

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 6

### COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Leslie Reyman, Chair

101. The Commission on Archives and History takes seriously the stewardship of its rich and varied history.
102. 2008 was a transition year for the Commission, as we began the arduous task of replacing long-time archivist Bette Sohm. The task was more complicated by the salary offered and the issues of mold within the C. Wesley Christman archives located on the ground floor of the Conference Center in White Plains. Commission member Audrey Klinkenburg volunteered to answer reference questions and Volunteer Ron Schultzel continued processing selected collections. After a nine month long search, 2009 will begin with a newly-hired professional archivist working 2-3 days a week.
103. In November 2008 the Commission embarked on two sessions of strategic planning with Anne Ackerson. Ms. Ackerson led members through a series of exercises that created a mission statement and both short- and long-term goals.
104. The Mission Statement is as follows: "The New York Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History supports the mission of the New York Annual Conference by preserving and making available the rich history of the Conference, including its agencies and local churches, celebrating our heritage and connecting our history to present ministries and future visions."
105. In fulfilling our mission we will:
  1. Preserve the official records of the New York Annual Conference
  2. Assist local churches in preserving their historical records
  3. Provide a ministry of education and interpretation about the rich heritage and history of the New York Annual Conference, and
  4. Carry out the provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the Commission and its purpose.
106. In December the Commission toured a potential building in which to move the archival records and the administrative offices of the Commission. This potential space is centrally located within the conference and has easy access via mass transportation and major highways. The facility also has some historical significance and the Commission would like to make use of that to help with its long-term goals. The Commission recognizes that the facility will require some expenditure to fulfill archival and environmental codes, but it is confident that this is not out of reach.

107. With the beginning of this new year, the Commission looks forward to working with the newly-hired archivist and the implementation of some of the Commission's short term goals. The Commission continues to work towards being good stewards of the Conference's records and historical heritage.

## **COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

### **Audrey Klinkenberg, Acting Archivist**

101. The Commission on Archives and History has the responsibility for maintaining, storing and adding to the body of knowledge surrounding the New York Annual Conference and its predecessor Conferences. The Commission also has the responsibility to disseminate the information to interested parties.
102. The Commission maintains an e-mail address, [www.archives@nyac.com](mailto:www.archives@nyac.com). It has been the responsibility of the acting archivist to respond to queries posted on the e-mail site. The majority of the requests revolve around the memorial notices published in the yearly journals. The additional queries request information about location of church records, particularly for churches which have been closed over the years.
103. There have been between twenty and thirty requests for information filtered through the e-mail address since June, 2008. These have been answered promptly and appropriately.

## **UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

### **President's Letter: from James W. Perkins, Esq.**

101. The Year 2008 will mark a year of new beginnings and hope in that renewal. We were pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. William Shillady to his new role as Executive Director. Having a long-time connection with the Society through Board membership and stewardship of its programs when Senior Pastor at Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Bill is well-suited to take on the multitude of tasks that are encompassed within the Executive Director position. We look forward to his ministry with the Society.
102. With the economic downturn, the Society is faced with the need for greater fiscal responsibility and it is rising to that challenge by searching places in its operating budget where costs can be cut, but without compromising the many important programs we sponsor. We have found some cost cutting measures, such as placing our insurance with the United Methodist Church

Property and Casualty Trust program and reducing other administrative overhead.

- 103.** Still, the needs of our constituents are many. Holding title to over a dozen church buildings means the Society is called on to help underwrite necessary upkeep and renovation projects. The Society has been involved with congregations in making important decisions about necessary demolition or sale of deteriorated property. Happily, the Society is also involved in helping with new church growth, where new building space is needed to accommodate growing or combined congregations.
- 104.** Our outreach programs are thriving to the point that the Society is always looking for outside funding sources to allow those programs to continue to grow. For example, our Children's after school and camping programs (at Camp Olmsted), under the leadership of April Callender, Aisha Campbell and Carla Maisonet, served thousands of children in 2008; however, for each child we served there were dozens who also could have been served with appropriate resources. So, one important role of these leaders is to seek help from outside funding sources in order to allow the Society's programs to expand to meet these needs.
- 105.** Under Rev. Shillady's leadership, the Society has focused on its important relationship with the New York Annual Conference, keeping our lines of communication strong, so that the Society's and the Conference's resources are used in a coordinated way to foster church growth and community outreach. We continue with the Urban Ministry Task Force, a Society/Conference-sponsored group that was established in 2007 to address the unique challenges and opportunities that urban ministry presents.
- 106.** As with many charitable/religious organizations and the people they serve, the financial markets have imposed significant challenges ahead of us. Although we had successfully built up our endowment over the past few years, the losses in the markets have meant a substantial drop in the funds that are available to operate our programs. To overcome these losses, we must turn again to outside giving sources, including foundations and, of course, individuals. After all, the Society was founded on the principle that in order to do the greatest good and have the greatest impact, we must pool our resources and bring them to bear where there is the greatest need and greatest potential for growth. For over 150 years, the Society has successfully followed this formula, and we look forward to working with, and on behalf of, you in furthering this great mission with which the Society is charged.
- 107.** On a personal note, this will be my ninth and final year serving as President of the Board of Directors. It has been a rewarding journey. I am awed by the commitment of those I have had the opportunity to work with, who see the

enormous challenges that come with the Society's undertakings and yet remain undaunted, keeping their eye on the timeless goal of sharing opportunity, hope and love with the people of this great metropolis.

