

LEGISLATIVE SECTION 3

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Jeff Wells, Chairperson

- 101.** In 2008-09, the Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) added six new members, bringing our Board to 29 persons. We have continued to increase the diversity of our membership (six are from racial or ethnic minorities). Thirteen of our members are lay persons and 16 are clergy.
- 102.** The Board voted last summer to make immigration issues our priority for 2008-09. We determined that the best approach would be to join with others in the NYAC who are active and passionate about this work to organize a series of immigration seminars around the conference. Over the summer and fall we gathered representatives from the UMW, CCORR, MFSA, Justice for Our Neighbors, and Rural and Migrant Ministries to form an NYAC multi-agency “Immigration Organizing Committee” to make plans for these events. We continue to reach out to the racial and ethnic caucuses in the conference to gain their active participation. The first of these seminars was held on April 18 at the Patchogue UMC (eastern Long Island). All of these events will be led by staff members from the UM Seminar program headquartered at the Church Center for the United Nations. Three or four more seminars are projected over the course of the summer and fall.
- 103.** The “Immigration Organizing Committee” also organized a more in-depth orientation for conference leaders involved in immigration work. It was held on May 2 at the CCUN.
- 104.** In December of 2008, CBCS helped to organize and participated in a vigil at an immigrant Detention Center in Manhattan, which drew 100 United Methodists to call for a moratorium on raids, detentions, and deportations. Our chairperson spoke at this event along with Bishop Jeremiah Park, Harriet Olsen, Deputy General Secretary of the Women’s Division, GBGM, and others. This event received significant coverage in Korean-, Chinese-, and Spanish-language media in New York.
- 105.** Our Board hosted a dinner on Friday evening at the 2008 Annual Conference. The dinner was open to everyone interested in church and society concerns. One hundred persons attended the dinner to hear George McClain and Tilda Norberg speak on the connection between prayer and social justice.
- 106.** Board chairperson Jeff Wells attended the GBCS training event in Jacksonville, Florida at which there were 60 Board chairs and Peace with Justice coordinators from annual conferences as far flung as Alaska and

Hawaii. This event was held in conjunction with the four-day quadrennial denominational training event, "Living the United Methodist Way," which drew 1300 UM leaders.

107. CBCS will again have a display table and dinner (scheduled for Friday evening) at the 2009 annual conference session and will continue to build our mailing list to expand the network of clergy and laity we can reach with announcements, action alerts, and educational opportunities.
108. The Conference Board of Church and Society encourages all members of the NYAC to subscribe to the General Board's email newsletter, "Faith in Action," which is sent out about every ten days. You can subscribe to the newsletter at www.umc-gbcs.org (link in right hand column).
109. CBCS also encourages each local church in the conference to consider setting up its own board or "social concerns" group to promote education and advocacy around the UM Social Principles and to work on local social concerns.

NYAC-JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (NYAC-JFON) IMMIGRATION PROJECT

**Pauline Wardell-Sankoh, Chairperson, Carolyn Stapleton, Vice
Chairperson, James Law, Treasurer, M. Derene Frazier, Secretary**

101. History

JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON) was founded as a result of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries' acute awareness of the tremendous need for immigration assistance. The General Board of Global Ministries funded this project through the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). Each Justice for Our Neighbors legal clinic is an opportunity for local congregations to "open their doors" with a warm and hospitable welcome for newcomers in their midst. JFON provides a place for community gathering and table fellowship where parishioners and newcomers may come together to seek peace and transformation in a troubled world.

102. Church Based, Volunteer Led

JFON provides free, professional and confidential legal services to immigrants in monthly clinics. This UMCOR program connects a national network of church-based, volunteer-led immigration clinics to asylum seekers and immigrants who need a helping hand to navigate the maze of rules and laws that affect their lives in the United States.

- 103.** JFON represents the response of the United Methodist Church and its local congregations to the needs of immigrants seeking to reunify their families, secure immigration status, and enjoy the right to work. The JFON model embraces the mandate of biblical hospitality. The program relies on United Methodist connectional relationships to bring together resources and commitment from local churches, districts, conferences, and UMCOR. The NY Region JFON (part of NYAC-JFON) includes two Presbyterian partners, one in Queens and one in Yonkers, New York.
- 104.** Trained and resourced by UMCOR's national office, JFON volunteers advocate for just and compassionate immigration laws and public policy, networking with other advocacy groups where possible. The JFON network is coordinated by a national staff in Silver Spring, MD. Some twenty clinic sites in nine annual conferences participate. JFON services are provided by qualified immigration attorneys. The New York Region attorney is Thomas J. Mills, Esquire. Donald Edwards, Esquire, CCW worker who recently joined our ministry unfortunately left us at the end of the year. We wish him God's continued blessings as he moves on to other mission work for the United Methodist Church.
- 105. Background**
The plight of immigrants made vulnerable by passage of harsh immigration laws led to JFON's creation in 1999, to facilitate the immigration ministries of local United Methodist congregations. The program initially was a response to the immigration reform act of 1996. Later it also focused on the stricter laws passed in the aftermath of 9/11. JFON continues the long legacy of UMCOR's implementation of the United Methodist Church's resettlement assistance to refugees. The free clinic network extends the support and welcome of the church to marginalized immigrants living in the shadows among us.
- 106. It's Part of Our United Methodist Faith!**
"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2)
When we welcome sojourners, it is as if we are receiving Christ, and our doing so becomes a sign of our faithfulness. In the words of the 1986 United Methodist Bishops' Statement on Refugees and Immigration, "God comes to us in the form of the vulnerable person who lacks the benefit of status and protection in an alien land. In the flesh of Jesus Christ of Nazareth God chose to sojourn in a particular way for the sake of all humankind...and restored the possibility of authentic community in which love and justice reign and peace prevails."
- 107. Justice for Our Neighbors in the New York Annual Conference**
In 1999, John Wesley UMC in Brooklyn, NY, Chinese UMC in Lower Manhattan, NY and a Presbyterian Church, La Promesa in Flushing, NY

