The Katrina Church Recovery Appeal

By Tim Tanton*

“Will not shrink from this challenge,” bishop vows

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The Katrina Church Recovery Appeal

‘We will not shrink from this challenge,’ bishop vows

By Tim Tanton*

Sitting outside the shell of a church building, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward acknowledges the grief that Mississippians feel in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but today she is all about resolve.

“We, the United Methodist Church is committed to this recovery,” Ward says. “That commitment is long term.”

Beside her looms the ruin of Mississippi City United Methodist Church, a gutted building that still holds random attributes of a vital church—a few chairs, a piano, a stuffed toy. Mostly, though, it has a lot of open space.

Like the church, much of the area along Mississippi’s Gulf Coast still looks as battered as it did the storm struck yesterday instead of half a year ago. While recovering slowly themselves, the churches at the same time are helping homeowners and their communities rebuild.

“We will not shrink from this challenge.” Ward says. But she acknowledges the enormity of the job ahead. “The task of rebuilding is long, is arduous, is beyond our comprehension.”

Ward is encouraging United Methodists to help the churches in Mississippi and Louisiana rebuild through the Council of Bishops’ Katrina Church Recovery Appeal. The appeal, developed at the council’s meeting last fall, will be emphasized during U.S. annual conference sessions in May and June.

The bishops launched the appeal to raise money for rebuilding churches in the Katrina-stricken areas, help pay pastors’ salaries and re-equip congregations for ministry in their areas. The appeal is different from the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s fund-raising work, which is supporting humanitarian relief on the coast.

Katrina is not over. Please join us in our efforts to restitute our congregations, persons and mission facilities damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. See page 6 to how your congregation can give support.

This is one of our most historic churches,” Ward says. The church was founded in 1889 by a mission pastor who sent

continues on page 10

UM’s advocate for justice in Pennsylvania

By Peggy Wood*

Justice according to the Social Principles of the church. Currently, there are several high priority issues for this legislative session: raising the minimum wage, reforming the way private interest groups lobby legislators, and creating a policy to provide equitable education for all students in Pennsylvania. These are issues of justice that A UM Witness is address-

continues on page 10

VIM teams share legacy of hope and love

More than 800 people from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have or will have participated in 60 Volunteers in Mission teams going to the Gulf Coast by the end of this year. According to Ben Botti, VIM Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, 28 of them have been so moved by the experience that they have returned already for a second trip, and several more are planning return trips for later in the year.

United Methodists from 100 churches in our conference will have gone to share their talents, labor, and love with persons in the devastated communities of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Here are some of their stories:

From Sue Early of Immanuel UMC in Cleona, PA: “We had a wonderful time in Vancleave, MS! Our group of 12 stayed at the Vancleave UMC church and they showed us an outstanding amount of hospitality! We worked on a church in Summerville MS, which had a lot of flooding. We met a lot of local people from the church and they were wonderful as well. They appreciated our being there and fed us for lunch and some helped us work. This was our first experience of this kind and I think the whole group was just amazed at how much damage there was and how much there is to do. The excitement of serving in this way seems to be catching and we are planning another week-long trip for 2007. It was a great first experience through VIM and we look forward to more opportunities to serve God.”

From Gary Williams of Grace UMC in Pen Argyl, PA: “Our team of eight just returned last evening from Vancleave, MS. We spent one week there, and each of us would like to find a way back this week if we could. What a tremendous ministry the Vancleave United Methodist Church has. They will not shy from the total mission approach that is making them used by God. They house, feed, assign and monitor reconstruc-

continues on page 9

INDEX

CALENDAR........... 2
THE NATION ....... 4
THE WORLD .......... 5
CLASSIFIEDS ......... 11

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continues on page 10
**JUNE 11**

**Spiritual Peace and Justice**

Join us on Wednesday, June 11, at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a weekend retreat focusing on spiritual peace and justice. This retreat will provide an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the connection between spirituality and justice work. We will explore how our beliefs and values can guide our actions in advocating for a more just and peaceful world. Space is limited, so please register by June 7. For more information, contact Ileana Rivera at fumclancasterpa.org/Connections/ or call 610-269-1545, x103. Website: http://www.spiritualpeaceandjustice.org

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**JUNE 12**

**The Alternative to Militarism and War Presentation**

The Alternative to Militarism and War, a collaborative of Unity Center, Organizational Change, and the United Methodist Church, presents a presentation to discuss the impact of war and the importance of alternative approaches to conflict resolution. The event will be held at Trinity UMC, 13 West Boehm’s Road, Willow Street, PA. Directions to the chapel can be found at www.boehms.org. For more information contact Rev. Carolee Brubaker at 610-269-1545, x103 or visit the Hopewell website, www.hopewellumc.org.

