

# New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

## *Preliminary Reports & Petitions For The 2008 Annual Session*



*The World will know us by our Love*

June 11-14, 2008      209<sup>th</sup> Session  
Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York

**Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Presiding**

Bob Miller, Conference Secretary

Not for publication in any form until adopted



New York Annual Conference  
Of The United Methodist Church

# **Preliminary Conference Reports and Petitions**

To Be Considered At the 209<sup>th</sup> Session  
Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York  
June 11-14, 2008

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Presiding

Ernest L. Swiggett, Conference Treasurer &  
Director of Administrative Services

Bob Miller, Conference Secretary, April 28, 2008

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

2008 – New York Annual Conference

Organizational Resolutions ..... 6  
Preliminary Legislative Section Assignments ..... 7  
Conference Rules of Order ..... 8

**PART I LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS & CORPORATE SESSION**

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 1**

Asian Council ..... 15  
Cooperative School of Christian Mission ..... 16  
Hispanic American Council ..... 17  
United Methodist Women ..... 19  
United Methodist Men ..... 19

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 2**

Camping and Retreat Ministry ..... 21  
Connectional Ministries Visioning Table Chair, Part 1 ..... 25  
Connectional Ministries Director, Part 2 ..... 26  
Catskill Hudson District Council on Ministries ..... 29  
Connecticut District Council on Ministries ..... 30  
Long Island East District Council on Ministries ..... 30  
Long Island West District Council on Ministries ..... 32  
Metropolitan District Council on Ministries ..... 33  
New York/Connecticut District Council on Ministries ..... 35  
Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministries ..... 35  
Lay Speaking Ministries ..... 37  
Mission and Outreach Ministries ..... 38  
Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences ..... 41  
Council on Youth Ministry ..... 42

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 3**

Board of Church and Society ..... 44  
Bishop's Unity Task Force ..... 45  
*Reports From Societies & Institutions Are Included Here For Information Only:*  
The United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network ..... 46  
Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home ..... 47  
Candler School of Theology ..... 49  
Long Island Council of Churches ..... 50  
New York State Council of Churches ..... 51  
United Theological Seminary ..... 53

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 4**

Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Committee ..... 54  
Order of Elders ..... 55  
Committee on the Episcopacy ..... 56  
Board of Laity ..... 57  
Conference Lay Leader ..... 58  
Board on Ordained Ministry ..... 59  
Parish Consultant Network ..... 62  
Sexual Ethics Response Team ..... 63

2008 – New York Annual Conference

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 5**

Equitable Compensation Commission..... 64  
Board of Pensions and Health Benefits ..... 65

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 6**

Archives and History..... 74  
Conference Archivist..... 74  
United Methodist City Society, President’s report ..... 75  
United Methodist City Society, Executive Director’s report..... 76  
Committee on Nominations ..... 80  
Park Avenue United Methodist Church Trust Fund ..... 80  
Rules Committee..... 82  
Conference Secretary..... 82

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 7**

Council on Finance and Administration, Report not available..... 83

**CORPORATE SESSION**

Preliminary Report of the Trustees, not available ..... 84  
The United Methodist Frontier Foundation..... 84

**PART II RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS**

2008-1 Corporate, “Discontinuance of First UMC, Norwalk” ..... 87  
2008-301 “An Opportunity for Dialogue” ..... 88

**209th SESSION OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JUNE 11-14, 2008**

**ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park and members of the New York Annual Conference, the following organizational resolutions are hereby presented for the 209th Session of the New York Annual Conference:

1. That the preliminary reports designated as “The Conference Program” be adopted as the order of business subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.
2. That the presiding Bishop be authorized to adjust the hour of recess.
3. That members of the Conference wishing to have visitors or other persons introduced to the conference shall arrange with the Bob Miller to obtain permission for such introduction.
4. That the printed Journal with the Daily Proceedings, signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference, shall be the official record of the 2008 New York Annual Conference.
5. That the bar of the Conference is the entire main floor and center section of the bleacher area, with the exception of any section designated as “visitors’ area”.
6. That the following persons were designated as Assistant Secretaries for this Session: Donna Jolly, Rev. Kristina Hansen, Rev. Evelyn McDonald, Rev. Elizabeth Mortlock, Marva Usher-Kerr, Pastor Bridgette LeConey, and others that the Conference Secretary may so designate.
7. That the Committee on the Examination of the Daily Proceedings be authorized to review the daily proceedings and report any corrections or exceptions to the Conference. Examiners will include Pastor Bridgette LeConey, Carrie Smallwood and such others as the Conference Secretary may designate.
8. That Rev. Robert B. Hewitt is designated as Sergeant at Arms.
9. That all persons with motions, amendments, substitute motions, etc., have such documents written or typed legibly for submission to the Conference Secretary. That all documents or other materials for publication or distribution be cleared through the Conference Secretary during Annual Conference Session.
10. All commissions, agencies or task forces which require petitions adopted to be sent to government officials or others must provide correct updated mailing labels and persons to help mail copies to those so designated by Conference action.
11. That the members of the Conference from whom communications have been received be excused from all or part of the session and their names are incorporated into the record.
12. That all persons giving reports to the New York Annual Conference plenary sessions submit to the Conference Secretary a 3-1/2” diskette, CD-R (CD disk) or typed sheets containing the text of the report before or at the time of presentation.

## 2008 NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS—PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENTS

- SECTION 1: MINISTRIES OF WITNESS**  
Asian Council, Communications, Cooperative School of Christian Mission, Hispanic American Council, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and other ministries of witness.
- SECTION 2: CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND MINISTRIES OF NURTURE**  
Camping and Retreat Ministry, Connectional Ministries Reports I and II, District Council on Ministries Reports, Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Missions and Outreach Ministries, Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences, Council on Youth Ministries, and other ministries of nurture.
- SECTION 3: MINISTRIES OF ADVOCACY**  
Board of Church and Society, Commission on Religion and Race, Unity Task Force, District Councils on Ministry, and other ministries of advocacy. *Note:* Submissions from agencies which have no reporting responsibility to the Conference are included for information only.
- SECTION 4: COMMISSIONING**  
Order of Elders, Committee on Episcopacy, Board of Laity, Conference Lay Leader, Lay Speaking and Witness, Board Of Ordained Ministry, Parish Consultant Network, Sexual Ethics Response Team, and other ministries on commissioning.
- SECTION 5: PASTORAL COMPENSATION**  
Commission on Equitable Compensation and Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.
- SECTION 6: ADMINISTRATION**  
Archives and History, Conference Archivist, United Methodist City Society, Committee on Nominations, Parish Development - Missional Priority Commission, Park Avenue UMC Trust Fund, Rules Committee, Conference Secretary and other ministries of administration.
- SECTION 7: CONFERENCE BUDGET**  
Council on Finance and Administration.
- CORPORATE SESSION:**  
Trustees, United Methodist Frontier Foundation.

## XI. CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER

### A. Conference Officers

1. **President** - The presiding Bishop shall be the legal chairperson of the Annual Conference.
2. **Duties** - S/he shall decide all points of order raised by the members, as s/he deems necessary to conform to the Rules of Order, subject, in both cases, to an appeal to the Conference by any member without debate; except that the Chair and the Appellant, in the order named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the chair. When a member raises a point of order, s/he shall cite, by number, the rule s/he adjudges to be violated.
3. **Conference Secretary** - A Secretary shall be elected at the first Session of each quadrennium to serve for that period. S/he shall be nominated by the Conference Cabinet. S/he shall name his/her assistants at the opening of the Business Session.
4. **Duties** - The Secretary shall keep a written record of the daily proceedings of the Conference which shall be approved by a Committee on Examination of the Conference Journal and when so approved and signed by the President and the Secretary, shall become the Official Journal of the Conference.
5. **The Secretary of the Conference** is authorized to edit material to be included in the Journal as may be necessary to meet specifications for publication with special concern for brevity. There shall be no substantive change. The District Superintendents shall have responsibility with the Secretary of the Conference whenever this editorial license is exercised.
6. **Conference Treasurer** - The Annual Conference, on the nomination of the Council of Finance and Administration, shall at the first session of the Conference after the General Conference elect a Conference Treasurer/Business Administrator. S/he shall serve for the quadrennium or until his/her successor shall be elected. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the commission may fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference. An Assistant Treasurer may be elected with the power to serve in the event of the incapacity or inability of the Treasurer to fulfill his/her duties.
7. **The Conference Treasurer** shall be the treasurer of the Council on Finance and Administration. As an employee of the council, s/he shall not be a member of it, but may sit with the council and its executive committee at all sessions and have the privilege of the floor but without vote.
8. **Conference Statistician** - Upon nomination by the Conference Cabinet, a statistician shall be elected at the first session of each quadrennium to serve for that period. S/he shall name his/her assistants at the time of making his/her annual report.

### B. Organization of the Conference

9. The organization of the Conference shall not be complete until designation has been made of the section where members shall be seated for participation. This shall be referred to as the "bar of the Conference." Only those persons who are members of the Conference and who are seated within the bar of the conference, except as otherwise provided, may vote, be recognized by the president of the Conference and participate in the Conference proceedings. Others may be invited by the Conference to have the privilege of the floor without vote.
10. There shall be a roll call of lay and clergy members at the opening of the conference session. The method of calling the roll shall be determined by the president and shall be the responsibility of the Conference Secretary. Other roll calls of members shall be taken by having each member record attendance as prescribed by the Secretary.
11. The Conference may be divided into specified legislative groups with such membership, powers and responsibilities as the Conference shall determine. The Parliamentary procedures of such groups shall be guided by the Conference Rules of Order and the Rules for Legislative Sections.
12. The Commission on Conference Sessions shall consist of at least twenty members, under the direction of the Dean of the Cabinet, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Conference Lay Leader. The members of the commission shall be elected by the conference upon presentation by the Conference Committee on Nominations. The Conference Secretary, the Conference Coordinator of Legislative Sections and the Host Pastor shall be members of the commission. The Commission's responsibility shall include Program, Administration, Fellowship and Publicity. If necessary, ad interim additions to the committee shall be made by the Committee on Nominations in consultation with the Dean of the Cabinet, the Conference Director of Connectional Ministers, and the Conference Lay Leader

### C. Conference Rules of Order

13. The rules of order, unless otherwise provided, shall be those of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church as far as they may be applicable. Robert's Rules of order shall govern the conduct of business in all cases where these rules or those of the General Conference do not apply.
14. There shall be a Committee on Rules consisting of eight members, four of whom are to be clergy members and four lay members of the Conference. The following shall be ex-officio members: The Conference Secretary, a Cabinet representative, and any present or former members of the Judicial Council who are members of or who reside within the bounds of the

Conference. To this committee shall be referred all proposed changes or additions to the rules of order. Such proposed changes or additions to the rules of order shall be presented to the committee, through its chairperson, by either electronic means or regular mail, no later than February 1 of each year. The committee shall report its recommendations upon all proposed changes to the Conference for decision. The Committee shall restudy periodically the Conference Rules of Order in light of changing General Conference and Annual Conference actions and procedures and shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its consideration and action such changes and adaptations as in its judgment are necessary.

#### **D. Rules of Order for Legislative Sections**

15. The leaders of the section will evaluate and prioritize the items before the section and present an agenda to be adopted by the seated members of the respective sections. Top priority items will be those with budget implications and those which appear to be most controversial.
16. Parliamentary procedures in the section shall be guided by the Conference Rules of Order. The section may vote to amend reports which are before it. Amendments shall be written out and submitted to the chair. The section may also vote to refer the matter to some particular person or group for further consideration, rather than recommending that the Conference itself take action. Amendments shall pass with a simple majority vote. Votes on amendments do not need to be counted. Votes on referrals shall be counted and if such a vote achieves concurrence of 90% or higher, the referral shall be placed on the Consent Calendar for adoption by the conference.
17. When items have been fully read, discussed, and prepared for action by the Conference, the chair shall call for the final vote. This vote must be counted. Section members may vote as follows:

#### **Concurrence (agree) - Non-concurrence (disagree) - Abstain**

18. If the final vote on any item in the section is 90% or better for or against concurrence, then that report will **not** be presented to the conference plenary session for debate. This does not apply to the Conference Budget. (See Section F Rule #36) Abstentions are not counted in determining the percentage of concurrence or non-concurrence. Reports that achieve 90% or better for or against concurrence shall be listed on the Consent Calendar, and presented to the conference for adoption as a group. Before the vote on the Consent calendar is taken, the Bishop shall entertain motions to remove items for debate or amendment. Any member making such a motion, after a second, will be given two minutes to present the rationale for removing the item. The chairperson or representative of the Legislative Section will then be given two minutes to explain the action of the section, after which the vote to remove the item will be taken. A simple majority vote of the conference is needed for removal and presentation to the body for debate and action at the end of the agenda for section reports.
19. Members of the section may prepare a minority report if fifteen (15) members are willing to sign the minority report. Minority reports must **not** be simply the reverse of the majority report, but must offer a substantial revision of the majority report. A minority report which simply wishes to defeat the report may express itself in plenary debate, and vote **AYO** on the report. The person organizing a minority report must inform the Legislative Section Leaders by the end of the Section meeting. A minority report shall be submitted in writing to the Section Leadership and will be printed in the Legislative Section report pages.
20. Only those persons assigned to the section may speak or vote in the section. By common consent or by vote, the section may grant the courtesy of the floor to another person, for the purpose of bringing additional information or expertise to the attention of the section. Section assignments will not be changed in order to permit persons to vote in more than one section. Visitors shall be seated in sections after and separate from, voting members as space allows. Visitors shall not interfere with the work of the section.

#### **E. Reports, Resolutions, Petitions and Motions**

21. All reports to be considered by the Annual Conference shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary by March 15 of the conference year in order to be included in the Conference Program Booklet. Resolutions and petitions should also be submitted to the Conference Secretary by the March 15 deadline. Resolutions and petitions that miss the March 15 deadline shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary at least 5 business days before Annual Conference to be given an appropriate number. Sponsors of such documents shall make the number of copies specified by the Conference Secretary, and deliver them to the document table in the registration area prior to the opening of registration, so that they can be available to conference members before the opening of annual conference registration. In the case wherein a petition or resolution addresses an issue which has arisen after the March 15 deadline, then as to such emerging issues the deadline for submission shall be extended until five business days before the opening session of the Annual Conference, and the Conference shall be responsible for printing the resolution/petition. It would be helpful, however, if the makers of the petition or resolution could reproduce the document (1,100 copies) *after* receiving from the Conference Secretary a petition number (which should be set forth at the top of the petition prior to reproduction

22. All resolutions for Conference consideration shall be signed by at least five members of the Conference, with the exception of petitions from local churches which shall have been adopted by majority vote of the respective church's Administrative Board, Church Council or Charge Conference. Such petitions shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary by March 15 of the conference year in order to be included in the Program Booklet.
23. Petitions to the General Conference desiring approval from the Annual Conference shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary at least eight weeks before the convening of the Annual Conference.
24. All materials other than conference documents must be pre-approved by the Conference Secretary and shall be displayed or distributed only in areas designated by the Commission on Conference Sessions. All material to be distributed shall identify the source from which it comes.
25. Reports and resolutions printed in advance and distributed to the members shall not be read in full to the Conference. Reports, resolutions, amendments if enacted are not to be considered fully approved until the member offering the same shall have furnished a written text of the report to the Secretary. If acted upon unfavorably such actions shall not be printed in the Journal, but their substance shall be noted in the minutes.
26. Any approved petition which instructs the Conference Secretary and/or any other agent of the conference, regarding its communication to outside agents, shall be accompanied by all information adequate and necessary to implement said instruction. This information must include appropriate title(s), name, address, with ZIP or country code and telephone number.
27. Any material for the Journal not in the hands of the Conference Secretary within ten days after the adjournment of the Conference shall be held over for the Journal of the ensuing year.
28. Unless previously arranged and announced by the Commission on Conference Sessions or by majority of the Conference, reports are to be completed within the time allotted by the Commission on Conference Sessions as specified by the printed program. Otherwise action is to be postponed until the end of the daily agenda.
29. A motion made and seconded, or a report or resolution duly offered and seconded, shall be deemed in the possession of the Conference. Any motion, resolution or report may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the Conference, at any time before amendment or decision. As soon as a motion is accepted by the conference body, it must be written legibly and submitted to the Conference Secretary.
30. Persons representing other interests, not included as part of the regular Conference program, or presented as a part of a regular report, shall be heard only upon recognition by the president of the conference and approval by majority consent of annual conference.
31. When a report, resolution or motion is presented to the Conference, a motion to lay on the table shall not be in order until the member who presented it shall have had three minutes to explain the same.

#### **F. The Conference Budget**

32. The proposed budget of the New York Annual Conference as prepared by the Conference Council on finance and Administration shall be included in the pre-conference mailing to all members of the annual conference.
33. The budget shall be presented to and reviewed with the entire conference in a plenary session prior to its discussion in legislative section.
34. Designated members of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall be present in the legislative section where the budget is discussed, to provide additional information as needed. These persons shall not take the place of the section leadership.
35. Any changes approved by the legislative section in which the budget is reviewed shall be included by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration in the final budget figures to be presented to the members of the annual conference.
36. If the budget achieves concurrence in the legislative section, it shall be included on the Consent Calendar, but presented with appropriate detail as a separate item for approval by the conference.

#### **G. Membership**

37. All clergy, both active and retired, shall be members of the New York Conference. This includes elders and deacons in full connection, probationary, associate and affiliate members, and local pastors under full or part-time appointment to a pastoral charge. (BD 2004 & 602)
38. Deaconesses and diaconal ministers, both active and retired shall be lay members of the annual conference.
39. Lay Members of the Annual Conference shall be elected at the Charge Conference annually. A lay member may be elected to succeed him/herself.
40. Lay members shall have been members of the United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active in the United Methodist Church for at least four years prior to their election. (BD 2004 & 602.4). This rule may be waived for young persons under twenty-five (25) years of age, however such persons must be active members at the time of election.

41. A charge having less than 200 members shall elect 1 lay member of the Annual Conference. A charge having 200 to 599 members shall elect 2 lay members. A charge having 600 to 999 members shall elect 3 lay members and a charge having 1,000-1,399 members shall elect 4 lay members. An additional lay member shall be elected for each additional 400 above 1,400. A church's entitlement shall be based upon the membership figure reported to the preceding session of the Annual Conference.
42. In accordance with Paragraph 602.4 of the 2004 Book of Discipline, the following persons shall be members of the conference: the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, the president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and the president of the conference college student organization, the district lay leaders, two young persons under twenty-five years of age. Up to two district lay leaders shall automatically be members of conference. Where there are more than two district lay leaders, the other persons may be included in the at-large category of members from the district.
43. To complete the number needed to equalize lay membership with clergy membership, each district conference shall elect members-at-large in equal numbers from their respective districts. The number each district may elect shall be determined by the Rules committee before September 1 of each year, based upon the statistics reported at the end of the previous reporting year. The conference secretary shall report to the district superintendents the necessary number to be elected. If the number to be thus elected is not evenly divisible by 6, the next higher multiple of 6 shall be used. The number thus reported will be effective for the next elections.
44. By virtue of their positions within the New York conference, the following persons, if lay and if they have not been elected by a local charge or district, shall be members of conference: the Conference Secretary, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the chairs of the Program and Administrative divisions of the Committee on Conference Sessions, the On-site Coordinator, the Housing Coordinator, the Registrar.
45. If not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference, the conference Chancellor shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote.

#### H. Duties and Rights of Members

46. No person may participate in Conference proceedings, unless s/he is a member of the Conference, except by majority consent of the members of annual conference.
47. Reserve Lay Members shall be given the privilege of the floor only if and when the Reserve Lay Member has been duly seated as the official lay member for that session and the Secretary has been notified of the fact and has given the proper certification.
48. All matters of ordination, character and Conference relations of clergy shall be considered by the clergy members of the Conference in full connection, and the elected lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
49. Probationary clergy members and local pastors may not vote on constitutional amendments, matters of ordination, character, and Conference relations of clergy.
50. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until every member desiring to speak shall have spoken.
51. A member shall not speak more than twice on the same question, and no more than three minutes at one time, without permission of the Conference. A committee making a report shall in all cases be entitled to three minutes to open the debate, to oppose a motion, to lay the report on the table and to close the debate on a motion to adopt.
52. When a motion is under consideration on the floor of the Conference, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain, when s/he recognizes a member of the Conference on which side the member proposes to speak. The presiding officer shall not assign the floor to any member proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding, if any other member desires to speak on the other side.
53. It shall be in order to move the question without for any measure pending before the Conference, except in cases where character or conference relations are involved. If sustained by a two-thirds vote, the question shall be moved. It shall be in order under this rule to move to recommit, to divide, or to lay on the table after the previous question has been ordered.

#### I. Nomination and Election to Conference Agencies

54. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall consist of the District Superintendents, the Conference Secretary, the Director of Connectional Ministries, one youth and one young adult under the age of twenty-five (25) from each district, nominated by the District Superintendent in consultation with the district youth and young adult organizations, and thirty-two members elected for terms of four years in two equal classes. Each class shall be composed of one clergy person and one layperson from each District, elected by each District Conference in even numbered years. In addition, there shall be two clergy or lay persons representing minority groups as at-large members in each class, nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations. No elected member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible to succeed him/herself. When a vacancy occurs on the Conference Committee on Nominations, the District Superintendent of the district in which the vacancy occurs, shall fill the vacancy until the next regular election.

55. All institutions requiring election or confirmation of their trustees, directors, or other officers by the Annual Conference, must submit the names of such persons to the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Nominations in time for inclusion in its report. Such nominations shall be included in the printed Preliminary Reports to the Annual Conference.
56. In so far as practicable, members of the Conference shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations to at least one committee, commission or board. No one with the exception of those who are members of committees by virtue of their office, shall be nominated for more than three committees or commissions, or to more than one board and two committees or commissions. Staff persons of the Conference Council on Ministries and District Superintendents shall be assigned as members of boards or agencies by their respective bodies.
57. The Committee on Nominations shall not nominate any person to serve more than two consecutive terms on any quadrennial or triennial board, commission, or committee; nor to serve more than six consecutive years on any board, commission, or committee elected biennially. After a lapse of one year a person shall again be eligible for re-nomination to the same board, commission or committee. Any person serving fifty percent or more of a term shall be considered as having served a full term. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as precluding nominations from the floor.
58. The chair of each board, commission and committee shall report annually to the chair of the Conference Committee on Nominations the names of those who have not attended meetings during the preceding year. Those who absent themselves from such meetings without valid reason will not be eligible for re-nomination, including nominations from the floor. In the case of quadrennial and triennial agencies, such absences may be considered to constitute vacancies to be filled by Disciplinary or Conference procedures at the discretion of the agency involved and the Committee on Nominations.
59. All boards, committees, and commissions shall elect their officers as part of their organizational process, at the first meeting of the body following the election of new members by the Annual Conference. This may be done at the site of Annual Conference, but must be done within thirty days after the conclusion of Annual Conference.
60. At least one year of active membership on a committee shall be prerequisite for a member to be elected as chair of that committee. The terms of presidents or chairpersons of those committees nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations shall not be more than five consecutive years.
61. The Conference may elect members-at-large to any committee or board up to 10% of the established membership thereof, upon request of the committee or recommendation of the Conference Committee on Nominations. District representatives disqualified by transfer from their district may be continued as at-large members until the end of their term.
62. The Committee on Nominations shall fill all vacancies in committees, boards and commissions under its responsibility, including those whose membership is elected for the quadrennium. Vacancies shall be deemed to exist when caused by death, removal from the Conference or, in the case of district representatives, transfer from the district.
63. All nominations, unless otherwise provided by the Discipline, shall be made by the Committee on Nominations. In the case of corporate bodies primary consideration shall be given to the recommendations of said bodies by the Committee on Nominations. Nothing herein shall be construed as precluding nominations from the floor.
64. The Conference may create such special committees as desired but no special committee shall be appointed to do the work of a regular standing committee.