**MESSAGE FROM REV. DR. WILLIAM S. SHILLADY,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO**

108. This past year, the United Methodist City Society began its 171<sup>st</sup> year as a partner in mission with urban congregations to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I (God) have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for the city, because if the city prospers, you too will prosper." (NIV). These words from Jeremiah 29:7 have become our theme.
109. But in the midst of the worst economic crisis in memory, the reverse of the passage is clearly true: that the weakening of the City has affected our congregations both in New York City and beyond in many significant ways. However, Jeremiah reminds us to seek God's peace and prosperity, and if we do, I know that we will see a genuine benefit in our ministry together.
110. This year, I was honored to be elected as the Chief Executive Officer/ Executive Director of the City Society, after having been a part of the Society's board or involved in its ministry since 1982.
111. When I joined the City Society in September 2008, our goal was to bring fiscal stability to the City Society within a few years. Inviting urban congregations and pastors to join with the Society on this journey, the objective was to bring a renewed purpose and energy for radical strategies to revitalize our urban witness for Christ and the Society's current ministries without spending additional funds.
112. We had hoped to empower and undergird our urban congregations and their pastors, specifically the eleven church properties to which we hold title, to think creatively and entrepreneurially for future ministry and mission, acknowledging that this might well take time. And we planned to use or redevelop a few of our properties to provide a new model that would include church facilities, affordable housing, commercial space and a revenue stream for the congregations and for the Society.
113. Along with this, we were looking at more training, support, and care for all our urban pastors, and even beginning to think about starting new congregations to meet the needs of new immigrant communities, as well as focusing on nurturing multicultural congregations that reflect the community of this great city.

114. I truly believed then that it could happen soon – through cost saving measures, growth in contributions from individuals and churches as the Society's visibility increased, success in our current programs, and new ventures to stabilize local churches, moving them toward excellence.
115. It is unlikely that I would have put the words "urban ministry" and "global economic crisis" into the same sentence, but in October of 2008 it became clear that this current fiscal crisis would affect us all in ways pervasive and threatening.
116. To quote Charles Dickens, "it was the best of times; it was the worst of times." And that is our current situation.
117. It is the best of times because there is a new direction and sense of purpose for our UMCS ministry together in the New York metropolitan region. There are exciting things taking place in many of our congregations in a multitude of programs and outreach that care for the spiritually thirsting, the hungry, the unemployed, and the homeless. The greater needs that exist during this economic crisis in our city will call for churches to respond to Christ's call to care for the least, the last, and the lost and will provide a new spirit and vitality to congregations as they focus on mission and not simply internal program and worship.
118. But at the same time, we have experienced a financial freefall and it is hard to visualize where the bottom might end up. Will the fundamentals and foundations be destroyed?
119. It is the worst of times, given the economic challenges we face in our country and around our world. The continuing bad news of the state of the economy creates a major crisis for all of our congregations, the Society, the New York Annual Conference, and our global church.
120. There will be some congregations that will survive this crisis. There will be some that will become vital centers of caring and healing that can only attract new members and committed people to the community.
121. And then, there will be some churches that might need to close. Urban congregations that were barely surviving during a relatively stable economic environment simply may not be able to overcome this crisis.
122. Yes, the brutal fact is that the economic foundations have been shaken and no one can do business as in the past. Can the City Society survive? Can something new arise like the phoenix from the ashes?

123. While we cannot change overnight, the current crisis does provide an opportunity for strategic thinking and bold Christian entrepreneurial imagination.
124. This challenge reflects deeper individual and global shifts that need to reshape what we do in the future, moving us to rethink who we are and what we do as the United Methodist Church. As we find new ventures in ministry in the urban context, our mission as the Society will change dramatically over the next few years.
125. We are being given an opportunity to position ourselves well for promising new paths of service to Christ and his Kingdom in the years ahead, and as partners with the New York Annual Conference and its ministry to New York City.
126. I am grateful that we have in place a creative and dependable team that will help us to move ahead. Ms. April Callender, Associate Executive Director, Ms. Trudy Grove, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Aisha Campbell, Director of Children's Programs, Ms. Leticia Saa Johnson, Office Manager and Young Huh, Bookkeeper, have welcomed me into the office and have worked with me to understand the many facets of our programs. We said goodbye to our receptionist, Courtney Jones Heywood, who left to attend graduate school. In our movement toward fiscal stability, this position was not filled.
127. Along with James Perkins, Esq., President of the City Society, and the Board of Directors, our team has carefully managed the affairs of the City Society.
128. I also am deeply grateful to Interim Executive Director, John Carrington, whose friendship and advice have been critical to my new role.
129. And equally important are those visionary individuals and churches that provide financial support for the wonderful work of the United Methodist City Society outlined later in this report. We depend on those gifts and are most grateful for them.

## **A MINISTRY OF GOOD STEWARDS: THE CITY SOCIETY RESPONDS TO THE FINANCIAL CRISIS**

### **THE ENDOWMENT**

130. The roots of the City Society's current fiscal problems can be found in the past. For the last 25 to 30 years, the Society has funded almost everything through endowment income and by the selling of appreciated securities. When securities have not appreciated, the Society simply has invaded the endowment principal.

