, sharing and rest.

LONG ISLAND WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Shirley T. Pettiford, Chairperson

101. "Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken, Bind us together Lord, bind us together with love." The Long Island West District Council On. Ministries prays that our people and ministries will continue to grow with love.
102. Lay Leadership Training is traditionally scheduled in February so that our leaders may begin the year with a firm foundation. The Lay Leadership Committee skillfully organizes the day so that we experience inspiring worship, knowledgeable facilitators and warm fellowship. The Leadership Event is scheduled for February 14, 2009. Past events indicate that we can look forward to an attendance of at least 300 persons.
103. The LIW District 2009 School of Lay Speaking (More Than Just Preaching) began on January 17, 2009. At the completion of six weeks, the school will offer certificates of completion to Youth, Beginners, Certified and Advanced Lay Speakers. Classes are offered at the Brooklyn Campus, John Wesley UMC, and the Queens Campus, Floral Park UMC. The District is thankful to the Pastors and people of John Wesley UMC and Floral Park UMC for their hospitality. The gifts of our Lay Speakers were recognized when several Lay Speakers were invited to act as facilitators at The 3 Colors Of Ministry Workshop on November 15, 2008. It was a joyous day as we explored how to use our spiritual gifts to be more effective in ministry.
104. During the month of January, our Queens and Brooklyn Central Cluster Churches celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The cluster

churches come together again to observe Lent and Good Friday. After much social action by the Queens Cluster Churches, and others in the Community, the City of New York reversed its action of closing Faith Based Homeless Shelters.

105. We congratulate the Long Island West District United Methodist Women on organizing a District Teen/College/University circle. We welcome the gifts of these young women.
106. The District Annual Meeting is a time of renewal and recognition. New Officers and Lay Speakers are encouraged to continue their journey of faithful service. New, retiring and departing Pastors are recognized.
107. Our District Superintendent has set aside two occasions devoted expressly to the Laity. The time together not only focuses on fellowship, but also focuses on how to be more effective disciples for Jesus Christ. The first event took place on September 28, 2008. The diversity of the District was noted when the scripture was read in five languages. We were blessed with liturgical ministry and music from the praise team of Bushwick Parish UMC. The Power Point presentation by Dist. Supt. Shim, emphasized following the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
108. The District assembled for an Advent Celebration on December 5, 2008. The evening was filled with Christmas Carols, delicious cuisine and appreciation to our District Superintendent. June 2009 will mark the end of the appointment of Rev. Gunshik Shim to the Long Island West District. We will gather on May 17th at the Janes United Methodist Church to celebrate his ministry and show appreciation for his tireless service to our District.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT – DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Alan B. Stapler, Chairperson

101. This is my final report as chairperson of the District Council on Ministries (DCOM) for the Metropolitan District. I would like to thank the Reverend Noel Chin for his spiritual guidance and leadership during the four (4) years that I have been a part of the DCOM. As in past years the Metropolitan DCOM continues to be an active body engaging in a number of initiatives that support the overall ministries and mission of our District. Outlined below is a summary of many of the key events for the Metropolitan DCOM for the 2008-2009 year.
102. Leadership Training Event The 2009 Leadership Training event represented a unique approach from past years in that there were four separate sessions in different geographic areas of our District. The sessions were held on February 3rd, 5th, 10th and 12th in the Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island and

Westchester, respectively. This allowed for increased participation by the various areas of our District. The sessions consisted of plenary session on the 2008 Book of Discipline followed by a variety of training topics including Finance, Trustees, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, Evangelism, and Stewardship.