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**JUNE 13**

**Clergywomen Consultation**

Clergywomen from around the world will gather in Chicago, IL, to reflect on our sense of call, remember our past, forward to a new generation, and rejoice together. For more information, go to www.abhym.org/clergywomen

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**JUNE 14**

**Aldersgate Renewal Ministries**

The Aldersgate Renewal Ministries is holding its 12th Annual National Conference on Spirit-filled living in the Wesleyan tradition. The conference will be held at Trinity UMC, 13 West Boehm’s Road, Willow Street, PA. More information can be found at www.alderse.org. For more questions contact Ileana Rivera at fumclancasterpa.org/Connections/ or call 610-269-1545, x103. Website: http://www.alderse.org

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**JUNE 15**

**Bristol, and the Cotswolds in addi-**

**JUNE 15-20**

**SOULfeast - Lake Junaluska,**

**JULY 17**

**United Methodist Day at Hershey Park**

See ad on page 12

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**JUNE 22**

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**JUNE 23**

**JANUARY 13 and 20, 2007**

**Cost:** $30. Dr. Stephen Treat, DMin is the director of “PENN Council for Relationships.” Dr. Treat will work with us on issues of our family-of-origin, our self-concepts, possible marital difficulties, and possible addiction problems. He will offer positive steps to help clergy stay emotionally healthy.

Registrar: Judy Ehninger, einningerg@dial. 3029 Gracie Lane, Lenexa, KS 66214, 913-859-2290.

**SEPTMBER 10**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

For more information, visit the Hopewell website, www.hopewellumc.org.

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**SEPTEMBER 17**

**Health and Welfare Ministries Sunday**

Sunday is the Health and Welfare Ministries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: the Methodist Home for Children, Cornwall Manor, Simpson Senior Services, Wesley Enhanced Living, the Methodist Hospital. These organizations provided more than $1 million in charitable care in 2005. Your church can support their missions with an offering on September 17.

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**River Ministries Trio**

Perform in the outdoor amphitheater at Hopewell United Methodist Church. River has been ministering together for thirteen years. They have recorded nine projects, have presented over 1,000 concerts, and have had ten national top ten radio singles. Their music is pure, the harmony is wonderful, the lyrics of their songs convey important messages. Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 at the door. Children 12 and under are $5. A family pack is also available for $30. For more information, contact Hopewell UMC at 610-269-1545, x103 or visit the Hopewell website, http://www.hopewellumc.org. To hear a sample of Janet Paschal’s music, visit her website, http://www.janetpaschal.com

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**JULY 29**

**United Methodist Night at the Phillies**

See a page on 12

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**JULY 2006**
Dealing with Change

By Beverly Andrews*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Summer is a season of change for most of us, and for most of our churches. Schedules may shift. College students may be back. Families may be away for vacations. For families with school-aged children there is the issue of childcare expenses during parents’ working hours. For congregations and pastors experiencing pulpit changes there is the whole pastoral transition process that Rev. Bob Crompton wrote about last month.

In a larger sense the world, our churches, and we ourselves are in a constant state of change. How can we keep our equilibrium in all this change? Whatever happened to the consistency we remember that made things feel safe and manageable? All this change can sometimes feel truly overwhelming.

When we look at the biblical record of God’s people we see that we are not alone. In it we see a stream of never-ending changes. The succession of rulers over God’s people as they struggled with what it meant to be God’s people and to be less than perfect. Each period of history revealed more about both God and God’s people. When Jesus came to be God’s people, we saw even more clearly who God really is. When Jesus came to be God— with-us, we saw even more clearly who God really is. When Jesus came to be God—as with-us, we saw even more clearly who God really is. When Jesus came to be God— as with-us, we saw even more clearly who God really is.

As the Footprints story reminds us, it is hard and I fear that it will sweep us through to the place where we can say, “Yet I will trust in him.” The sun still comes up every morning. The 23rd Psalm still brings both comfort and hope. People need faithfulness in following the Shepherd. Sunday School children still love to sing. Prayer still works. At the top of this list of things “still dependable” be sure to place your relationship with God in Christ.