131. The annual donation revenue stream from United Methodist churches and individuals has varied between 1% and 10% of the overall budget for the last 20 years. Apart from years when the Society received foundation grants or bequests, which are usually restricted, the revenue has come from the endowment or selling property.
132. While the balance sheet in our annual financial report shows \$27,000,000 (based on an estimate of our 2008 year end consolidated balance sheet), the reality is that property values are included in this figure and many funds are restricted.
133. Because of the market decline of our endowment in 2008 we will need to find new funding streams for our budget of 1.5 million dollars.
134. **UMCS SPENDING**  
Annual financial support to congregations and programs through mission grants and insurance payments totals nearly \$500,000 of budget. The other parts of our budget provide the administrative support to all of our programs through the time and talent of the staff. To operate our organization and its subsidiaries is a necessary expenditure for the transformation of lives.
135. Yet even as the Society's endowment is shrinking, the city economic crisis means that individuals and communities are turning once again to congregations as the front lines for meeting human need. Congregations — like the people they serve — are challenged to do more with less. Now is a time for all to reexamine and refocus on core missions and seek out new and creative ways to contribute our best gifts to meet what will surely be greatly increased need.
136. In addition, the 11 church buildings to which the Society holds title, the Five Points Mission ownership of Olmsted Center, the Anchor House and our apartment buildings will continue to deteriorate and more capital projects will be necessary.
137. New, exciting ideas for creative ways to utilize the Society's urban properties for building new structures, combining space for congregations along with other mixed usage have been put on hold, as have most real estate projects in New York City.
138. The City Society is reacting to this fiscal reality by working to control expenses — in some cases, making hard decisions — always mindful to preserve the core of support to ministries and congregations in the metropolitan region.
139. During this crisis, the Society will continue to strive to fulfill its historic mission: provide helpful and creative programs for children, for youth, for the hungry,

and the addicted; respond with resources to congregations in need; and be a supportive partner with pastors and congregations who provide vital services to God's people.

- 140.** In light of the Society's financial peril, we have embarked upon the Nonprofit Finance Fund's Nonprofit Business Analysis (NBA), funded by the Clark Foundation. This in-depth exploration of the Society's financial history will provide a report to the board about the financial strengths and weaknesses over a multi-year period. The report will provide guidance on ways to balance financial management with mission-driven priorities, clarify the critical need to plan for future funding and analyze the true costs of our many programs.

**141. DONATIONS**

We recognize that the Society has a perception problem. Many in the New York Annual Conference, including member churches and a large portion of pastors think of the City Society as a wealthy source of funds to bail them out of difficulty. Many believe that UMCS is funded through the World Service and Conference Benevolence line of the Conference apportionments.

- 142.** Because of this misperception, in 2008 support from United Methodist congregations to the UMCS general work was only \$27,132. Another \$14,756 was given support Camp Olmsted. While very grateful for these gifts, the Society is in need of a far higher level of contributions.

- 143.** Only 47 out of the more than 450 churches of the Annual Conference financially support the Society or Five Points Mission, although others may support Anchor House or Far Rockaway directly. And, of course, the current economic reality has caused many of our churches to reduce their outreach funds. These donated funds amount to only 1.8% of our overall budget.

- 144.** On the other hand, the members of the City Society Board have risen to the challenge and set an example by contributing over \$30,000 in 2008. This represents a 98% participation rate by our board members in our annual campaign and the most ever given.

- 145.** Many individuals contributed to the general work of the Society in response to mailings and solicitations. These funds totaled \$17,210.

**146. CONCLUSION**

With declining values, less dividend and interest income, and minimal donations, the temptation is to continue to invade the endowment principal as in the past. However, in that scenario the United Methodist City Society will cease to remain solvent in ten to twelve years' time.

147. In order to survive, the Society must work more diligently to help dispel the myths about the assets of the City Society, significantly increase donations, and continue to find ways to reduce costs.
148. **A MINISTRY OF CARING FOR CHILDREN**  
*“Jesus said, Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” Matthew 19:14*
149. **UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**  
The City Society traces its roots to a Sunday School Society formed over 170 years ago whose purpose was to provide education for children who could not afford it. The City Society continues its commitment to supporting year round services for children and youth. Our current work includes:
150. **UMCS AFTER-SCHOOL INITIATIVE**  
This initiative provides assistance to churches in the development, management and operation of after-school programs. Through this foundation-funded project, the City Society helps churches develop management systems, prepare program plans, secure staff and volunteers, examine fiscal operations, fund additional program activities and identify potential program partners.
151. The programs under the City Society umbrella are located in some of the neediest communities in New York City, most of which do not have adequate programs to support the needs of children and youth. Currently, there are nine churches in the project serving over 1,500 children.
152. In 2008, the UMCS Children’s Program provided financial support for the following services – piano lessons by the Piano School of New York; student interns from the CUNY Federal Work-Study program; counseling services for students with behavioral problems; drama, photography and dance classes which allowed students to express their creativity; and tickets to shows and sports events which allowed children to be exposed to a broader NYC experience. The City Society also provides training for program staff and sponsors quarterly networking meetings for program directors to share information and discuss best practices.
153. Funding of the after-school programs in 2008 has been provided through a generous grant of \$50,000 from the Clark Foundation.
154. **Head Start**  
The City Society has been involved in providing Head Start program services since 1966. The goal of the Head Start program is to provide preschool children from lower socio-economic backgrounds with additional support that will prepare them for success when they attend public school.