- 103.** Metropolitan District Conference The Metropolitan District Conference for 2009 is to be held on Saturday, March 9th at St. Mark's UMC, 49-55 Edgecombe Avenue at 137th Street in Manhattan. Events include Worship, Recognition of Lay Speakers, Election of Officers, and Celebration of our Ministries.
- 104.** Quadrennial Training Event DCOM welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Quadrennial Training Event held in Jacksonville, Florida from January 29th – February 1st. Topics included discussion of issues on poverty and health, new church starts, revitalizing existing congregations and developing new leadership.
- 105.** United Methodist Women The Metropolitan District UMW continues to be an active and spiritual group and has scheduled the following events for the current year:
UMW Spiritual Retreat – January 10th
UMW Officers Training for local church officers – February 21st
UMW Annual Communion Brunch – March 21st
UMW Spiritual Day Apart – June 6th
- 106.** Prison Ministries The Metropolitan District continues to be active in the area of Prison Ministries. DCOM is actively working to develop greater awareness of prison issues, including easing the suffering of those incarcerated by visitations and letter writing, and mentoring the children that have a parent in prison. Distribution of literature and visits to local churches is contemplated, along with active support of the Women's Advocate Ministry (WAM).
- 107.** Lay Speaking School The Metropolitan District Lay Speaking School is one of the foremost events for our district each year and 2009 was no exception. The event took place in April at the Mamaroneck UMC.
- 108.** Mission Trip to Santo Domingo An exceptional event, a special mission trip to Santo Domingo, is planned for August. This unique travel opportunity will offer participants to study and interact with the churches of Latin America. It is sure to be a rewarding, spiritual and great learning experience for all who attend.

109. Black College Fund Luncheon The Black College Fund Luncheon, a signature event for the Metropolitan District was held on March 8th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in White Plains.
110. The ongoing work of the DCOM continues to be active and diverse with many programs and events serving our District. The members of DCOM are extraordinarily dedicated hard working individuals and I wish them well in their continued endeavors in the vital ministries that they serve.

NEW YORK/CONNECTICUT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES **Evelyn R, McDonald, Chairperson**

101. Another wonderful year — This year we, truly, coalesced as a team fueled by the Holy Spirit, committed to making a difference in our conference. We spent time clarifying how the DCOM could best serve the congregations and pastors of our district.
102. At the writing of this summary we just completed our District Leader's Training program which was held at Jesse Lee Memorial Church in Ridgefield, CT. Elaine Winword was the main coordinator of this event, along with leading the team that prepared dinner for the over 100 attendees. In late spring, we will have our District Conference. Once again there are two opportunities to become a basic or certified lay speaker. The training held in the eastern half of the District had 25 attending and the Lenten School of Religion, held at Grace UMC, Newburgh, will begin on March 1, the first Sunday of Lent. Once again, youth and adults have been active in mission this year exemplifying our commitment to bringing life to the words found in Matthew 25 where we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, welcome the stranger and visit the sick and imprisoned.
103. Many churches in our district have continued their work with Natural Church Development; some have even taken their second survey. More churches are using the rotational model for Sunday School and discovering that the children and youth have increased excitement about participating. This year has been filled with amazing creativity, thoughtfulness and commitment by everyone that is active with our District Council on Ministry.
104. Thank you, once again, Rev. Jeanette Bassinger-Ishii for your leadership and guidance during this past year. Let us celebrate all of our churches: rural and city, urban and village, small and large, because we are making disciples for Christ.

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, Chairperson; New York Education Society, Andrew Peck-McClain, President

- 101.** Our Annual Conference supports and nurtures college students and seminarians of all ages through the Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. We support the work of campus ministers across our Annual Conference, and through the New York Education Society, we oversee the scholarship and loan opportunities made available through the Annual Conference and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
- 102.** There are eight campus ministries supported by the New York Annual Conference. Five of the eight are ecumenical Protestant ministries. These five are: Rev. Ralph Merante at SUNY New Paltz; The Long Island United Campus Ministries (LIUCM), an umbrella organization for campus ministries at Long Island colleges and universities; SUNY-Delhi (Rev. Martha Vink); Western Connecticut State University (Rev. Mark Horton) and Greater Hartford Campus Ministry. Three are based out of United Methodist congregations: Westside Campus Ministry (Church of St Paul & St Andrew, Manhattan, Rev. Manny Santiago); Yale Methodist Fellowship (First & Summerfield, New Haven) and United Church of Westville campus ministry. Due to lack of response, we will be phasing out our involvement with Greater Hartford Campus Ministry for 2009. If your congregation would like to get started in this important ministry, please contact the Commission. We are happy to resource others who seek to reach out to students, faculty and staff at the higher education institutions within the bounds of the NYAC. A limited amount of funding is possible.
- 103.** The New York Education Society administers our Annual Conference scholarships to support students from our Annual Conference who may not be eligible for aid from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM), since those scholarships are geared towards United Methodist-related colleges and universities. This committee is chaired by Andrew Peck-McClain. The NY Education Society Fund is managed by GBHEM. The New York Education Society Scholarship disbursed \$13,360 in scholarship funds in 2008, for the 2007-2008 academic year. We were proud to have ten NYES Fellows this year, who were each awarded \$800 scholarships. They were Jeremy Holder, Daniel Collins-Wildman, Nicholas Deak, Ekow Commeh, Rebekah House-Forni, Amanda Yau, Aaron Rodriques, Desiree Griffith, Deonne Jahn and Justin Thompson-Gee. We also awarded eight book grants of \$500 each to Juget Benjamin, Aaron Philips, Shane Blackwood, Kenneth McQuiller, Kerri Monahan, Assatta Malcolm, Andrew Yau and Paul John.

