LEGISLATIVE SECTION 1

ASIAN COUNCIL
Inday Day, Chair

101. The year 2006 had been quite busy for many Asian Americans in the New York Conference.

102. In late June and early July, clergy with new appointments moved to their new charges.

103. In July the 19th World Methodist Council Conference was held in Seoul, South Korea (July 20-24). Bishop Jeremiah and Mrs. Lisa Park were in attendance. Both were very gracious to the delegates and treated us to dinner one night during the proceedings. NYAC Asian American clergy in attendance were the Reverends Koonae Lee, Julia Yim and Gunshik Shim, district superintendent of Long Island West, who also shepherded 12 persons for one week while the group was touring South Korea. The Asian American layperson in the group was Inday Day.

104. In October, the Methodist Church in India (MCI) celebrated its 150th anniversary of Methodism in India. The event was held in Lucknow at the Isabella Thoburn College that is currently completing requirements to upgrade the school from a college to a university. There were South Asian American United Methodists who attended the event. I was privileged to be invited by the MCI to be their guest at their celebration. I was able to witness some of the ministries of the Methodist Church in India, mostly in the Gujarat Regional Conference. The Methodist Church in India has 650,000 members and has 12 regional Conferences. Six Bishops oversee the work of the 12 conferences. In the Gujarat Conference, the flourishing services of hospitals, cardiac center, center for the blind, technical schools, orphanages and nursing school, show how one conference is coping in spite of financial needs and leadership crises. In spite of all the problems faced, the Methodist Church in India needs our support, financially and spiritually.

105. Since most Asian Americans came to the United States as immigrants, the culture and traditions of our countries of origin continue to be a very important part of our lives. In serving their cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments, Asian American clergy are deeply involved in helping their congregations grow in maintaining distinctive heritages while also enriching the broader American culture in general. This crucial task for the people of faith can only be accomplished as laity and clergy learn from each other and work in mutuality. When we are led by joyful anticipation of God’s good future instead of giving into our fears and doubts, transformation, forgiveness, and revitalization are within our reach.
The Asian Council meets at breakfast on Friday at Annual Conference. It is a time to share concerns, joys, and other issues common to all. Although the Council does not have a budget, we hope to begin meeting more than once. 


May God always bless and guide us as we continue to do our various ministries to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world. 

CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS
Donald E. Collier, Director of Communications and Editor of The Vision

Activities in communication for the New York Annual Conference in the year 2006 were in the areas of continuing web site development, Igniting Ministry, and editing and publishing The Vision. 

The new Conference web site design was presented to the Annual Conference at the June 2006 session. In succeeding months the design has been refined and content upgraded in the expectation that it will become a frequently and regularly used communication resource for both laity and clergy in the Conference. Technical adjustments and development of content screening and editing procedures have, at times, been agonizingly slow. Conference event announcements are regularly posted on the website (www.nyac.com). Forms for local church use are posted in a timely manner to reduce mailing costs and paper usage. The means of responding and completing forms electronically continue to be refined. 

District web site managers were invited to a training session early in the year. District web sites are linked to the Conference site, and district web site managers are responsible for entering material onto the district sites. Other links to the Conference site have been developed; more will be added in the future. 

Web site training for local churches may be offered again in the future if there is adequate demand. Inquiries and requests for such orientation and training may be addressed to the director of communications at the conference office. 

Work with Igniting Ministry has taken two foci. A series of workshops were
offered over the weekend of September 29-30, 2006. A member of the United Methodist Communications national leadership team, the Rev. Larry Homitski, led these. Sessions were designed for both newcomers to the Igniting Ministry efforts and those who had experienced previous training. Nearly 30 local churches were represented with attendance totaling nearly 100 persons. Training for use of Igniting Ministry resources may be requested through the director of communications at the Conference office.

106. The second major effort has been support of local church efforts to implement Igniting Ministry campaigns in their local or regional areas. Several congregations that have radio ministries have received grants from the annual conference to continue or expand these efforts. Igniting Ministry resources in local campaigns have been supplied to numerous churches. These resources are available in English, Korean and Spanish versions. Many churches have explored the use of these materials without the help of the Conference; others have sought the advice and support of the Conference staff.