were selected to be among the initial sites to provide free quality legal services to immigrants of all nationalities. Since that time, the clinics have served thousands of clients addressing a range of needs, including: Violence Against Women Act, Adjustment of Status/Permanent Residency, Employment Authorization, Visas/Visa Extensions, Family Petitions, Religious Workers, Naturalization, Widow Petition, Freedom of Information Act, and Political Asylum.

- 108.** The ministry is presently sustained by NYAC support, UMCOR, some outside grants, donations and contributions from former clients. The 2008 Annual Conference gave permission to NYAC-JFON to solicit funds from the churches of the Conference and the ministry was given a seat the Conference Visioning Table. We are most grateful for all our streams of funding but as the demands for the ministry increase, more funding is needed to be able to sustain it. JFON is in the process of clarifying and defining its place in the structure of the New York Annual Conference so that we will be fully recognized as a vital part of the outreach/advocacy ministry of the Conference.
- 109.** NYAC-JFON continues to do what we call, "Circuit Rides"—taking the clinics on the road, much as our forerunners rode from church to church. The host church is required to advertise the clinic, provide hospitality (food and child-care) and volunteers. An attorney will be at each "Circuit Ride." Trained workers from the three established clinics rotate going to the churches that agree to host a "Circuit Ride"; where they train the volunteers of the host church to do intake forms for persons who wish to have an interview with the attorney(s). This enables JFON to outreach to more churches and be able to offer persons in areas where there are no clinics an introduction to the model and for persons who have immigration needs to speak to the attorney(s). As a result of the 2008 "Circuit Rides" we were able to open a new clinic in Yonkers, NY which is accessible to the Bronx, Westchester and Connecticut. If your church is interested in having a "Circuit Ride," please contact JFON program coordinator, Cheryl Pierce at cpierce@gbgm-umc.org. Be prepared to tell her when, what day of the week you will be able to host the "Circuit Ride" (weekends are not good for us) and what hours. Usually the information session and private time (as time and availability of personnel allows) will take from 3-4 hours.
- 110. Recommendation**
In order to carry out the critical work of the Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Project in the New York Annual Conference, a commitment of financial support is needed. We have asked the Budget Committee for \$30,000 for year 2010 and to make the NYAC-JFON ministry a line item. This line item will indicate the Conference's commitment to justice for all God's people. Our Mission statement says, "***The New York Annual***

Conference, through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope...” The NYAC-JFON offers that beloved community of hope to the sojourners in our midst.

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Inday Day, Chair

- 101.** In July 2008, a conference call among CCORR members and CMVT Director Ann Pearson was called to discuss plans for the first anti-racism training event for clergy and other leaders of the Conference. This was in response to Petition #2007-302, approved at the 2007 conference session. The petition called for a mandatory anti-racism training. It was agreed to use Kaleidoscope, a group headed by Rev. Dr. Eric Law of Los Angeles. Through the rest of summer, Inday Day was acting chair to move on with the task of planning for the event. The dates that Bishop Park and the Cabinet chose were October 21-22, 2008. At this event, clergy, members of district ministry committees, some conference staff and members of CCORR were invited to attend the two-day event held at Stony Point, NY. It was mandatory to stay the whole time. The Conference paid for the whole event. Bishop Park contributed funds from the Bishop’s Partners in Mission Fund and CMVT put in some funds also for this 2008 event as there was no budget in place. Applications for 2009 funding for the next training event were approved. CORR invited additional associate members in the summer to strengthen and expand the small active membership of CORR. New lay and clergy persons accepted the invitation. Their names would be added as new members to CCORR when Nominations Committee of the Conference meets in 2009. In September, Bishop Park invited members of CORR to meet with him to discuss plans for the quadrennium and promised his full support of our work. At this meeting, Inday Day was elected chair. The number of names registered for the Anti-Racism Training Event was around 107. There were some “no-shows” but the event went very well. Bishop Park was very supportive and pledged his commitment to the work of eradicating racism, and welcomed participants to the event. He also led the participants in worship, along with the inclusive team.
- 102.** December 13, 2008, CORR was one of sponsoring groups at a vigil calling for an end to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Raids, Detentions and Deportation, organized by members of NYAC and Women’s Division. Bishop Park spoke at the event, held in front of the Varick St. Detention Center in Manhattan, NYC. Rev. Ronald Tompkins of Community UMC, Jackson Heights and a member of the commission, was the representative speaker for CORR. The theme of the event was, “No person should be in jail for being an immigrant.” Over a hundred persons participated that very cold morning.