- 104.** The United Methodist Student Day offering is an essential way to support our Conference Merit Scholarship program. A rebate from this offering funds our Conference Merit Scholarship, awarded to Olivia Goold Horne, (Ohio Wesleyan University) and Gladys Ireland (Clark Atlanta College). If your congregation doesn't usually participate in UM Student Day, encourage them to do so. It's a great way to assist students of all ages with the monumental task of paying for their educations. In addition, participating in World Communion Sunday offerings supports the Crusade Scholarship program of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. We encourage all NYAC churches to support these scholarship offerings to help educate the next generation of United Methodist leaders in our churches and our communities. Thank you for your support.
- 105.** Each year the Commission receives a report from the GBHEM, Office of Loans & Scholarships, 2008-09, detailing scholarship and loan recipients. The Board administers a number of different scholarship programs. To students in the New York Annual Conference, the Board awarded 7 Gift of Hope, 10 Ethnic Minority, 12 HANA, 1 Rodeheaver, 4 United Methodist General, and 5 Brandenburg scholarships, totaling \$59,300. Also 4 loans totaling \$17,000 were given. According to the school of enrollment, 6 are seminary students. These recipients are from 5 of the 6 districts of our annual conference.
- 106.** Many thanks to the members of the Commission for their commitment to students of all ages and to higher education in our Annual Conference. Your time and attention are greatly valued.

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE HISPANIC LATINO MINISTRIES OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Carmen Margarita Ortiz, Chair

- 101.** Rev. Carmen Margarita Ortiz, President; Rev. Enrique Lebron, Vice President; Rev. Hector Laporta, Secretary and School of Theology. Members: Rev. Elisa M Vicioso, Rev. Sonia Jermin, Rev. Dr. Allen Pinckney Jr. (Cabinet Representative), Rev. Ann Pearson (Connectional Ministries), Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Rev. Javier Viera, Rev. Alicia Fils-Aimé Wentler (Hispanic Council), Patty Nohara, Maria Maine. Agency Representatives are from GBGM, GBD, GBVCS, GBHEM, UMPH and City Society. These agencies have continuously been a support system for the NYAC and its ministries.
- 102.** It was on February 13, 2006, that I was nominated to be the president of the NYAC Hispanic Latino Implementation Plan. Like most of us, I had no idea what saying YES! to, what the position meant. Thank God for his guidance

and the group of men and women behind me who are helping to resurrect the committee.