155. Our Head Start programs offer activities that are designed to assist children between the ages of 3 and 5 years in the development of their social, emotional, academic and motor skills. The Head Start model also puts an emphasis on parental involvement, community partnerships and in-kind donations.
156. Currently, the City Society manages two programs — one located at Christ UM Church in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn (which serves 98 children) and the other at the Joseph Di Marco Child Care Center in Long Island City (which serves 30 children).
157. The City Society receives funding for these programs from the Administration for Children’s Services of New York City and the Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsored by the New York State Department of Health.
158. **SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAMS**  
The Summer Task Force of the City Society provides program assistance and financial support to local churches that operate summer day camp and vacation bible school programs.
159. The Task Force awards grants to programs on an annual basis through an application process. Award amounts are based on community need, proposed program activities, program length and number of children served and range from \$500 - \$2,000 per church.
160. In 2008 we provided funding for 15 churches serving 1,000 children. Grant recipients also participated in a field day event in July at Pelham Bay Park. New to the program in 2008 was the opportunity for camp groups to go to Camp Olmsted for the day or attend the New York Liberty Women Basketball Team Camp Day event at Madison Square Garden.
161. **CAMP OLMSTED**  
Camp Olmsted opened in 1901 as the Olmsted Fresh Air Home of Five Points Mission in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York. The purpose of the camp was to serve as a “vacation” away from the depressed living conditions in New York City. The 21-acre piece of land that became Camp Olmsted was given to Five Points Mission by Sara and John Olmsted. Today Camp Olmsted, which is part of the camp and retreat program at Olmsted Center, sits on 78 acres of land and continues to serve children and families from the communities in and around New York City.
162. The Olmsted sleep-away camp program serves boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13 years and often provides the first opportunity these children have to experience a rural environment. During our two week program sessions, campers enjoy swimming, hiking, art, dance, drama, reading,

science, sports and ropes challenge course activities. They learn how to cook in kiddies' kitchen, they put on dramatic performances, they learn new skills and most importantly they make friends and build relationships that last a lifetime. In 2008 the program at Olmsted served 300 children in the traditional camping program and an additional 100 children during two day camp events in August.

**163. Olmsted Retreat Program**

Olmsted Center offers facilities for church groups, not-for-profit organizations, schools and families to host retreats, confirmation classes, youth meetings, reunions and other gatherings.

**164.** Our year-round facilities include the Manor House, the largest facility, which can accommodate 30 people; the Victorian style Kirkwood House, which can accommodate up to twenty people and is perfect for smaller groups and personal retreats; and three cabins which can accommodate up to 23 persons each and offers a more rustic experience.

**165.** In 2008 a total of 1,890 persons participated in retreat programs at Olmsted Center. These persons represented 19 United Methodist groups with 452 persons, 15 groups from other denominations with 371 persons, 9 not-for-profit organizations with 381 persons, 4 school groups with 620 persons and 14 families with 66 persons.

**166.** In October 2008 we began the renovation and expansion of our dining hall. This project was our fifth in partnership with the NOMADS (Nomads On A Mission Active in Divine Service), a United Methodist group that provides volunteer service work around the country. At the completion of this project in Fall 2009, the Lindsley Dining Hall will have nearly doubled in size and the result will be a more energy efficient space that can accommodate larger groups.

**167.** Olmsted Center is managed by Five Points Mission, a subsidiary of the United Methodist City Society.

**A MINISTRY OF CARING FOR THOSE WITH ADDICTIONS**

*"Lord when did we see you sick and in prison" –Matthew 25:44*

**168. ANCHOR HOUSE**

*This hope we have as an anchor of the soul a hope both sure and steadfast. (Hebrews 6:19)*

**169.** The programs of Anchor House, so named because they provide residents with an "anchor" in a safe harbor from which to fight the destructiveness of

substance abuse, offer a holistic faith-based approach to recovery and self sufficiency.

- 170.** The Anchor House model provides an 18 month program which includes individual and group counseling, psychological assessment, vocational counseling and recreation. The integration of these activities with the spiritual base and religious teachings strengthen and empower the individuals we serve.
- 171.** One of the goals of the Anchor House program is to provide our brothers and sisters in residence with the tools and skills to lead meaningful, productive lives upon graduation from the program. Residents are taught basic computer and literacy skills, resume writing and interview techniques. Prior to graduation a resident must demonstrate that he/she is drug free, has secured employment, is financially independent and has identified a stable residence.
- 172.** The men's program of Anchor House has been in operation since the early 1960s when Rev. Alfredo Cotto-Thorner responded to what he saw as a drug abuse epidemic in Brooklyn. The program began on Park Place, but in 1996 the Men's Program moved to a newly renovated facility which currently serves up to 50 men. The women's program began in 1997 after the Park Place facility was no longer needed for the men's program. During 2006-2007, the women's facility underwent a major renovation. This program now serves up to 28 women
- 173.** Rev. Henry Lopez has been the director of the program for nearly 25 years. Rev. Lopez graduated from Teen Challenge in 1977. In addition to degrees in counseling, Rev. Lopez is a certified addiction specialist with the New York Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services since 1994. He goes to many different churches to share the Good News of transformation through our Anchor House program.
- 174.** Both programs have experienced funding cutbacks from the government during this difficult economic time. We are very hopeful to increase our programs to full capacity in the year 2009.
- 175. A MINISTRY OF CARING FOR THE HUNGRY**  
*"Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty..." Matthew 25:44*
- 176. FAR ROCKAWAY MISSION**  
The United Methodist Mission at Far Rockaway provides hot meals five days a week and a food pantry twice a week. During 2008 the Mission's food pantry program served 16,025 people, of which 4,126 were children and 3,002 were the elderly. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 120 Bags of both perishable and non-perishable food items are given out to these individuals