As the Footprints story reminds us, it is often when we are least aware of God’s presence that God, indeed, carries us through to the place where we can say, “Yet I will trust in him.” The sun still comes up every morning. The 23rd Psalm still brings both comfort and hope. People need faithfulness in following the Shepherd. Sunday School children still love to sing. Prayer still works. At the top of this list of things “still dependable” be sure to place your relationship with God in Christ.

For more information contact Debra DePrinzing (610) 263-6720. For more information on Chester Heights Camp Meeting and its summer gospel concerts: www.chcampmeeting.org or (610) 459-0578.

The 23rd Academy for Laity
August 11-13, 2006
At the Inn at Reading, 1460 Park Road, Wyomissing, PA

“Growing in Faith to Serve Christ in the local church, the community, and the World.”

Offering the Basic Course and Advanced Courses for Christ Servant Ministers

Open to all Laity in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Visit the website at www.gbpm.org or contact Pastor Beverly Andrews serves as Chairperson. Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

Contact person: Verna M. Colliver, Dean of Laity Academy and Chair of the Planning Committee, 215 855 0797 orvlc@comcast.net


Hurricane Katrina left misery in its wake, but it also left the foundation for bridge building in unexpected ways.

One April morning, two buses carrying about 100 Jewish students and 10 to 15 chaperones from Los Angeles pulled up at the ruins of a United Methodist assembly center in Waveland, Mississippi. They were at Gulfside Assembly, a 1,600-acre site initially built for the African-American members of a once-segregated denomination.

The kids were sophomores and juniors from Milken Community High School. Watching the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina unfold several months earlier, they had decided to raise money immediately for a trip. In addition to the April trip, the students raised $10,000 — half of it to the United Way Survivors’ Center in Natchez, Mississippi, and $3,000 to the Chabad of New Orleans, a Jewish community center with a synagogue and education and children’s programs.

Kevin O’Hara Hughes, the construction facilitator for The United Methodist Church’s Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference, greeted the students as they stepped off the buses at the assembly center site. They had arranged to meet with him; they wanted to work.

“I’m really glad y’all are here,” he told them.

Before putting them to work cleaning up the site, he called them around his pickup truck, where he explained the significance of Gulfside Assembly. “It was one of the few places during the ’60s where blacks could be on the gulf without being molested or lynched,” he said.

Only a beach and a narrow road separate the site from the Gulf of Mexico, and the premium location on the water proved disastrous for the retreat center on Aug. 29, when the fury of Hurricane Katrina left nothing standing.

But Katrina also knocked down other walls, such as those between faith groups. A few days before the youth arrived at Gulfside, United Methodists in the Louisiana Annual Conference learned they would be receiving a $35,000 grant from an American Jewish Committee to help rebuild First United Methodist Church in New Orleans.

“This is a demonstration of our belief in the need for solidarity and cooperation between faith communities and peoples, and it is especially poignant in the face of the tragedy that Hurricane Katrina wrought in the region,” the federation’s David A. Harris wrote. “At times like these, we must come together as Americans and friends who are dedicated to building and rebuilding, to strengthening our communities and our country, and to reaffirming the graces that unite us as members of one human family.”

For the students from Milken, some of whom had not been to the South before, the trip to the Gulf Coast was one of discovery, as they performed such community service activities as reading to school children, working with Habitat for Humanity, repairing driveways. From Waveland, the group was going to New Orleans.

The destruction saw no color, race or religion, said chaperone Rebecca Steinberg. “Neither do our kids.”

The night before arriving at Gulfside, they participated in a healing concert at an African Methodist Episcopal Zion church in Natchez.

The experience at the AMEZ church was the first time most of the students had been in a church, said Adria Hendler, 16, a junior. “The music and everything was inviting.”

Hayley Miller, 15, a sophomore, said one of the women at the church was crying and hugging the visitors. The students also received affirming comments from grateful people at places like Wal-Mart.

It’s easy to send money to help people, but it’s harder to come out and do something,” noted Noah Stern, 16, a junior.

The students described what they had seen so far on the trip as “intense” and “shocking.” One said it was hard to believe that so much damage from the hurricane remained after so many months.

For Miller, seeing the devastation on the coast made other things that happened in their lives seem small. “It puts everything in perspective.”