- 103.** Through meetings for some months, CORR is now working on the second and third Anti-Racism Training events for active clergy and new members of CORR. The events will be held at Trinity Conference/Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT. Plans are not complete yet but dates are definite. (October 8-9, October 22-23). The Kaleidoscope group will do the training.
- 104.** Rev. Ron Tompkins, with the approval of the commission, sent out an assessment questionnaire to the anti-racism training participants last October 2008. This will give the commission the opportunity to discuss with Kaleidoscope leaders what changes or additions are needed for the October 2009 training events.
- 105.** The NYAC Methodists for Social Action, under the leadership of Kevin Nelson, has initiated a periodic meeting of racial ethnic group reps to talk about issues and concerns in our life as part of NYAC. Inday Day attended one meeting. Some Koreans, Hispanic/Latino persons have also attended. It is a small group but hopefully, the conversation will get wider participation. This is a good way to interact with others and find common ground in doing our respective ministries.
- 106.** At the February 2009 meeting of CF&A, Inday Day presented the budget and funding needs of CORR. Ann Pearson reported to the Commission that final funding granted to CORR is \$30,000 for 2010. The Anti-Racism Training events for active clergy will continue through 2011. Bishop Park and the Cabinet will continue to make this event a mandatory participation one that cannot be attended "part-time".
- 107.** Monitoring Annual Conference Sessions for inclusiveness was done every day and results reported each morning. Some COR members volunteered for this work. It was done during 2009 sessions also. CORR will also have a list of translators for those who wish to speak in Korean, Spanish or Chinese, during plenary sessions.
- 108.** Appreciation and gratitude go to Cabinet representatives to CORR, DS Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, CMVT Director Ann Pearson, and commission members Marion Hubbard, Taka Ishii, Luisa Martinez-Buck, Kristen Dunn, Gertrude Nation, Roger Jackson, Jae Won Kim, Beth Capen, Les Johnson, Melodye Merola, Roena Littlejohn, Sarah Ford, Ron Tompkins, Vicki Flippin, Cherie Phillips, PJ Leopold, and Jeffrey Wells for their active participation and contributions. The expanded membership made the work of the commission more vibrant and effective. We especially thank Bishop Jeremiah Park for his strong commitment and support of the work of CORR. God is good, Alleluia!

NYAC COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE, MONITORING REPORT

2009 NYAC Sessions, June 10-13, 2009, Hofstra University

Inday Day, chair

- 101.** This report shows the total of persons who spoke at plenary sessions, who took part in worship services and other presentations. There are 15 categories monitored during all sessions. The legislative section meetings were not all monitored so figures from those meetings are not included here. Report results are as follows: White 08, Asian 44 *, Black 39, Hispanic 11, Native American 0, Pacific Islander 0, Lay 69, Clergy 113, Male 125, Female 69, Youth 10, Young Adult 26, Adult 134, Older Adult 13, Persons with Disability 3
- * Each time the Bishop spoke as the presiding officer of the sessions, most monitors gave him a score. Of course there were also other Asian Americans who spoke but the Bishop boosted the number under “Asian” category.
- 102.** Monitors from CCORR: Inday Day, chair, Vicki Flippin, Roger Jackson, JaeWon Kim, Melodye Merola, Sarah Ford, Cherie Phillips, Kristen Dunn, Kathryn Dickinson, Roena Littlejohn, Luisa Martinez-Buck, and Joaquin Polin.

SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

THE UNITED METHODIST APPALACHIAN MINISTRY NETWORK — 2008

N. Sharon Leatherman, Executive Coordinator

- 101.** The United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network is comprised of representative from the regional conferences with area in Appalachia, general agency representatives and mission personnel working in the region.
- 102.** The Network, supported by a grant from General Board of Global Ministries, town and Country Program Area, worked with consultants to complete a strategic analysis of the organization and the region. Building on the results of that analysis and working with Luther K. Snow, consultant in asset mapping and capacity building for churches and communities, the Network has begun to refocus its ministry.
- 103.** The Vision statement developed from this work is, “a society—where all people in Appalachia are valued for who we are—where all are called to be disciples for Jesus Christ, and –where all have the opportunity to realize our God-created spiritual, social and economic potential.”

104. The Mission is “to partner with annual conferences, districts, local churches and general agencies to develop and support leaders within the UMC in Appalachia.” The major work being explored is to establish a resource and a teaching center and mobile training modules appropriate to Appalachia for strengthening leadership skills and spiritual formation of church leaders in the region. Other area where leadership development and awareness will be focused is: collection and sharing of data and research on needs of churches and the communities in which they minister, providing education and awareness for advocacy on social, political and economic issues and policies that impact Appalachia, and to gather people for networking, interpretation and celebration. This work is supported financially through the General Advance Special #982041 *Appalachian Regional Ministries*.
105. The Network also continues to administer the General Advance Special #982039—*Appalachia Hunger and Poverty*. This fund provides small grants to church-based ministries within the region that address long-term, structural, systemic causes of poverty along with meeting basic human need. Grants totaling \$20,063.00 have been awarded since last annual conference sessions.
106. A most successful Appalachian Assembly was held in the fall of 2007. It was a celebration of the 35th anniversary since General Conference designated the original group—The Appalachian Development Committee as the coordinating body for UM ministry within the Appalachian region, teaching on Asset Mapping and Capacity Building, celebrating culture through music, arts and dance, and sharing ministries across the region through workshops and displays. An Assembly is held every two years to facilitate networking, leaning, celebration and fellowship.
107. Interpreters are available from the Network to visit local churches, district and conference and regional events to present program or have displays. Should your congregation or other group like someone to come and share with you, please contact the Network office.

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOME

Rev. John H. Cole, President of the Board

101. As stated in the amended Constitution of the Home at that first Annual meeting in January 1884, “The object of the Society shall be to provide for *aged and infirm men and women*, a comfortable residence, with board, clothing, religious privileges, medical and other necessary attendance.” I believe our excellent staff, our talented administration and our faithful Board continues to meet and even exceeds these original objectives. Now into our 126th year of service to the elderly and infirm of our community, the Home serves not

only Brooklyn but Queens, not only with resident care but with quality day care. We have reason, in spite of current difficult times, to continue last year's celebration.