- 103.** Not much has been done; however, we have gathered information and history of past activities, which the past committee has been able to provide within the NYAC under past leaders and participants. There is still much more to be done. Thus, the committee has met with the Cabinet, Bishop Park, Rev. Francisco A. Canas, Coordinator of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, and the Rev. Luis F. Reyes. Rev. Reyes is the consultant assigned to the NYAC implementation plan.
- 104.** Rev. Luis F. Reyes indicated to us, in his visit, that there is a need for the committee to be more inclusive. Rev. Dr. Allen Pinckney, Dean of the Cabinet, recommended that each district send two laypersons from each district. This process has been slow, but we pray that as the committee continues to work toward perfection, those who are needed and would like to serve will be integrated.
- 105.** We have been able to establish goals for the year 2007 and 2008. These goals have been revised, refined, and presented with a budget of \$80,000 to Bishop Park and the Cabinet for consideration. On February 19, 2007, I was able to meet with the Rev. Francisco Cana to acquire guidance and advice for the revision of the budget. Rev. Luis F. Cana requested a meeting with the Cabinet and Bishop to instruct and inform of past, present, and future financial information of The National Plan of the NYAC. A letter was written to the Cabinet and Bishop requesting a meeting. The Cabinet and the Bishop Jeremiah Park reviewed the letter and indicated through the Dean of the Cabinet, Dr. Rev. Pinckney that we need to be more specific and detailed of the items lined in the present budget. On March 19, 2007, the committee will meet at Rev. Lebron's church in Central Islip and review the budget. The National Plan is a plan for the churches of the NYAC. The plan will assist churches from all over the New York area. The purpose of the plan is to strengthen existing communities, and mobilize, educate, and identify faith communities within the NYAC.
- 106.** Our goals are to continue to aid those who have been under the NYAC National Plan umbrella and aid faith communities that now exist in the Long Island East area. We envision a pilot project emerging from these existing faith communities that can become the model for the NYAC under the Hispanic National Plan. I encourage you to become involved or active through prayer in this important ministry of the NYAC.
- 107.** In closing I would like to say that I am grateful to God, my only reason why I do what I do, the support of our Bishop, the Cabinet, and all of the members of the committee. Without them nothing would have been accomplished. There is so much to do, but I cannot do it alone, I will not do it alone. I need

your support. Together we can make a difference and become the beloved community that our Bishop, Jeremiah J. Park, envisions.

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES

Peter O'Neill, Conference Director

- 101.** My term as Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries began with a pleasant surprise last June, as our Bishop announced at last year's Annual Conference that he was inviting all of the lay speakers in our Conference to attend the Saturday session on June 13, 2009. This has resulted in quite a lot of planning activity over the past year. In several subsequent meetings it has become apparent that our Bishop has a strong commitment to the lay leadership of our Conference and sees lay speakers as a potential force for dynamic renewal of spirituality and growth, not only within our churches, but as evangelists in witness to the world outside of our walls.
- 102.** In conjunction with the five other District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries, we were successful in compiling the first comprehensive roster of all certified and local church lay speakers in the NYAC. There were 1586 active names. Glory be to God! This is truly an amazing Army of God. Of course, this number has already increased, as our Districts continue to train new lay speakers for work in the Lord's vineyard.
- 103.** To take advantage of the unique opportunity to gather the Conference's lay speakers, and in concert with the Board of Laity and the Office of Connectional Ministries, two special programs have been planned for Friday, June 12, 2009. These will take place at Hofstra University, but are to be separate from the activities of the Annual Conference. The first is a workshop on Evangelism, which will be led by the Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena, Director of Evangelism for the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. This will be held on Friday afternoon. Rev. Kena has graciously agreed to conduct a similar program as part of the Laity Session of Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 10th. This will permit those lay speakers who also serve as lay members of Annual Conference to benefit from Rev. Kena's instruction. The second event for Lay Speakers will be a program of praise, worship and instruction on the evening of June 12th. This will feature a program by the Glorification Singers and an address by Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena.
- 104.** At the suggestion of the GBOD, we have agreed to designate attendance at both of the Friday lay speaker events, as well as all of the Saturday activities of Annual Conference, to include the Service of Ordination, as an Advance Course that may be used by existing Certified Lay Speakers in meeting their three year recertification requirement. Special thanks go out to all of our District Directors and their teams for encouraging and coordinating registration and, in several Districts, arranging for transportation.