#### **J. Nomination and Election of Conference Lay Leader**

65. Nominations for Conference Lay Leader shall be made from the conference floor by any member of the Annual Conference. Only lay persons may be nominated.
66. All lay and clergy members shall be entitled to vote for the Conference Lay Leader within the bar of the conference only.
67. A majority of the ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required to elect. A tie vote between the top two persons shall be disregarded and another ballot cast.
68. Balloting may be written or electronic as determined by the Conference Secretary.
69. The Conference Lay Leader shall be elected quadrennially and shall serve no more than two quadrennial terms.

#### **K. Elections of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**

70. Clergy and lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected at the session of the Annual Conference in the calendar year proceeding the sessions of the General Conference (BD 2004 & 502.4).
71. Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be the delegates to special sessions of respective conferences.
72. The number of clergy and lay delegates from the New York Conference to the General Conference shall be determined by the provisions of BD 2004 & 502.
73. The number of clergy and lay delegates from the New York Conference to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be determined by the provisions of BD ~~2000~~ 2004 & 513 provided that the duly elected clergy and lay delegates to General

Conference shall be delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, and additional clergy and lay delegates shall be elected to complete the total number to which the New York Conference is entitled.

74. The additional Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in order of their election shall be reserve delegates to the General Conference.
75. Clergy and lay reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference shall be elected in accordance with the direction provided by the Secretary of General Conference to the Conference Secretary.
76. Electronic balloting will be used for the election of clergy and lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference.
77. Clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference shall be elected first by separate ballot, to be followed, after all the delegates to the General Conference have been elected, by balloting for the delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.
78. After all Jurisdictional Conference delegates have been elected, an additional ballot shall be cast, and the clergy and lay persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as the reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with the number provided by the Conference Secretary.
79. All clergy in full connection shall be eligible for election on any ballot.
80. Clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by the clergy members in full connection with the annual conference.
81. The following voting process will be used for electing clergy delegates:
  - a) A number will be assigned to each eligible clergy member of the New York Annual Conference who is a prospective delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and published in The Vision. A list of prospective delegates with their assigned number as previously published in The Vision will be provided to all voting clergy members with the first ballot; b) The balloting process shall begin during the Executive Session (clergy session) using the previously assigned number; c) After the first ballot, only members receiving 5 or more votes shall be listed on subsequent ballots; d) Nothing herein shall preclude the right of clergy members to write in the names of eligible clergy members throughout the entire election process. If these members receive more than 5 votes, their names shall be added to subsequent ballots.
82. Lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by the lay members of Annual Conference without regard to age.
83. To be eligible for election, ~~lay members~~ prospective delegates shall have been a member of the United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in the United Methodist Church for at least four years prior to their election. In addition, lay members must be members of a church within the annual conference electing them at the time that the General and Jurisdictional Conferences to which they have been elected delegate are held. (BD 2004 & 34 36 Article V)
84. The following voting process will be used for electing lay delegates:
  - (a) An eligible lay person shall declare her/his candidacy to be a delegate by submitting a nomination statement upon which s/he has affixed her/his signature. The nomination statement is to be on one side of an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper, and submitted to the Conference Secretary by April 1 of the year elections are to be held. Each nomination statement shall be accompanied by a biographical sketch not to exceed one side of an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper. In addition, each nomination of a person not a lay member of Annual Conference shall be accompanied by a certification from the nominee's ~~pastor~~ administrative council chairperson or church board chairperson verifying that the nominee meets the membership and activity requirements set out in Paragraph 83 of the Conference Rules. The Annual Conference shall copy the biographical sketches and collate them into packets. The Conference Secretary shall ensure that there is a packet available for the laity session preceding the Annual Conference for each lay member of Conference.
  - (b) The names of the lay persons placed in nomination according to the above procedure shall be read aloud in the laity session. At the option of the nominee, s/he may take the stage as her/his name is read. When the nominations are read, the reading shall be limited to the name of the nominee and the name of the church and district from which the nominee comes.
  - (c) Rule 83 and 84a will be in published in The Vision in conjunction with publication of the clergy list referred to in Rule 81a.
85. For electronic voting, numbers will be assigned to all lay nominees. A list of all nominees and their assigned numbers will be provided to all lay members with the first ballot. Write-in names are invalid unless approved by vote of the lay members of conference. In order to be approved by the conference, write-in names must be supported by the forms and documentation described in Paragraph 84(a) of the Conference Rules. These forms and documentation shall have been presented to

the Conference Secretary prior to the opening of the Conference Session at which balloting will take place, along with a request to add the write-in nomination to the ballot.

86. Lay members shall be entitled to vote for lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. If a lay member is absent, the properly seated alternate lay member shall be entitled to vote.
87. Clergy and lay members shall be entitled to vote ONLY within the bar of the Conference.
88. Ballots shall be considered invalid if any ballot contains more names than places to be filled on that ballot. To be considered valid, a ballot shall contain markings for only the number of delegates to be elected.
89. A majority of the valid ballots cast (i.e. 50% + 1) shall be required to elect. A tie vote between two persons when but one place remains to be filled shall be disregarded and another ballot cast.
90. If a ballot contains the number of a person already elected, that number shall be disregarded. Other valid numbers on the ballot will be accepted.
91. The Conference Secretary shall appoint the Chief Teller and such other tellers as are necessary to expedite the election procedure.
92. Before each ballot the President shall announce the number of candidates that the ballot may elect.
93. The report of the results of all ballots shall be made only to and announced by the President.

**L. Endorsement of Episcopal Candidates**

94. The Annual Conference may endorse one or more persons for Episcopal candidacy. The endorsement procedure must be ordered by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the opening session of the Annual Conference. This initiating action shall specify the number of candidates to be endorsed, which number shall not exceed the number of Episcopal vacancies to be filled by the Jurisdictional Conference.
95. The chair of the delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall present to the annual conference the number and names of persons to be endorsed for Episcopal candidacy.
96. If there are more candidates than the number to be endorsed, the lay and clergy members of conference shall elect the persons to be endorsed by the New York conference. Petitions for prospective candidates, bearing signatures of no less than ten (10) lay and ten (10) clergy members, shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary by the adjournment of the evening session of the day on which the decision for election is made. The Secretary shall prepare a written ballot including the names of such candidates. A majority of those present and voting shall be required for endorsement.

**M. Finances**

97. No officer, Board, Commission, Committee or Agency created by the Conference shall involve itself or the Conference in any debt or financial obligation, unless authorized to do so by the Conference.
98. All propositions before the Conference involving budget appropriations shall be referred to the Council on Finance and Administration. Those that involve program considerations shall also be referred to the Conference Council on Ministries.
99. The Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to defer action until the following year on those requests reaching the Council after its duly announced hearing date.

**N. Statistics**

100. The Conference year statistics shall be for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 1

### ASIAN COUNCIL

**Inday Day, Chair** (For information only)

101. The Asian Council met at the Student Center for its annual breakfast fellowship during the 2007 New York Annual Conference 207<sup>th</sup> Session at Hofstra University. It has become a tradition to share news and concerns on what is happening to our churches and with our lives as we continue our various ministries.
102. Regular participants of this gathering are clergy and laity Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, South Asian Americans and Korean Americans. Most Asian American clergy, including some Korean Americans, have cross cultural/cross racial appointments.
103. There are Asian Americans going to General Conference representing New York Conference. They are: Constance Pak (clergy) and Chan Gillham (laity). Going to Jurisdictional Conference (also General Conference alternates) are Jaewon Kim (laity), Gunshik Shim and Takayuki Ishii (both clergy). Jurisdictional reserves are Inday Day (laity) and Kun Sam Cho (clergy)
104. The Asian Americans of NYAC are active contributors to the life of the Conference and are willing and enthusiastic partners in the programs and mission and vision of NYA.C.
105. Four of New York Conference Asian Americans are serving as members of national boards and commissions. Rev. Taka Ishii is a member of the General Commission on Religion and Race, member of the Personnel Committee. Inday Day is a member of the Commission on General Conference as vice-chair for Futuring. Inday is also a member of the Connectional Table, representing the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM). Lum Lee is serving on the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and Rev. Gunshik Shim is serving on the Commission on Central Conference Affairs. On the Conference level, Rev. KunSam Cho is co-chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Two Korean Americans are leading the Conference: Bishop Jeremiah Park, our Episcopal leader and Rev. Gunshik Shim, Superintendent of Long Island West District. National staff Glory Dharmaraj is a program executive of the Women's Division in New York City.
106. Appreciation to the following for their faithfulness in coming to the breakfast fellowship... Clergy: Taka Ishii, Mel Kawakami, Roxanna Yuen, Moshing Yuen, James Law, Jin Kim, Kyongnak Kim, Avelio de Leon, Ferdinand Serra, Jacob Dharmaraj, Snehlata Patel, Iwy Patel Yatri, KunSam Cho., Jin Choi, Hea Young Park. Laity: Arthur Ng, Stella Law, Jaewon Kim, Mr. Yatri, Inday Day, Sophia Lee Jedzinak and other laity and clergy I may have omitted to mention here. Rev. R. Randy Day came to talk about mission work in Asia by the General Board of Global Ministries and answer questions. It was well received.
107. May God always bless and guide us as we continue to do our ministry based on love, hope, justice and peace.

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

101. The theme for the 2007 Cooperative School of Christian Mission was “Sing Across the Walls”. During the weekend of July 26-29, 2007 approximately 331 adults, youth and children gathered on the West Side Campus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT to expand their understanding of ways in which to promote peace during these unsettled times. We were especially pleased to have in our midst Bishop Jeremiah Park, who celebrated the Great Thanksgiving during our closing worship.
102. The studies for the 2007 school were: “Music & Mission”, “Israel and Palestine” and “Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives.” The studies were facilitated by an outstanding team of study leaders in English, Korean and Spanish.
103. Our days began and ended with prayer and praise, starting with morning watch, moving into praise and worship and ending with vespers.
104. The spiritual growth study was “Music & Mission”. Music takes on the rhythms and languages of peoples all over the world. It takes us deep into the service which Jesus modeled - - even when life is most difficult; 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; and this can be done through the universal language of music. The study leaders were: Anne-Marie Hudley Simmons and Rev. Timothy Riss. They were assisted by John DelCueto. “Music and Mission” was taught to the entire body of the school for 2 hours each morning.
105. The general issue study for 2006-2007 was “Globalization: Its Impact in our Lives.” The students in this study were again 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. The study leaders were Rev. Dr. Luisa Martinez-Buck, Linda Douglas-Smith, Rev. Dr. James P. Veatch, Rev. Dr. Randolph Nugent, Jr., Rev. Hermon Darden Lija Kim (Korean Language), Nancy Delaney (Spanish Language)
106. The geographical study for 2007-2008 is “Israel and Palestine.” This study is designed to help the participants to learn about the history and complexities of the relationships between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples by exploring the concepts of security and freedom that dominate their lives. The participants were challenged to move through tolerance and respect with a view toward achieving a just peace. The study leaders were Rev. Doris E. Warrell, Minister Marva J.T. Franklin, Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, Rev. Jennifer Williams, Rev. Dr. James Law, Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, Rev. Dr. Kwang Won Kim (Korean Language), Rev. Dr. Alicia Fils-Aime Wentler (Spanish Language).
107. The youth study leaders were Rev. Beverly M. A. Morris, Elsie Young and George Haigler III.
108. The children’s instructor was Patricia Newton. She was assisted by Stacia Robinson.
109. John DelCueto 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.

- 110.** For the first time, a Saturday Sampler was offered for persons who wanted “just a taste” of School of Mission. All three of the studies were offered during the course of the day. Thirty-three persons attended. The facilitators for the Saturday Sampler were: Laura Veatch (“Israel and Palestine”); Joan Cordani (“Globalization”); Deborah C. Jenkins (“Music & Mission”). We also had a Mission Fair, which featured various displays prepared by our mission coordinators and the district United Methodist Women. Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie was our “missionary in residence”.
- 111.** The 2007 Cooperative School of Christian Mission Planning Team included: Dean, Sharon Noisette Jenkins; Assistant Dean, Beverly Peck Risi; Secretary, Nita Camp; Business Manager, Dianne Adone; Registrar, Douglas Nicholson; Conference Representatives: UMM, Albert Cooks; At Large: Nita Camp, Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Patricia Wager, Albert Cooks, Sonya N. Johnson; Korean Language Coordinators, Susan Kim and Lija Kim; Spanish Language Coordinator Edda Reyes; Ghanaian Coordinator, Rebecca Adjei-Ofori; Cabinet Liaison, Rev. Ann Pearson; Publicity, Laura Veatch, Rev. James Veatch; Edda Reyes, Presidente, Mujeres Metodistas Unidas; Myung Rae Kim Lee, President, Korean Network United Methodist Women
- 112.** 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; Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Patricia Knebel; Communications, Yolanda Evelyn; Chair, Committee on Nominations, Sung Hae Rhim; Secretary for Program Resources, Sarah Sweetwine. District Representatives: Beverley Nepaul, Cindy Davis, Laura Veatch, Ritinella Pyne, Dianne Adone
- 113.** The 2008 Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be held at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. The theme is “Living the Sacred: Sharing God’s Land with Love” and the studies are: Spiritual Growth Study: “I Believe in Jesus”; Geographical Study: “Israel & Palestine”; 2008-2009 General Issue Study: “Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival.”

## **HISPANIC AMERICAN COUNCIL**

**Marco A. Medrano, Hispanic American Council Chair**

- 101.** Last year was challenging and at the same time with great desire to achieve our purpose and commitment with the Hispanic American Council, with the vision of working united in solidarity with the people. Many meetings and events took place this past year. These were:
- |                                 |   |                                |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| January                         | Planning and Programming (Retreat, Annual Meeting, Lent services, etc.) |                                |
| The Lent Worship Services were: |   |                                |
| February 28 <sup>th</sup>       | Primera IMU De Corona   | by the Hispanic UMW            |
| March 7 <sup>th</sup>           | Broadway Temple UMC   | by the Hispanic UMYF           |
| March 14 <sup>th</sup>          | IMU Jackson Heights   | by the Hispanic UMM            |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup>          | IMU Grace   | by the Hispanic UM Children    |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup>          | IMU San Esteban   | by the Hispanic UM Family Camp |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup>          | Annual meeting  | IMU Knickerbocker in Brooklyn. |
- 102.** During the year we had the following:

- February: I was invited to participate in an encounter for couples, led by the Rev. Dr. Rebeca Radillo Director of the program Latino Alliance For Healty Families. This was held at the Church Of The Village. Those who atended came from different Hispanic United Methodist Churches of our Conference.
  - April 20–21: Retreat for Couples at Stony Point with Rev. Dr. Rebeca Radillo, resource person.
  - May 12: The Hispanic American Council met to work together and find ways to respond to the areas of greater needs of the Hispanic People in the New York Area. Rev. Jeannette Zaragoza, a representative of the National Hispanic Plan for Hispanic Ministries, was the resource person.
  - May 26: First Conference about VIH/HIV sponsored by the Hispanic Plan for Hispanic Ministries. This was held at the United Methodist Church of The Village. The resource persons for the Conference were, Rev. Dionisio Salazar and Rev. Jeannette Zaragoza of the General Board of Global Ministries.
  - June 6–9: Attended the sessions of the New York Annual Conference at Hostra University.
  - June 26: Dinner Concert to raise funds for Scholarships for children and youth to enable them to attend Hispanic family camp.
  - July 14: Attended the Asociación Hispana Latina de La Jurisdicción del Noreste planning meeting as the Representative of the Hispanic American Council.
  - August 31- Sept. 3: Hispanic United Methodist Family Camp at Camp Quinipet.
  - Agosto 9-15: MARCHA (National Hispanic Caucus) anual meeting, Karina Feliz, attended as our representative.
  - September 22: Laity Sunday Celebration planning meeting.
  - October 21: Laity Sunday Celebración Grace UMC in Manhattan.
  - November: Training on Companionship in Christ, led by Karina Feliz at Broadway Temple UMC. This has been very helpful. Future training are being offered to the congregations that were not able to attend the first time. Corona UMC has various groups that received training and are ready to train others. They continue to meet for their own spiritual growth.
  - December 3: I was invited to the Hispanic Pastors meeting at Grace UMC Manhattan as representative of the Hispanic American Council. This was a dialogue about Hispanic ministries.
  - Dicember 9: Meeting at San Pablo UMC to continue the dialogue about Hispanic Ministries.
- 103.** At the end of the year, I thank God for the strength received, and I thank each and everyone of the pastors, and the laity who responded to God's call to serve. I encourage them to continue to work together doing our best for the betterment of the Kingdom.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Beverly Peck Risi, President

101. United Methodist Women – mission oriented and biblically based for 139 years.
102. In 2007 the organization continued their work for women, children and youth here and around the world.
103. Our original pledge to the Women's Division for the year was \$151,000.00. We completed the year giving \$160,200.00 to Mission Giving and \$17,069.00 to designated mission. This was a total of \$177,269.00. Thank you UMW!
104. Our Cooperative School of Mission was held at Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT from July 26-29, 2007. The School was a resounding success with over 300 present, including 45 youth, giving us the best attendance for some years. Sharon Noisette Jenkins was the Dean. Prior to this event the Conference Team attended Regional School of Mission at Scranton, PA in June 2007 for training for our School. Again, it has to be said, this is one of the best annual mission programs in the Conference.
105. The Annual Meeting was held October 27 at Grace United Methodist Church, Valley Stream. Over 300 attended and, as usual, the day was Spirit filled. Thank you to Grace UMC for having us.
106. The 2007 Conference Team consisted of Deborah Jenkins, Vice President; Ethel Scott, Secretary; Carmen Hamilton, Treasurer; Sung Hea Rhim, Chair of Nominations; and Mission Coordinators Joan Cordani, Spiritual Growth; Jae Won Kim, Education & Interpretation; Patricia Knebel, Membership, Nurture & Outreach; Sarah Sweetwine, Program Resources; Yolanda Evelyn, Communications. Korean Coordinators Lija Kim and Susan Kim. Spanish Coordinator, Edda Reyes. Ghanaian Representative Rebecca Adjei-Ofori. Thora Rippens, Appalachian Development representative.
107. In 2007 two of the Team completed their four years of Service – Sarah Sweetwine and myself. We would like to thank Sarah for her tireless work. My thanks to the Team and the United Methodist Women for allowing me to be your President. To God be the Glory....

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

John D. Lewis, NYAC Conference President, United Methodist Men

101. Psalms 138, 4-5: "All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord when they hear the words of thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord."
102. Over this past year, although without its ever-present challenges, the NYAC United Methodist Men have again shown progress in establishing a continuing effort in the promotion of emerging ministries and works in mission.

103. Our 2007-2008 campaign throughout the year took us from maintaining those events well established in our history to a defined mission statement with regards to what was known as the "Saw Mill Project", in the creating of jobs and housing for the villagers in Mozambique; whereby, the men could use the power of a "saw mill" in cutting the necessary lumber and materials in building and fielding, etc.
104. The United Methodist Men of the NYAC sponsored the funding for such a "saw mill" as part of this year's mission works, which will continue to move forward in other efforts throughout not only our local communities, but the world as well.
105. We began our year with the promise of challenging the men in their commitment, not just their respect or love for the UMM, but their commitment in sustaining the level necessary to keep the organization viable as "Fishermen of Men" for Christ. We began our year on a very somber note with the loss of one of our greatest disciples, Brother Joseph Lord, our leader, mentor on both the local and national level. So much can be said about Bro. Lord, but it would be remissive to not mention the fact that he truly embodied the meaning of what it is to be a United Methodist Man full of the respect and love of the organization, but more importantly, the commitment in the purpose of seeing that its ministries and mission works will be long lasting for its future.
106. We have also placed an emphasis on Scouting with the efforts of our Conference Scouting Coordinator, Greg Holder, whose job is to create an atmosphere of awareness throughout the conference on scouting and the establishing of scouting units in Churches not participating in a scouting program. Our Scouting Coordinator has been doing a wonderful job in creating such an awareness by attempting to create scouting programs by Districts throughout the conference.
107. We are presently engaged in the conference wide efforts of getting our Men prepared for the 10th Gathering, which will be in Nashville, Tennessee in the year 2009. What has always been known as the Purdue Conference is now going to be held in Nashville, TN. Within keeping of our challenge to the Men, we expect that all men throughout will note this event as one of international proportions. In the past, the NYAC has always had a formidable presence at the Gatherings, which next year should not be any different.
108. We go forward into the 2008-2009 year with the anticipation of addressing the challenges we face, which is to create a more youthful presence throughout the organization, create more emerging ministries throughout the conference in support of the well established ones, such as our prison ministries, street ministries, again scouting, and ministries more in line to create an interest for the young men to get involved, for therein lies our future.
109. Glory be to God for great is the glory of the Lord, and that greatness through our Lord lies within us as Brothers in Christ. It is up to us as Men in and outside the Church to display that level of greatness that God has given us in supporting his ministry in the promotion of God's works.
110. May God bless you and keep you in all his glory.

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 2

### REPORT OF THE CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRY

#### Site and Ministry Contacts:

**Betty Slavicek-Gastelua – Governing Board Chairman**

**Rev. Ann Pearson – Connectional Ministries**

**Gregory Nissen – Staff Liaison, Quinipet Director**

**Terry Cianci – Epworth Center Director/Manager**

**Julie Wityk – Kingswood Correspondence**

101. The Camping and Retreat Ministry is thriving and working toward a stable foundation for ministry that will take us well into the future. God is leading this ministry and we are listening to His voice. Those who found the tomb empty on Resurrection Sunday were afraid, they knew that Jesus was alive and well, and they were called to go forth and tell others.
102. During this past year the Governing Board has also gone from being “afraid”, to knowing that God wants this ministry to succeed, and now to our current state of mind, to go forth and make this ministry work!!!
103. We are proud to report that the camping programs continue to host an increased number of visitors: Epworth 6,000, Quinipet about 10,000, and Kingswood about 2,000, totaling approximately 18,000 visitors for 2007. This increase also accounted for better utilization and occupancy of the facilities by approximately 10% to 12% over 2006. About 100 different United Methodist Churches benefited from and were represented in the program usage this year.
104. The combined revenue for the camping program went from \$1,136,750 in 2006 to \$1,363,265 in 2007, representing approximately a 20% increase. This was primarily due to an increase in the volume of school group usage at Quinipet.
105. An accounting application called QuickBooks On-line was adopted by all three camp properties and 2006 was the first year of consistent and uniformed accounting. The camps underwent the first external audit performed by O’Connor Davies Munns & Dobins, LLP certified public accountants that will be completed this spring. It is anticipated that future audits will be completed in a more timely fashion.
106. Capital expenditures for 2007 were approximately \$300,000. These expenditures were on projects required to continue current operations of the properties. Roofing projects were completed; where roofs had failed or were about to fail at all three camps. HVAC systems failed, units were replaced at both Epworth and Quinipet, including replacement of costly, outdated water heating systems and upgrades were made to reduce reliance on outside contactors. Electrical items were updated and certain roads were repaired. All of these expenditures were funded from amounts due NYAC in the amount of \$200,000. The remaining balance of approximately \$100,000 came from operational funds.
107. Planned and much needed infrastructure maintenance and improvements have been deferred as a result of the approaching capital campaign.