- 102.** Our staff, in both the daycare and the home, gives quality care to clients who are not always easy to care for. More than a job, I believe that for most of our staff the love they give to our aged and infirm men & women reflect a calling to be in this kind of work. Although for the moment salaries have met the union contract there is uncertainty amongst all of us in regard to State and Federal funding for our health care institutions. In addition our staff is being asked to learn new ways of reporting using electronic systems (Minimum Data Sets) that will be able to meet State requirements and improve patient care. Some staff have found these pressures and transitions difficult but in the long run these issues will work out. All of our staff deserve great credit and thanks for their dedication here at BUMCH.
- 103.** Our administration has also had to deal with the financial pressures of the times but have been able to keep the Home on an even keel to fulfill our objectives. Our census in the Day Care has been up and our numbers in the Home have generally been positive. This means that from April 2008 until now our financial situation has been favorable in spite of the times. We maybe a "not-for-profit" institution but unless we are being managed efficiently, we can be in big trouble very quickly. Our Quality Assurance procedures are constantly being monitored by administration and although we have had some deficiencies in the many reviews done by the State and the City, we are in general in very good shape in terms of providing quality care. A new MDS Coordinator has been hired to help us meet State requirements and to help in the transition mentioned above. I find it very encouraging that our Administrator, Victor Orriola, tells everyone that there is always room for improvement.
- 104.** Saying "good by" to Rev. Ieva Zadina, Chaplain for the home, with great thanks for her service in several venues including at our Annual Dinner Dance; we welcomed Rev. Eugenia Perez. From the AME Zion Church, Rev. Perez is already loved by staff and clients alike and is taking over the publishing of our new letter.
- 105.** We also said "good by" this last year to one of our most beloved staff members who also retired, Carolyn Roper-Smartt. Carolyn not only took care of the Home's Human Resources Department, but she also was responsible for successful Dinner Dances over many years. She, I believe, is the last staff member who made the transition from the original Home in Brooklyn to our present location. She will be missed.

- 106.** Our hard working Board lost some members but has gained some as well. Recent Board member, Doris Wurgler, is now the Chair of the HR Committee and this year we will be welcoming Lucille DiBello Bjorneby to the Board. Board oversight by our Finance Committee has been particularly challenging this past year as we, along with most investors, have seen our paper values drop precipitously. Although we have some particular concerns about our pension funds, we hope to hold on and wait until some of these values return, if not to previous levels, to a more reasonable place. I am deeply thankful for our knowledgeable board members who dedicate their skill and time to this area of concern.
- 107.** Hard times perhaps, but the Home is still doing what it's supposed to be doing - taking care of the elderly and infirm that we are here to serve. Many thanks to all who continue to make this possible.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

- 101.** With a new building, new faculty and staff, new curriculum, newly expanded financial aid initiatives and even new art! Candler School of Theology is moving with enthusiasm and grace through changes that enhance its ability to fulfill its mission: *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. To this end, Candler is constantly working to deepen its already vital relationship with The United Methodist Church.
- 102.** As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate level, professional schools of United Methodist-related Emory University, Candler provides a context for learning and formation that engages the most complex and difficult issues of our day. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students the opportunity for practice in a highly diverse community, a global crossroads where church growth is expected, cultivated, and actually happening! There is no better place for preparation that resonates with and addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.
- 103.** On September 25, 2008, and with abundant joy, we dedicated Phase I of the new Candler School of Theology Building. A LEEDS silver certificate building, the "CST" includes offices and classrooms that provide the opportunity for technologically sophisticated work and community in an environmentally sound setting. Phase II, to be built in due time, will house the Pitts Theology Library, the Wesley Teaching Chapel, and additional offices and classrooms.

- 104.** This year we welcomed the arrival of six new faculty and senior staff, five of whom are United Methodists. Forty two percent of the faculty and senior staff is United Methodist, and all but five are ordained. Two new staff positions were created, the Director of Lifelong Learning, filled by Dr. Bob Winstead, a member of the North Georgia Annual Conference, and the Associate Dean of Methodist Studies, filled by Dr. Anne Burkholder, a member of the Florida Annual Conference. Both of these new positions serve the larger church as they connect clergy with new opportunities for learning; connect conferences and students who are ultimately seeking ordination; engage with denominational organizations at a variety of levels; oversee denominational certifications and the Course of Study; advise students; and teach courses. In addition, Bishop Ruediger Minor is with us for two years as the inaugural holder of the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism and Bishop Walter Klaiber is with us as Bishop-in-Residence during the spring semester.
- 105.** Candler is in the second year of its new curriculum, designed to assist students in aligning their course selection with their call to ministry and integrating the classroom with their contextual education settings. This emphasis is accomplished through the selection of a concentration, the opportunity for special certifications, and joint programs and initiatives with three other Emory graduate schools: Goizueta Business School, Emory Law School, and Rollins School of Public Health.
- 106.** We are delighted to report that in spite of the difficult economic realities that have had a serious impact on us all, Candler School of Theology and Emory University are faring well, due to sound fiscal stewardship and excellent donor support. The Emory Capital Campaign has achieved \$881 million of its \$1.7 billion goal. Candler's goal of \$60 million will enable us to achieve strategic priorities regarding facilities, student support, lifelong learning, endowed professorships, programs and curriculum development, and international initiatives.
- 107.** Candler has always been deeply committed to assisting students with generous financial aid, but in light of the current economic climate, we have deepened our commitment to significant student support in two very important ways. This academic year, 80 percent of eligible students received scholarships or grants, with an average award covering 79% percent of tuition. Through these awards, more than \$2.5 million was provided to 196 United Methodist students. In addition, we created "Leadership Candler," an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together distinguished prospective M. Div. students from across the country and the world to explore the richness of life and study at Candler.
- 108.** As a part of its contribution to the new building, Emory University provided Candler with a major grant for the purchase of new artwork. As a result,

Candler is now home to the world's largest collection of original works by John August Swanson. Comprising both serigraphs and paintings, the collection focuses on biblical narratives and reflects the storytelling traditions of Swanson's Mexican-Swedish heritage as well as the influence of mosaics and stained glass from the Byzantine and medieval eras.