- 105.** I am pleased to report that our District Committees on Lay Speaking Ministries, through the dedicated service of many lay and clergy, continue to provide excellent training opportunities throughout our Conference. This year the GBOD introduced a completely revised Basic Course for lay speaking ministry, entitled "Learning & Leading." The emphasis is now on lay speakers as servant leaders, rather than pulpit supply. I am happy to report that the new materials have been put in place in each of our Districts for 2009 training. Going forward, it is my hope that the process of certifying and recertifying lay speakers can be unified throughout our six Districts and our District Directors will be meeting on this, beginning in the fall of 2009.
- 106.** In January I had the opportunity to attend the three-day convocation of the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries held in Nashville. Participants were given an opportunity to preview the new Basic Course material, as well as to participate in the development of a new advance class curriculum "Living and Leading by the Spirit." These classes strengthen the concept that lay speakers should be more than part-time preachers, but active leaders in the spiritual revival of our church and our society. We also had the opportunity to meet with many of the GBOD staff to gain a better insight into the global connection of our church. Next January's convocation will be held within the Northeast Jurisdiction and it is hoped that many of our District Directors will be able to participate.
- 107.** Our Conference Lay Speaking web-site remains a work in process. Many thanks go to Mitch Underwood, whose assistance has been invaluable. Aided by the new resources provided by the Bridgestone Group, it is our intention to make this site a valuable resource in identifying training opportunities within the Conference, as well as offering preaching and teaching aids.
- 108.** Finally, I must say how greatly appreciative I am for the enthusiastic support and encouragement of our Bishop Jeremiah J. Park and for the assistance provided by Rev. Ann Pearson and her dedicated assistant, Shelley Mitchell, who will be sorely missed. Thank you too to our Conference Lay Leader, Renata Smith, and all who serve on the Conference Board of Laity. To God be the glory!

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator

101. ANNUAL RETREAT AND PLANNING

This year's annual retreat and planning was very successful. It was attended by 33 people including Bishop Jeremiah Park and Ann Pearson. All district mission coordinators were in attendance. They are Susan Macaluso (LIE), Frank Veloza (LIW), Annette Griffith (CT), Terry Temple (CTNY), Dale Ashby

(Cat Hud) and Claris Skerritt (MET). The goals set for 2009 – 2010 included the following:

- Register each of the NYAC VIM Mission Initiatives with the Northeast Jurisdiction.
- Help local churches support a Covenant Relationship.
 - o Create formal Advance numbers for all VIM sites supported by NYAC.
 - o Encourage resources for projects to be contributed through the Advance.
 - o Develop new leadership for VIM activities.
 - o District Mission Coordinators to hold training sessions with Mission Chairpersons of local churches.
 - o Increase communications between the Conference Mission Coordinator, District Mission Coordinators, Volunteers In Mission, Disaster Preparedness organization, and local churches.
 - o Host a VIM Celebration Sunday in each District.
 - o Coordinate support for VIM initiatives across the districts.

102. CONFERENCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

We thank God for all the volunteers who traveled to Biloxi and Iowa to help with the restoration of homes and the healing of hearts. More than 400 volunteers served in Biloxi and Iowa. This year our Disaster Response ministry accomplished two major goals: a) Certification of Early Response Team (ERT) leaders by UMCOR. A total of 58 volunteers were certified as ERT leaders. Another ERT certification workshop will be held on June 18 2009 and about 25 volunteers will be certified b) The conference disaster response committee restructured its leadership and called it Conference Disaster Administrative Committee. Tom Vencuss volunteered to become the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. The following District Disaster Response representatives were also named: Catskill Hudson District – Dale Ashby, Connecticut District – Cassandra Garcia-Broadus; NY Connecticut District – Terry Temple, Metropolitan District – Mary Ellen Kris, Long Island West – Wesley Daniel.

103. DISASTER SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers will have the opportunity to renew their membership in the Spring of 2010 by taking a refresher course in November 2009. New volunteers will be accepted when they complete the following courses:

- Pastoral Crisis Intervention or Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support.
 - Pastoral Crisis Intervention course
 - Hope beyond Hammering (STAR – five hours)
- Mel Kawakami volunteered to be the coordinator of the Disaster Spiritual Care Volunteers

104. YOUTH AMBASSADORS IN MISSION PROGRAM (Y.A.M)
Youth Ambassadors In Mission will travel to Cambodia in February 2010.

The Coordinator of Youth Ambassadors In Mission is Donna Jolly
 Motto: Educate, Inspire, Serve Since 2005 the Conference has been providing a special volunteer in mission opportunity to young people from our local churches. One of the main purposes of Youth Ambassadors for Mission (Y.A.M) is to give our youth and young people a unique firsthand cross-cultural life-changing experience.