and families. The soup kitchen also served 15,105 individuals during the year, providing 290 hot meals each week.

177. The Mission at Far Rockaway provides referrals to community based social services. The program also offers employment to the mentally challenged two days a week to assist in the food pantry program.
178. The Mission sponsors special holiday events at Christmas and Thanksgiving, including programs for children such as the back to school luncheon, where new school supplies are provided; Easter basket project; and Christmas present program.
179. The year 2008 was a time of transition, as the Mission experienced staff changes. Our interim director, Mearl Grant, is a retired corrections officer with a big heart. He has thrown his heart and soul into caring for God's children in Far Rockaway. Mr. Denis Stewart, as board president, has been a partner with Mr. Grant in making sure the mission has operated as best it could under these transitional circumstances.
180. During 2009, the Mission will move from its current location to a better location in Far Rockaway.

#### **181. A MINISTRY OF CARING FOR THE IMMIGRANT**

##### **JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON)**

182. The City Society also provides support and assistance to other community based projects throughout the New York Annual Conference. One such project is Justice for Our Neighbors.
183. A network of church-based, volunteer-supported law clinics, JFON provides free legal advice and representation to vulnerable, low-income immigrants in New York City. It is an interfaith collaboration that serves immigrants of all faiths, races, and ethnicities, in all five boroughs, at three church-based offices.
184. JFON is a project of the New York Annual Conference and represents the local branch of a national immigration project of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). There are 22 locally supported JFON projects, including clinics in Texas, Michigan, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Iowa, and Nebraska.

#### **185. A MINISTRY OF CARING FOR PASTORAL LEADERS**

*So keep my words in your mind as the pattern of sound teaching, given to you in the faith and love of Jesus Christ. Take the greatest care of the good*

*things which were entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. 2 Timothy 1:13-14*

- 186.** The City Society awards scholarships to persons who are planning to be in urban ministry settings. There is an application process and our Scholarship Committee selects the winners. In 2008, the committee awarded eight scholarships ranging in amounts from \$500 to \$2000. The recipients were Victoria Kittoe, Marilyn Jolley, Simeon Law, Bernadette Logan, Lynn Daniel-Peterson, Sharon Petgrave-Cundy, Marcia Tatem, Marva Usher-Kerr.
- 187.** We hope to announce the scholarship winners at Annual Conference.
- 188. A MISSION OF CARING FOR PROPERTY**  
<sup>13</sup> *“Therefore stay alert, because you do not know the day or the hour. <sup>14</sup>For it is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. Matthew 25: 14*
- 189.** The City Society holds title to eleven churches, two apartment buildings, Olmsted Center, one of the Anchor house properties, and two cemetery plots, working to be good stewards of these properties. Rev. Shillady visited all these sites and has seen the level of care and loving stewardship that has been maintained by each local congregation that uses these facilities.
- 190.** In 2008, The Park Avenue Trust Fund provided a grant of \$25,000 to contract with an engineering firm to provide reports that will help in planning for capital projects and necessary expenditures over the next few years.
- 191.** We share a few of our good steward stories:
- 192.** San Pablo/People’s  
 The sale of the City Society building which housed the People’s United Methodist Church resulted in \$5 million for the endowment. After early disruptions caused by the move of the People’s congregation to the San Pablo congregation a few blocks away, all three partners, the San Pablo congregation, the People’s congregation and the City Society have worked well at rebuilding trust and relationships. And the Society has made a commitment to for future assistance and help.
- 193.** The City Society thanks Pastor Sara Guion-Ortiz and Pastor Dillion Burgin for the spirit of team building and excitement, demonstrating what can happen as two congregations share the same facility. The City Society is continuing its plan to rehabilitate the San Pablo facility, including some long overdue repairs, a handicap accessibility lift and upgrade of electrical systems.