- 109.** Candler's student body truly reflects the denominational emphasis on the importance of attracting younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 493, with 401 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 18 the Master of Theology, 13 the Doctor of Theology, and 11 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent are enrolled full-time. The total student population is 24% US ethnic minority, 12% international, and 51% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of M. Div. students being United Methodist from 40 Annual Conferences, including Bulgaria, East Angola, Mozambique, and Korea. Other Methodist denominations include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of the Nazarene, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, and the Methodist Church of Korea. The average age of our students is 32, with 56% under thirty. The median age of our M. Div. students is 27.
- 110.** Candler is deeply committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the development of persons for Christian ministry, especially in the United Methodist Church. We are grateful for your support of Candler through the Methodist Education Fund, visits, prayers, nurture of our students, and direct donor support. Come and see us! We would love to welcome you on campus to share your interest, your concerns, and your ideas!
- 111.** At the center of our upcoming capital campaign is a program to boost financial support for students. This year, 76 percent of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 71 percent of tuition. Among these awards, more than \$2.4 million was provided to 198 United Methodist students. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more needs to be done. More than 60 percent of Candler's M. Div. graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.
- 112.** Thank you for your support of Candler. Candler exists to serve the church of Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church in particular. If you have insights on what we could do better to fulfill this service, please let me know.

LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**The Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, Executive Director**

- 101.** Lately, every week at the LICC is a bad news/good news story: there are more people seeking assistance than ever before, people who need more help than most congregations can provide, but we manage to help more people than ever before.
- 102.** In the past year the Long Island Council of Churches has fed hundreds of people each week—we are serving 22% more people this year in Suffolk County than we did in 2008 and 50% more people each month in Nassau. In addition we distributed 563 Thanksgiving baskets, fed 575 people at our Thanksgiving Dinner in Riverhead, and distributed 360 Christmas baskets. We continue to need donations of non-perishable food and would love to have more volunteer drivers to pick up contributions.
- 103.** Our Multi-Faith Forum presented its 230th Building Bridges program, a project without parallel anywhere. We still need more volunteers for the Forum, though, particularly Christians who are willing to tell how they practice their faith in their daily lives.
- 104.** Thanks to the generous support of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, we took over staffing MICAH, the Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger, and hired Neelofer Chaudry as our first-ever Advocacy Director. MICAH is bringing together local congregations and other faith-based organizations to address the causes of hunger in our midst, focusing on rescuing food for hunger ministries, making changes in local housing policies, and addressing our national and local health coverage crises.
- 105.** We offered seminars in congregations and community groups on how to be good stewards of our money, avoid predatory loans, and cope with the recession. Our financial experts have tackled such unusual requests as a bilingual seminar for Catholics in Hempstead, a presentation to confirmands in Wantagh, and another for clergy in Melville on how to manage your congregation's money.
- 106.** We have helped launch the new Interfaith Clergy Committee of Long Island, seminars on how to pay for energy conservation (in conjunction with the Long Island Interfaith Environment Network, which we helped create), a program in Riverhead for the newly unemployed in conjunction with Episcopal Charities, Grace Church, and the Jewish social service agency FEGS.
- 107.** None of this would be possible without the support of many people like you. Thanks!

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Mary Lu Bowen, Executive Director

- 101.** The people of New York's Protestant denominations have worked through the New York State Council of Churches (NYSCC) for over a century doing ministry together to make a difference in people's lives—in places and at times that none of us could, if we worked each in our own way in our own place in our own time. This has helped us as individuals, as congregations, and as denominations to bring hope in situations that seem hopeless and in places where people do not expect their burden to be lightened. You and your Christian brothers and sisters continue to make a difference. Often we do not realize the impact of the good we do by working cooperatively with our brothers and sisters across denominational lines because it is not the stuff of which headlines are made.
- 102.** The work we do together can bring hope to a single life because of chaplains who serve the "invisible church" which exists inside state institutions of corrections, mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities or youth and family services. In an agreement with the state, the NYSCC has for 40 years set the competency criteria and certified chaplains for these facilities. The Certification Committees of the Council interview candidates who have submitted required credentials. The professional expectations are so high that only about 60% are certified on their first try; for the others the committees lay out a career path to follow before returning for future consideration. The role of an institutional chaplain is a lonely one and not often understood by administrators, who do not realize the importance of confidentiality or that ministry involves more than a worship service once a week. The Chaplaincy Coordinator of the NYSCC acts as an ombudsman to iron out problems so the chaplains can spend their time in ministry to the men and women they are called to serve. It is our work together through the NYSCC that makes it possible for quality pastoral care to occur in state institutions.
- 103.** Over many decades, advocacy has been an important aspect of what we do together through the Council. At the present time, our advocacy includes a variety of economic and criminal justice issues. For instance, the NYSCC is working with others to remove roadblocks from the path of those released from prison and trying to find a productive role to play in society. Always it is the combined voices of the faith community that cries out for changes in social services so fewer hungry, homeless and working poor need to come to the doors of our front line ministries. It is because of our scriptural mandate for justice that we can say together that it is unacceptable for the gap between rich and poor to continue to widen or that more and more of us are unable to afford necessary health care.
- 104.** Making a difference on the issues just mentioned, and many more, takes planning, research and the combined efforts of many people. The process