108. Property insurance for 2007 was \$93,703, of which, \$39,952, \$46,953 and \$6,798 was allocated to Epworth, Quinipet and Kingwood, respectively. The NYAC has pledged to pay the first \$50,000 of assessed premiums. Based on informal data, it appears that property and liability insurance cost for the three sites may be higher than experienced by other camp facilities of similar size.
109. Scholarship funds are in approximately 13 separate accounts held and managed by the United Methodist Frontier Foundation with an aggregate fair market value as of December 31, 2007 of \$151,826.76. Estimated earnings in 2007 were approximately \$9000, which are available for scholarship needs in 2008.
110. The Sessions Woods Fund had total disbursements of \$221,821 in 2007, which were used to fund the capital campaign expenses and to pay for pressing capital needs at the sites. In addition, the account had net unrealized depreciation for the year of \$5,304.
111. The Conference Trustees and Camp Governing Board have agreed the Sessions Woods Funds would not go below a fair market value of \$250,000. However, it is anticipated that some of the capital fund contributions will be allocated to Sessions Woods for repayment of money used for capital improvements.
112. The Capital Campaign feasibility study was completed by JHM & Associates in 2007 with a recommendation to revise the Capital Campaign based on projections of \$2 to \$2.5 million. A new contract with JHM has been signed to commence the "asking phase" of the capital campaign, which will begin in the spring of 2008.
113. Epworth's Major Achievements -Directors Karen and Terry Cianci.  
Epworth's river and woods are as beautiful as ever and she is beginning to see stability in infrastructure and operational budget. Seventy-nine user groups with 4,000 visitors held their retreats at Epworth in 2007, not counting another 2,000 for Family Farm Festival. UMC usage was up significantly this year with 25% of groups being UMC, 35% were other churches and schools, with the remaining number from youth organizations, gardening courses, counseling groups and other nonprofits.
114. Operational income was close to balanced (\$11,000 deficit) with retreat income of \$125,000 from lodging, \$25,000 from food, and \$7,000 from programs. Day Camp filled with approximately 50 camper weeks and brought in \$87,000.
115. Geraldine Gaudreau was added on June 1 as the first year-round employee since the Ciancis. Geraldine is serving as program director, EMT, waterfront director, retreat host, and office manager.
116. A black registered Tennessee Walking Horse, named Touch at Midnight, joined Joe, our palomino pony, rounding out our stable as big and little, black and blonde. Touch also joins our menagerie of 4 sheep, 2 rabbits, 12 guinea fowl, 2 ducks, various chickens, cats and dogs not to mention our wildlife.
117. The pool received a new coat of epoxy and operated with new skimmer boxes without leaks, a first in many years. A new water line with new curb stops was installed between the barn and the office. A John Deere 4320 with backhoe worth \$38,000 was purchased with camp and church discounts for \$33,000 on a 3-year no interest loan.

118. The district held a picnic/workday and removed the layers of roof over the Dining Hall Annex. A new standing seam steel roof (\$20,000) stops the leaks and preserves this lovely building for years and years to come.
119. Earth keeping practices continue to develop around and challenge our visitors. The second and third Permaculture design courses were run in 2007, one a two-week intensive with Geoff Lawton from Australia, and the second as a one weekend/month for easier access. The gardens have expanded and the Sustainable Farmhouse construction has begun with the laying of the foundation in October.
120. Kingswood's Major Achievements - Director Cheryl Winship  
Woodsmoke Camp for Kids had a total of 71 Camper weeks (61 individual campers, 10 of whom attended both weeks). This was the most number of camper weeks ever in Woodsmoke's history. The 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade groups and the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade groups were sold out both weeks.
121. Kevin Cox was unable to continue as Woodsmoke Director, so three members of the Site Committee stepped in to fill the void. Don Kirby recruited all the counselors and staff, Ginny Stevenson focused on program and activities, including recruiting Evy McDonald as Chaplain for both weeks of camp. Evy is pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Newburgh, NY. Julie Wityk served as Woodsmoke Registrar.
122. David Lotto stepped in as Program Director during the two weeks of camp. We had many returning counselors and some excellent new ones. Nearly all of our counselors will return in 2008. Woodsmoke graduates are returning as counselors in training and to serve as assistant staff members. We are pleased; because we believe our future counseling and ancillary staff members will come from this group.
123. Ginny Stevenson is serving as Woodsmoke Director in 2008. Julie Wityk returns as Woodsmoke Registrar. Don Kirby is working on the planning committee and will be staff cook during the Woodsmoke program this summer. The program will have two chaplains, Bob Kersten (Stamford and Harpersfield UMCs, Stamford, NY) during Week One and Dale Ashby (Colchester Community UMC, Downsville NY) during Week Two.
124. Quinipet's Major Achievements - Director Gregory Nissen  
It has proven easy to keep Quinipet at maximum weekend capacity during the prime season since the site sells itself in the typical "East-End" fashion. However, weekends only represent a portion of the "usable" time.
125. Our focus is to remain near full capacity during midweek in our prime season: with summer overnight camps, day and sailing programs and other groups. The 2007 season was a particularly good summer season with record numbers in all programs sponsored by Quinipet along with many of the groups whom we host.
126. The summer overnight camps had a total of 463 campers, which represents a modest 1% increase over 2006. Approximately 15 campers received scholarships at some level from the camping scholarship funds and 12 scholarships through the SCOPE Foundation were distributed to children for free or reduced school lunches.
127. The 2007 overnight camping program generated approximately \$199,000 of revenue, resulting in a 5% increase over 2006 revenue. The day camp program, which is operat-

ing at maximum capacity, did very well, generating an additional \$46,000 increase over 2006 revenue. The newly launched community sailing program also made an approximate \$14,000 increase over 2006 revenue, thus helping to pay for the higher cost of operating a full waterfront experience.

- 128.** The most effective expansion and growth for Quinipet lies in the school group market, since our facilities are available and equipped for their needs. Many of the services provided for schools are also attractive to church and civic groups.
- 129.** To illustrate the growth Quinipet has seen, 19 schools and 1000 youth used the property with new revenues totaling \$106,000 in 2006. Subsequently in 2007, 31 schools and approximately 1,700 children used the property with revenues reaching \$193,000. Our plan is to encourage this tremendous rate of growth until we reach maximum capacity and then continue to focus on maintaining these relationships.
- 130.** Our low ropes course is a prime example of expanded services that have helped to attract new groups and have also been profitable. The installation of the course cost about \$8,000 and Camp Quinipet has received over \$60,000 for usage during the first two years.
- 131.** At the close of the 2007 season, Quinipet ended the relationship with Aramark (the food service company) and will move forward in 2008 with our own full-time food service manager. We served 38,000 meals in 2007 – 10,000 to schools and groups in the off-season and about 28,000 during the summer season.
- 132.** Looking forward into the future...as the sites regain strength, as the Camping program's integrity is recognized as life changing, and as our usage by schools and other non-profit groups becomes greater, we must begin to consider other areas of programming.
- 133.** The first funding efforts are focused on bringing our properties up to date. Once this is accomplished, we pray that the long-term needs of additional adult facilities will be met by faith filled business plans. Focusing on adult and senior citizen accommodations will truly make our retreat centers unique. A 64-person adult retreat building is a real possibility for Quinipet. Plans for Epworth's adult facility have been included in this current campaign.
- 134.** The Camping and Retreat Ministries continues to trust in our Lord and Savior to give us the strength, courage, and wisdom to move forward to ensure that the future will hold a strong, vital ministry at each of the three camps. Praise the Lord!!!

[www.umcamps.org](http://www.umcamps.org)

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES VISION TABLE

Renata Smith – Chair

101. *'The New York Annual Conference, by the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.'*
102. The Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) continues to be guided by the Conference Vision statement as it envisions those ministries necessary for the vision to be lived out, and provides ongoing nurture and support to others across the New York Annual Conference. The focus for the past year, 'Building up a healthy body of Christ through passionate spirituality' was decided on after consultation with Bishop Park who consistently gives guidance and spiritual direction.
103. Rev. Albert Hahn, incoming chair of the table guided members of the table as well as others invited from the conference, to develop strategies that will help members of our conference develop more passionate spirituality in their daily walk with Jesus Christ. So far, the following teams are emerging: District and Clergy Care and Spiritual Formation led by Rev. Dr. Bob Leibold, Prayer led by Pastor Lee Gangaware and Rev. Maxine Nixon and Spiritual Renewal for the revival of passionate spirituality in the NYAC, led by Rev. Betsy Ott. The latter will span a four year period, beginning and continuing with prayer, and will include simultaneous spiritual renewal events across the conference, culminating in the fourth year with a conference wide spiritual renewal event to be held in a large public park. In fact, like passionate spirituality, none of these initiatives are intended to last a year, but are intended to ignite inner spiritual transformation which will in turn result in mission that transforms the world for Christ.
104. The CMVT followed up on Rev. Gunshik Shim's suggestion that the conference join in 'prayer at 3 for 3'. The conference was invited to be in prayer for **three things, for three minutes at three o'clock** (a.m or p.m.) for forty days leading up to general and annual conference. We were late for the forty days leading up to general, but included prayer for both. This seems like a good holy habit to continue beyond both conferences.
105. Another project that was initiated this year was the production of a DVD that would highlight how the churches of the NYAC are living the vision. This would be another tool with the potential of sparking excitement about the vision. It would show the scope of our conference in all its diversity while at the same time graphically conveying its unity in mission for Christ. The production team has not met its deadline for the DVD release due to some setbacks, however, it remains 'on the table'. Thanks to Warren Beaven, Don Collier, Mary Crump, Lucy Jones, Darlene Kelley, Evelyn McDonald, Shelley Mitchell, Ann Pearson, Bette Sohm and Don Heatley for the hard work you have put into this project.
106. The CMVT is helping to facilitate the restructuring of the conference youth organization, through working with the enthusiastic youth leaders and their advisors. The new 'youth network' model is replacing the former Conference Council on Youth Ministries. The new model comprises teams, current ones being advocacy, spiritual formation, design, youth service fund, missions and communications. We support and congratulate the youth and their advisors for hanging in during the lean times and for seizing the moment ...the times of transition. It has been most rewarding as we engaged in 'holy conferencing' in this ongoing process. The youth of the New York Annual Conference are focused, spirited and capable. We thank God for them!

- 107.** A retreat was held for CMVT members and those on the Passionate Spirituality teams. It was held at Stony Point Retreat Center January 11-12. Thirty nine people were present and we were all thrilled that Bishop Park was among us. It was a time of rich fellowship and visioning. Attendees responded to three questions: (1) Where do we as a conference want to be in a year? (2) Where are we now? (2) What is preventing us from moving from where we are to where we want to be? Attendees gave thoughtful and creative responses, many of them ripe for action, to these questions. There was time for passionate spirituality teams to meet and discuss their strategies, and the budget chair, Ken Mosig led us in a recap of the budget which received a unanimous vote. Bishop Park in his address to us reminded us of some of the signs of hope, and of our need to intentionally develop our faith through the practice of daily bible reading, prayer and application. He reminded us that our weakness was not in the lack of ideas, but in their implementation.
- 108.** An appeal for the coming year is that those members who did not take their place at the table last year will endeavor to join us next year whenever we are meeting, or at least send a representative. Meetings are held in September, November, January and March. Our collective voices are important. Thanks to all the members of the table for your work beyond the call of duty, for your understanding and support, and your living out the Vision. Thanks to God for His enabling strength and direction.

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES - Part 2**  
**Director of Connectional Ministries, Ann A. Pearson**

- 101.** The 2005 Annual Conference introduced a new Quadrennial Theme, "For Such a Time as This." The secondary theme for 2007 was "Together We Make a Difference." New secondary themes will provide a particular focus for each of the remaining two years. For 2008, the secondary theme is "The World Will Know Us By Our Love."
- 102.** A quadrennial logo was designed by *Todd Pick* and introduced at the 2005 Annual Conference. Additional panels were added to the logo design to represent the Conference theme for 2007.
- 103.** Bishop Park invited 1000 Youth to participate in the Saturday morning session of Annual Conference. He challenged each of them to bring \$10.00 to conference to benefit the *Nothing Buts Nets* collection. Hoping to receive \$10,000, Bishop Park offered to match the funds up to \$10,000 from the Bishop's Partners in Mission. In an amazing "moment" – the total money collected totaled \$92,000. These funds were matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of \$184,000 in giving. 18,400 families received nets given by the Youth of the New York Annual Conference to protect them from malaria! We want to thank especially Neal Bowes, Emily Peck-McClain and the Youth Design Team for this amazing event.
- 104.** Visitors accepted Bishop Park's invitation to attend Saturday at Annual Conference. They experienced a box lunch, a Partners in Mission Celebration, Youth Event and Ordination. Bishop Park closed conference with the Hallelujah Chorus.
- 105.** Special thanks to our Annual Conference Techno team under the leadership of *Rev. Charles Van Houten* for their attention to detail in video preparation for and during conference.
- 106.** The centerpiece of our table display was Youth Ministry. Interactive displays brought attention to Youth ministry and opportunities, local church and beyond.

107. Thanks to the momentum established by youth in June, plans were made by a Youth Design Team for an (annual ) event to be held in February of 2007, called *Ignite, Three in One*. Plans are being made to reorganize the leadership of Conference Youth to capture varied interests and gifts for ministry. Special emphasis in this new design is the empowerment of youth leadership. Over 150 youth traveled to Greensboro, NC, for *Youth 2007*, a denomination-wide event. Thelma Fortune Little organized a Black College Tour in the late winter of 2006.
108. The work of the Connectional Ministries Vision Table (CMVT) continues to prioritize its ministry in line with the Conference Vision Statement, adopted in 2006. To “build up a healthy body of Christ”, Natural Church Development was introduced to the Annual Conference in 2006. By the fall of 2007, 750 church leaders from 250 local churches attended orientation event opportunities to learn about the possibilities when we are a healthy church. Response to this process and the search for the minimum factor has been overwhelming. As we ended the calendar year, appointments with local churches for orientation visits number 101 churches. We have trained 112 coaches conference-wide. Churches engaged in the process are already showing positive result. Orientation gatherings and coach assignments are being managed by the Office of Connectional Ministries. The web site for the Natural Church Development is [www.ncd-international.org](http://www.ncd-international.org).
109. The Office of Connectional Ministries in partnership with District Council on Ministries will schedule 6 events related to Passionate Spirituality, called *The 3 Colors of Ministry*. The events will begin in the winter of 2008 and be completed by May 2008. Materials for these events feature Natural Church Development resources.
110. We want to thank THE VISION editor, *Rev. Don Collier*, for his years of dedication to communications to this annual conference. Don re-retired in November of 2007. In addition to THE VISION, he worked with the Igniting Ministry and with One Great Hour of Sharing. While in search of a new Communications staff person, the work of THE VISION and Igniting Ministries is being managed by the Office of Connectional Ministries, principally by *Shelley Mitchell*. Our thanks to *Joanne Utley* for her editing skills!
111. *Neal Bowes* continues to consult in the area of *Youth Ministries*. This year, Neal designed and led the program associated with the Bishop’s Confirmation Rally at Valhalla UMC and led a Confirmation Kickoff at Camp Epworth in the fall of 2007. Neal writes a column for THE VISION called *From the Youth Guy!* Youth Leader Training Seminars are being held throughout the Annual Conference, at the invitation of districts, clusters, and local churches. Attendance at these workshops has been strong, clearly indicating a need for conference level youth emphasis. Neal writes for Youth through the General Board of Discipleship. Check out the Youth website [www.umyouth.com](http://www.umyouth.com).
112. *Rev. Jim Stinson* continues to serve as consultant for *Older Adult Ministries*. He has led district, cluster, and local church seminars and is currently writing a very popular column for *Older Adult Ministries* in THE VISION.
113. *Lorrie Landry* continues in her role as consultant in the area of *Children’s Ministries*. She continues to work with local churches upon request and has presented cluster and district workshops. Safe Sanctuaries is an important component of the training for Children’s Ministries.

114. The Email Newsletter from the Learning Center has become a major tool for information sharing from The Office of Connectional Ministries. The online newsletter reminds local congregations of opportunities and share interesting and effective links to ministry ideas. The listserv reaches more than 3100 email addresses. Special thanks to *Shelley Mitchell* for her work to create the database and her creative editing.
115. Connectional Ministries continues oversight of the Camping and Retreat Ministries of the New York Annual Conference. Their report will show financial stability, aggressive program development and site improvements reflecting a preferred future. A Capital Fund-raising Organization was selected and a Three Phase Campaign is underway. An informational DVD was distributed in the fall of 2007 to bring us up to date about opportunities through camping.
116. The Budget Committee of Conference Vision Table continues to adjust its budget to reflect the encouragement of new initiative ministries while supporting active committees.
117. *Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie* continues to bring energy and passion in Mission and Outreach to the Office of Connectional Ministries. International Volunteers in Mission from the New York Conference are involved in remarkable life changing work. Teams traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi continue the important work of rebuilding homes after Hurricane Katrina. Joseph continues to train folks in the area of Disaster Relief. He travels with his message of mission when invited by local churches or districts. Joseph's "Going for the Goal" program has brought outstanding response throughout the conference. Are you wearing the mission hat? *Daryl Lindholm* is assisting part-time in the Mission and Outreach office.
118. In 2007, the Office of Connectional Ministries was pleased to partner with Conference Finance and Administration to hold Stewardship Academies in three locations.
119. The Learning Center has been the host to local congregations for event/worship planning, has increased its lending of resources "many fold" over the year and held year-round events. In cooperation with the ongoing Natural Church Development priority, print and video resources have been cataloged according to the Eight Quality Characteristics of NCD to accommodate our churches in process. The Center has been the host for councils and committees of the conference with a capacity of 50 people. We want to thank Christ UMC, New Rochelle, for accommodating Connectional Ministries events with larger audiences.
120. Connectional Ministries could not function with my Administrative Assistant, *Shelley Mitchell*. She is the "bring order out of chaos", "how to," "where is it," database expert! AND artist in residence! Did you know that Shelley designs and created the crosses we use on the annual conference altars? Shelley works continually to provide altars for the Learning Center. Shelley – thank you!
121. Annual Conference 2008 will welcome 1000 children to a Saturday morning event. The mission emphasis will be the Heifer Project. We are please to announce that Heifer International has agreed to send their animal resources to United Methodist ADVANCE locations that are support by the New York Annual Conference. We are pleased to be in this partnership for 2008.

- 122.** As Director of Connectional Ministries, it is my role to be a “listener” around the conference, to respond to the educational needs raised by committees, boards, the Cabinet and to be ever aware of the sparks of a new idea that may be developed into amazing ministry. It is my role as DCM to work with the vision of our Bishop Park and the Conference Vision Statement, toward a preferred future of ministry. In addition to my portfolio, I have visited over 85 churches in the role of introducing NCD to local churches. Within the Connection, I serve as the President of the Jurisdictional Director of Connectional Ministries (2006 – 2007) as well as serve on the Jurisdictional Vision Table.
- 123.** I celebrate what God is doing through The United Methodist Church and the pockets of superb ministry that I encounter. I see evidence of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” everywhere I go! “We are the people of The United Methodist Church.”

### **CATSKILL HUDSON DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES**

**Reverend Sara Thompson Tweedy and Alice LaClair, Co-Chairpersons**

- 101.** The District Council on Ministries is chaired by Alice LaClair and Reverend Sara Thompson Tweedy. We are grateful for the service of those who make up our committee. The active members of the Council are as follows: Diane Meredith, Rev. Dr. Duane Buddle; Rev. Joyce Wilkerson; Donna Jolly; Pastor Bridgette LeConey; Gail Erdie; Rev. Jim Moore; and Rev. Vicky Annin
- 102.** On March 27, 2007, The District Council on Ministries hosted District Training Day at the Federated Church of Kerhonkson. 145 people from around the Catskill Hudson District attended the event. Our workshop topics were: Grief and Loss Ministry, Lay Speakers: Refresh and Recharge, The Power to Forgive, Screening of “An Inconvenient Truth”, Praying the Scriptures, A Study of the Social Principles, Hymnal Helper: Faith We Sing, Every Member in Ministry, Children in Worship, Epworth as Sacred Ground, and What Does it Mean to be a United Methodist.
- 103.** District Conference was held in May 2007. There are always a few business items to attend to at District Conference, but the main focus was the opportunity for churches to come together for worship and fellowship. Ernest Swiggett preached at the event and LeLedge performed.
- 104.** The District Council scheduled a retreat at The Federated Church of Kerhonkson on October 13, 2007. Two especially important agenda items were planning District Workshop Day and District Conference Day for 2008. We decided to combine these events in 2008 so that the DCOM can focus on creating a “think-tank” to help pastors and churches remain relevant and effective in these changing times.
- 105.** We entered into 2007 with great hope for continuing the tradition of providing our churches with relevant, engaging, and spiritual opportunities to encourage personal and communal growth.
- 106.** Reverend Sara Thompson Tweedy and Alice LaClair are stepping down as the chairs of DCOM. We are grateful to have served in this capacity. The new chair will be announced at the appropriate time.

**CONNECTICUT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES****Laura Perregaux, Chairperson**

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

**LONG ISLAND EAST DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES****Rev. Betsy Ott, Chairperson**

101. The Long Island East District Council on Ministries been richly blessed during the past year and we are thankful for God's grace and goodness to the people of eastern Long Island!
102. We started out our year with our District Conference where it was announced that Rev. Dr. Allen Pinckney would be leaving as our District Superintendent to accept an appointment as Senior Pastor of Salem United Methodist Church. Rev. Richard Rice was called out of retirement to accept the position of Superintendent for one year, as interim. A Celebration of Ministry was held for Rev. Pinckney on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Dix Hills United Methodist Church with a worship service followed by dinner. The district welcomed Rev. Rice at his Service of Installation on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

- 103.** Moving ahead, the DCOM held regular meetings through the year for reporting and to give oversight to the various ministries and projects on the District. In the fall, it was agreed to use as our focus the most frequent Natural Church Development minimum factor in the Annual Conference – which is “Passionate Spirituality”. Whenever possible, our programs and events included or focused on this minimum factor as both a way to ignite more passionate spiritual connectedness to God on the district and to provide leadership training that would help churches to develop ways to inspire passionate spirituality in their congregations.
- 104.** Pastor Gia Hall, vice-chairperson of the DCOM, continued her leadership of the Igniting Ministry Campaign. In the fall, Igniting Ministry TV commercials were again aired on Long Island channels in coordination with the welcome back to church promotion in the September & October.
- 105.** Jeff James continued to work with the district office to facilitate the district website upgrade and to encourage local churches to develop websites. Jeff also provided reports on the events and activities of the U.M.M. on the district.
- 106.** The annual Leaders to Leaders workshop in January was well attended. Rev. Tammie Rae Keeler coordinated the event that included an inspirational keynote speaker and a variety of workshops that focused on worship, spirituality, and leadership training.
- 107.** Pete O’Neill directed the Lay Speaker’s Committee this year. There are 139 local and certified lay speakers on the district. During February and March, lay speaking classes were offered in three locations on the district. Basic Lay speaking and the Storytelling class were offered. We are excited that this year, for the first time on the district, lay speaking classes were given in Spanish! The Lay speaking Convocation, traditionally offered in the spring, was moved to the fall to allow more focus on the Three Colors of Ministry Event, provided through the CMVT of the Annual Conference.
- 108.** In March, the DCOM hosted a presentation on the Natural Church Development program, Three Colors of Ministry that was sponsored by the CMVT and led by Rev. Ann Pearson. This event, held at Dix Hills Korean Methodist, was very well attended and training included a morning plenary session and afternoon breakout groups. One of the afternoon breakout groups was on Biblical Storytelling, led by our District Superintendent, Richard Rice. Other breakouts included: “For Pastors Only”, Biblical Journaling, 3 Colors for Sunday School, and Radical Hospitality.
- 109.** The Habitat for Humanity project, started last year, continued to gain momentum in 2007. In October a District-Wide Choral Concert was held at Dix Hills Korean Methodist Church. Many choirs on the district contributed to the afternoon of spiritually enriching musical entertainment – including two children’s choirs. The finale was an arrangement of “O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” that was a combined chorus of all the choirs. Light refreshments were offered and with the ticket sales and other donations, a considerable sum was raised for Habitat. Other fundraising events were held at churches across the district including suppers, concerts, bake sales, and special offering appeals. At present, the property for the house has been purchased and construction is set to begin in July, though funds can still be submitted.