194. The People's congregation will receive a yearly grant for their work to make up for the lost income when their building was sold.
195. Salem House  
In 2006, the United Methodist City Society and Salem United Methodist Church in partnership with "Phipps Houses" broke ground on the construction of "Salem House".
196. Salem House, a seven story apartment building located on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard between West 129<sup>th</sup> and 130<sup>th</sup> streets, was occupied fully by September of 2008. This affordable rental housing program provides for forty-eight (48) families within the Harlem community. Salem House also includes a Community Room for residents of the building and retail/community rental space which is still being rented.
197. The City Society will transfer the title and operation of Salem House directly to Salem United Methodist Church in the near future. This will be a special celebration.
198. Grace Church Apartments  
2008 saw the purchase of floors 3 through 9 of the Grace Church Apartments at 123 West 104<sup>th</sup> Street, which had been owned by an investment group who had received tax credits when the building was built. The expiration of those credits opened the possibility that the City Society could purchase the floors and thereby own the entire building.
199. At the time of the original building in 1991, it was the vision of John Carrington and the Board of UMCS to set aside the developer's fee they had received specifically for the future purchase of these floors. In 2008, the cost of this purchase was approximately \$250,000 including all fees and taxes. We are thrilled at being the sole owner.
200. **SUMMARY**
201. As we attempt to be good stewards of our properties and our endowment, we finalize our total budgeted giving in direct support to churches and programs at \$517,626. The remaining cost of our budget is for the many ways we provide indirect support to all of these programs through staff time and leadership commitment.
202. When we think of generosity, we might look at the size of the gift or the nobility of the cause. But Jesus measured generosity by a radically new standard: the condition of the giver's heart. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our gratitude is expressed to all those who gave through their love and passion for the ministry of the City

Society. We thank all who were able to secure donations from our special friends and foundations.

**203.** We are grateful to the United Methodist congregations of the New York Annual Conference who have contributed to the mission of the City Society.

**204.** Listed below are the churches that have given to the UMCS, as well as to Five Points Mission.

Church Name	To UMCS		To Five Points Mission
	UMCS	Camp Scholarship	
Asbury United Methodist Church (Mt. Vernon)	\$ 50.00		
Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church (Yonkers)			\$ 60.00
Broadway Temple United Methodist Church	\$ 600.00		
Butler Memorial United Methodist Church	\$ 2,141.25		
Christ Church United Methodist	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew	\$ 2,442.36		
Community United Methodist Church (East Norwich)			\$ 65.00
Community United Methodist Church (Massapequa)	\$ 1,000.00		
Cuyler-Warren Stret United Methodist Church	\$ 30.00		
Darien United Methodist Church		\$ 800.00	
Farmingdale United Methodist Church	\$ 1,000.00		
First United Methodist Church (Oceanside)	\$ 100.00		
Floral Park United Methodist Church	\$ 150.00		
Glendale United Methodist Church	\$ 150.00		
Grace United Methodist Church (St. Albans)	\$ 1,463.99		
Grace United Methodist Church (Valley Stream)	\$ 800.00		
Gace UMC Women (Valley Stream)		\$ 250.00	
Hempstead United Methodist Church	\$ 1,367.85		
John Wesley United Methodist Church			\$ 550.00
Kaaterskill United Methodist Church	\$ 95.27		
Katonah United Methodist Church	\$ 500.00		
Knickerbocker United Methodist Church	\$ 50.00		
Lake Ronkonkoma United Methodist Church	\$ 220.00		
Lexington United Methodist Church	\$ 100.00		
Madison Avenue United Methodist Church	\$ 100.00		
Mount Calvary United Methodist Church			
Mount Hope United Methodist Church	\$ 100.00		
North United Methodist Church (Hartford)	\$ 200.00		
NY Conference, United Methodist Women	\$ 1,000.00		
Park Avenue United Methodist Church	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,881.00
People's United Methodist Church (Long Island City)	\$ 513.34		
Reservoir United Methodist Women	\$ 50.00		
Saint James United Methodist Church (Lynbrook)	\$ 300.00		
Sea Cliff United Methodist Church	\$ 866.00		
Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church	\$ 50.00		
Stevens Memorial Methodist Church: United Methodist Women	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00	
Summerfield United Methodist Church (Port Chester)	\$ 100.00		
Trinity United Methodist Church (Morrisania)	\$ 15.00		
Union United Methodist Church (Brooklyn)	\$ 280.00		
Union United Methodist Church (East Northport)	\$ 747.60		
United Methodist Church of Huntington-Cold Spring	\$ 250.00		
United Methodist Church of Hyde Park			\$ 100.00
United Methodist Church of Islip	\$ 500.00		
United Methodist Church of Westport	\$ 600.00		
Vanderveer Park United Methodist Church	\$ 1,000.00		
Westhampton United Methodist Church	\$ 826.00		
Woodbury United Methodist Church	\$ 576.00		
Woodrow United Methodist Church	\$ 492.00		
	\$ 27,131.66	\$ 9,100.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,231.66</b>		<b>\$ 5,656.00</b>

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE****Rev. Patrick Perrin, Chair.**