begins with the NYSCC Public Policy Commission spending two days in discernment at their annual planning meeting—a gathering that brings together denominational and local ecumenical representatives from across the state. From this meeting lists of suggested priorities are brought to the governing body for adoption for the coming year. Then staff and the Public Policy Commission get to work doing research, checking on national denominational positions, developing resources for congregations, arranging press conferences, writing position papers and distributing them, meeting with legislators, and doing lots of behind-the-scenes work with boards and other decision-making bodies. On some issues the Council hosts an interfaith working group, such as the one in recent years on education that has agreed upon principles from which to base their combined support of public schools and call for more equitable funding of education. At the annual Legislative Day representatives come from across the state in early spring to visit with legislators after being updated on the issues.

105. The Collegium (board of directors whose members are denominational bishops and executives) also raise their voices together in the public square. Continuing a tradition of over 10 years, they look forward again this year to a meeting with the Governor. These meetings often set the stage for staff-to-staff problem solving. And it is known and respected in Albany that if one of them testifies on behalf of the NYSCC at an Assembly hearing on the death penalty or speaks at a rally on education or immigration that their message is not just that of one person, but that they are speaking for the leadership of over 6,000 congregations.

UNITED METHODIST HOMES

Robert L. Clapp, President,

Rev. James Stinson, Director of Spiritual Life

101. United Methodist Homes (UMH) provides retirement housing, assisted living and health care at four Connecticut locations, in Shelton, Farmington, Newington, and Sharon, and serves more than 1,000 residents annually. UMH also operates Foxbridge, an assisted living community in Memphis, Tennessee, and a nursing and rehabilitation facility in Cloverdale, Indiana named Summerfield Health Care Center.
102. Wesley Village- Wesley Village, our main campus in Shelton, offers retirement living, assisted living, and nursing care and rehabilitation. As a Planetree Continuing Care community, Wesley Village celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and nurtures and supports the relationships that sustain a healthy and meaningful life.
103. Crosby Commons at Wesley Village- Crosby Commons features full-service

assisted living in a friendly, comfortable atmosphere. A total of 68 one-bedroom and studio apartments—furnished and decorated by the residents themselves—include a living and dining area, a bathroom equipped with a sit-down shower, and a mini-kitchen. Meals, housekeeping, laundry, recreation programs, wellness programs, concierge services, and transportation are included in the monthly fee. If needed, personal assistance with dressing, bathing and other activities of daily living is also available at an additional cost.

- 104.** Wesley Heights at Wesley Village- This community offers HUD-subsidized independent and assisted living in 90 cottages with full kitchens and HUD assisted living in 90 apartments with meal service in a central dining room. The Wesley Heights apartment building is nearing completion of an \$11 million renovation project to provide a sunroom, library, and space for meetings, group, activities and worship, a new lobby, entrance, and brighter lighting and new decor and furniture in the central dining room and lounges. In addition, each apartment has been completely renovated to make the bathrooms and other areas fully wheelchair accessible.
- 105.** Bishop Wicke Health Center at Wesley Village- Bishop Wicke Health Center is a nursing and short-term rehabilitation facility with accommodations for 120 residents. Specialized services include orthopedic and cardiac rehabilitation, hospice care, and pain management. A large proportion of the residents come to Wicke on a short-term basis for rehabilitation and then return to their own homes.
- 106.** Middlewoods of Farmington- Affiliated with the neighboring UCONN Health Center, Middlewoods of Farmington provides 74 apartments for independent living, assisted living, and short-term respite care. The monthly rental fee provides a one- or two- bedroom or studio apartment, three meals a day, housekeeping, laundry, recreation, wellness programs and transportation. If needed, personal assistance with dressing, bathing and medication is also available at an additional cost.
- 107.** Middlewoods of Newington- With 54 apartments, Middlewoods of Newington features full-service assisted living. The monthly rental fee provides a studio apartment, three meals a day, housekeeping, laundry, recreation, and transportation, with personal assistance also available at an additional cost.
- 108.** Sharon Health Care Center- Sharon Health Care Center is a nursing and rehabilitation facility with accommodations for 88 residents. Specialized services include orthopedic and cardiac rehabilitation, cancer care, wound treatment and pain management.
- 109.** Sharon Health Care Center also operates the onsite Beginning Years'

Children's Center, an early childhood education program, and Hospice Volunteers of Northwest Connecticut, which provides trained volunteers to assist terminally ill patients and their families.

110. United Methodist Homes/Long Hill Company- The UMH team of senior care professionals is available to provide consulting and project development services to other organizations that are considering developing or expanding senior services and facilities. UMH is particularly interested in providing consulting and management services to other faith-based non-profit organizations.
111. The programs of UMH operate on an annual budget of approximately \$60 million. Donations support special care for hospice and Alzheimer's patients and services for low-income residents. Donors who arrange charitable gift annuities that pay them a lifetime income and bequests continue to build the long-term financial strength of UMH. The assistance of donors and volunteers from United Methodist churches enables United Methodist Homes to continue providing dignified personal services to senior adults.