110. Another important project was the collection of clergy robes and stoles to be sent to Sierra Leone. Even with a very low-key appeal, numerous donations were received. To God be the glory! This project was coordinated by Pete O'Neil.
111. Rev. Pat Intermaggio reported to the DCOM on the work of the Disaster Preparedness Committee. Several opportunities for training were offered during the year, though more trained volunteers are needed since mandates require a trained leader at each Official Shelter.
112. The District Youth Leaders, Rev. Glenn Adone and Donna Catandella, reported regularly during the year on the activities and events for youth. A brand-new District Council on Youth Ministries was formed this year with officers elected, monthly meetings planned by the youth, and a spring retreat scheduled. Two youth from the District went on the Conference trip to Costa Rica. They are prepared to tell their story of the life-changing opportunity at district events and in local church settings in the coming months, which will surely be an inspiration to other district youth!
113. Rev. Lee Gangaware attended meetings during the year and reported on the work of the Parish Development Committee. Five churches on the district received missional grants from Parish Development, this year.
114. A DCOM retreat is planned for the fall of 2008. The retreat will provide an opportunity for committee members to develop a stronger sense of fellowship while planning the agenda for coming year(s) with the newly appointed LIE District Superintendent, Rev. Adrienne Brewington. One agenda item to be addressed is district clusters. Though some clusters have been shaped and some connections have been made in the district, the reality is that the cluster-concept will need to be fine-tuned in order to be more effective.

## **LONG ISLAND WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES**

**Shirley T. Pettiford, DCOM Chairperson**

101. "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9: 24-26 NIV
102. With these words of Paul fixed in our hearts. On February 2, 2008, more than 300 hundred persons began a day of inspired Leadership Training. The day began with greetings and prayer by our District Superintendent Rev. Gunshik Shim. We were welcomed by Rev. Lawrence Charles, the Pastor of our host church, First United Methodist Church of Jamaica, New York.
103. We thank the Lay Leadership Committee for planning and organizing the day. All volunteers were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts.

- 104.** During the closing worship, many of the participants shared their feelings about the training event. Some observations were:  
     “the spirit of togetherness is evident, we must pass it on”  
     “we learned from each other”  
     “the facilitators were spirit filled”  
     “a joyous experience.”  
 The day ended with spirit filled singing of “Blessed Assurance”
- 105.** Because of the configuration of our District much of our ministry happens in District Clusters. Both Clusters traditionally celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday. They also observe Lenten Services and Good Friday Services.
- 106.** District Laity Day will be observed on April 20, 2008. The Laity is invited to share lunch and their thoughts on how we can become more effective Disciples for Christ.
- 107.** The District will participate in The Three Colors of Ministry on Saturday May 3, 2008 at the Bushwick UMC. This will be a time to explore “Passionate Spirituality”. We are finalizing plans to repeat an overnight spiritual retreat in the fall.
- 108.** Our churches are spiritually blessed by those persons who are trained for outreach and preaching ministry by our District School of Lay Speaking. Classes were offered at the Brooklyn campus at John Wesley UMC and the Queens/Nassau campus at Floral Park UMC. We are grateful to the Pastors and congregations of the host churches for their support. The School began in January and ended in March in a joint worship and celebration at Floral Park UMC. Certificates of completion will awarded to 78 students at the District Annual Meeting.
- 109.** We offer a word of welcome to our District Secretary, Barbara Moody. We continue to appreciate her service. We appreciate the leadership and support of our District Superintendent, Rev. Gunshik Shim. We pray that God will continue to bless him and his family.

## **METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRY**

**Alan B. Stapler, Chairperson**

- 101.** This is my first report as chairperson of the District Council on Ministries for the Metropolitan District. First I would like to thank Reverend Gordon Edwards for his support the last two years as the Chair of the Council as I served as co-chair. I truly value the leadership that he provided during his two years as the Council Chair. I would particularly like thank the Reverend Noel Chin for his overall vision and guidance and for possessing the true Christian spirit. Finally I would like to welcome Reverend Andrews as the new Vice Chair of the Metropolitan DCOM.
- 102.** The Metropolitan DCOM continues to be active and to support a variety of initiatives. The three main events for the annual District calendar include the Leadership Training Event, the District Annual Meeting, and the Lay Speaker’s School.

- 103.** *Leadership Training Event*  
The 2008 Leadership Training Event was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event was well attended and included a morning plenary session on congregational issues in the Metropolitan District followed by morning and afternoon workshops on a variety of training topics including Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish relations, Evangelism, Missions, Strategic Planning, and Stewardship.
- 104.** *District Annual Meeting*  
The 2008 District is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> and looks to duplicate the success of the 2007 event which was held in Staten Island, a first for the Metropolitan District.
- 105.** *Lay Speaker's School*  
The 2008 Lay Speaker's School is scheduled to take place in April and will include both basic and advanced classes.
- 106.** Another important event will be the Crisis Intervention Training. The training to be provided will include both psychological and spiritual concepts to help people in a crisis situation. This is a worthwhile endeavor that could truly save lives.
- 107.** The 2007-2008 year saw the continuation of the DCOM's support for the Methodist Home for the Aged in Riverdale. The Methodist Home continues to be one of the main meeting locations for DCOM and we recognize our obligation to support the Home. This year DCOM helped raise funds for new Hymnals for the Home, and DCOM members continue to work actively to ensure access of residents to worship services.
- 108.** The United Methodist Women of the Metropolitan District continues to be an active area of our District. The UMW Communion Brunch was held in March and was well attended.
- 109.** Another key event for our District is the Black College Fund Luncheon which was held in White Plains on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased that the Luncheon was held in the heart of the Metropolitan District.
- 110.** The District is also sponsoring a technology planning event that should prove beneficial for many local churches, as many can use improvement in the technology area to reduce costs and become more efficient.
- 111.** We continue to be encouraged by the diversity and vitality of the Metropolitan District. The ethnic and cultural diversity of our neighborhoods and churches is a blessing that we treasure, and we pray that it will continue to inspire us as we continue to perform the important functions of this body.
- 112.** In closing I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all of the members of the Metropolitan DCOM for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year.

**NY/CT DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MINISTRY****Evelyn R, McDonald, Chairperson**

- 101.** What a wonderful year. Thank you to everyone who has worked on events, come to meetings, presented innovative ideas, lead devotions and created a spirit of unity. Throughout the year, we have lived into our Conference mission statement and sought ways to open hearts, minds and doors so more individuals could claim discipleship in the name of Christ.
- 102.** We, as a District, have had two Leadership Training Events, a Mission information and celebration day, and are completing two Lay Speaker schools where 19 people were acknowledged as completing the basic and/or advanced lay speaking program. In addition the Lenten School of Religion, held at Grace UMC in Newburgh had nearly 40 people every Sunday. Once again youth and adults have been active in mission this year exemplifying our commitment to bringing life to the words found in Matthew 25 where we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, welcome the stranger and visit the sick and imprisoned.
- 103.** Many churches in our district are participating in Natural Church Development and attended the Three Colors of Ministry training, held at our Annual District Meeting in March. April brought a training event for all who interested in the rotational model for Sunday School. Amazing creativity, thoughtfulness and commitment has been expressed by everyone that is active with our District Council on Ministry.
- 104.** Thank you, Rev. Jeanette Bassinger-Ishii for your leadership and guidance during this past year. Let us celebrate all of our churches, rural and city, urban and village, small and large for we are making a difference.

**COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY****(Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, Chairperson; New York Education Society, Andrew Peck-McClain, President)**

- 101.** This year has been one of transitions for many of the ecumenical Protestant campus ministries that our annual conference supports through the Commission on Higher Education & Campus Ministry (CHECM). Financial support of campus ministries in the Northeast depends on several denominations working together, so when one denomination cuts back or stops all financial support, making up that difference is extremely difficult, if not impossible. This leaves campus ministries in a very precarious position in our Annual Conference, because the NYAC depends on the ecumenical community to make our support of campus ministries stable: together we stand, divided we fall is the principle at work.
- 102.** We learned in the fall 2006 that the Connecticut Commission on United Ministries in Higher Education (CCUMHE) would no longer be functioning as the administrative organization overseeing campus ministries in western Connecticut. This change was initiated by the withdrawal of support from the United Church of Christ in Connecticut. The five campus ministries (Southern CT, Western CT, Greater Hartford, New Britain, Bridgeport) that were funded through CCUMHE were instructed to apply directly to different denominations, including our Commission, for funding support in 2007. CHECM invited these campus ministries to submit budget request forms for our review in 2007. In addition, we asked our Connecticut District Superintendents to recommend any

churches that were involved with campus ministries. Two churches were named: United Church of Westville, and First & Summerfield UMC. Both churches have campus ministry outreach to Yale and Southern CT students. CHECM will review budget requests from all of these campus ministries (ecumenical and United Methodist) in early 2007 and decide what support we can offer to campus ministries in western Connecticut for the fall of 2007.

- 103.** Another transition is in process at SUNY-New Paltz Student Christian Center, where Lutheran pastor Rev. Paul Walley, serves. Episcopalian support of this ecumenical Protestant ministry planned to be withdrawn starting in 2007. The New Paltz campus ministry's board is seeking creative ways to continue ecumenical Protestant ministry without funding from the Episcopalian Church. The Episcopalians have decided to initiate their own campus ministry, with an appointed priest serving the SUNY-New Paltz community. Non-Episcopalians will be welcomed to participate, especially if no other Protestant option is available beginning in the fall of 2007. CHECM looks forward to hearing what the SUNY-New Paltz campus ministry board will decide for its future.
- 104.** The board of Long Island United Campus Ministries (LIUCM), an umbrella organization for campus ministries at Long Island colleges and universities, has decided to do some very creative re-working of how their organization functions. Their process for revitalization was just getting started in the fall of 2006. Already there is good energy and excitement for improving the efficiency of the LIUCM Board, and its work with the local campus ministry boards that it oversees. Rev. Kazy Hinds is the new Executive Director of LIUCM. We will learn in 2007 what shape their restructuring will take and look forward to continued success with campus ministries on Long Island. There are no substantive changes in effect at Westside Campus Ministry (Church of St Paul & St Andrew, Manhattan), or at SUNY-Delhi, the other two campus ministries CHECM has supported for a number of years.
- 105.** The New York Education Society administers our Annual Conference scholarships to support students from our Annual Conference who may not be eligible for aid from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, since those scholarships are geared towards United Methodist-related colleges and universities. This committee is chaired by Andrew Peck-McClain. Please remember that you can find information about loans and scholarships at the New York Annual Conference website: [www.nyac.com/learningcenter/scholarships](http://www.nyac.com/learningcenter/scholarships). We're also keeping everyone informed about our work through district mailings, the connectional ministry listserve, and "The Vision" newspaper.
- 106.** New York Education Society Scholarship recipients in 2006, for the 2006-2007 academic year, were as follows. Our two NYES Fellows this year were Lizbee Collins-Wildman and Joanne Utley in the amount of \$1,200 each. Our NYES Scholars were Crystal Rush, Lauren Fleming, Coryne Casey, Carley Thompson, Stacia Robinson and Patrick Foster for \$1,000 each. Finally, we awarded five Book Grants in the amount of \$500 each to Paulino Bernabe III, Betty Gannon, Alicia Dellimore, Allison Dellimore and Sheryl Beach.
- 107.** The United Methodist Student Day offering is an essential way to support our Conference Merit Scholarship program. The New York Education Society was able to grant Alicia Thompson-Gee the Conference Merit Award. If your congregation doesn't usually participate, encourage them to do so. It's a great way to assist students with the monumental task of paying for their educations. In addition, participating in World Communion

Sunday offerings supports the Crusade Scholarship program of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. We encourage all NYAC churches to support these scholarship offerings to help educate the new generation of United Methodist leaders in our churches and our communities. Thank you for your support.

- 108.** Each year we receive a report from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry: Office of Loans & Scholarships, detailing scholarship and loan recipients. Here are some statistics for your information: Five (5) NYAC students received low-interest educational loans. Thirty-eight (38) NYAC students (undergraduate and graduate) received scholarships from the General Board, including eight (8) ethnic scholarships; six (6) UM scholarships; three (3) seminary awards; four (4) Brandenburg awards; five (5) UM National scholarships; six (6) Hana Scholarships; one (1) Knowles Special Award; one (1) Merit Award; and four (4) Gift of Hope Scholarships. Our students are enrolled in schools within our Annual Conference (Union Theological, Adelphi, New York Theological, College of Staten Island, and U. of Hartford). Students from across the NYAC, up-state NY to Connecticut to Long Island, received these awards, scholarships, and loans.
- 109.** With all of the transitions in campus ministries, the next few years are going to be busier ones for our Commission. Many thanks to the Commission members who have made themselves available for more meetings, conference calls and email exchanges. There's more to come, I'm sure.
- 110.** One last note, the nominating committee added someone to our committee that we have no contact information for: If you can provide contact information for Hwi Joon Park from a church in the Long Island West district, it would be greatly appreciated!

## **CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES**

**James H. Fleegal (Deceased)**

- 101.** It is estimated that we have about one thousand active lay speakers in our conference. Their range of ministry is quite diverse – from teaching in our congregations, leading small groups, leading in prayer and healing, preaching, to outreach ministries, visitation, hospital and elderly care, as well as mission work trips to Bolivia, Mozambique, Haiti, Biloxi, and more. This year I think that I have seen more people tell me that they are more active in witnessing to their faith.
- 102.** It is such a blessing every year to see new lay people take time out of their busy lives to commit to study and involvement in a District Lay Speaker Basic Class Program! It is also a blessing to have so many leaders in our districts who are willing and able to commit their time and energy to help lead these classes, equipping the saints, and helping to transforming lives, so that lay people can better respond to their calling and be more effective in their ministries.
- 103.** District Directors met on August 11, 2007 in White Plains to understand what is happening in other districts and how we may be able to help each other by sharing this information. To my knowledge, this was the first time or first time in a long time that such an event was held. We all walked away with good ideas to take back to our districts.
- 104.** We had a lay speaker booth that was well attended at Annual Conference. Many stopped by to learn more about lay speaking, look over our resources, and share their experiences.

105. We also had a luncheon on Thursday for Lay Speakers. Again, well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for lay speakers to network... there certainly was quite a bit of chatter going on (well, they are lay speakers).
106. It is planned to have our new conference Lay Speaker Web Site up and running by conference time [www.gbqm-umc.org/nylayspeakersite](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/nylayspeakersite)
107. In the spring I was diagnosed with cancer. The cancer and treatments to try to help to stop its spread have made it difficult to perform up to the level that I expect of myself. My passion for lay ministry, however, keeps me driven to fulfill my calling to equipping and empowering the saints so that THEY may have the tools to effectively conduct their ministry – to lead a life in that which is worthy to what they are called to do. (Jim Fleegal passed on to the church triumphant in March 2008.)

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

**Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator & Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator**

### **101. CONFERENCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

More hearts to heal, and more homes to restore in Biloxi Mississippi after hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast over two years since. We continue to send two teams every month to Biloxi. More than 300 volunteers traveled to Biloxi this past year. Rev. Lindsey Robinson, the newly appointed pastor at St. Paul UMC in Biloxi and Mount Pleasant UMC in Gulf Port has been very gracious to our volunteers and our relationship with the community is growing stronger. We hope that our partnership with the churches and the community continues to bring healing and hope.

### **102. DISASTER SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEERS**

It is with great joy that I report the certification of 45 disaster spiritual care volunteers for disaster response in our conference. Disaster Spiritual Care volunteers devote presence, attention and respectful assistance to helping people discern what is the meaning in their life in the midst of destruction and pain. These volunteers received the required training and were dedicated to this ministry by Bishop Jeremiah Park on November 17, 2007.

The training is provided by Disaster Chaplaincy Services of New York and STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) of New York. In order to qualify for the certification a volunteer must take the following workshops:

- a. Pastoral Crisis Intervention workshop (two days) or Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support (two days)
- b. Hope beyond Hammering (STAR – five hours)

### **103. YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR MISSION PROGRAM (Y.A.M)**

Motto: Educate, Inspire, Serve

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

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

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

#### Participation

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

#### **104. OUTREACH MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

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

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

1. Supported at least one local mission project.
2. Received Special Sunday offering or similar mission related offerings.
3. Fulfilled a covenant relationship obligation
4. Supported at least one Conference Mission Initiative such as Mozambique, Cambodia, Bolivia, Haiti, Burundi, etc.)
5. Sent at least one or more persons on a Volunteer In Mission Trip.
6. Attended Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
7. Celebrated Mission Sunday with a mission speaker.
8. Took a group on a Mission Study Tour or Volunteer in Mission Trip.
9. Offered a new mission experience. Did something new that your congregation has never done before.
10. Supported the Conference Disaster Preparedness & Response Team.
11. Supported Justice for our Neighbors

#### HERE ARE THE CATEGORIES FOR THE MISSION GOLD AWARDS:

**For 12k Gold award your church must have:**

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

**For 14k Gold award your church must have:**

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

**For 18k Gold award your church must have:**

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

**For 24k Gold award your church must have:**

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

**105. MISSION INTERPRETATION/MISSIONARY COVENANT RELATIONS**

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

International

1. Mozambique Sister Conference Initiative
2. Bolivia Mission
3. Costa Rica Mission
4. Cambodia Mission
5. Haiti Mission
6. Ghana Mission
7. Burundi Mission

National

1. Churches Saving Communities (Advance #982143)
2. Communities of Shalom (Advance #742566)
3. Homelessness in the U.S. (Advance #982385)
4. John St. Evangelization Program (Advance #341355)
6. Appalachia Service Project (Advance #982050)
7. Justice for our neighbors (Advance #901285)
8. Community Centers (Advance #982149)
10. U. M. Army
11. Crop Walk
12. Bread for the World
13. Midnight run

New York Conference Ministries

The Anchor house

The United Methodist Center at Far Rockaway

Farmworker and Migrant Ministries

The Children's Home of the Wyoming Conference

Methodist Homes and Hospitals

GBGM Missionary Support

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

Jae Hyoung (Jay) Choi	Advance # 13973Z	Philippines
Eun Ha Choi (Grace)	Advance # 13974Z	Philippines
Nancy Daleney	Advance # 982978	Bronx, NY
Samuel Grono de Oro	Advance # 13032Z	Dominican Republic
Kalindi Thomas	Advance # 13966Z	Global
Sun Sook Kim	Advance # 10843Z	Philippines
Ediberto Lopez-Rodrigues	Advance #012860	Puerto Rico
John Chikwaira	Advance #13955Z	Zimbabwe
Beverly Moon	Advance # 03147Z	Taichung, Taiwan
Joel Medendorp,	Advance #773950	Red Bird Mission
Helen de Leon Camarce	Advance # 13953Z	Manila, Philippines
Joseph and Marilyn Chan	Advance #	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Rosangela Soares de Oliveira	Advance # 14210Z	Latin America
John Yambasu	Advance # 14940Z	Accra, Ghana

**MOZAMBIQUE-NEW YORK SISTER CONFERENCES CONNECTION****Enid Watson and Kregg Gabor, Chairpersons**

101. The MOZ/NY Connection kicked off in May 2007 with a celebration luncheon. The guest speaker for the occasion was Rev Morais Quissico – GBGM Executive Secretary Africa Office. He enlightened us on the process by which funds for foreign ministries are disbursed.
102. During the summer, eleven VIM team members, including myself, traveled to Beira on the eleventh annual mission. We continued to build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, participated in Sunday, and mid-week worship and attended small group discussions about the church and community life with our Mozambican sisters and brothers. We visited a new mission in a very remote area of Buzie, accessible only by boat, and were duly impressed by the diligence of the superintendent in reaching those areas to minister to his parishioners.
103. The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, held in two different communities, proved to be the highlight of the mission. It was well received and the attendance was overwhelming. The daily attendance exploded and we had to find space under trees or anywhere we could. Since our return, we have learned that members have been added to the church through their involvement in the classes.

104. Another popular mission activity was the guitar lessons provided by one of our team members who is a music teacher. The students were eager learners and showed willingness to teach what they learned to their peers. This inspired us to leave with them a total of four guitars to carry on the lessons in our absence. We followed up on the progress of an ongoing building project and focused on empowering the Mozambicans to take greater responsibility for project management. The team had a skilled mechanic who after riding on the conference bus recognized that there were problems with its maintenance. He repaired the bus, set up a maintenance schedule and provided tools and oil for its maintenance. We attempted to make solar ovens from cardboard boxes but found that boxes were hard to come by. However, four molded ones were imported from South Africa and donated to the conference. Seed money for a dressmaking project was provided and samples may be available for sale at conference.
105. Throughout the year, the Connection financially supported nearly a dozen students attending Africa University, Cambine Bible School, The Catholic University of Cuamba and other institutions of higher learning, as well as students in high school and lower levels. Students were selected by and scholarships prioritized by the Mozambique – North Conference. Building on Bishop Joao Machado's dream of accrediting Cambine Bible School as a four-year theological university, we continue to support one student, a pastor who has been identified by the bishop as one of three candidates to serve as university level professor.
106. In mid 2007, VIM team members hosted Judge Jone from Sofala province in Mozambique. While here Judge Jone met with Supreme Court Judge Richard P. Gliardi of the Connecticut Supreme Court in Bridgeport and toured the courthouse.
107. The Connection's January '08 general meeting was dedicated to cultural sensitivity training for all members of VIM teams in the conference. This was conducted by Rev. Ewoodzie and it was well supported.
108. The MOZ/NY Connection has certified lay speakers available to relate sermons about their Mozambique experiences, and other speakers on hand to make presentations at your church, district meetings and beyond. Contact the MOZ/NY Connection to find out how Mozambique Methodists grew from 30,000 in 1987 to 180,000 in 2002!
109. For more information about our activities, or if you would like to support this ministry, contact MOZ/NY Connection contact Enid Watson at [enidjoy@hotmail.com](mailto:enidjoy@hotmail.com) and Kregg Gabor at [pastor@umcmonroe.org](mailto:pastor@umcmonroe.org).

## **CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**Rev. Emily A. Peck-McClain, CCYM adult coordinator elect**

101. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries has been very busy since last year's Annual Conference. In July, 135 youth and adult from the Conference traveled by bus to Greensboro, North Carolina, for Youth 2007. This quadrennial youth event put on by the General Board of Discipleship's Division on Ministry with Young People was four days of worship, service, connection, learning, and fun.