Youth Mission Trips have the potential of accomplishing several goals such as:

- a. Bring Youth from across the New York Annual Conference together with a common experience.
- b. Begin to develop Youth Leadership for our Conference Youth Ministry.
- c. Inspire our Youth with the traditional Wesleyan Mission Spirit.
- d. Help youth learn and experience the other culture by working and interacting with others.
- e. A life-changing experience of encountering Christ again in a strange environment.

PARTICIPATION

1. Each of the six districts identifies and recommends TWO youth who have interest in mission.
2. The district and the local church partially fund the trip and support their candidates with prayers.
3. Candidates may apply for Conference Mission Scholarship.
4. After the mission experience, each participant becomes a core member of Conference Youth Ambassador for Mission. They will be recognized at the Annual Conference session in June of each year. They will give presentations at district workshops during that year, sharing their experiences and inspiring other youth for mission.

105. OUTREACH MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Local churches continue to use the Go for Mission Gold model to enhance their mission and outreach work. This program provides resources and incentives to local churches. Special Mission Gold awards are presented to churches during Annual Conference session.

You qualify for a mission gold award if your church paid in full the shared ministry apportionment and participated in two or more of the mission areas listed below:

1. Supported at least one local mission project.
2. Received Special Sunday offering or similar mission related offerings.
3. Fulfilled a covenant relationship obligation
4. Supported at least one Conference Mission Initiative such as Mozambique, Cambodia, Bolivia, Haiti, Burundi, etc.)

5. Sent at least one or more persons on a Volunteer In Mission Trip.
6. Attended Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
7. Celebrated Mission Sunday with a mission speaker.
8. Took a group on a Mission Study Tour or Volunteer in Mission Trip.
9. Offered a new mission experience. Did something new that your congregation has never done before.
10. Supported the Conference Disaster Preparedness & Response Team.
11. Supported Justice for our Neighbors

HERE ARE THE CATEGORIES FOR THE MISSION GOLD AWARDS:

For 12k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment 2007; and
2. Two of the mission areas listed above

For 14k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2007; and
2. Four of the mission areas listed above

For 18k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2007; and
2. Eight of the mission areas listed above

For 24k Gold award your church must have:

1. Paid in full the shared ministry apportionment in 2007; and
2. Ten of the mission areas listed above

106. MISSION INTERPRETATION/MISSIONARY COVENANT RELATIONS

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

International Volunteers In Mission sites

1. Mozambique Sister Conference Initiative – Annette Griffith
2. Bolivia Mission – Carl Franson
3. Costa Rica Mission – Robert Hawkins
4. Cambodia Mission –
5. Haiti Mission – Tom and Wendy Vencuss
6. Ghana Mission – Jay Hockenberry
7. Thailand Mission (new project) – Gunshik Shim
8. Ecuador Mission (new project) – Oscar Destruge

National

1. Churches Saving Communities (Advance #982143)
2. Communities of Shalom (Advance #742566)
3. Homelessness in the U.S. (Advance #982385)
4. John St. Evangelization Program (Advance #341355)
6. Appalachia Service Project (Advance #982050)

7. Justice for our neighbors (Advance #901285)
8. Community Centers (Advance #982149)
10. U. M. Army
11. Crop Walk
12. Bread for the World
13. Midnight run

New York Conference Ministries

1. The Anchor house
2. The United Methodist Center at Far Rockaway
3. Farm worker and Migrant Ministries
4. The Children's Home of the Wyoming Conference
5. Methodist Homes and Hospitals

GBGM Missionary Support

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

Jae Hyoung (Jay) Choi	Advance # 13973Z	Philippines
Eun Ha Choi (Grace)	Advance # 13974Z	Philippines
Samuel Grono de Oro	Advance # 13032Z	Dominican Republic
Kalindi Thomas	Advance # 13966Z	Global
Sun Sook Kim	Advance # 10843Z	Philippines
Ediberto Lopez-Rodrigues	Advance #012860	Puerto Rico
John Chikwaira	Advance #13955Z	Zimbabwe
Joel Medendorp	Advance #773950	Red Bird Mission
Helen de Leon Camarce	Advance # 13953Z	Manila, Philippines
Joseph and Marilyn Chan	Advance # 12904Z	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Rosangela Soares de Oliveira	Advance # 14210Z	Latin America