107. Finally, grants have been made from Conference funds for placement of Igniting Ministry television spots on local television systems. Some congregations have received matching grants for this purpose directly from United Methodist Communications in Nashville. Others have taken advantage of similar matching grant possibilities using Conference funds. Matching funds are also available and have been used for placement of the showing of advertising spots in movie theaters prior to the showing of the feature film. These matching grant opportunities will continue to be made available both from the annual conference and from United Methodist Communications.

108. The “Vision” – the newspaper of the New York Annual Conference – is published by the communications office 26 times a year. It is usually 12 pages in length, with occasional issues being eight or 20 pages, as content dictates. It is intended as a news and programmatic resource for conference members—lay and clergy—and congregations. Announcements of conference events and programs are regularly included as are advertisements for local church events that have wider-than-local appeal. Denomination and interdenominational news is carried, especially when it appears relevant to the New York Conference area. Regular features include material from the Frontier Foundation, the Children’s Home, health and welfare institutions related to the Conference, articles by consultants in older adult, youth and stewardship ministries. Death notices of Conference lay and clergy members and their families and the official conference calendar are published in The Vision. The editor welcomes guest editorials, opinion pieces, letters to the editor and submission of feature material. Opinion pieces, editorials and letters will be included with the names of the authors. Sources of other materials are listed as available. Copies of The Vision are posted on the Conference web site during the week preceding the publication date.
In 2006 the number of full color pages regularly included in the Vision has been increased from two to four. Additional color pages are occasionally used and may be increased in the coming year. Photographs and graphics (color or black-and-white) are always welcome when submitting materials for publication.

Circulation now stands at about 6,500. Contributors to the Bishop’s Partners in Mission effort have been added to the circulation list of The Vision. Reports of the use of those special funds are published in the Vision, as they are made available. Budgeted funds for The Vision are adequate to allow for increased circulation, additional color pages and increased postage which is anticipated during 2007.

COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION
Sharon Noisette Jenkins, 2007-2008 Dean

The theme for the 2006 Cooperative School of Christian Mission was “Harvesting Peace”. During the weekend of August 3-6, 2006, 234 adults, youth and children gathered at SUNY-New Paltz to expand their understanding of ways in which to promote peace during these unsettled times. The overall message was that “A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” We were especially pleased to have in our midst Bishop Jeremiah Park, who was one of our Bible study leaders, along with Rev. Gene Smith.

The studies for the 2006 school were: “Shalom, Salaam, Peace”, “India & Pakistan” and “Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives.” The studies were taught by a stellar team of study leaders in English, Korean and Spanish.

Our days began and ended with prayer and praise, starting with morning watch, moving into praise and worship, grounded with Bible study and ending with vespers.

The spiritual growth study, “Shalom, Salaam, Peace” asked, “How have we used the gift of peace that Jesus gave to us?” At a time when most of the world is involved in conflict, it is imperative that we, as followers of Jesus, find every opportunity to share and promote peace. The study leaders were: Rev. William (Bill) Wilson, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Rev. Kun Sam Cho, Rev. Lydia Lebron-Rivera (Spanish), Rev. Kwang Won Kim (Korean), Rev. Beverly Morris (Youth), Elsie Young (Youth), Rev. Glenn Adone (Youth).

Mary Stuart Flowers was the study leader for “Globalization: Its Impact in our Lives.” The students in this study were challenged and encouraged to explore the economic policies of globalization and how these policies impact the lives of ordinary people, and as “local/global citizens” to look for
opportunities to be change agents in the building of global communities in and around the world.

106. Rev. Iwy Patel Yatri was the study leader for “India and Pakistan.” This study explored the richness of the cultures in these two countries, though vastly different than our own, the diversity of missional involvement, including the witness of the church, its growth in the midst of adversity and constant change and the challenges faced by those involved in helping to bring about peace and justice.