- 101.** It certainly is an honor and privilege for me to serve the Conference in the capacity of Chair of the Nominations Committee. I must thank the outgoing chairperson, Betsy Ingram for laying the kind of solid foundation that made my job and that of the committee members that much more rewarding. Much assistance was also received from former Conference Lay Leader, Bob Hunsinger, current Conference Secretary, Bob Miller, Connectional Ministries Director, Ann Pearson and her assistant, Shelley Mitchell.
- 102.** Shortly after being elected to this office I met with Bishop Park to discuss his vision for the Conference and the role that a committee such as ours can play in moving our Conference to achieve our mission as inspired by our vision. One of our main targets was that of ensuring inclusiveness in the makeup of our Boards, Commissions and Committees. There was also a need for balance in the geographical distribution of our leadership. My own desire was to make sure that the Youth and Young Adult members of our Conference were intentionally put in place across the board. District Superintendent Noel Chin, now Dean of the Cabinet, was a vital link between the Cabinet and our committee and offered invaluable service to our committee. Thanks also to the other Superintendents and Secretaries of the Districts who worked closely with us.
- 103.** The committee members themselves were faithful to the tasks assigned and worked assiduously to fulfill our goals and to do so in a timely fashion. At our first sitting we elected Rev. Esther Amartey-Amarh as Vice Chair and Marcia Bent as Secretary. And we were ably supported by our Conference Lay Leader, Renata Smith. My sincere thanks to them.
- 104.** Our committee attempted to respond to the needs of the Conference Mission Coordinator, Rev Joseph Ewoodzie, for more accountability and management in this rapidly expanding area. His is a desire to construct a mission program managed and led by individuals who are trained and who have actively participated in Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Teams. Our Committee, working with Rev. Ewoodzie recommends a change in the structure and will present the changes required and the persons recommended to lead for the approval of the Conference.
- 105.** We intend to be attentive to the various Committees, Commissions and Committees and offer assistance where necessary for the smooth and efficient functioning of all the ministries of the New York Annual Conference.
- 106.** To God be the Glory

**PARISH DEVELOPMENT —  
MISSIONAL PRIORITIES (EMLC) COMMISSION**

**Rev. John H. Cole, Chairperson**

- 101. INTRODUCTION:** Again, 2008, was a busy year for the commission, and I wish to thank all the members of the group who faithfully came out to meetings in order to make the important decisions to support our Conference Churches through our Loan and Mission grant programs. I especially want to thank our District Chairs and their committees who give us the information we need to make responsible decisions. A reminder that our Conference Web Site has date neutral application forms for both loans and mission grants available for down load!
- 102. OUR GUIDELINES:** “The Commission, which usually meets at four times a year, has 10 at large members elected to 2-year terms with a 6-year maximum. It also includes chairs of all the District Parish Development Committees, all District Superintendents, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Treasurer, representatives from the Council on Finance & Administration, the United Methodist City Society, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, and Ethnic caucuses. In the committee, a quorum consists of those who are present and voting. The Commission has the following functions: (1) Making the final determination annually for ministry and **mission grants**. (Including those requests for Missional Priorities – all use the uniform application form) (2) Making loans and grants for capital projects out of the Conference **revolving loan fund**; (3) Taking on other responsibilities as defined by the Conference and the committee.”
- 103. REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** In 2008 the Commission authorized 4 loans totaling \$79,032 to churches and granted \$14,220 in 5 capital grants. (Usually only given with a loan, our rules were suspended in 1 case to make a grant only for \$3,720) At the end of 2008, our Revolving Loan Fund balance was \$2,269,995. We have loans receivable of \$1,213,164 and of this amount unpaid loans with no activity since 2005 still amount to about \$300,000. This amount concerns the committee and the Districts have contacted these churches to request from them an offer of settlement before these loans are “written off”. Few churches have responded but we keep trying. Our interest - currently 7.25 % - allows us to maintain the fund and to provide small capital grants along with the loans. Invested funds under the stewardship of the Commission - \$305,948 - remain in the custody and management of the Frontier Foundation and include monies for New Church Development.

- 104. NEW CHURCH:** Funds available from past sales of church property were at the request of the Bishop and Cabinet committed during 2008 as follows:

New Hyde Park:	28,000	
St. Marks (Amer.):	20,00	(4 payments 5000 each)
St. Marks (Kor.):	24,000	(2000/month)
Hansen Place:	100,000	
Walden:	100,000	
Doug Cunningham:	90,000	(allocated upon request)
Hicksville:	<u>20,000</u>	(disbursed)
<i>Total</i>	<i>382,000</i>	

- 105. MISSION FUNDS:** Looking at requests from each District and reviewing information from the Cabinet about Equitable Salary and Salary Supplements, the Commission tries to fairly distribute the available Parish Development Missional Priority funds at our November meeting. The Conference budget again provided only \$150,000 for mission grants, and there was about \$130,000 available in the Missional Priority Fund – each year churches give to this special apportionment and there is generally a small balance carried over for emergencies. The Missional Priority Fund ended 2007 with \$133,921; the NYAC Churches generously gave \$116,431 during 2008; and we distributed \$97,000 in grants, and transferred \$51,054 to the New Church development fund leaving a balance of \$102,297 at the end of 2008. With the help of the Cabinet, this year' Mission grant requests from the districts totaling \$150,700 were kept almost with in the \$150,000 available in the Conference Budget (\$700 was transferred from Missional Priority surplus.) Missional Priority/EMLC Grants were made totaling \$124,000 (see 105) and some money is still available in the fund for emergency grants during the year.