METHODIST CHURCH HOME

Maria Elena Perez, Administrator

101. The Methodist Church Home is a not-for-profit, non-denominational healthcare organization offering health services to seniors in a home-like environment. Built in 1929, the architecture of the building provides the Residents with elegant surroundings typical of the period and a relaxed atmosphere where they can enjoy life after retirement. All 120 rooms are private, the facility's common spaces display antiques from the late 1800s to the 1900s' and the formal garden includes a walking path, waterfall, fishpond with Koi fish and seating areas.
102. The year 2008 has been another successful year. The Methodist Church Home received a perfect score rating from New York State Department of Health. The Home's Administrator, Maria Elena Perez and staff, continue to do an outstanding job making sure the Residents receive exceptional care.
103. The Home continues to be active in the community providing disadvantaged teenagers from The Jeffrey M. Rapport School for Career Development an opportunity to learn social skills in a professional environment. The Home continues to welcome nursing students from the College of Mount Saint Vincent. These students receive hands-on nursing skills under the supervision of the Home's Director of Nursing and their college professor. This year the Home welcomed Resident Doctors from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital who, under the supervision of Dr. Rodriguez, the Home's Medical Director, were able to receive experience in geriatrics.

104. Christ Church New York City members of the Outreach Program continue providing the Residents with many extra activities on the weekends. Activities include arts and crafts, gardening, one-on-one visits, and concerts.
105. The Methodist Church Home was delighted to receive a generous gift in the amount of \$53,000 from Christ Church New York City. Reverend Javier Viera presented the check to Ms. Perez on June 19th. This gift will be used for the renovation of the Home which is still on-going.
106. Dr. Angel Rodriguez, of the Allen Pavilion, a subdivision of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, is now the Home's Medical Director and leads specialized team of physicians, who treat the Residents at Methodist Church Home.
107. In this spring, the Home welcomed a beautiful aviary, a "living work of art," now on display. We are thankful to the family members who in an unusual short period of time donated approximately \$8,000 for the purchase of this aviary. Bird species include finches and canaries.
108. The most significant event this year has been the grand opening of the Home's State-of-the-Art Rehabilitation & Wellness Center. The grand opening ceremony was held on June 19th and over 200 persons attended this affair. Senator Efrain González cut the ribbon and addressed the attending guests about the Methodist Church Home's accomplishments in the community. This new space is now equipped with the latest technological equipment to rehabilitate patients with post-joint conditions, stroke, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, Parkinson' disease, post-hip fracture and cardiac conditions. The 2,000 Sq. Ft. State-of-the-Art Rehabilitation Center is equipped with Biodex cardiovascular exercise equipment, KAT balance system, LifeFitness dual-cable system, therapeutic modalities, and a customized "studio-like apartment" to facilitate early training for return to home activities. Services include: Individualized Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy. We specialize in short-term (sub acute) Rehabilitation and long-term geriatric care.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

101. "Spirit led, Renewing the Church For the Mission of Jesus Christ in the World!" What Would Jesus Do with a United Methodist seminary? We think Jesus would recruit faithful disciples and educate them with the best mentors and sources, starting with the Bible, and shape them to lead a life-changing mission that would turn the world upside down! The disciples would learn to embody a renewed Church led by the Spirit and unafraid to live out God's holy purposes!

- 102.** United has itself been renewed by the Spirit for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world, and we invite your prayers and participation in this renewal and this purpose! The seminary been serving Christ and the Church for 138 years, but we have recently taken steps to update our offerings:
- A recently revised 78 hour Master of Divinity curriculum!
 - A growing number of online and blended courses!
 - New Doctor of Ministry degree focus groups and mentors!
 - Deep learning opportunities for clergy and laity!
 - Emphases in Church Renewal, African American Ministry Studies, Pastoral Care and Liturgical Ministries!
 - Appreciative theological reflection on the central doctrines and beliefs of the Christian faith!
 - Spiritual formation in a variety of cultural contexts, including international communities!
 - A technologically advanced, fully accessible, state-of-the art campus!
 - A youthful, diverse, widely published faculty committed to the Christian faith!
 - Friendly and helpful staff and students!
 - Many new scholarship offerings!
- 103.** Enrollment at United is growing steadily and we invite you to call, visit or sign up for a class that meets your needs! For more information, contact admissions@united.edu. Thank you for your prayers, partnership and service in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, WASHINGTON, DC
President, the Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

- 101.** Seated in the nation's capital, centered in Christian faith, Wesley Theological Seminary prepares over 1,000 students annually, representing more than 25 denominations, to become exemplary teachers, preachers, and leaders in the world.
- 102. A Capital Seminary** — This year Wesley opens its doors on a new Urban Fellows program at Mount Vernon Place in downtown Washington, DC. Mentored by top urban pastors and leaders, and engaged in dynamic internships, Wesley's Urban Fellows learn to engage the poor and the powerful, to meet the needs of diverse cultures, and to answer the call to applied ministry in the complex social systems of the inner-city. The Urban Fellows program begins in conjunction with the expansion of Wesley's urban ministry and faith and public policy programs to downtown DC. Tap in at www.wesleyseminary.edu/urban.