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

Usha Satish, Social Justice Team; Tailor Dortona, Leadership Development Team; Brandon Samuel, Missions Team; Sydney Oyathelemi, Youth Service Fund Team; Pablo Buendia, Design Team; Evian Crosdale, Spiritual Formation Team

- 101.** This year Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) has come up with six different groups in effort to expand the work that we can get done in a year. The Social Justice Team has a very small number of people on staff but, although small, we have held workshops and we are working on a monthly news letter to go in the Vision, which will provide the conference with updates on things we are doing and topics we are exploring. As a very passionate social justice leader I believe the group can go far and with the prayers and support of the entire Annual Conference. Look out for Social Justice Team, "paving the way, keeping injustice at bay".

- 102.** The Leadership Development Team has been helping to motivate and inspire the youth of the Conference throughout this year. After last year's Conference the Leadership Team successfully piloted Camp Lead; a one week program for youth who have shown excellence in the area of leadership. Over fifteen youth from around the NYAC gathered at Epworth Camp & Retreat Center to embark on a spiritual journey and grow as future leaders of the United Methodist Church. In January, the team led a workshop at Ignite about what teens want out of church services and youth group. This all-adults class was a rousing success. All of the workshop attendees left Ignite with a wealth of knowledge pertaining to youth. The Leadership Team spent the remainder of the year planning for the 2009 Camp Lead. We plan on having twice the participants and fun as last summer! The date for Camp Lead '09 is August 16-22. Applications to sign up are available at the CCYM table at Conference.
- 103.** Over the past 7 months, CCYM's Mission team has managed to expand far beyond expectations. We have made it our duty to spread our faith, through actions. One of our many activities includes Camp Lead. The Mission team led the participation in the soup kitchen, serving the homeless. Along with our current projects, we are in the process of Cross-Conference Connection, developing a plan for continued ministry through various youth activities. For Ignite 2009, we have developed a panel workshop to help youth groups get involved in mission trips and mission work. Along with the panel, we have created a display board of past Youth Mission work. In the near future, there will be a second trip to Costa Rica done by the Youth Ambassadors in Mission, along with a trip to the Bahamas in July for Junior High youth groups sponsored by the Youth Worker Movement. Our plans for the present and for the future are examples of the Mission Team's successful road ahead.
- 104.** By the time you're reading this, Youth Service Fund (YSF) Team will already have applications available to people who want to develop organizations for teenagers and need a financial boost. Where are we getting the money from? Last year, CCYM threw a contest at Ignite '08 that collected a lot of money. This year YSF plans to raise money through penny wars. This is a competition where pennies have the highest value, and people place pennies in their assigned jars to win. Between the money we earned last year, and the money we raised at Ignite '09, we hope to distribute money to benefit many youth organizations.
- 105.** This year, the Design Team for CCYM has done a lot of hard work and has had a lot of fun. We have created the flyers and promotional items for CCYM events like Ignite and Camp Lead and we set up a CCYM table at Annual Conference. At last year's Conference we had a great time assisting with the children's events. We have created a logo for Ignite that will be used every year. We designed the t-shirt and buttons for the Ignite event and can not wait to see our designs be the look of Conference Youth each year.

- 106.** This year the Spiritual Formation Team has organized many things for the youth of the New York Annual Conference. Our first task of the year was to plan Camp Lead, where youth from around the conference were invited to take part in a week-long event, doing a number of fun activities and learning new ways to improve their youth groups. Our team was in charge of planning the daily devotions for this camp. We spent a day of camp learning about different ways to connect to God through prayer. After camp was over, Spiritual Formation Team also wrote daily devotions and small group plans, called spark groups, for Ignite. We also wrote the worship services for each day, wrote the responsive prayers, and chose certain scriptures that were discussed throughout the whole weekend. In May, we helped organize and run the Bishop's Confirmation Rally. It was meaningful to be a part of younger youth choosing the Christian faith. Our next task for the year was to plan the 2009 Camp Lead for the week of August 16th to make it even better than the last one and to fulfill the spiritual needs of the youth of the conference.