The trip was a first for the school, said Steinberg, director of admissions. It was called a “yad l’chaver” trip. Translation: “Lending a hand to your friend.”

“Tanton is managing editor for United Methodist News Service.”
The West African country is trying to recover from 14 years of a bloody civil war that was often fought on the backs of children. The Peace Builder Children’s Club is the dream of a United Methodist missionary to change ex-combatant children into “bearers of good tidings of peace.”

“Children, these who have been soldiers, they know the things they’ve done, and they worry that they will not be accepted back into society,” says Freda N. Kinkolengo, North Carolina Conference. “They have wanted to be used as channels for carrying out hatred across Liberia.”

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

The funding comes from a churchwide offering taken on Peace with Justice Sunday, which falls on June 11 this year.

Grants for 2006:

- Partners in Justice For Peace, Grand Rapids (Mich.) District Peace with Justice Community and Female Light Production for All Occasions Partner- ship ($5,000). FELPIPRO will implement a business cooperative model in which women are all owners learning to produce marketable embroidered art for local, tourist and international markets.
- United Methodist Action for Justice and Peace in Central Congo, West Congo Annual Conference ($3,000). This will help train 100 election observers in each annual conference and inform people about democratic values for the upcoming national election process.
- Lost Boys. Found! A Time of Reunion, Vision, Advocacy, and Hope, Crossroads United Methodist Church, Ashburn, Va. ($10,000). Five “Lost Boys of Sudan” have partnered with Crossroads United Methodist Church to plan a reunion of lost boys who have resettled in the United States.
- International Interfaith Accompani- ment Program to Facilitate the Truth and Reconciliation Process in Liberia, Manhattan District, New York, and United Methodist Church, Liberia ($5,000). The program will serve as a visible expression of solidarity with those seeking reconciliation and peace. Religious leaders will be paired with members of the international faith community to cultivate com- munity-wide affirmation for people who want to testify before the commission.
- Skyline Urban Ministries, Oklahoma Area ($4,000). The grant will be used for the Peace Challenge Camp for fifth and sixth graders that will push the possibility of forgiveness in creating a culture of peace.
- Vukovar Peace Project, First United Methodist Church, Troma, Wash. ($4,000). The grant will support staff during the 12-month timeframe for orga- nizing an anti-poverty summit.
- Youthbridge Peace Education Expans- ion Project, Marvin United Methodist Church, Tyler, Texas ($4,000). Seven universities will be trained to foster the expansion of a peace education pro- gram that teaches peace building during a year-round program in Vulovar, Croatia.
- Student and Youth Participation in Conference on Theology of Peace, United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. ($2,500). Methodists United for Peace with Justice ($2,500). United Methodists for Peace with Justice, a national associa- tion of laity and clergy, and Temple United Methodist Church, San Fran- cisco, will bring at least 30 diverse students and young people from all five United Methodist U.S. jurisdic- tions together to draw upon the Wesleyan tradition of “holy conferencing.”
- Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land, the Holy People. Southwest Texas Conference United Peace with Justice coordinators and participants

The World in Brief

**AFGHANISTAN: WARMTH, HEALTH, AND LIFE**

This winter UMCom Afghanistan helped some 2,000 returning refugee families who are in temporary living conditions on the Pakistan border. “These packages provided by UMCom saved our lives,” said Tahsil, a 70-year- old man who is caring for his seven grandchildren after his son was killed by a mine. UMCom gave priority to families and they worry that they will not be helped, disabled mothers, and large families. Many recipients acknowledged UMCom as the first organization to offer their assistance. UMCom Sager Brooke provides the food needed to supply the US State Department of funding to carry out this life-saving program.

**SRI LANKA: CARE IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE**

Heavy fighting has erupted in recent weeks in eastern Sri Lanka, disrupting the 2002 peace agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE). This has particularly affected Trincomalee, one of UMCom’s areas of operation. The fighting has caused a rapid increase of displaced people and civilian casualties. The 40,000 newly displaced people have already 800,000 Sri Lankans displaced by war and the tsunami. UMCom is working with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka to provide immediate relief to families affected by this outbreak of violence. The good reputation of the Methodist Church on both sides of the conflict allows UMCom and Methodist Church personnel unusual freedom of movement within the conflict, placing them in a unique position to provide assistance.