- 103. A Proving Ground for Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development** — Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership debuts two strategic tools for ministry this spring: the Lewis Community Initiative, a creative, challenging peer-learning network for hundreds of congregational leaders motivated to grow their church's worship attendance; and the Center's new online leadership assessment instrument, the Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory (LPLI), a tool for enhancing effectiveness in ministry by providing clergy with the feedback they need to become truly outstanding leaders. Check out these tools and subscribe to the Center's free electronic newsletter, *Leading Ideas*, at www.churchleadership.com.
- 104.** Wesley's Masters programs curricula offer specializations in Urban Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Emerging Ministries as well as opportunities in the arts, public policy, intercultural immersion and spiritual formation. These course options are buttressed with a rich array of opportunities via collaboration with the Washington Theological Consortium, a group of 18 partnering academic institutions along the Mid-Atlantic coast. Dual degrees in International Peace and Conflict Resolution are also possible through partnerships with American University's School of International Service. Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program extends these offerings through specialized courses that challenge pastors to grow as leaders in their specific ministry contexts. 2010 tracks include Church Leadership Excellence, Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, and Urban Ministry.
- 105.** In 2009, Wesley welcomes three new members to its faculty: Joseph Bush as Director of the Practice of Ministry and Mission Program, Deborah Sokolove as Director of the Luce Center for the Arts and Religion, and Carol A. Cook Moore as Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching. Expanded curriculum vitae and contact information are available online.
- 106. A Global Investor** - Wesley provides a diverse range of programs for clergy and lay leaders, whether on campus or online. Highlights in 2009 programming include: a new Hispanic Course of Study program commencing summer 2009; two online courses, Leadership and Polity, taught by Lew Parks in fall 2009; and Equipping Lay Ministry coursework in youth ministries and liturgical arts. Notable also - Wesley Ministry Network has recently released a DVD course, *Religion and Science; Pathways to Truth*, which supports congregations in addressing critical intersections of faith and form (www.wesleyministrynetwork.com).
- 107.** Please note that hour requirements for full-time/half-time status have been adjusted such that students may maintain their status with 9/5 hours respectively. Wesley is also pleased to offer a vital program of scholarship support for the next generation of church leaders. Interested persons are

encouraged to contact our Office of Financial Aid to find out which options are suitable for their course of study and calling.

108. **Being Part of the Change You Hope to See** — Wesley is a teaching seminary and a mission-minded community. As vectors of creative, collaborative and scholarly practice, the members of Wesley's 2009 graduating class alone will minister to more than half a million people in the course of their careers. I welcome you to join them.
109. Visit us at www.wesleyseminary.edu. God's call is bold. Your seminary should be too.

BLACK METHODIST FOR CHURCH RENEWAL

Daryl Norman, Chairperson

101. The Black Methodist for Church Renewal for the New York Annual Conference is the official caucus for the New York Annual Conference and is the advocate for change and concerns.
102. We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ and continue to give praise for all blessings. We celebrate our 40th years Anniversary as a kickoff to Annual Conference. We participated in a time of remembrance and celebration during the opening of Annual conference. We continued with our annual dinner with guest preacher, Rev. Dr Gilbert Caldwell and celebrated as original and longtime members were recognized.
103. In October we hosted the Northeastern Jurisdictional meeting, at Trinity White Plains, NY our hospital church. Our celebration was wonderful the hospitality of the host church and their pastor Rev. Jefferson made the weekend complete. Our Annual BMCR meeting was held on February 7 and 8, 2008 at Salem UMC. Our Theme: "Discerning God's Path for the Future" Our guest presenter and preacher was Rev Dr. Marvin A. Moss Pastor of Cascade UMC Atlanta, Georgia. He gave insight and strategies to fulfill our theme. Our weekend was success and a blessing. If you did not attend you missed a wonderful witness for God's blessing.
104. We continue to update our email list and regular mailing list to encourage members and friends to attend the monthly meeting. Your attendance and input is valued. I would be remiss if I did not thank and praise the dedication of our leadership team. Rev Denise Smartt–Sears co-chairperson, Monique Blount Secretary, Michelle Stanley, Treasurer, Giselle Stanley Communications and Rev Leo Curry, Advisor.

LEGISLATIVE SECTION 4

BOUNDARIES AND SEXUAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rev. Betsy Ott, Chairperson

101. The Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Committee has continued to fulfill its mandated purpose per the Annual Conference Policy, which is to provide mandatory training on Boundaries and Sexual Ethics for all persons serving in a pastoral capacity in the NYAC and to provide training for laity as available or as requested by the Cabinet or individual superintendents.
102. In the past year the committee offered the mandatory training session for conference clergy twice. The first training was held on February 28th and was led by Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards and Rev. Betsy Ott. The second session was held on September 27th and was led by Rev. Marjorie Nunes and Rev. Scott Summerville. Following the usual process, one training session was held on a weekday and the other on a Saturday so that full-time students, and part-time clergy with other jobs could attend.
103. This year it became clear that more trained leaders were needed to assure that the committee would continue to function effectively. The Bishop and cabinet are presently working to select persons who will be trained in the coming year. At present, those serving on the committee are: Rev. Dr. John G. Brown, Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, Rev. Marjorie Nunes, Rev. Betsy Ott, and Rev. Scott Summerville.
104. In the coming year the committee will assure that new committee members are trained and begin to assume leadership. In addition, the ongoing work of training incoming conference clergy will continue with the two annual training sessions. Finally, the committee will make an effort to offer training for laity on each district in 2009 and 2010.
105. As I thank the committee members for their generous and consistent leadership and support during my six years as chairperson, it is also time for me to thank my replacement as committee chair, Rev. Dr. Mark Chatterton. I know that he will do a fine job of assuring the ongoing work continues while keeping the focus on the ministry that is essential to this training. I look forward to serving as trainer and team member in the year ahead.

The New York Annual Conference Policy can be found printed in the 2002 Conference Journal with revisions printed in 2004 or at the Conference website.