107. The children’s instructors were Diana Collier and Patricia Newton. They spent time introducing the children to “Children of Foreign Lands.”

108. John Del Cueto was the director of the music ministry. He served as the worship leader for the school, provided music for the plenaries and directed the adult, youth and children’s choirs.

109. The 2006 Cooperative School of Christian Mission Planning Team included: Dean, Terry Smith; Assistant Dean, Sharon Noisette Jenkins; Secretary, Nita Camp; Business Manager, Dianne Adone; Registrar, Gail Ross; Conference Representatives: UMM, Douglas Nicholson; At Large: Nita Camp, Nancy Crowe and Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie; Korean Language Coordinators, Susan Kim and Lija Kim; Spanish Language Coordinators, Luz Pantoja and Edda Reyes; Ghanaian Coordinator, Mercy Addo; Cabinet Liaison, Rev. Ann Pearson; Publicity, Merrilyn Paradiso; Edda Reyes, Presidente, Mujeres Metodistas Unidas; Myung Rae Kim Lee, President, Korean Network United Methodist Women

110. United Methodist Women: President, Beverly Peck Risi; Vice President, Deborah C. Jenkins; Secretary, Ethel Scott; Treasurer, Carmen Hamilton; Education and Interpretation, Dr. Jae Won Kim; Spiritual Growth, Joan Cordani; Social Action, Joyce Donkor; Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Patricia Knebel; Communications, Yolanda Evelyn; Chair, Committee on Nominations, Olga Alveranga; Secretary for Program Resources, Sarah Sweetwine. District Representatives: Beverly Nepaul, Nelle Kearns, Cindy Davis, Gail Ross, Laura Veatch, Helena Cooks.

111. The 2007 Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be held at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. The theme is “Sing Across the Walls” and the studies are: Spiritual Growth Study: “Music & Mission”; Geographical Study: “Israel & Palestine”; General Study: “Globalization and Its Impact in Our Lives.”
HISPANIC AMERICAN COUNCIL
Alicia Fils-Aime Wentler, Chair

The year 2006 was full of opportunities for growth and for gaining a better understanding of the needs and gifts we have. I thank God for both and ask that we join our efforts to move forward for the betterment of the kingdom.

We were quite busy last year and were able to respond to the suggestions gathered at the Laity Convocation. We want to continue to respond to the needs of the people and help them have access to the resources available.

During the year we had the following:

January
22 Laity Convocation planning at South Third UMC
28 Laity Convocation at Immanuel & First Spanish UMC

February
11 Laity Convocation Data organizing and evaluation meeting at Grace UMC
24 Finance Committee planning meeting at Grace UMC
26 Family Camp meeting at Grace UMC

March 11 Annual Meeting at First Spanish UMC Manhattan

April 21-22 Executive Committee Retreat

May 20 Planning Meeting at South Third UMC

June 10 Hispanic American choir at Annual Conference
24 Meeting at South Third UMC

July 8 Concert Banquet at Grace UMC, funds raised were used for scholarships for youth and children attending the family camp at Quinipet
29 Finance Committee meeting at South Third

September
1-4 United Methodist Hispanic Family Camp at Quinipet
24 Camping Committee evaluation meeting at Grace UMC

October
12-14 Representatives of Hispanic American Council participated at the Northeast leadership Development at Valley Forge, PA
15 Laity Sunday Celebration at Broadway Temple UMC
27 Youth Prayer Vigil at Corona UMC; 8:00 p.m. to 12 midnight

November
18 Planning meeting
25 Companerismo en Cristo (Companions in Christ) held at Broadway Temple UMC

In addition to these events, the chair has represented the Council at different
Conference meetings. She also attended the MARCHA (National Hispanic Caucus) annual meeting at Lake Junaluska in September.

During 2007 we will continue to work in partnership with other churches, organizations, and ministries to be able to enhance our ministry and be better stewards of the resources available.