- 102.** After the summer, CCYM undertook the process of discerning a new structure while a Teen Task Force was formed to put together a new annual youth event for the Conference called Ignite. The Teen Task Force put on a wonderful event, Ignite '08, February 1-3 at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains. The theme was 3N1 with a focus on the Trinity. There were workshops, worship, an amazing praise band (shout out to H.Y.P.E. at Faith Alive Ministry in Long Island!), and lots of fun and connection for our youth. About 250 youth stayed for the whole weekend, with an additional 100 coming in for the Bishop's Confirmation Rally on Saturday. The date for next year's Ignite '09 will be January 23-25. Next year's theme will be Triple L: Live, Laugh, Love Out Loud.
- 103.** Meanwhile, youth and adults worked and discerned throughout the year to restructure conference youth leadership in a way that is working well in other parts of our connection. This new model is based on the Body of Christ model described by the Apostle Paul. This new structure was put into action on March 29 by unanimous vote of all those present. At this meeting were 22 youth, 2 of whom have been serving on CCYM and several from the Teen Task Force, in addition to some new faces since Ignite and the Youth Ambassadors in Mission trip to Costa Rica. There were also 10 adults.
- 104.** This new structure for CCYM includes different area teams that will function based on the gifts and passions of involved youth and adult. Area Teams include: Youth Service Fund, Social Justice, Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation, Missions, Design, and Communications. The entire CCYM will meet quarterly, while area teams will meet more often to undertake tasks in their particular areas. Each team will elect a chair and co-chair, who will sit on a leadership council together to insure that communication and connection remain constant.
- 105.** Membership in this new CCYM is open to any youth who is at least in the second semester of 8<sup>th</sup> grade up through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. New members from across our Conference are invited and encouraged to participate. New members can join by filling out a covenant form on the NYAC youth ministry website: [www.umyouth.com](http://www.umyouth.com). Folks in the Conference are encouraged to visit that site to keep updated on all kind of youth events!
- 106.** The next big event being hosted by CCYM is a leadership camp at Camp Epworth open to rising 8-11<sup>th</sup> graders. The camp will be held from August 17-22. Local churches nominate and sponsor youth leaders from their congregations to attend this camp. Information can be found on the NYAC youth ministry website.

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 3

### BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Jeff Wells, Chairperson

101. In 2007, the Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) added several persons who were no longer able to be active on the board resigned. However, we also added several new members, including more young adults.
102. The Board submitted and helped to get passed several petitions to Annual Conference. We also endorsed a number of petitions submitted by others in the conference.
103. At the 2007 Annual Conference session, for the first time in recent years, CBCS had a display table, which drew a lot of attention. We had a 3-1/2 x 8 foot banner made for CBCS, which was hung on a stand behind the table. There was a continuously playing promotional video for the "Living Faith, Seeking Justice" conference sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society. We collected over \$100 in suggested donations for some 70 UM Social Principles booklets in Korean, Spanish, and English, along with four copies of a book entitled, *Caring for God's Earth*.
104. The Board hosted a dinner on Friday evening of Annual Conference. The dinner was open not only to Board members, but anyone interested in church and society concerns. Ninety persons attended the dinner and 20 signed up to be on the "Friends of the Board of Church & Society" mailing list. Our focus at the dinner was on immigration concerns. The speakers were:
  - o **Rev. Pauline Wardell-Sankoh**, NYAC coordinator for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)
  - o **Thomas J. Mills**, regional attorney for JFON
  - o **Nancy Delaney**, deaconess, church & community worker in immigration services, Creating Horizon, The Village Church
  - o **Zamzam Quraishy**, evangelist on staff at the Hicksville UMC, who was arrested and faced deportation, but with the help of JFON's attorney, won asylum in a Federal court.
105. By arrangement with Don Collier, CBCS had a monthly column in *The Vision* entitled "Living Our Social Principles" through the spring of 2007. However, with Don's departure as editor and the change in format of the paper, there has been significantly less space available. We are hoping this will be remedied in the future and we will continue to pursue other avenues to get news and information about social principles and social concerns out to the clergy and laity of the conference.
106. The Board planned to organize a forum on immigration in the fall of 2007, but could not find a date on which all of the parties involved were available. We continue to consider the immigration issue a priority and are seeking ways to do education and advocacy around this concern in the coming year.

107. Board chairperson Jeff Wells attended the “Living Faith, Seeking Justice” conference in Fort Worth, Texas in November 2007 and came back with a wealth of contacts and information valuable to our conference. Some of this material is available on the General Board website: [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org). Some 700 persons attended the conference, including at least 30 representatives from the Central Conferences.
108. CBCS will again have a display table and dinner (scheduled for Friday evening) at the 2008 conference session and continue to build our mailing list to expand the network of clergy and laity we can reach with announcements, action alerts, and educational opportunities.

## **BISHOP’S UNITY TASK FORCE**

### **Douglas P. Cunningham, Chairperson**

101. In the context of division around homosexuality, the Bishop’s Unity Task Force has been engaging people in the New York Annual Conference in dialogue aimed at moving toward unity in the body of Christ. We believe that conflict need not be divisive. Rather it can produce growth, deeper understanding and stronger relationships. We have not expected all people to come to the same understanding of these issues. But we have engaged in genuine dialogue within the context of prayer, worship, study, the sharing of experiences and a commitment to respect and listen to one another in hopes of achieving greater understanding and a willingness to recommit ourselves to work together as members of the one body of Christ.
102. After initial training in the circle process, we held a series of three conference-wide pilot dialogues in 2006. We then asked Rev. Scott Summerville to conduct an all-day training session for twelve circle stewards in January, 2007. Several of the circle stewards then facilitated dialogues in their districts. One dialogue, conducted by Seymour Thomas and Paul Jefferson, gathered a group of thirteen lay people at Vanderveer Park United Methodist Church in Brooklyn on April 14 and May 5, 2007. A second dialogue, conducted at Christ Church in Manhattan by Doug Cunningham and Denise Smartt Sears, involved twelve pastors in October of 2007.
103. The dialogues follow a “circle process” which asks participants series of questions. Participants take turns responding out of their personal experience and then passing the “talking piece” to the next participant. Each is allowed to speak without interruption. Since participants know when their turn to speak is coming, they are free to really listen to one another for deeper understanding. One participant was representative of the sentiments of many when he remarked that he was surprised how freely people spoke. Several noted how they appreciated the opportunity to speak without interruption and have people really listen to them.
104. In December, 2007, the Unity Task Force reported to Bishop Park that the assigned task has been completed noting that the work at this point will happen most fruitfully in dialogues conducted by circle stewards in the districts. The Unity Task Force recommended that the trained circle stewards in each district be made available for dialogue at the discretion of district leaders. Bishop Park respected the decision and thanked the task force members. Those interested in pursuing dialogue are encouraged to contact the following facilitators:

New York Connecticut District: Edwin Jones and Sondra Treadwell

Metropolitan District: Denise Smartt Sears and Robert Bobb

Long Island West District: Paul Jefferson and Seymour Thomas; or Dillon Bergen and Shirley Pettiford

Long Island East District: Royston Bailey and Carmen Ortiz

105. The other trained circle stewards are Allen Pinckney, Unity Task Force cabinet liaison and Doug Cunningham, Unity Task Force chairperson. Other Unity Task Force members include Juanita Middlebrook and Hugh Hamilton.

## **SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

### **THE UNITED METHODIST APPALACHIAN MINISTRY NETWORK**

**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 35<sup>th</sup> 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. Ieva Zadina, Director of Pastoral Care and Outreach**

101. BUMCH was founded in 1883, and so we are preparing for our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. During its history the Home has expanded in services, complexity and inclusivity, but it has the same mission: *To perpetuate the healing ministry of Christ by promoting those values which reinforce reverence for life, dignity of the individual, love, compassion, and service to others.* Although the Home now is non-denominational, the spirit of Methodism is felt and it merges well with all the faith traditions that come together here. Families and visitors often remark on the special love and care they sense in the Home.
102. Located in the East New York section of Brooklyn near the Queens border, the Home serves people mostly from Brooklyn neighborhoods and hospitals, but of course is open to all. The blocks surrounding the Home evidence a blossoming of new home development. It's possible that the presence of BUMCH has encouraged this neighborhood improvement.
103. The Board of Directors includes eleven United Methodist members: Don Kirby (President), Christina Stack (Corporate Secretary), Bianca Armitstead, Rev. John H. Cole, Ascension L. Day, Rev. John P. Fahey, Jr., Rev. Cedric Johnson, Kenneth P. Jordon, Ruby L'Heureux, Rev. Wendy Modeste and Rev. Richard Parker. Rev. Joseph Morrison recently resigned from the Board due to other commitments. Mr. Kirby, who has served as President with great skill and energy for three years, has chosen not to run for President again. We are grateful that he will remain on the Board, on which he has served for over 20 years. The other Board members are Joseph J. Fennesey (Vice President) and Sherwin Chue (Treasurer). The Board is seeking new members, especially those with health care backgrounds.
104. The Home consists of a skilled nursing facility with 120 beds and an Adult Day Healthcare Center, in an attractive new wing of the facility, which can accommodate up to 60 registrants per day.
105. Mr. Victor Orriola has completed his first year as Administrator. Amidst the many challenges, his energy and enthusiasm for the Home's welfare are undiminished. May God continue to bless and strengthen him.
106. The new Director of the Adult Day Healthcare Center, Ms. Awilda Rosario, has brought a new vitality and growth to this important program, which seeks to help maintain the health of the elderly and disabled so that they can continue to live at home. Registrants are provided with transportation, two meals, medical care, and numerous activities to enhance their physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

107. Methodist-style connectionalism informs the Home's desire to serve its surrounding communities more fully. To this end, we encourage visitors and volunteers from many churches, schools and other organizations.
108. At our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Dance last November, we honored Walter Campbell, District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 5; Rev. John H. Cole, Pastor of Grace UMC in Valley Stream, NY; and Robert Rigoroso, Private Banker-Vice President, The Citigroup Private Bank. All these honorees serve their communities in multiple ways. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.
109. In 2006, the Home hosted two Brunches for clergy and key lay leaders. Besides offering good food, fellowship and tours of the Home, the Brunches also present informative talks on subjects of aging and healing. The Spring 2006 Brunch@BUMCH featured a representative from the Social Security Administration speaking about Medicare Part D, while guests at the Autumn Brunch enjoyed a presentation by Peter Poulos, Director of Pastoral Care at New York Methodist Hospital, who spoke about the problems and potentialities of aging.
110. The Home's quarterly newsletter, *The Healing Hands*, informs the community about life and work at the Home. Contact the editor, Rev. Ieva Zadina (718-827-4500, ext. 133), to be placed on the mailing list.
111. Future plans include improvements in all aspects of care and in the physical environment. For example, a new Pain Management support group is being formed, with assistance from psychologists trained in behavioral medicine. Work has already begun on extensive renovations of the older, nursing home side of the Home.
112. For many years BUMCH was entirely supported by local Methodist churches. We are deeply grateful for those churches which continue to faithfully contribute to our work with donations and the support of volunteers. Their ministry with us helps improve the quality of life of Residents beyond what our regular budget can afford.
113. We hope to enlist more volunteers to provide the quality of life for each resident that no money can buy. An excellent way to volunteer is to join the BUMCH Auxiliary, which has served the residents for many years and organizes an Annual Auxiliary Dinner every April. Please contact the Auxiliary President, Ms. Priscilla Frazier, of St. John's Elmont UMC (516-285-8394). You may also contact Rev. Ieva Zadina at the Home if you wish to volunteer in other ways.
114. As we prepare to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the BUMCH Board and staff will continue efforts to build and strengthen loving relationships with United Methodist congregations. As we bear the name Methodist with great pride, we pray that our churches will find their part in this tradition of social holiness.

**CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY****Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics**

101. Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Our mission is *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. Candler is one of the thirteen official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and is one of nine schools at Emory, a top twenty research university, founded in memory of Methodist Bishop John Emory and his commitment to "mold both character and intellect."
102. Unlike other large research campuses, Emory is neither indifferent to nor embarrassed by religion. Rather, this university is eager to address an urgent need at home and abroad: helping different faith traditions cooperate rather than collide. Emory prides itself in being a destination university internationally recognized as an inquiry-driven, ethically engaged, and diverse community whose members work collaboratively for positive transformation in the world.
103. At Candler, we proclaim the Gospel and nurture students' growth in the Christian faith. A stellar faculty, a dedicated staff, and vibrant students form an active community of teaching and learning that prepares excellent leaders for Christian ministries. We carry out this mission, however, in an extraordinary university-based educational environment where hearts and minds engage across deeply held religious differences, preparing our students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.
104. Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-three members hold full-time appointments, and five hold part-time appointments. An additional twenty-three serve in an adjunct capacity. Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as the United Methodist bishops in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler working with the Development Office.
105. In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Twenty-two teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. The Rev. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program to include students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences. We also taught more than 250 United Methodist students in the Course of Study in 2006-2007.
106. This year, enrollment was 535, with 440 in the Master of Divinity program, 54 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 12 in the Master of Theology program, 10 in the Doctor of Theology program and 19 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 25 percent US ethnic minority, 11 percent international, and 52 percent women. Nearly 50 denominations are represented with 52 percent of M. Div. students being United Methodist from 37 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler 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 now 31, with 57 percent under thirty. The median age of our M. Div. students is 27.

- 107.** Lots of wonderful new initiatives are underway. We will move into Phase I of our new building in early August 2008. It offers 65,000 square feet for classrooms, offices, and community life. We hope construction on Phase II will begin late in 2008. It will hold the Pitts Library and the Wesley Teaching Chapel. The first year of implementation of a new M. Div. curriculum is nearly complete. This program deepens faculty roles in advising and mentoring and requires a course in a religion other than Christianity. A new director of lifelong learning should be in place by fall 2008 to initiate a renewed emphasis on programs that benefit congregations and their leaders in continuing education. Designed to address the changing needs of church and society both at home and abroad, this program will work cooperatively with local churches, judicatory leaders, and denominational agencies to strengthen the church and its ministries.
- 108.** 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.
- 109.** 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.

## **THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, Executive Director (Amityville 1<sup>st</sup> charge conference)**

- 101.** These are exciting times for ecumenical and interfaith work. In the past year we have fed hundreds of people each week in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, not counting the 400 Thanksgiving baskets we distributed and the hundreds of people served at our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner in Riverhead. We continue to need donations of non-perishable food and would love to have more volunteers in our Riverhead, Freeport, and Hempstead offices. In addition –
- 102.** We secured grants that helped many people with prescription assistance. Lack of adequate health coverage is our region's second biggest problem, surpassed only by our affordable housing crisis.

103. Our Multi-Faith Forum presented its 200<sup>th</sup> Building Bridges program. More and more of these are “Multi-Faith Festivals” for hundreds of public school students at a time. Our video ***Faiths of Long Island*** is being widely used as a resource in building interfaith understanding and tolerance. Both in terms of the number of faith communities involved and the magnitude of its educational efforts, this is a project without parallel anywhere. We continue to need more volunteers for the Forum, particularly Christians who are willing to tell how they practice their beliefs in their daily lives.
104. Along with Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Rockville Centre and other partners, we launched an interfaith campaign called MICAHA (Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger) to help Long Islanders understand why so many of our neighbors are hungry and what we can do about it. We already have signed up 275 congregations/parishes and other faith-based organizations in this campaign.
105. We have offered seminars in congregations and community groups on how to be good stewards of our money and how to avoid falling victim to predatory loans--and how to cope with the mortgage meltdown. As our economy reels from the lending crisis, churches can help both clergy and those in the pews to manage finances better, and our cadre of financial experts are ready to tackle many unusual requests, from bilingual seminars in Southold and a series of four seminars in Central Islip to senior centers in Glen Cove and young immigrants from India who worship in Elmont. Perhaps you would like us to do one in your congregation?
106. Our Women at The Well program, designed to keep women out of jail, graduated new classes. The women in these support groups have achieved a far lower rate of re-arrest than other convicts.
107. We helped launch the Long Island Interfaith Environment Network, which shows congregations how to save money on energy costs while caring for God’s good creation.
108. We have become something of a think tank on how to live ecumenically in an interfaith world and an important resource for churches that need ecumenical and interfaith wisdom in dealing with the challenges they face, from how to start a Taize worship service to ways to reach out to their neighbors more effectively.
109. None of this would be possible without the support of many United Methodists. Thanks!

## **NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**Mary Lu Bowen, Executive Director**

101. It is to bring light and hope that the Protestant denominations of New York come together in the NYSCC. Some of their ministries:
102. ***The Church in the Public Square***  
Bringing the voice of the church to the Church in the Public Square is a prophetic ministry. The prophet brings to public discourse what they see and hear, and if what they see and hear is unjust, they call for powerholders to change policies that favor elites over the needy. The Collegium, the Public Policy Commission, staff and members of congregations around the state share this task.

*The Collegium*

The *Collegium* sponsors two high profile events of their own.

- A. For the past eight years they have traveled to DC on their Peace and Poverty mission – a three day event that includes time for discernment, briefings (on peace and poverty issues) by staff of denominational DC offices and meetings with New York legislators.
- B. For the past ten years the *Collegium* has also met with the Governor. Over 20 representatives of 10 denominations attended the February 2008 meeting. Discussions centered on economic and criminal justice issues. Members of the *Collegium* also speak at press conferences, and present testimony before committees.

*The Public Policy Commission*

As most years *Public Policy Commission* members, assisted by staff also held two major events --

- A. At the *Annual Planning Retreat* there was a focus on the stages of social change. Through such a lens the group could see progress on issues such as: transition of inmates back into society and enactment of a public school funding bill that met the criteria laid out by the courts that all children in the state have the opportunity for a quality education that is not dependent on where they live.
- B. *Legislative Day* was held in the spring. It included a briefing on issues and meetings with the chairs of committees relating to those issues. This event is open to all who wish to attend.

*Members of Congregations*

Members of local congregations who speak out for justice complete the circle of involvement in public policy. They bring what they see and hear to the attention of those who can help bring about change.

**103. *The Invisible Church***

For over 30 years, the state has looked to the NYSCC and its *Chaplaincy Commission* to assure Protestant chaplains are qualified to serve in NY institutions. Through the Council certification process a candidate must meet strict criteria in education, experience, Clinical Pastoral Education and be interviewed by a committee of present and retired chaplains.

- 104.** Chaplains in state institutions serve an “invisible” church where the needs of its members are great – and yet they are out of sight and out of mind of the general public. These persons have a need for pastoral care and to hear the message of God’s love. Most are in correctional facilities – youth who have “done” drugs, women who killed their spouses, men who abused children, gang members, white collar criminals, people with drunk driving fatality records and people with mental illness. Not all with mental illness are in corrections facilities. Some are in institutions that provide care to the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled, and youth in need of supervision – people whose family cannot care for them, who need a stable consistent routine or round the clock supervision so they will not harm themselves or others.

- 105.** *The Chaplaincy Commission* provides personal support to the chaplains, encourages growth in skills and deals with state departments when problems arise. Two concerns they worked on bore fruit in the past year. There is now a Clinical Pastoral Education program for prison ministry and rehabilitation efforts as well the original crime is beginning to be considered in granting parole.
- 106.** May we all be “light bringers” and “hope bearers” for each other and all along our path.

## **United Theological Seminary**

**Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President**

- 101.** It is a joy to send greetings on behalf of United Theological Seminary to the Annual Conferences within the United Methodist connection!
- 102.** United Theological Seminary celebrates with you 137 years of service in the ministry of theological education since our founding in 1871. We are grateful to God for the privileges of equipping faithful leadership for the Church, leading in reflection on Wesleyan theology, and assisting the Church in making disciples of all nations! We seek the Holy Spirit’s leading so that we may do our part in the renewal of the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world!
- 103.** Here are some current highlights from United Theological Seminary:
1. A new Master of Divinity degree Concentration in Church Renewal!
  2. A continuing, central role for orthodox Christian doctrine and deep grounding in the study of the Bible.
  3. An emphasis upon the world as our context for theological education, including the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.
  4. New initiatives in Distance Learning to serve the underserved—including five new online courses in the fall of 2008!
  5. Growing partnerships with African American church leaders and institutions.
  6. New partnerships with other schools, judicatories, agencies and congregations!
  7. An opportunity to lead the church in reflection on the Wesleyan theological tradition through the work of our faculty and the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage.
  8. Increasing enrollment in our Masters degrees, Doctor of Ministry degree and non-degree programs as we respond to new needs for clergy and lay education
  9. Our fine students, faculty and staff!
  10. A state-of-the-art, completely accessible campus.
- 104.** We thank you for your ongoing partnership with us in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 4

### BOUNDARIES AND SEXUAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

#### The Rev, Betsy Ott, Chairperson

101. Grace and Peace in the name of the Jesus Christ the Savior and Healer of the World!
102. The purpose of The Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Committee as stated in the NY Annual Conference Sexual Ethics Policy is “to develop trained leaders who will provide sexual ethics, boundary, and dual relationship training to clergy and laity in the Annual Conference and to ensure that training is offered at least once each year”.
103. The Committee offered the mandatory Boundaries and Sexual Ethics training twice in 2007 (once in February and once in September). This training was held at the Conference Center in White Plains and provided training to probationers, newly appointed pastors, clergy transferring from other conferences or denominations, and others, as required by the policy, the Bishop, or the Cabinet to attend.
104. The Committee continues to make every effort to provide this mandatory training at times that are convenient for all persons who are required to attend by offering trainings on one weekday during the year and one training on a Saturday.
105. Registration for this training is through the office of the District Superintendents. Records of completion of the training are maintained by the District Superintendents.
106. During the year the committee completed the design for a presentation on Clergy Self-Care that was developed in response to feedback from clergy surveys submitted after the initial training and at the request of the Bishop and Cabinet. The Committee was very honored that the Bishop and Cabinet felt the topic was important enough to be presented to the clergy during the Bishop’s Retreats in October. Though this presentation could only touch on many topics related to the importance of clergy self-care, the Boundaries and Sexual Ethics team are pleased to have opened dialogue and raised awareness of these concerns with their peers, especially in regard to accountability and covenant relationships.
107. Though the Committee did not offer Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Training for Laity during the 2007 year, all six districts were offered this training in 2006. In the future, this training will be scheduled once annually and, additionally, as requested by the District Superintendent(s).
108. One piece of business that was not addressed during 2007 is the need for new, trained, committee members. The Conference Policy requires that members of the Boundaries and Sexual Ethics Committee be trained by The Institute (formerly known as the Faith-Trust Institute) or another, equally qualified group. Since no training opportunities were provided during the year, no new persons were trained. Securing this training is a major focus of The Committee for the year 2008.

- 109.** I would like to thank the members of this Committee for their dedication to this ministry during the years. During 2007 the Committee was: Rev. Dr. John G. Brown, Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, Rev. Marjorie Nunes, and Rev. Scott Summerville. Rev. Adrienne Brewington who has been a valued member of the committee for several years is leaving us this year to begin serving as LIE District Superintendent. She goes with our thanks, our prayers and our hopes for many blessings in her new appointment.