**CAMEROON: BREAKING THE HUNGER CYCLE**

UMCom’s RELICPA breaks the hunger cycle by establishing community grain banks that help vil- lages buy food during the “lean season.” RELICPA helps the community set up the grain bank and provides training so that community

Akim Werkpeasoo (center) enjoys playing games at an interim care center for former child soldiers in Liberia.

members know how to manage the bank throughout the different stages of the growing season. The community- managed grain banks ensure that grain resources stay in the community and that there is sufficient food long after the harvest.

**SUDAN: CONTINUING THE WORK**

UMCom workers in Sudan are providing humanitarian assistance in South Darfur. The UMCom board of directors recently approved funds to extend the work into a second year. This work includes child protection, camp management, micro-credit, health, skills training for young adults, and agriculture programs.

Last fall the result of seeds and tools program was an abundant harvest. Peanuts, millet, sorghum, watermelon, and tobacco were harvested. Good rainfall, new agriculture techniques such as planting several crops together in the same field, and adequate food for the community during the growing season have yielded this bountiful harvest in the Al Dawin region of South Darfur, Sudan. This

sustainable ministry continues with your generous donations.

**NIGERIA: CLEANER VILLAGES**

Clean water and sanitation facilities are the building blocks of public health. El Porvenir is an organization in Nicaragua that works to meet these basic needs by enabling poor communities to improve their health and preserve their watersheds through sustainable self-help development. Seven rural communities now have wells where clean water was lacking, and latrines where sanitation facilities were non-existent. El Porvenir ensures community ownership for their new wells and latrines for these programs by requiring 100% of the labor be performed by community members. The program is also forward-thinking by including hygiene education for the community to help keep the new facilities in good working order.
Living Connected as God’s people: “Celebrating the connection”

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
June 21 - 23, 2006 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center

Opening Worship - Preaching by Bishop Marcus Matthews and music by The Africa University Choir

Memorial Service and Service of Ordination - Preaching by Bishop Hope Morgan of Mississippi

Bible Study on Thursday and Friday Mornings - with Mr. James H. Salley, Bible Study Leader

First Offering - Scholarships

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference offers scholarships to our undergraduate United Methodist students, which say to young persons that their church encourages, and supports them as they achieve their dreams in higher education. Each year the Scholarship Team of the Annual Conference has more students who apply for financial assistance than there is money to respond to the needs. Please give generously, so we can make some award to these students. The monies collected will be equally divided among the eligible students.

Second Offering - Katrina Response

Indeed, Hurricane Katrina is not over. Money is needed to pay salaries of clergy, church staff and mission personnel on the Gulf Coast and to care for the many churches, retreat centers, urban ministries, retirement homes and mission centers severely damaged or destroyed. Many of these facilities were underinsured, with insufficient coverage for damage due to rising water. And the impact has a ripple effect across United Methodism. Connectional ministries is jeopardized as affected congregations lack the resources to fund local church, district, conference and general church commitments. Your generous gift is urgently needed today.

Third Offering - Africa University

Africa University, a United Methodist-related university in Mutare, Zimbabwe, opened in March 1992, through the support and funding of The United Methodist Church. Today, Africa University provides quality education to more than 1200 students from 20 African countries - so students may acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities. Here we train future leaders who can transform the continent by working for peace, prosperity, and hope.
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www.epaumc.org

Program helps interns like ‘Captain Planet’ make impact

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

Erick Veliz — sometimes known as Captain Planet — doesn’t look like a superhero at first glance.

To him for a while and you begin to believe he probably could save the world if given a little more time. After all, he’s only 23.

Veliz, a native of La Paz, Bolivia, is working for the Tennessee Fair Housing Council. In his spare time, he is helping establish English as a Second Language classes at his local church, the United Methodist (Nashville) Hispanic Fellowship, working for Amnesty International USA, and looking for any opportunity to advance his three top priorities: working for the rights of indigenous people, promoting equal rights for women and stopping torture.

His passion for human rights grew stronger and more focused after he spent two months in the 2005 Ethnic Young Adult internship program sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society in Washington.

The internship has been sponsored by the board for the last 20 years and has at least 260 participants who either now lead the church in some capacity or influence society in their vocations, says the Rev. Neal Christie, a board executive. The program is open to young adults ages 18-22 representing the five ethnic caucuses of The United Methodist Church — Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and Pacific Islander.