- 106. MISSION GRANTS 2009:**  
**NYAC 2009 MISSION GRANTS**

<b><i>DISTRICT &amp; CHURCHES</i></b>	<b><i>Parish Dev.</i></b>	<b><i>Miss Grant</i></b>	<b><i>Missional Priority</i></b>
<b>Long Island West</b>			
John Wesley UMC	10,000		15,000
UM Cent in Far Rockaway	20,000		20,000
NY Nam San UMC	20,700		12,000
<b>Total: LIW</b>	<b>50,700</b>		<b>47,000</b>
<b>Catskill/Hudson</b>			
Kerhonkson			
Upper Catskill			
Kaaterskill			
Walton			
Middletown		3,000	
White Sulphur Springs		1,600	

Walton 1st	3,000	
Reservoir	2,000	
Kingston-Clinton Ave		10,000
<b>TOTAL: C/H</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>		
CT Brpt.: Summerfield		4,000
CT NH: 1st & Summerfield	3,600	
CT Meriden: South Trinity	4,000	
CT Gaylordsville	3,000	
CT Rocky Hill UMC	1,000	
CT Hispanic Ministries	4,000	
CT Seymour	2,000	
<b>TOTAL: CONN</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Metropolitan</b>		
Asbury, Mt. Vernon	3,000	2,000
Chinese	4,000	4,000
Epworth	4,000	4,000
Madison Avenue	3,500	
Metropolitan Community	5,000	5,000
St. Paul and St. Andrew	4,000	
St. Stephen's	6,000	
Salem	6,000	6,000
Special Ministry to Japanese	3,000	
Union Japanese (Mission)	6,000	
<b>TOTAL: METRO</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>New York/ Connecticut</b>		
Stamford, CT		15,000
Red Hook, NY	8,300	
Grace Putnam Valley, NY	15,000	
Norwalk		10,000
<b>TOTAL: NY/CT</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Long Island East</b>		
St. James		2,000
Amityville First	5,000	
First, Central Islip		15,000
<b>Total: LIE</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150,700</b>	<b>124,000</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>
<b>Amount over (-) or under Budget</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>6,000</b>

## **PARK AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TRUST FUND**

**Edward J. Brown, President**

- 101.** The Park Avenue United Methodist Trust Fund was established in 1966 to provide an endowment for funding of the Park Avenue United Methodist Church and other United Methodist causes in the New York urban area.
- 102.** The Trust fund agreement provides that grants shall be made “for religious and charitable purposes of the kind appropriate for the Park Avenue Methodist Church or the New York Annual Conference of the Methodist Church to participate in or sponsor.” Further, the Trust states, that apart from the local church, “it is the intention that recurring expenses should not ordinarily be underwritten and the preference should be given to deserving causes in the New York metropolitan area.” The Trustees have often interpreted this to mean funding for capital projects.
- 103.** In 2008 the Trust received income and incurred expenses as follows:

Income

Dividends	\$99,482
Interest	<u>123,131</u>
	\$ 222,613

Expenses

Investment Management	\$ 31,010
Accounting and other	<u>5,338</u>
	\$ 36,348

- 104.** The following grant payments were made:

Park Avenue UMC regular grant	\$ 52,500 *
Park Avenue UMC building repairs	45,000
Union UMC	55,000
Calvary UMC	40,000
United Methodist City Society	<u>25,000</u>
	\$ 217,500

\*An additional \$52,500 of the 2008 operating grant to Park Avenue UMC was paid in December 2007.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, Chairperson, as of June 2008**

- 101.** The Personnel Committee is a human resources committee for the annual conference and is charged with overseeing conference staff. The committee has begun meeting after a long hiatus.

102. Since September 2008, the Committee has been meeting together with the Bishop and Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) leadership to clarify its role in the NYAC. With renewed interest and energy, the committee plans in 2009 to become well-trained for human resources needs, and will be co-operating with CFA's personnel administrative division to see to the personnel needs of the New York Annual Conference. We extend our thanks to the Bishop and CFA for their help in this transition.
103. At our first two meetings, we elected our committee leadership. Kevin Nelson is vice-chair; Hyoung-Dock Yoo is secretary. Many thanks to all who are willing to serve on this committee.

## **CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

### **Bob Miller, Conference Secretary**

101. The Conference Secretary's office is charged with issuing the Conference Journal, reports as requested by General Conference and "such other reports necessary to the orderly upkeep of records of the conference." For the New York Conference, that includes "Call to Conference" documents with guidance on registration, Pre-Conference book of reports, proposed constitutional amendments and petitions, clergy service recordkeeping, communication of death notices and a various reports to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCF&A) and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM).
102. Increasingly, the Secretary's office has used e-mail and Conference website posting to reach more people, quickly, and more affordably. But the three largest projects—Journal, Directory and Pre-Conference documents—continue to be produced in hard-copy form to accommodate persons who may not have at-home or at-work access to a PC. This also affords the opportunity sometimes to look in more depth at a report and/or issue. The cost of the hard-copy versions continues to be substantial.
103. Our printing company, Triangle Press in Harrisburg, PA continues to handle our work for us. They also mail the journals/directories to recipients. All in all the arrangement seemed to go well and the costs were reasonable. It is likely we will continue to use them.
104. I commend those who serve as assistant secretaries and greatly contribute to the fast turnaround of our publications: Kristina Hansen, Donna Jolly, Evelyn McDonald, Carolyn McNair, Rhonda Mitchell, and Elizabeth Mortlock. Also the efforts and help of Barbara Vaccaro, Everett Dickson, Shelley Mitchell,

and now Jean Strong at the Conference Center are much appreciated. The fine cooperation, compassion, and help amongst all of the members of the staff of the conference are a great and continuing help.