## **ORDER OF ELDERS**

### **Constance Y. Pak, Chairperson**

- 101.** The Leadership Team of the Order of Elders met twice during 2007, through teleconferences. However, we have continued to communicate by e-mail and phone calls throughout the year. We have formed design teams for each coming event, and have assigned jobs to carry on our responsibilities accordingly.
- 102.** The present team members are Constance Pak (Chair), Eldon Simpson (Vice-Chair), T. Anne Daniel (Recording Secretary), Thomas Theilmann (Treasurer/Registrar), Joseph Piccirillo, Enrique Lebron, Joyce Wilkerson, Carmen M. Ortiz, Janet Hodge, Evelyn McDonald, Ann Pearson (Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries). Allen Pinckney, Jr. resigned from the Leadership Team of the Order of Elders after he was appointed in June to a local church from his district superintendency appointment. Thus, the position of Cabinet representative has been vacant since then. The Cabinet decided not to designate another person due to its overbooked responsibilities. Therefore, as far as matters related to the Cabinet were concerned, we have communicated directly to the Dean of the Cabinet.
- 103.** During the New York Annual Conference, three members of the Leadership Team of the Order of Elders were elected as the delegates to the General Conference 2008: Allen Pinckney, Jr. (first elected), Constance Pak (second elected) and Evelyn McDonald (sixth elected).
- 104.** The Order of Elders held its sixth four-day Spiritual Retreat from April 17 (Tuesday) to 20 (Friday), 2007, at Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, New York. This yearly event was planned and coordinated by the Order of Elders, but is meant to be an opportunity for enriching the spiritual life and enhancing the fellowship of all those who serve or have served as pastors in the New York Annual Conference. About 60 clergy members participated in this retreat. They earned 1.3 continuing education points for their participation. The theme, "Building a Beloved Community for Such a Time as This," related well to the newly adopted Vision Statement of the NYAC. It was also well connected to the contemporary viewpoints of the two renowned presenters in contemporary theology and the arts who spoke to us. The first speaker was Rev. Dr. Catherine Kapikian, who currently serves as the director of the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. As an acclaimed and commissioned artist, Dr. Kapikian has designed many large-format works, such as needlepoint tapestries to be placed behind altars. They were made by members of faith communities in what she calls, "participatory aesthetics." In this manner, she pointed out that the installation of this art work becomes the work of the people. Throughout the presentation, Dr. Kapikian helped the participants to understand the subtle, but powerful way aesthetics within the church building and worship space affect our ability to build a "beloved community." The second speaker was futurist and church historian, Rev. Dr. Leonard

Sweet, the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew Theological Seminary in NJ. He has been called “one of the church’s most important and provocative thinkers.” In 2006, he was voted “one of the 50 most influential Christians in America.” Dr. Sweet fervently presented the message that the church must engage the medium of pop culture as a vehicle for the communication of the gospel. He communicated the gospel with unbounded enthusiasm and projected the dynamic possibilities of the future with unbuddled optimism. As an example of his irrepressible spirit, he noted that: This event was our Spiritual Retreat, but he preferred the word “Advance” rather than “Retreat.”

- 105.** Constance Pak attended the national gathering of the Chairpersons of the Order of Elders on February 12-14, 2007, at the Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Atlanta, GA. It is a bi-annual meeting, and this was the third time Rev. Pak has participated. At the same time and place, the Chairpersons of the Order of Deacons and the Fellowship of the Local Pastors and Associate members met. The results of the “Study of Ministry” were presented, followed by lively debates, discussions and conversations. It is an important topic with which all clergy should be thoroughly acquainted in order to understand what is going to happen at the 2008 General Conference. For the purpose of educating and sharing the information on this issue, the Order of Elders offered the “Clergy Day Apart” for the second time instead of the “Order of Elders Day Apart,” which was open to all clergy members of the NYAC. Under the theme of “Lens into the Future -- Order and Structure of Ministry,” Dr. Thomas E. Frank, the main author of “Study of Ministry,” professor of Religious Leadership and Administration and Director of Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, was invited. Dr. Frank covered the theology of ordination, the relationship of ordination and Conference, the nature of orders, and the distinctiveness of orders, among other issues. About 130 clergy members gathered at Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church, Tuckahoe, NY, on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for this meeting.
- 106.** Presently the Leadership Team is actively organizing another four-day Spiritual Retreat for 2008, which will take place from April 8 to 11, at Mount St. Alphonsus. We are inviting two speakers: “Greening the Church: Good News for All Creation” by Dr. Greg Hitzhusen, Professor at Ohio State University, and “Greening the Heart: Journey to Restoring the Image of God in Us” by Dr. Young-Ho Chun, Professor at St. Paul School of Theology. We believe that this retreat will offer inspiring lectures and a superb opportunity for taking Sabbath time. Some clergy showed their interest in organizing the NYAC Clergy Golf Outing in 2008. They asked for the Order of Elders sponsorship. The Leadership Team is willing to serve our fellow colleagues in any capacity with gratitude.

## **COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY**

**Rev. Robert D. Sorozan, Chairperson**

- 101.** The Committee on the Episcopacy acts as a sort of “Pastor Parish Relations Committee” for our Bishop and the New York Annual Conference. In this capacity, it works to support the Bishop in his on going ministry to our conference, provide feedback regarding his ministry, be available to provide counsel, and to interpret to the people of the Conference the nature and the function of the Episcopal office (see paragraph 635.3 of the Book of Discipline for a full description of the function of the committee).

102. We have met together five times during the past year. The increase in our meetings was due to the Episcopal evaluation process for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. This process was long and involved. Chairs of the various committees of the New York Annual Conference, the cabinet and conference staff, were contacted for input regarding our Bishop's leadership. All comments were kept confidential. Our committee met to discuss the responses and to add our own input. The discussions were summarized and sent to the Jurisdiction where they will be used in the assignment of Episcopal leadership for the various conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.
103. The process, itself, was very positive. Concerns raised by people and committees were shared with the Bishop (while maintaining the confidentiality of the respondents) at an Episcopacy Committee meeting. The Bishop was very open and receptive to the comments which were shared. At the end of the process, our committee recommended to the Jurisdiction that Bishop Park should return to lead our Conference during the next quadrennium.
104. While the committee was tasked to provide information to the Jurisdiction this past year, our work continues. We meet regularly with the Bishop to provide input and to help share the concerns of the Annual Conference. Bishop Park has always listened carefully to the views expressed, and, when follow-up was needed he has done so quickly. We value the working relationship which has been built up between Bishop Park and our committee during the past four years.
105. Our committee is also tasked with the care of the "Episcopal Residence." At this time there are no major concerns which need to be addressed. We are pleased that only normal maintenance issues need to be addressed. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Lum Lee for his work in managing the care and upkeep of the Episcopal Residence. Lum will be completing his work with our committee this year; he will be missed by us all.
106. Finally, I would like to thank the members of our committee for their hard work during the past year. I would particularly like to thank my Vice Chair, the Rev. Kristina Hansen, for her willingness to summarize all our comments for the final report to the Jurisdiction. I would also like to thank Luisa Martinez who will be completing her service on our committee this year. And finally, I would like to thank Ken Ahlers, who had to leave our committee due to illness. God bless you all.

## **BOARD OF LAITY**

### **Robert G. Hunsinger, Conference Lay Leader**

101. The Board of Laity of the New York Annual Conference is composed of the District Lay Leaders, the Conference Director of Lay Speaking, the District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries, as well as representatives of the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Youth and the various ethnic councils. If an organization that you participate in is not listed here, please talk to the Conference Lay Leader to have them included.

- 102.** In this report last year it was reported that The Board of Laity had been concerned for sometime that the methods that we have used to place Lay Names in nomination for General and Jurisdictional Conferences did not allow enough time for the Lay Members to review the biographies of the candidates. Working with the Conference Secretary and the Rules Committee changes were made to our Conference Rules to allow lay members of the Annual Conference to submit a biography and picture if those chose to be a candidate for General and Jurisdictional Conferences delegate. In the pre-Conference material that was received by all members were those biographies so that the lay members could become familiar with those who wished to be elected prior to arriving at Hofstra.
- 103.** The Laity Session of the 2007 Annual Conference took a different format than we had used in the past. All lay members who had expressed a desire to run for General and Jurisdictional delegate and were present were brought to the platform. Each then had the opportunity to share with the rest of the Lay Members something about themselves. Following the brief introduction each of the candidates were asked several questions. (all were asked to response to the same questions).
- 104.** Of course the election is now over and probably by the time you read this those elected will be at the General Conference in Fort Worth or may have returned already. The Board was interested in finding out how the Lay Members found the voting process. The Board was delighted to find overwhelming support for the way the process (biographies available before Annual Conference) worked. Many comments were received that the Lay Members felt that between the advance biographies and the Laity Session program that they knew the candidates better than they had in previous elections. Some members of the Board even received favorable comments from members of the Clergy.

## **CONFERENCE LAY LEADER**

### **Robert G. Hunsinger, Conference Lay Leader**

- 105.** This is the last report that I will be submitting as your Conference Lay Leader. It has been an interested eight years. It afforded me the opportunity to meet other Lay Leaders from across the Jurisdiction and the General Church. Those meetings provided the opportunity to share what is happening in the New York Annual Conference and to find out what is working in other annual conferences. Many things that I would have like to have happened did not for a number of reasons. That is almost always the case with anyone in a leadership position.
- 106.** In February 2007, I attended the annual meeting of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One of the things that the AACLL does is to review legislation to be submitted to the General Conference that affects Laity. In addition the AACLL can submit legislation of its own. As I reported in the Laity Address last June, AACLL would be submitting two proposed changes to the Book of Discipline that call upon the Laity of the church to recognize their responsibility. Calling on lay persons to recognize that every lay person is an evangelist; every lay person is a missionary. Also calling on the laity to recognize that the primary agent of the salvation of the lost and the sustained growth of the Church is the evangelistic ministry of its laity.

107. The members of the Association realize that even if the General Conference passes the resolutions that the desired changes in our members will not automatically happen. It will require continual emphasis and training by all members of the Church, laity and clergy. I urge all to take a close look at those changes and think what they really mean. If we do not develop ways to convey those messages to our members, they will end up being just so many words on a page with nothing positive happening.

## **THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

**Judy Stevens, Chair**

101. The Board of Ordained Ministry is made up of a diverse group of clergy and laity, all of whom are extraordinarily gifted and committed to the ministry we share. The work BOOM accomplished during 2007-2008 is a result of their commitment to the ministry.

102. **FALL PLENARY, MENTOR TRAINING, COMPASS ORIENTATION**

Executive Committee, Conference Relations Committee, and Plenary met October 22nd at Memorial/Central Korean Church in White Plains. After hearing reports from all committees and registrars, we discussed each item of old business and decided which items should be addressed during 2007-2008, and which items should be referred to the next quadrennium's board. Policies set during 2007-2008 are listed below. No changes were made to the MEF Guidelines of 2006.

103. **COMPASS Orientation**

Compass Orientation was held at the Conference Center September 20th. Twelve new Residents in Ministry joined the class of 2006 to receive instructions and information about the Compass program and about their administrative and connectional responsibilities as probationary members of NYAC. John Collins, Director of the Compass Program, introduced the Conference Staff; Lynda Bates-Steppe, Mentor Coordinator, led a training session for the residents and their mentors. Dennis Winkleblack presented a mini-workshop about "Beginning a New Ministry."

### **Mentors**

Compass Mentors commit to a three-year process that is geared toward preparing Residents for effectiveness in ministry as ordained Elders and Deacons. NYAC is fortunate to have Rev. Lynda Bates-Steppe as mentor coordinator and these clergy as mentors: Joe Agne, Magaly Beltre, Lorraine Coscia-Ackerman, Carol Cox, Douglas Cunningham, Gordon Edwards, Eric Fjeldal, Vicky Fleming, Caroly Gibson, Patricia Intermaggio, Lydia Lebron-Rivera, Doug MacArthur, Evy MacDonald, Juanita Middlebrook, Lori Miller, Karen Monk, Joe Morrison, Doug Osgood, Richard Parker, Patrick Perrin, Tim Riss, Bryon Schofield-Bodt, Bill Shillady, Cecile Stone, Godfrey Uche, Martha Vink, Steve Volpe, Robert Walker, Pauline Wardell-Sankoh, Joel Warner, Joyce Wilkerson, and Bill Wolf.

### **Winter Immersion & Spring Retreat**

The Winter Immersion Event is meant to provide experiences for cross-cultural dialogue and intercultural formation. This year, the group spent three days in the Metropolitan District in an Intercultural & Interfaith Immersion experience. The Spring Retreat is meant to provide opportunities for personal growth and spiritual formation. Rev. Tilda Norberg will lead the retreat May 6-8th.

**104. EVALUATION EVENTS**

BOOM held three evaluation events during 2006-2007. Geri Ann Hoerness and Karen Monk, Evaluation Event Registrar & Coordinator, respectively, planned the two events held at Mt. St. Alphonsus. November 13-15, we gathered at Mt. St. Alphonsus to evaluate 14 commissioned candidates for ordination as elders and one commissioned candidate for ordination as a deacon. January 8 – 10 we interviewed and evaluated 15 certified candidates who applied for commissioning as probationary members.

1. Plenary approved all 15 candidates who came before us for ordination as elders and deacon, and for full membership in NYAC: Kristen Dunn (deacon); Melissa Boyer, Nathaniel Dixon, Marion Hubbard, Elizabeth Jones, Karen Karpow, Darlene Kelley, Chermain Lashley, Yongyeun Lee, Anthony Mecca, Wendy Modeste, Iwy Patel-Yatri, Emily Peck-McClain, Wendy Steed, and Jeff Wells (elders).
2. Twelve candidates were approved for commissioning as probationary members in NYAC, and residents in Compass: Ebenezer Aduku, Jessica Lynn Anschutz, Vicki I. Flippin, Gia Lynn Hall, Roger Jackson, Kwang Won Jung, Gertrude Nation, Andrew Peck-McClain, Cherie Philips, Carmen Denise Pickett, Elizabeth Williams, and Jodey Williams. All 12 candidates are on the elder track.
3. There are currently no applications before us for Professional Certification in Specialized Ministries.

**Web Site**

Gary Williams, Stamford UMC, Stamford, NY, built and is managing BOOM's web site. Many thanks to Gary and to Kun Sam Cho who began planning the web site last year.

**105. POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

BOOM extends care to candidates, in part, by writing policies that insure the candidacy journey is characterized by clear expectations, collegial support, and orderly procedures. Each policy was researched by Executive Committee and presented to plenary using a fourfold plan:

1. Present history of each needed policy
2. Share Executive Committee's proposal
3. Discuss and vote on each proposal
4. Clarify implications for future implementation

These policies were set during 2007-2008:--

**A. Associate Membership requirements, procedure, and evaluation**

(Based on The Discipline par 321 & 322)

1. Associate members of Annual Conference are to be persons of integrity and sound judgment. They should be judged effective in ministry and should possess the core competencies expected of ordained elders.
2. People applying for associate membership must:
  - Have completed a minimum of 60 hours toward a BA or equivalent degree
  - Served a local church (under supervision) for at least 4 full time years
  - Have reached the age of 40 years

- Have completed the 5 year Course of Study
- Be interviewed and evaluated by boom during the commissioning event
- Have completed one unit of basic CPE
- 3. Upon successful completion of the evaluation process, candidates for associate membership will be commissioned and guaranteed an appointment.
- 4. Interview areas should include:
  - Call to ministry/personal awareness
  - Biblical knowledge/study
  - Spirituality
  - Administration
  - Theology
  - Homiletics/worship
  - Evangelism/social action
  - Nurture
- 5. Suggested questions asked during the interview process should be as thorough as those asked of elders.
- 6. The Compass program is recommended as a voluntary commitment after commissioning, and is required if an associate member desires to be ordained as an elder.
- 7. Psychologicals must be updated before coming before boom for commissioning.

#### **B. Readmission to NYAC Membership**

1. Any person seeking readmission to probationary or full membership in the NYAC is required to undergo a psychological evaluation by a licensed evaluator named by BOOM.
2. The person seeking readmission will be permitted to see the new psychological report, in its finalized form. The person will not be permitted to alter the report in any way.
3. This policy includes only persons who have been members of NYAC and have been placed on Location, including Administrative Location, thereby retaining orders but surrendering Conference membership.

#### **C. Full Cabinet Participation on BOOM**

1. Cabinet members will be appointed to serve on boom committees by boom's nominating committee. One cabinet representative will serve on each of these committees: Nominating, Executive, Conference Relations
2. Cabinet members must refrain from discussing appointments or issues related to appointment making during evaluation events and plenaries. As members of boom, their work will be the evaluation of candidates based on core competencies.
3. Boom may need to revisit having retiring cabinet members remain as members of boom, while new cabinet members become members of boom. Boom's policy is not to have a candidate's DS, or previous DS, on her/his primary committee. Because we have not worked with a full cabinet in the past, we do not know if logistical issues will arise.

#### **D. Nominating Committee**

1. A nominating committee, instead of executive committee, will fill leadership positions during the quadrennium. The nominating committee, chaired by the Vice Chair, will prepare the slate of leaders for each new quadrennium.

#### **106. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee of BOOM met 6 times during the year.

**107. CONFERENCE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Under the capable leadership of Joe Agne (Chair) and Koonae Lee (Vice Chair), the Conference Relations Committee has met five times during the 2007-2008 period. Subcommittee chairs are: Bill Shillady (Retirements); Dick Parker (Leaves); William Smartt (requests for AIEM), Javier Viera (transfers).

**108. REGISTRARS**

It is the responsibility of each BOM Registrar to keep full personnel records for all those under the care of the Board of Ordained Ministry. These Registrars continue to surpass the standard of excellence: Jacob Dharmaraj (Candidacy Registrar); Taka Ishii (Commissioning Registrar); Vera Annum (Diaconal & Deacon's Ordination Registrar); Billy Crowder (Elder's Ordination Registrar); Jo Golden (Professional Certification Registrar); Len Buxton (AIEM Registrar); Bill Hawes (Local Pastor & Associate Member Registrar).

**109. ORDERS & FELLOWSHIPS**

BOM is responsible to provide financial support to the Order of Elders (Constance Pak, chair), and the Order of Deacons, Diaconals, & Deaconesses (Sonya Jermin, chair). BOM is also responsible to offer financial support and coordination of continuing formation for local pastors through the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (Robert Johnson, Chair). BOM supports each order and fellowship through our annual budget.

**110. OVERALL PARTICIPATION**

Throughout this quadrennium, participation during evaluations and plenaries has remained high. By the time Annual Conference convenes, plenary will have met twice for multi-day evaluations, and 3 times in White Plains. 95% of BOM's members attended evaluation events; attendance for White Plains plenaries averaged 80%.

**111. CONCLUSION**

The work of ministry Boom accomplished during the 2004-2008 quadrennium signifies the willingness of exceptionally-gifted clergy and laity to serve our NYAC. We scrutinized the process used to complete our work as carefully as we deliberated the decisions we reached. Our intention was to work together in a way that established good working relationships, promoted understanding, and helped us appreciate differences among ourselves. By attending to the process by which we reached decisions, we trust that the decisions we reached will be judged durable, to have set good precedents, to have promoted values of caring and justice, and to have strengthened connections throughout the New York Annual Conference.

**PARISH CONSULTANT NETWORK** (Diane S. Hornaday, Coordinator)

- 101.** The Network is made up of trained clergy and laity. All members participate in continuing education workshops and week-long events to be refreshed and able to provide the best possible help in the three types of consultation services we offer congregations: Conflict Management, Transition, and Mediation.

102. Conflict Management teams are sent to congregations that have been hindered or distracted in their ministries by tensions and conflicts. The consultation process involves gathering information through small group discussions and conversations with key individuals. The team then prepares a report offering an observer's perspective on the situation, together with suggestions for moving forward. The consultants covenant with the congregation to assist with carrying out those suggestions and checking back on progress.
103. Transition or "bridge consultations" assist churches experiencing a pastoral change. This program helps the congregation to appreciate the unique gifts and graces of the departing and arriving pastor and helps the incoming pastor to appreciate the history of the new parish.
104. Mediation services involve conflict dealing with a specific issue and small numbers within the congregation. Several members have participated in JustPeace training events in this area.
105. Costs for a consultation are a contribution of \$100 to the Network's fund, plus the out of pocket expenses of the consultants. Members of the Network are not paid for their service but offer their time and talents as a gift to the church.
106. Requests for a consultation may be made by contacting the coordinator, Diane S. Hornaday, at 860-673-9634.

### **SEXUAL ETHICS RESPONSE TEAM REPORT**

**Rev. Mel Kawakami, Convener, Rev. Lorraine DeArmitt, Co-Convener**

101. Grace to you in the name of the Risen Christ! Our mandate as your Conference Sexual Ethics Response Team remains the same: "The purpose is: to be a first response to persons having concerns regarding clergy sexual misconduct; to provide a trained resource for the Bishop and Cabinet; to provide a support person for a person bringing a concern; and to provide a support person for clergy who are accused of misconduct, as well as for the accused person's family and for congregations as needed."
102. We have achieved several of the goals set out in last year's report. Under the guidance of our Co-Convener, the Rev. Lorraine DeArmitt, we have trained new members for our Team. In conjunction with the Sexual Ethics Task Force, we have published articles in the Vision reminding people of our mission. We sent a team to the a training event on Clergy Misconduct in Nashville in the summer of 2007, sponsored by COSROW and GBHEM, entitled "Do No Harm...Do All the Good You Can."
103. As a Team, we have yet to develop a specific group to deal with congregations and, as we have not had a call this year by the Bishop and Cabinet to use us, we have not had the need to gather for a debrief. While the good news has certainly been we have not been called upon this year, this does not for now belie the need for the Team. Indeed, we will gather as a Team this program year to refresh our understanding of our mission, renew our fellowship, and evaluate future needs. It is our hope that we might meet with the Bishop and Cabinet in pursuit of these goals.
104. This year, I will be moving to a new charge and the Rev. Lorraine DeArmitt has agreed to take on the leadership while I remain a member of the Team. You may always contact Lorraine, me, or any member of the Team for more information regarding our work. Please keep the Team and its important ministry in your prayers.



## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 5

### COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Paul Hibbard, Chairperson

- 101** “It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations.”  
*Book Of Discipline, 2004 Par. 624.2*
- 102** Over the years of my tenure on this commission we have sought to balance the needs of clergy with the needs of congregations. This often gets distilled down to issues of dollars and cents, especially on the floor of legislative section 5, but in reality it is more than that. However, we have not gotten too much farther.
- 103** With economic times being uncertain at best, and many individuals, families, and local churches struggling to maintain current levels of support and services it will continue to be hard to mine past the dollars and cents.
- 104** With that in mind, here is where we stand as a conference in relationship to other annual conferences nationwide. The Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) for full-time clergy for 2008 is \$56,044. The New York Annual Conference (NYAC) average compensation (CAC) is \$53,743. The NYAC ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 64 annual conferences in terms of CAC.
- 105** In comparing minimum salary schedules, the NYAC base or entry level figure \$34,375 (in 2007) for an Elder in full connection ranked the NYAC 15<sup>th</sup> out of 60 annual conferences (full schedule information was not available for all 64 annual conferences).
- 106** Increases in the minimum salary schedule over the past 6 years have averaged between 4 – 5% annually. While this has succeeded in raising the NYAC’s standing in regards to other annual conferences and has helped many clergy entering into a relationship with the conference it has put a strain on some small-member congregations who wish to maintain a full-time pastoral presence.
- 107** While the Commission recognizes the challenges for local churches it also does not want to revert to past practices in regards to minimum salary schedules which led to our conference being last among United Methodist conferences in clergy compensation before a plan of correction was instituted in the early part of this decade. With that in mind the Commission, in consultation with the cabinet, is continuing to review the minimum salary schedule at the time of submission of this report for the pre-conference booklet. It does make the following recommendations at this time:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 108** That the Equitable Salary Fund be set at \$160,000. This represents no change from 2008.
- 109** That the Salary Adjustment Fund be set at \$80,000. This represents no change from 2008.
- 110** That the Professional Reimbursement Account for a pastor under full-time appointment be a minimum of \$5,000 for 2009. Persons serving in part-time appointments are to receive a minimum of \$1,250 for each ¼ -time increment. This represents no increase of 2008.
- 111** That pastors serving additional churches are to receive their choice of an additional \$150 professional reimbursement OR an additional \$150 salary for each church after the first church on their circuit, whether serving in a part-time or full-time appointment.
- 112** The Equitable Compensation Commission's Minimum Salary Schedule for all persons serving under full-time appointment is not available for the pre-conference packet and will be available by the convening of this year's annual conference.

**BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS****William S. Barnes, President****INTRODUCTION**

- 101** Our Benefits Ministry: We are fortunate to be in partnership with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in our work of benefits ministry on behalf of the clergy and staff of the New York Annual Conference. "A Century of Caring" is the theme of the General Board this year as it celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1908. Caring for those who serve and those who have served lies at the heart of what we do as a Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. In our meetings throughout the year, as we deal with the complex issues and costs surrounding the provision of these benefits, we seek always to remember that we are caring for real people, people in ministry in our connection, both active and retired.
- 102.** Benefits Funding: During recent years we have shared with the Annual Conference the serious fiscal difficulties caused by late payments of pension and health benefits contributions from the local churches. A church's late payment causes an immediate negative impact on the conference budget, forcing the drawing of funds away from other programs and delaying payment of other current obligations. During 2007 some churches formerly paying late began making their pension and HealthFlex contributions on time. For this effort we are grateful. Still, at the end of the year, 31 churches had paid less than 90% of their HealthFlex contribution, leaving \$138,314 unpaid; and 36 churches had paid less than 90% of their CRSP/ CPP pensions and comprehensive protection contributions, leaving \$137,977 unpaid. Thus, there was a shortfall of \$276,291 in benefits payments to the Conference during 2007, an amount that had to be made up by taking those dollars from other conference programs. The financial security of our benefits program demands timely payment, each and every month by every church.

**PENSIONS REVIEW**

- 103** Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP): The Clergy Retirement Security Plan, which replaced MPP on Jan. 1, 2007, includes two components: a Defined Contribution (DC) and a Defined Benefit (DB). The DC component requires that each church with a full-time or part-time pastor contribute 3% of the pastor's compensation. The DB component is actuarially calculated by the General Board to require a payment from the NYAC of \$2,012,186 in 2008 and a payment of \$2,107,314 in 2009. The funding of this obligation requires 10.4% of pastoral compensation from each church. In addition, the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), with death, disability and survivor benefits, requires a payment of 3%, based on pastoral compensation up to twice the DAC. The total CRSP/CPP contribution rate, 3%+10.4%+3%, totals 16.4% of pastoral compensation, which is billed on a monthly basis to each local church.
- 104** Pre-1982 Ministerial Pension Plan: Beginning in 2007, we adopted a policy to increase the Past Service Rate (PSR) each year by 3% to address increases in the cost of living for our retired pastors receiving benefits under the plan. The current PSR in 2008 is \$518. Our recommendation for 2009 will be to increase the PSR to \$534. Currently, the NYAC Pre-1982 plan carries a funded status of +\$10,804,779 using an assumption that future PSR increases will continue at 3% per year. While surplus funds cannot be withdrawn from the plan, they can be used to make required CRSP-DB contributions. For the sake of future protection, we are currently depositing the required CRSP-DB contributions to the Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account and will make the CRSP-DB payment in 2008 from the funded surplus in the Pre-1982 plan.
- 105** Integrity in Pensions: A key component in the funding of the pre-1982 plan has been our Integrity in Pensions program, a 30-year funding program by the churches of the New York Conference that was inaugurated in 1982. With the program scheduled to conclude in the year 2012, we have only four years remaining to complete the obligation. At this time, 26 years into the program, over 300 of the approximately 500 churches in the conference have paid their commitment in full. An additional 100 churches are keeping pace and will complete their share by 2012. Some 50 of those churches are capable of payment in full by year-end 2009. We are grateful for this record of faithful stewardship, which has strengthened the promise to our retired clergy who served before 1982. Unhappily, however, there remain 56 churches that have fallen far behind or made no payments to Integrity in Pensions. We would ask those congregations to remember the retired pastors who served them during the years before 1982 and for their sake to complete their commitment to Integrity in Pensions during these final four years.
- 106** Pre-Retirement Seminar: Each October when there has been sufficient interest for the past several years the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has conducted pre-retirement seminars for clergy and spouses who are approaching retirement age. Resource persons from the General Board of Pension and the Social Security Administration have helped participants understand and plan for their retirement benefits. We plan to schedule such a seminar every other year, with the next such event coming in October of this year, 2008.
- 107** Surviving Spouse Information: When a clergy member or spouse dies, the surviving spouse and/or other family members need information about how to access the various benefits of our pension, health and insurance programs. We have made available to the cabinet and conference administrative staff a concise information sheet that our board

secretary Deborah Glassey has prepared to address this important concern. Copies of this information sheet will be available at Annual Conference.

## HEALTH BENEFITS REVIEW

- 108** Wellness Incentives: Last year we inaugurated our first wellness incentive program for active clergy in the conference, and we will continue the same incentive this year. Its requirements are to have a wellness exam and to complete the WebMD HealthQuotient during the calendar year. If a spouse is covered by HealthFlex, both must complete the two requirements. Those who meet the requirements receive the return of their last three months clergy contribution for HealthFlex. During 2007, 41% of our active clergy took wellness exams, 6.9 % completed the HealthQuotient. Many did one but not the other. We strongly urge our participants to make full use of these and the many other wellness resources that are available and covered in our HealthFlex plan. As an additional incentive this year, those who complete the HealthQuotient during this month of June 2008, will receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card directly from HealthFlex.
- 109** HealthFlex Premium Projections for 2009: Preliminary projections indicate that HealthFlex costs for actives in 2009 will increase 4.3%, which will bring them back to the level of 2007. The fact that this would require the same uniform rate of \$11,400, as in 2006 and 2007, means that our costs for actives have not increased over a four-year period. For our HealthFlex Medicare Supplement for retirees the rate is projected to increase 6% in 2009. While we will not know for sure until late August, it appears prudent to plan for these cost levels for health benefits in 2009 budgeting.
- 110** Retiree Health Benefits Funding: We have established a Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account with the General Board to address the concern of eventually funding the commitment of the Conference to cover 75% of the premium cost of the HealthFlex Medicare Supplement plan for our retired clergy and their spouses. Our goal is to grow the account to a level that would fully-fund the obligation, thus removing it from the conference budget. That obligation is a \$1.2 million line item in the 2008 conference budget. The actuarial department at the General Board has determined that this unfunded liability is currently \$30,151,727 for the New York Annual Conference. We have been able to grow the Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account to a balance of \$7.6 million as at the end of 2007 per the strategy described in section 104 in this report. The General Board requires that we begin working on a funding plan to address long-term retiree medical liabilities. A progress report on the development of this plan is required at the end of 2008 and the funding plan must be delivered to the General Board by December 31, 2009.
- 111** Special Allocation to 2009 Conference Budget: Recognizing the apportionment burden that the churches of the Annual Conference face each year, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has proposed to CF&A the allocation of 5% of the market value, or \$380,000, of the Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account balance as at the end of 2007 toward retiree health benefits costs in the 2009 conference budget. We ask that this allocation be noted as a special income line item in the 2009 budget representing a Board of Pensions and Health Benefits contribution to the cost of retiree health benefits, and that there be an apportionment reduction as a result of this contribution. Although we cannot commit to making similar allocations in the years ahead, we hope that we will be able to continue such contributions until the obligation is fully funded.

**112** Administrative Policies for Health Benefits Program: The guidelines by which our health benefits program is administered are presented here for the sake of clarity and understanding by all:

1. Uniform Rate – Since our health benefits plan covers all full-time and three-quarter time clergy, our connectional responsibility requires that every church served by a fulltime or three-quarter time pastor pay the uniform rate. The uniform rate is NOT an insurance premium for the individual currently serving as the church's pastor. It is each fulltime or three-quarter time church's equal share of the total Annual Conference premium that provides health benefits for active clergy, conference staff and their families throughout our diverse conference.

The uniform rate is determined by the total annual cost for active pastors in fulltime or three-quarter time appointment and conference staff, divided by the number of clergy under fulltime and three-quarter appointment and conference staff. The local church pays 90% of the uniform rate and covered clergy pay 10%. For conference staff, the Annual Conference pays 90% of the uniform rate and staff members pay 10%.

2. PPO Buy-Up - Active participants may buy up to the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) network. Those who choose the PPO buy-up must pay the uniform rate plus the additional premium for the PPO option.
3. Clergy Couple Under Appointment - Clergy couples, in which both ordained spouses serve under appointment in separate fulltime churches, are treated in the HealthFlex census as separate units. Each church, per section 1 above, is responsible for paying its 90% of the uniform rate. The clergy couple is responsible for paying a single 10% of the uniform rate. Note: Each partner is given his or her own health benefits card. If there are dependent children, the couple must determine on which one's card to list the dependent children.
4. *Churches Served by Retired Clergy: All churches served by fulltime or three-quarter time pastors are responsible for paying 90% of the uniform rate, per section 1 above, regardless of the status, retired or not, of the current pastor.*

Retired clergy age 65 or above, who serve in fulltime or three-quarter time appointment, will continue to be carried as actives in HealthFlex and will, therefore, be responsible for paying their 10% of the uniform rate.

5. Retired Clergy: Retired clergy not under fulltime or three-quarter time appointment, age 65 or above, must be signed up with the Social Security Administration for coverage under Medicare, Part A and Part B, before they can be enrolled in the HealthFlex Medicare Supplement Plan. Retired clergy are responsible for paying 25% of the premium cost. The Annual Conference pays 75% of the premium.

6. Surviving Spouse of Clergy: The covered surviving spouse of a clergy member enrolled in HealthFlex may continue in the plan at his or her expense. A surviving spouse who is not yet 65 will pay the premium cost for a single individual and any applicable dependents. A surviving spouse 65 or over whose primary coverage is Medicare will pay 25% of the premium cost for the HealthFlex Medicare Supplement.
7. Retiree Eligibility: A Retired Participant eligible for the HealthFlex Medicare Supplement is defined as a former Active Participant in the New York Annual Conference Health Benefit Plan with at least five years of continuous coverage at the time of retirement, and whose primary coverage at retirement is through Medicare Part A and Part B. Retirees with 15 years or more of service in the conference prior to retirement are required to pay 25% of the premium. Retirees with fewer than 15 years of full-time service will be covered at higher levels of personal contribution to the cost, per the following schedule:

<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Level of Contribution</u>
15 years plus	25% of cost
11 to 14 years	50% of cost
6 to 10 years	75% of cost
1 to 5 years	100% of cost

8. Clergy Who Retire Before the Age of 65: Clergy who retire before the age of 65 must continue, at their expense, their coverage in HealthFlex as if active until their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. If such early-retired clergy choose not to continue in the conference HealthFlex program they may not re-enter conference coverage and they will be ineligible for coverage in the HealthFlex Medicare Supplement Plan at age 65.

Eligibility for the conference HealthFlex Medicare Supplement Plan requires at least five years of continuous coverage in the conference actives plan before age 65.

9. Retired Clergy with Spouse Younger than Age 65: A retired clergy member with a spouse younger than age 65 may have the spouse covered in the active HealthFlex plan at his or her expense. Eligibility for coverage in the conference HealthFlex Medicare Supplement Plan when the spouse reaches age 65 requires at least five years of continuous coverage in the conference actives plan before age 65.
10. Termination for Non-Payment: If payment for a participant is not received within 30 days, notice will be sent to the Finance chairperson, Church Treasurer, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Chair, Lay Leader and Pastor declaring that if past due payment is not received within the next 15 days, the participant will be dropped from coverage after consultation with the District Superintendent and/or CF&A. Re-entry into the HealthFlex Plan cannot be allowed until the beginning of the following calendar year. Such re-entry will require payment of all arrearages up to the date when coverage was terminated. Loss of coverage under these circumstances will subject the party in arrears to all pre-existing medical condition limitations enforceable under the plan. Each church served by a fulltime or three-quarter time pastor will continue to be responsible for payment of the Uniform Rate as described in #1, above.

**RECOMMENDATIONS – HEALTH BENEFITS:**

- 113** Participation in Costs - Actives: It is our recommendation that every full-time and three-quarter time active participant in the HealthFlex plan in 2009 pay 10 % of the uniform rate, billed monthly, and the local church with full-time or three-quarter time clergy pay 90% of the uniform rate, also billed monthly. For conference staff, the Annual Conference pays 90% of the uniform rate, and staff members pay 10%. Those who buy up to a PPO network pay, in addition to 10% of the uniform rate, the amount by which the cost of the PPO exceeds that of the basic plan.
- 114** Participation in Costs – Retirees: It is our recommendation that every retired participant in the Medicare Supplement Plan who has at least 15 years of full-time or equivalent service under appointment in the NYAC pay 25% of the actual premium cost in 2009 with 75% of the cost paid by the Annual Conference.

**RECOMMENDATIONS - PENSIONS:**

- 115** Local Church Contribution for Retiree Benefits: It is our recommendation that the 2009 total monthly billing for retiree benefits be based on an annual rate of 16.4% of pastoral compensation, which includes 10.4% of all pastoral compensation to cover CRSP-DB costs, 3% of all pastoral compensation to cover CRSP-DC costs, and 3% of up to twice the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) to cover CPP costs.
- 116** Receipts to Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account: It is our recommendation that receipts for CRSP-DB (10.4%) be deposited each month into the Retiree Health Benefits Reserve Deposit Account, and that the required 2009 payment for CRSP-DB be made from the funded surplus in the Pre-1982 pension plan.
- 117** CRSP-DB Cost for Disabled Pastors: It is our recommendation that the CRSP-DB cost for disabled pastors be put into the apportionment base.
- 118** Past Service Rate: It is our recommendation that the PSR in the Pre-1982 Plan be set at \$534 for 2009, which represents a 3% increase.
- 119** Reserve for Emergency CPP: It is our recommendation that the reserve for emergency CPP payments remain unchanged at \$10,000 in the 2009 budget.
- 120** Special Grants: It is our recommendation that the payment of special monthly grants, as established in previous years and as provided for in *The Book of Discipline*, be continued to the following persons: Eva Alvira, Jean Arthur, Elsa Myers .
- 121** Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons: The New York Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

**WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

**WHEREAS**, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

**WHEREAS**, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the year 2009 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

**THAT** the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

**NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

It is our recommendation that an amount equal to 100% of pension payments received by a retired minister, or of disability payments received by a disabled minister during the year 2009 be and is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance respectively for each retired or disabled minister who is ordained or licensed in the United Methodist Church and is or was a member of the New York Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability; and that such payments represent service in any local church, annual conference, general agency or institution of the United Methodist church or of any former denomination that is now a part of said denomination, or any other employer whose employment of said ministers, who elected to make contributions to the pensions and benefit funds of the United Methodist Church; and that the Internal Revenue Service's limits shall apply only to ordained or licensed ministers, and no more than the lesser of fair rental value, the actual cost of owning a home, or the amount of taxable pensions or disability benefits received may be claimed.

**122** 2008 Formal Funding Plan for Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (Pre-82 Plan) for the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Board of Pensions and Health Benefits:

Our current Past Service Rate for the calendar year 2008 is \$518 per service year, an increase of 3% over the 2007 rate of \$503. Since 2006, our Past Service Rate philosophy has been to plan for 3% increases in the Past Service Rate in each future year, to partially compensate for increases in the cost of living for retired pastors. We have therefore made an assumption as to expected future increases in the Past Service Rate of 3% per year after 2008.

The 2008 funding plan information as of January 1, 2006 is summarized below.

Present Value of Benefits*	\$ 44,646,712
Current Assets	\$ 55,451,491
Funded Status	\$ 10,804,779

\*Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP-2000 Mortality Table.

There is no plan at present to ask for apportionments to meet future needs as long as the funds in the deposit account and the annual investment earnings can cover these costs. If insufficient funds exist in that account we shall ask the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to add a line item to the Conference budget to cover these expected costs.

The Pre-82 Plan is one of two defined benefit (DB) components within the larger Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). Pensions are provided for service after 2006 by the other DB component, referred to as CRSP-DB. By votes of the New York Annual Conference, part of the January 1, 2006, funded surplus of \$10,804,779 in the Pre-82 Plan has been earmarked to cover the following amounts of our required contributions to the successor CRSP-DB Plan following that date, as permitted by CRSP: \$0 as of 12/31/2006 (since CRSP-DB was not effective until 1/1/2007), \$1,893,771 as of 12/31/2007, and \$2,012,186 as of 12/31/2008. Thereafter, we retain the right to decide annually whether any funded surplus which may exist within the Pre-82 Plan at that time should be used in a similar manner to cover part or all of our then-required contribution to CRSP-DB.

## CONCLUSION

- 123** Appreciation: It was eight years ago, at the 2000 session of the Annual Conference, that the functions of Pensions and Health Benefits were brought under this one umbrella, adopting the model of the General Board. For these eight years it has been my privilege to serve as president and to work with a talented, concerned, and committed board membership. I especially want to recognize those who have been together with me for all eight years and who rotate off this year: Jim Durfee, vice president and resident actuary; Debbie Glassey, secretary; Paul Deysenroth, chair, Health Benefits Sub-committee; Bob Whyte, chair Pensions Sub-committee; Ethel Scott, chair Incapacity Committee; Dr. Jaewon Kim. In the spirit of the General Board's mission statement of "Caring For those who Serve," I also express the appreciation of the Board to Bishop Park and the Cabinet for their concern, confidence and support; to Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services Ernest Swiggett for his steady hand at the helm of our conference's administrative and financial services; to the conference administrative staff, especially Pat Perruccio, for their support services; Oscar Destruge-Sandoval, for serving as pensions registrar; cabinet liaison Richard Rice; Stephen Phillips, liaison from CF&A; William Shillady, liaison from the Board of Ordained Ministry; William Neuert, liaison from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and board members Anthony Beck, John Fahey, Doug Hathaway, Arturo Maine, Elaine Williams Nelson, Ray Rinfret and Jim Van Schaick for their faithful attendance, keen insight and numerous contributions to our work. The fellowship we experience in the work of benefits ministry is a rich blessing.

## LEGISLATIVE SECTION 6

### ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION

**Leslie Reyman, Chair**

101. The Archives and History Commission of the New York Annual Conference continues to fulfill its mandate from *The Discipline*. It provides material to a diverse group of researchers, both within the Conference and from outside the Conference. Due to the workload and volume of inquiries, a need exists to increase the archivists working hours. The Commission began a search for a part-time professional archivist in earnest at the end of 2007.
102. Space issues continue to challenge the Commission, including air quality, mold, water damage to the materials and physical space, and a lack of room for holding all the material. With the historical and sacredness of the archival material at risk, it has become necessary to investigate a number of different options. Therefore the Commission is considering a variety of ideas, including a move to facilities in higher education institutions, abandoned/discontinued churches within the conference, new buildings, and rental space in business parks. The year was spent gathering information to make the best decision for the archives and its material.
103. In October 2007, the Commission elected a new Chair; Leslie Reyman, a professional archivist. The Commission also is diligently recruiting active new members.

### CONFERENCE ARCHIVIST

**Bette Johnson Sohm, Archivist**

101. *History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.* David C. McCullough
102. The C. Wesley Christman Archives seeks to save the records of who we are and how we have been fulfilling our call within the New York Annual Conference. We are the repository for the records and historical artifacts of this Conference and our predecessors. We also maintain a small library on general Methodist History.
103. Within our walls you will find the records of discontinued congregations, district and conference committees and commissions, some of the notable clergy and laity that have served within our borders. These records come in many different forms: manuscript records and sermons, books and typewritten reports, photos and scrapbooks, newspapers and newsletters and bulletins, audio tapes, video tapes and DVDs, 5 1/4" floppies, 3.5" floppies, and CD's, saddlebags and paintings, t-shirts and commemorative plates and mugs.
104. Even as we preserve the past, we look to the future. The rooms at 20 Soundview have served us for a number of years, but we have outgrown the space and need a more easily controlled environment. It has become increasingly difficult to try and process records in the shrinking space not filled with boxes.

105. We celebrate this year the donation of time by Ron Scheutzel. He has been volunteering on a weekly basis. Ron has been doing the detail work of taking a collection, sorting through and bringing order to what is contained, making archival copies of newspaper articles, removing the triplicate and quadruplicate copies that are sometimes there, removing these records from the old boxes and bins and moving them into archival quality containers, and cataloging what is contained within. His efforts are making more of our records accessible for research.
106. The archives have been open one day a week. During that time we process records, answer questions from local churches and their congregants, district and conference committees and employees, as well as people beyond our family who are looking for genealogical or other historical information. We also work at resourcing local congregations with information on how to preserve their records.
107. I started working for the archives in May of 2002. It has been a wonderful five years, and I have loved the challenges and the triumphs I have experienced. As a full time student at Drew and with a half time appointment as a local pastor, it is with regret that I have had to resign my position. It has been an honor to serve you as your archivist, and I look forward to continuing my service among you as it takes on new forms of expression. May God's peace be with you all.

## **UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, PRESIDENT**

**James W. Perkins, Esq., President**

101. The year of 2007 could be considered the Year of the Director for the United Methodist City Society, because the Society was faced with many important management decisions that compelled the Board of Directors to be active and to act. For years, we have been struggling to reach full Board commitment and participation in the activities of the Society. In recent years, Board involvement had fallen below acceptable levels such that our Foundation funding sources had indicated that they would consider pulling back grants if participation was not improved.
102. Issues of employment, proposed real estate developments, demands of the local churches and the Society's relationship with the Annual Conference and the local church, all presented themselves to the Board for action. I am happy to report that the Board met the challenge, with the Directors pulling together and participating in these very important decisions.
103. On the real estate front, the Society, through the Board, made a number of important decisions, including: to sell property, restructure its venture with Salem Church in Harlem to construct and operate the Salem House affordable housing project, and not to go forward with another proposed development project that the Board determined was economically infeasible. The Society also continued to work with the Coop City United Methodist and other local churches to provide funding and locate other sources of funding in order to complete necessary construction projects. The Board is now studying the physical plant needs of the churches to which it holds title and, together with the Annual Conference, will decide whether repairs are feasible or whether there is some other solution to addressing building operating costs that exceed the budget of the particular local church.

- 104.** Our children's programs continue to thrive, but at the same time, struggle to meet the increasing demands of the local church and community to provide meaningful activities for children and youth. In 2007, we ministered to thousands of children in our after school programs in local churches and provided an invaluable camping experience for hundreds of children at Camp Olmsted in Cornwall, New York. Yet, for every child for whom we were able to provide these experiences, there are dozens who desire or need them, but because of lack of funding or capacity in the program, are unable to participate. The Board, with the leadership and direction of Associate Executive Director April Callender and Director of Children's Programs, Aisha Campbell, is now studying how it can enhance funding and capacity, in order that more places can be found for those children in need.
- 105.** In 2007, the Board continued to focus on fiscal management and operations. As a social service arm of the Methodist Church, we continue to face need beyond that which we can finance, but at the same time, look for ways to fund the programs that provide the greatest hope for growth in local and program ministry. We continue to fight the false perception that the Society is a well funded endowment that can meet every grant request, no matter its purpose and no matter the likelihood that funding will lead to growth in church mission. The Society, unfortunately, does not have this luxury and, in the long run, the Board's and Executive Staff's struggle to discern where the Society's limited resources can best be used, will ensure the best opportunity for growth of the programs it sponsors and supports. We are fortunate to have the services of our Chief Financial Officer Trudy Grove, who in recent years, has taken on increasing tasks, as increasing demands are placed on the Society.
- 106.** Finally, we are grateful for the years of leadership provided by Rev. Clyde A. Anderson who helped cause the Society to focus on its priorities in mission. I would also like to express my thanks to Rev. John E. Carrington who has returned after his many years of service, to serve as Interim Executive Director as we move forward in this third century of the Society's work in the great City of New York. In closing, I express my sincere thanks to the Society's Board, for without its dedication and ability to make difficult decisions, such as we have faced this past year, and will surely face in the future, the message of hope, love and outreach that is the Society's could not be provided to those who we serve and reach out to serve.