Interns live together and are assigned to work in organizations addressing social justice concerns. The work is supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of timely social justice concern, area field trips and Sunday worship in area United Methodist churches.

“Most internships in D.C. are very European-American. You can see that just by looking out the window of 100 Maryland Ave.,” Christie says, referring to the address of the United Methodist Building at Capitol Hill. “To my knowledge, this is one internship that in its own small way has had a lasting impact on an intentionally multi-racial group of young people gathered from across the country to work not just on mercy but to do advocacy with the Hill and the United Methodist Building at the center.”

Details on the internship are available by contacting Christie at swilliams.egb.org or (202) 488-5611.

Veliz already had experience working for human rights and social justice when he became one of 13 young adults in the 2005 program. There he earned his nickname, Captain Planet.

“Everyone was interested and they became more active once they were in the program,” he says of the interns, “but I was already passionate about it.”

While a senior in college, Veliz took time out to work and stay with farm workers in Immokalee, Fla., where they labored in the searching sun packing tomatoes for $8 an hour. Then he traveled with their union leader to Washington to persuade members of Congress to improve the farmers’ conditions.

“I don’t just want to talk about human rights, I don’t just want to complain, I want to do something,” says Veliz who grew up as a Catholic in Bolivia. “I saw that The United Methodist Church was very active in promoting justice and did it with a true love and interest for people.”

Veliz says he feels fulfilled by the work he is doing with the Fair Housing Council. The council works to enforce the Fair Housing Act, passed after the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
He handles complaints from the community and trains volunteers.

“I feel fulfilled working in communities; I don’t want to be a policy nerd who just sits at a computer constantly tracking policies.”

Before attending the internship program at the board, Veliz says he wasn’t sure many other Christians were as passionate as he was about human rights and social justice.

“I know so many people who went on mission trips to Brazil or Mexico and forgot that they were real people; it was like going to a museum,” he says. “They come back with pictures of themselves with little Brazilian kids, hugging a Venezuelan girl saying, ‘Look how compassionate I am,’ but as soon as they are back home, they are buying $100 bags that were probably made by these same children.

When asked about his long-term goals, he pauses to think. “The greatest thing would be to work within communities of faith and provide that link to human rights.”

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 Generations of Caring

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.”

John Wesley

Health & Welfare Sunday

(formerly Golden Cross Sunday)

September 17, 2006

Benefiting the Health and Welfare providers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

who provide benevolent care for all God's people:
Cornell Manor Retirement Community
Methodist Home for Children
Methodist Hospital
Simpson Senior Services
Weisley Enhanced Living

www.epaumc.org
RESOLUTIONS - 2006-19
RESOLUTION OF 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE KEDRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
WHEREAS, the financial resources of the Kedron United Methodist Church are limited and insufficient to maintain current operations; and
WHEREAS, members of the Kedron United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Trustees have consulted with the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building and have determined that the Kedron United Methodist Church does not have the capability to provide the educational needs of its members, and
WHEREAS, the Kedron United Methodist Church, as an affiliated church of the Pennsylvania Conference, has not had a valid appointment to its pastor for the past five years, and
WHEREAS, the Consent to Discontinue has been signed by the local church; and
WHEREAS, the jurisdictional conference has received and reviewed all necessary documentation as required by the Discipline;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the Kedron United Methodist Church, Kedron, Pennsylvania, be discontinued effective as of December 31, 2005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets resulting from the sale of property, after all liens have been paid, and any other remaining assets held by Kedron United Methodist Church be distributed as follows:
1. Proceeds from sale of the church property to Camp Inabah and/or Camp Kedron's name.
2. All music ministry items – choir robes, sheet music, cabinets/shelves housing music and piano to Prospect UMC.
4. The organ is to go to the prospective purchaser of the church building. If not wanted/needed by the prospective purchaser, the organ is to go to Prospect UMC. If the organ is not wanted/needed by Prospect UMC, then it is to go to Holmes Presbyterian Church.
5. Membership to C.C. Hancock UMC.
6. Symbols of faith, paraments, and hymnals to go to a new church start at the discretion of the H.S. if none is in need, then to Prospect UMC.
7. Memorial gifts being returned at donor's request will go to the following churches:
   a. Remember Me
   b. Trinity Church
   c. Rev. Susan J. May
8. Advent wreath – (West Family) to Eilemsport UMC
9. Church records and archives, and any papers and documents related to the church will be stored at St. George's United Methodist Church, Kedron, Pennsylvania, or at the discretion of the H.S.