New Officers:
Chair, Mr. Marco A. Medrano; Vice Chair, Rev. Alicia Fils-Aime Wentler; Secretary, Rev. Ricardo Rubio; Age & Family Life, Rev. Felix M. Thomas; Family Camp, Ms. Daisy Tavarez; Church & Society, Mrs. Gladis Lobato; Local Church Nurture & Care, Mr. Marcos Vazquez; Missional Outreach, Ms Laura Kepis; Strategies/Advocacy, Rev. Lydia Lebron-Rivera; Communications, Rev. Elisa M. Vicioso; Finance Chair, Mr. Oliverio Barrera; Treasurer, Mrs. Nora Medrano; Advisor, Rev. Luisa C. Martinez; Nominations Committee Chair, Rev. Magaly Beltre; Vice Chair, Rev. Arturo Maine; At large members Mrs. Miriam Canaan, Mrs. Sheridan Martinez and Mr. Augusto Reyes; School of Theology for Hispanic Ministries Chair, Rev. Hector Laporta; Cantico Nuevo Choir, Mrs. Alfida Figueroa; United Methodist Women, Mrs. Edda Reyes; Youth Coordinator, Mrs. Karina Feliz; United Methodist Men, Mr. Simon James; Delegate to MARCHA, Mrs. Karina Feliz (Hispanic National Caucus).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Beverly Peck Risi, President

101. The year 2006 saw the United Methodist Women coming to grips with Redistricting. With new District Teams in place, we forged on with our mission for women, children and youth here and around the world.

102. May 4-7, 2006, saw 200-plus persons from the NYAC attend Assembly in Anaheim, CA. This gathering of over 6,000 UMW from around the world was God-driven and inspiring and reminded each of us present why we are in the organization.

103. In the Spring, a Spiritual Retreat was held at Stony Point led by Mrs. Gwen White. June saw the Conference Team attend the Regional School of Christian Mission in Salisbury, MD. Our Conference SOCM was held August 3-6 at SUNY-New Paltz. The studies were “Shalom, Salaam, Peace - Peace in our Bible and in Our Time”; “India & Pakistan” and “Globalization – Its Role In Our Lives”. The School was well attended and a blessed time was had by all. Classes were also held in Korean and Spanish. We were blessed to have Bishop Park in attendance. The Dean was Terry Smith and Assistant Dean Sharon Noisette-Jenkins.

104. Our Annual Meeting was held at Catskill UMC, on Saturday, October 28. Approximately 300 women attended, traveling in heavy rain from all the areas
of our Conference. This day was truly marvelous and the Spirit of the Lord permeated the event.

105. At Assembly, the Women Division had requested Prayer Shawls. There were some 1,500 made by UMW members across the country. These shawls were then divided up and sent to each Conference in time for their Annual Meeting. We received 30 shawls and after displaying them on the altar at the Meeting, they were distributed to the Brooklyn United Methodist Home, the Methodist Home in Riverdale and the Connecticut District UMW for distribution in their area. A number of individuals with health problems were also given a Prayer Shawl.

106. The Conference Team consists of Deborah Jenkins, Vice President; Ethel Scott, Secretary; Carmen Hamilton, Treasurer; Nominations Chair, Olga Alveranga; Mission Coordinators: Joan Cordani, Spiritual Growth; Jae Won Kim, Education & Interpretation; Patricia Knebel, Membership, Nurture & Outreach; Sarah Sweetwine, Program Resources; Yolanda Evelyn, Communications. Also on the Team are Susan Kim and Lija Kim, Korean Coordinators; Luz Pantoja and Edda Reyes, Spanish Coordinators; Thora Rippens, Appalachian Development representative and Dean of the School of Christian Mission, Terry Smith.

107. Terry Smith and Luz Pantoja both completed their terms with the Team in 2006. We thank them for all their work and presence. The new Dean for the 2007 SOCM is Sharon Noisette-Jenkins. The Ghanaian UMW also has a new representative for 2007, Rebecca Adjei-Ofori.

Women in Mission - The United Methodist Women - Biblically Based, Mission Oriented.