## **UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **Rev. Dr. John E. Carrington, Interim Executive Director/CEO**

- 101.** In 2008 the United Methodist City Society began its 170<sup>th</sup> year as one of God's chosen instruments to enable congregations to provide a variety of ministries to those persons who live in our urban communities. In some ways it continues to do what it has always done: providing helpful and creative programs for children, responding with resources to congregations in need and a supportive partner with pastors who provide so many services to God's people.

- 102.** During the past eight years, the City Society was served by two gifted and distinguished executive directors. Both of them brought unusually fine gifts to their work. Dr. Calvin C. Pressley served only a short time before he became seriously ill. Dr. Pressley did not recover from his illness and died in 2007. Dr. Clyde Anderson, his successor, served for five years and at the end of 2007 he resigned. The Society has benefited immensely from their leadership.
- 103.** On the departure of Dr. Pressley and Dr. Anderson the City Society was fortunate to have in place Ms. April Callender, Associate Executive Director, Ms. Trudy Grove, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Leticia Saa Johnson, Office Manager. Along with James Perkins, Esq., President of the City Society, they carefully managed the affairs of the City Society during the illness of Dr. Pressley and following the resignation of Dr. Anderson. They continue to be of great help to Dr. John E. Carrington who has returned to the City Society as the Interim Executive Director. A search committee has been named and it has begun the process of finding a new executive director.
- 104.** In 1999 the City Society and Salem United Methodist Church were selected by the City of New York to develop a housing site directly across the street from Salem. Finally, in partnership with Phipps Houses, that low-income apartment house, with ground floor commercial space, is finished. The residents will soon be moving into their new home. The City Society thanks the directors of the UMCS Salem Corporation for their commitment to see this project to a successful completion.

### **The Programs at Olmsted Center**

**105. Camp Olmsted**

In 1901, Camp Olmsted was opened 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 the city. The 21-acre parcel of land was given to Five Points by Sarah 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 still serves children and families from New York City's most needy communities.

- 106.** 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 the world outside of New York City. During our two week program sessions campers enjoy swimming, hiking, art, dance, drama, reading, science classes, sports and ropes challenge course activities. They learn how to cook in kiddies' kitchen, they put on dramatic performances and most importantly they make friends that last a lifetime.
- 107.** In 2007 the program at Olmsted served over 400 children. This figure includes 235 children who participated in our regular camping program, 16 children who participated in our day camp program and 150 children who participated in two special Day Camp Field Day events in August.
- 108. Olmsted Retreat Program**  
Olmsted Center located in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY offers facilities for church groups, not for profit organizations, schools and families to host retreats, confirmation classes, youth meetings, reunions and other gatherings. Olmsted Center is managed by Five Points Mission, a subsidiary of the United Methodist City Society.
- 109.** Our year round facilities include the Manor House, our largest facility, which can accommodate 30 people; the Victorian style Kirkwood House, which is perfect for smaller

groups and personal retreats, and can accommodate up to twenty people; and three cabins which can accommodate up to 23 persons each and offer a more rustic experience.

- 110.** In 2007 a total of 1,182 persons participated in a retreat program at Olmsted Center. These persons represented 22 United Methodist groups, 5 groups from other denominations, 16 not for profit organizations and 10 families.
- 111.** We continue to upgrade our property to make it more modern and user friendly. In November 2007 we added a pavilion that was built by the NOMADS (Nomads On A Mission Active in Divine Service) a United Methodist group that provides volunteer service work around the country. This pavilion, which can accommodate up to 120 people, will provide additional meeting space for camp and retreat groups. In 2007 we painted all three cabins and upgraded the furnishings in the Kirkwood Room in Manor House.
- 112. United Methodist City Society Children's Programs**  
The City Society is committed to supporting year round program services for children and youth. Our initiatives are:
- 113. After-School Initiative (UMCS Children's Program)**  
The United Methodist City Society's Children's Program provides assistance to churches in the development, management and operation of after-school programs. Through this project we help churches develop management systems, prepare program plans, examine/oversee fiscal operations, fund additional program activities and identify potential program partners.
- 114.** 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 their children and youth. Currently, there are nine churches serving over 1,500 children in the project. These churches include – Chinese United Methodist Center (Manhattan), 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Academics (Community United Methodist Church, Queens), Epworth United Methodist Church (Bronx), Helping Hands Tutorial (Hanson Place United Methodist Church, Brooklyn), John Wesley United Methodist Church (Brooklyn), Saint Paul's United Methodist Church (Jamaica), Salem United Methodist Church (Manhattan), Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church (Queens) and Tremont UM Church (Bronx).
- 115.** Our research shows that over 50% of the children served by our programs come from single parent families, about 75% of the students that attend UMCS supported programs return to that center for at least two years and over 80% of the children served by UMCS programs are not affiliated with the Methodist Church.
- 116.** The programs at our centers are designed to address the needs of the children we serve. Our programs help children form peer groups that can exert a positive influence on them during their formative years. Our high return rate also allows the staff at these centers to develop meaningful relationships with the children and families in their community. Lastly, these programs are designed to reach out to the community outside of the local church and provide services and supports that are not currently available.

117. It is our goal for the program year to continue to respond to these needs by increasing the number of churches under our umbrella and expanding the types of services we provide.
118. **Head Start**  
The City Society has sponsored Head Start programs since 1966. The philosophy 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.
119. The program offers 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 program model also puts an emphasis on parental involvement, community partnerships and in-kind donation requirements.
120. Currently, the City Society manages two programs - one located at Christ UM Church in Brooklyn (which serves 98 children) and the other at the Joseph Di Marco Child Care Center in Long Island City (which serves 34 children).
121. The City Society receives funding for these programs from the Administration for Children's Services of New York City.
122. **Summer Day Camp Programs**  
Through the Summer Task Force, the City Society provides program assistance and financial support to local churches that operate summer day camp and vacation bible school programs.
123. Grant awards are made on an annual basis through the Summer Task Force application process and range from \$500 - \$2,000 per church. Award amounts are based on community need, proposed program activities, program length and number of children served. In 2007 we provided funding for 12 churches serving over 1,000 children.
124. **Other City Society Programs**  
**Scholarship Program**  
The United Methodist City Society awards scholarships to persons who are called to the ministry in an urban setting. Recipients are selected through an annual application process by the UMCS Scholarship Committee of its Board of Directors. In 2007 the Committee awarded scholarships to 8 candidates ranging in amounts from \$500 - \$2,000.
125. **Anchor House**  
The programs of Anchor House, so named because they provide residents with a solid foundation or "anchor" from which to fight the destructiveness of substance abuse, offer a holistic approach to recovery and self sufficiency.
126. 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.
127. One of the goals of the Anchor House program is to provide residents with the tools and skills to lead meaningful, productive lives upon graduation from the program. Residents

are taught basic computer skills, literacy skills, resume writing and interview techniques. Prior to graduation all residents must demonstrate that he/she is drug free, has secured employment, is financially independent and has identified a stable residence.

- 128.** 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 50 men. The women's program began in 1997 after the Park Place facility was no longer needed for the men's program. Beginning in 2006 and completed in 2007 the women's facility underwent a major renovation. This program now serves 20 women but we are expecting to increase the capacity to 28 women.

## **NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

**Betsy Ingram, Chair**

- 101.** We have again started our search for persons willing to serve the conference on various committees. As a result of the work we did last year, it seems that our task is easier this time. My thanks to all who are on this committee and their dedication to finding persons who "fit the job".
- 102.** Three of the conference committees only change personnel at the new quadrennium: Board of Laity, CF&A and Episcopacy. BOOM also changes but the Bishop has sole discretion for naming new persons for this group.
- 103.** This year we will elect a new Conference Lay Leader. This is a quadrennial position. Please note that by conference rules **both** Lay and Clergy vote for this person.

## **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.** During 2007 the trust received interest and dividends of \$206,000. It incurred expenses for the year of \$41,500 for investment management fees and audit costs and grant distributions were \$333,000, paid as follows:

Grant Distributions

Grant distributed at December 31, consisted of the following:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Park Avenue United Methodist Church 2007 Grant	\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000
Park Avenue United Methodist Church 2008 Grant	52,500	-
Methodist Church Home for the Aged	50,000	50,000
Ghana United Methodist Church	-	75,000
Mamaroneck United Methodist Church		10,000
Wesley United Methodist Church		5,000
First United Methodist Church		25,000
Epworth United Methodist Church		50,000
Bushwick Parish United Methodist Church		65,000
Summerfield United Methodist Church, Bridgeport, CT		13,000
Summerfield United Methodist Church, Staten Island, NY	17,000	-
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter	5,000	-
Search and Care	6,000	-
King's Highway United Methodist Church	25,000	-
Community United Methodist Church, Massapequa, NY	17,900	-
Woodrow United Methodist Church	43,700	-
Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church	15,617	-
	<u>\$ 332,717</u>	<u>\$ 403,000</u>

- 104. Since the inception of the fund in 1966 it has given \$7,879,237 in grants. The New York Annual Conference, local United Methodist churches, and related institutions have received \$5,446,230, (69%) of those grants and the Park Avenue United Methodist Church has received \$2,433,007, (31%).
- 105. At December 31, 2007, Net Assets of the trust were \$8,841,000 in comparison with \$8,542,000 at the end of 2006.
- 106. The assets of the trust are managed by a large and respected investment advisor, Bessemer Trust Company of New York City. Bessemer also has custody of the securities. The assets are invested in a diversified portfolio of money market instruments, quality short to intermediate bonds, and domestic and international equities. During 2007, Bessemer temporarily reduced the equity commitment in anticipation of a less favorable market environment.
- 107. The Trustees held two working meetings in 2007 and were in frequent communication by the telephone correspondence and e-mail between meetings.
- 108. A strong word of thanks is due to the trustees (Robert Whyte, Edmund Ruppman, Joyce Palevitz and Jeffrey Hughes) many valuable contributions to the work of the Trust.
- 109. Thanks are also due to Rev. William Shillady and the staff of the Park Avenue United Methodist Church for providing administrative support to the trust.

## **RULES COMMITTEE**

**Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Chairperson**

101. Our Conference Rules of Order impose two mandates upon the Rules Committee. First, the committee is to receive and consider all proposed changes or additions to the Rules of Order and make recommendations to the Annual Conference regarding those proposed changes or additions; and, second, the Rules Committee is to periodically restudy the Conference Rules of Order in light of changing General Conference and Annual Conference actions and procedures, and recommend to the Annual Conference for its consideration and action such changes and adaptations that the Rules Committee judges to be necessary.
102. Since the 2007 Conference session, the committee has been asked to consider two amendments to the rules. First, we have been asked to determine the appropriateness of further changes to the manner of electing clergy delegates to General Conference for the purpose of streamlining those elections. In addition, we have been asked to consider recommending term limits for members of the committee. Due to a number of circumstances, including the lack of exigency of the proposed changes, the committee has not determined what, if any, recommendation it will make to this body. Consequently, the committee has no recommendations to make at this time.

## **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" notification, Pre-Conference book of reports and petitions, clergy service recordkeeping, communication of death notices and a stream of 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 Book—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. A new printing company was found for our journal/directory work for this year after the closing of our previous provider of these services. Triangle Press in Harrisburg, PA handled our work for us. They also mailed the journals/directories to recipients. All in all the arrangement seemed to go well and the costs were reasonable. It is likely we will use them again for this year's activities.
104. I commend those who serve as assistant secretaries and greatly contribute to the fast turnaround of our publications: Clifford Field, Kristina Hansen, Donna Jolly, Evelyn McDonald, Carolyn McNair and Elizabeth Mortlock. Also the efforts and help of Barbara Vaccaro, Everett Dickson, Ann Pearson, Pat Perruccio, and Shelley Mitchell at the Conference Center are much appreciated. The fine cooperation, compassion, and help amongst all of the members of the staff of the conference made the task of learning a new position far more manageable for this new conference secretary.

**LEGISLATIVE SECTION 7**

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – not available**

## CORPORATE SESSION REPORTS

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT – not available

#### THE UNITED METHODIST UNITED METHODIST FRONTIER FOUNDATION, INC.

Keith A. Muhleman, President and Executive Director

101. The past year of the United Methodist United Methodist Frontier Foundation (UMFF) has been one of transformational change. After the departure of Rev. Jeffrey Rarich who had provided outstanding leadership in the Foundation unification, we were privileged to have interim leadership from Ms. Susan Ezrati who brought knowledge and skills that she derived from her 15 years of investment management experience with the pension program of General Motors. Late in the year, the Board invited me to take the helm of the Foundation and take its work to the next level. We continue to serve churches and ministries in five annual conferences.
102. Three annual conferences and over 500 local church and ministries throughout the New York region invest through the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. In 2007, churches placed 13 new accounts with the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. We paid out \$5,549,641 to churches and conferences for their use in funding their ministries, repairing buildings, buying parsonages and installing new heating systems. In particular, funds managed by the Foundation supported the expansion and replacement of infrastructure at several camping facilities in the North Central New York Conference. At year end 2007, the United Methodist Frontier Foundation was managing \$27,355,675 for church ministries and individual trusts for religious and charitable purposes. Individual charitable gift annuities managed by the Foundation exceeded \$1,055,000 in value at year end.
103. In 2007, the UM United Methodist Frontier Foundation and the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits modified their historical arrangement for the management of the Integrity in Pensions program, which relates to a heretofore under-funded pre-1982 pension liability. Assets related to the obligations of a select group of churches toward this program were transferred to the General Board. The funds to be repaid to those same churches in 2012, which have been funded with a zero-coupon US Treasury bond, were retained by the Foundation.
104. All funds entrusted to the Foundation are managed by the professional fund management services of John G. Ullman and Associates in Corning, New York, and U. S. Trust through their office in West Hartford, Connecticut. All of investments are socially screened to comply with the United Methodist Social Principles by following the guidelines of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. We support the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its advocacy with those corporations involved in the Middle East and encourage the efforts of the General Board in seeking peace and justice in that region.

- 105.** The UM United Methodist Frontier Foundation continues to work with local churches to raise capital funds for needed repairs and expansion of facilities and assist them with stewardship planning for annual campaigns, planned giving seminars and endowment development. This work is provided by our Executive Director and our very able and knowledgeable team of consultants. These individuals are the first line of contact with local churches. We are indebted to the ministry they carry out for the United Methodist Frontier Foundation. Consultants serving include: Rev. Kathleen Barden, Ms. Susan Ezrati, Rev. Fred Kelsey, Rev. Peggy Fabrizio, Mr. Lum Lee, Rev. Vernon Lee, Mr. Tom Nichols, Rev. David Nicholls, Rev. James Pollard and Mr. Ronald Salyer.
- 106.** A part of our ministry is stewardship education. We participate in the Stewardship Academies of the New York Annual Conference and offer seminars in district settings and in local churches dealing with annual campaigns, memorial funds, endowment development and the promotion of planned giving. We also participate with the Board of Ordained Ministries in the mandatory pastoral education program regarding local church stewardship and personal finance. Our intention for this very valuable seminar is to make it an annual event for probationary members.
- 107.** Many of the services we provide to local churches and individuals are provided at no charge to the individual or the church. These include assistance to individuals with their estate planning homework. We help people determine their goals for charitable and church giving and enable them to speak with their tax and legal advisors and provide suitable investment vehicles and annuities to realize their goals. For local churches, we provide an initial stewardship consultation where we evaluate what they are doing and make recommendations for changes, including ways to conduct their annual campaign. We offer an initial conversation about getting ready for a capital campaign and provide a proposal for services for the church to consider. We meet with the financial leadership of a church to help them set up an endowment program. We offer seminars on planned giving and preach in local churches in conjunction with the planned giving and stewardship issues.
- 108.** Our stewardship ministry costs money. We receive no apportionment monies from any conference. We derive about half of our annual revenues from the one percentage point per year charge for the funds that we manage. We conduct annual and capital campaigns for a negotiated fee (ethical guidelines for professional fund-raising forbid taking a percentage of the monies raised). To assist churches in getting started in a good direction for annual campaigns, we lead The New Consecration Sunday program in a church for a flat fee of \$250 plus travel costs, which helps to offset but does not fully cover our expenses.
- 110.** Our office is staffed by Ms. Sally Evans, our office manager who performs data entry on our accounting system for funds we manage for three conferences, three districts, and five hundred churches. Mr. Charles Rhuda, our accountant, balances our books and ensures we operate in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. A professional financial audit of our activities is available on request.

- 111.** Members of our Board of Directors form the backbone of the United Methodist United Methodist Frontier Foundation. Their enthusiastic participation guides our ministry and provides the stability required to keep the UM United Methodist Frontier Foundation steady. Directors elected by the New York Annual Conference include: Fred Brewington, Esq., Ms. Susan Ezrati, Rev. Peggy Fabrizio, Rev. Robert Knebel, Mr. Lum Lee, Mr. Ed Monroe, Mr. Arch Nuttall, and Mr. Daniel Ruback. Those elected by the North Central New York Annual Conference include: Rev. Robyn Hays, Mr. Ronald Salyer, Ms. Shelley Smith, Rev. Patricia Johnson Wright and Rev. Dora Schneider. The board-selected members include: Mr. Charles Beach, Mr. Allen Beavers, Jr., Chereé Buggs, Esq., Rev. Kristina Hansen, Mr. Gary Hartman, Rev. Evelyn McDonald, Mr. Lynn Stearns, Mr. Michael Southcott and Ms. Gloria Webb. Bishop Jeremiah Park also is a full member of the Board. James Harbison, Jr., Esq. and Rev. Irving Hill are Board Members emeritus. Mr. Lum Lee serves as the Chair of the Board and is unflagging in his dedication to the cause; Mr. Ronald Salyer serves as the Vice Chair. His prior experience as director of the New York West Foundation until it merged with the New York Connecticut Foundation to form UMFF proves invaluable to the Board. .
- 112.** It is my privilege to be the Executive Director and President of the United Methodist United Methodist Frontier Foundation. I look forward to our future adventures in ministry and to building a stewardship culture within the conferences and church that draws its source for giving from a deep relationship to God.

## RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS

### RESOLUTION # 2008 – 1

#### FOR THE DISCONTINUATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

**WHEREAS**, the First United Methodist Church located at 39 West Avenue in Norwalk, Connecticut was founded in 1789 by the circuit rider, Jesse Lee, and

**WHEREAS**, the First United Methodist Church has given birth to four other United Methodist churches in Norwalk: Norwalk UMC, East Avenue UMC, Rowayton UMC and El Camino UMC, and

**WHEREAS**, none of the United Methodist churches in Norwalk (population 85,000) have an average worship attendance of more than 95, have limited parking availability and aging buildings, and

**WHEREAS**, East Avenue UMC is served by a half-time pastor and El Camino UMC is served by a quarter-time pastor, and

**WHEREAS**, discussions about merging two or more of the churches have been held in recent years, and

**WHEREAS**, the *Book of Discipline* in paragraph 2548.7 states, “When properties from the discontinuation of a congregation or abandonment are sold in urban centers with more than 50,000 population, the proceeds of sale must be used for new and/or existing ministries within **that urban center**,” and

**WHEREAS**, the Judicial Council of the United Methodist church has ruled that each annual conference should interpret the meaning of “that urban center,” for itself and

**WHEREAS**, the Church Conference of First United Methodist Church voted to discontinue its ministry, and

**WHEREAS**, the resident bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and the New York Connecticut District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to declaring First United Methodist Church discontinued and to the sale of the property pursuant to paragraph 2548 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the corporate body in which the First United Methodist Church of Norwalk, Connecticut exists, at this session of the annual conference declares that First United Methodist Church be discontinued, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the principal amount from the sale of the church building and parsonage of First United Methodist church plus other remaining financial assets at the time of discontinuance will be used exclusively for ministry in the city of Norwalk by existing or future United Methodist churches, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the bishop and cabinet of the New York Annual Conference will be responsible for determining how the principal amount and other remaining financial assets are used for ministry in the city of Norwalk, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that income from the invested principal and other funds held by the First United Methodist Church at the time of its discontinuation may be used at the discretion of the bishop and cabinet for urban ministry in any part of the New York Annual Conference.

Adopted at the meeting of the Church Council of First United Methodist Church, Norwalk, Connecticut, March 9, 2008.

**PETITION # 2008-301****AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DIALOGUE**

**WHEREAS**, debates over controversial issues at recent Annual Conference sessions, especially sexual orientation, have led to pain within the body, as has the treatment of some of our Christian brothers and sisters in relation to these matters, and,

**WHEREAS**, parties holding a variety of positions in some of these debates would like an opportunity for more extended dialogue, and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the hope of the undersigned parties that such an opportunity would create possibilities for greater understanding, new friendships, deeper respect, better relations, and possibly even some healing within the body, in addition to reducing mean-spirited and vituperative talk sometimes heard during Annual Conference sessions, and,

**WHEREAS**, representatives of some of these parties have come to an agreement on the following proposal, and,

**WHEREAS**, while previous dialogue opportunities have had their place, it is the desire at this time to try a different format than what has been tried before in previous conference dialogues, and,

**WHEREAS**, since we are speaking primarily as members of the Annual Conference, to members of the Annual Conference, this coalition would like this opportunity within an Annual Conference session, in what is hoped to be a more constructive format true to our calling as followers of Christ, and outside of the usual debate format,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference supports the efforts of these parties, and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2008 New York Annual Conference session instructs the planning team for the 2009 Annual Conference session to include 90 minutes on the agenda during a plenary session set aside for dialogue amongst the members of the Annual Conference, and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that representatives from the parties requesting this dialogue will have the responsibility for planning the format of this dialogue, and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in order to give this time some focus, the dialogue will focus primarily around issues attendant to sexual orientation and the church, and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the most important guideline directing these persons as they go about their planning will be to create a format that allows for persons to speak from their hearts to each other and the conference body.

Submitted by MFSA, MIND and others

Helen Andrew, Danton Bankay, John Carr, Maggie Carr, Rev. Martin Chang, Dr. J. Elizabeth Clark, John Collins, Ann Craig, Rev. Chuck Ferrara, Vicky A. Fleming, Jim Harvey, Jonathan Gregory, Rev. Phil Hardt, Rev. Edward C. Horne, Rev. Roy Jacobsen, Marguerite K. Jhonson, Rev. Lucy Jones, Rev. K Karpen, Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling, Dr. David J. Lull, Rev. Evy McDonald, Home Missioner Kevin M. Nelson, Rev. Richard S. Parker, Charlotte Patton, Robbie Robinson, Rev. John Roy, Susan Samuel, Rev. Chick Straut, Rev. Scott Summerville, Marilyn Van Tine, Rev. Jeff Wells



# *Vision Statement*

*New York Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church*

**The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.**

*--Adopted June 10, 2006*