LAITY SESSION
The Laity Session will take place on Wednesday, June 21, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Arch Street United Methodist Church, Broad and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. It is essential that all lay representatives to Annual Conference attend in order to elect the new Conference Lay Leader. Attendees are encouraged to walk the four blocks from the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel, located at 17th and Race Streets, to Arch Street UMC. Limited transportation will be available for those who need it, via church van, to and from the hotel: vans will leave the hotel at 1:00 p.m. to go to Arch Street UMC. In addition to the voting, Lee Smelder will make a presentation on Small Church Initiatives.

ORDINATION
All clergy are urged to participate in the procession at the beginning of the Service of Ordination. Clergy are to wear robes and red stoles.
VIM teams continued from page 1

Their lives will be better because of you and how much you love them. As Pastor Larry Maugh of Vancleave United Methodist Church stated, “If you want to go out and fix houses, go ahead. When you’re done with one, I’ll take 10,000 more for you. But this is not about sheet rock, or even fixing houses. It’s about bringing hope to the people.”

From Doug Smith of Gravel Hill UMC: “I traveled with a VIM team from Sanctuary UMC (in North Wales) to Laurel, MS. It was late July 1 and was the first time my son, Jack, and his sister were on a field trip by themselves. It was a wonderful opportunity to help a family and learn of the suffering in the world.”

peace with justice Sunday

Fourteen-year-old Robert* learned to use an AK-47 rifle when he was 8. “I was really afraid,” he recalls. “I talk to counselors a lot about what happened and I want to be a carpenter, but I want to go back to school before starting to work.”

Some children play war. Others only use in connection with money. The experience was wonderful and we have 10,000 more for you. But this is not about sheet rock, or even fixing houses. It’s about bringing hope to the people.”

*From Sue Klindinst of Crossroads UMC in Uwchland, PA: ‘If you want to go out and fix houses, go ahead. When you’re done with one, I’ll take 10,000 more for you. But this is not about sheet rock, or even fixing houses. It’s about bringing hope to the people.’

WHAT: School of Mission is a unique 3-day opportunity for study, worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and challenge to get involved in mission and social action.

WHO: School of Mission is planned for women, children ages 6-11, youth, and men of faith and clergy. Children & youth must be with responsible adults.

WHEN: Friday July 21 to Sunday July 23, 2006. Registration starts at 7:30 am on Friday, with the opening session beginning at 9:00 am. Closing worship on Sunday from 2:30 to 3:00.

WHERE: The Inn at Chester Springs, on Route 100, near the intersection with Route 113. It is one mile south of the Downingtown exit of the PA Turnpike.

HOW: Everyone shares in a spiritual growth study and selects one other course, either a geographical mission study or a social issue study.

COURSES:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY: Shalom Salam Peace

GEOGRAPHIC MISSION STUDY: India and Pakistan

SOCIAL ISSUE STUDY: Globalization: Its Impact in Our Lives

COST: $275, full-time adult and youth; $175, commuters, 75 children. First 200 to register by May 15 get half price; Registration deadline for all is June 1.

Scholarships available. For UMW first-time attendees, call Mary Lou Kernick, 720-59-4443. For all others, call Frances Sekso, 610-290-3192.

REGISTRATION: Send by June 1 to Ruth Baker, 1045 NW 17 1/2 Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951. 215-529-0842. Checks payable to EPA Conference website. If you would like more information or would like to download registration form, go to http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1344.

The School of Mission registration form is also available on the UMW Conference website. If you would like more info or would like to download registration form, go to http://www.epaumc.org/NewsDetails.asp?pageID=1344.

From Tim Thomson-Hohl of the Garden Church in Laurel, MS: “The consensus was that it was a FANTASTIC experience for all in- volved. It could be summed up by saying it was awesome, hard, disturbing, compelling, incredible! At the church where we stayed, 105 other people (UM’s) from all over the country were housed in the same build- ing. The building was being worked on, in fact some of the time, we helped with that. And there was a crew from Kansas fixing all the meals. While we were there, we worked primarily on three homes, three churches and three outreach ministries. That is, our team divided up and went to the various places to either do physical work or relational work. And of course, there was the emotional toll of the devastation, personal stories of hardship and overall helplessness. But, there was also the deep joy and satisfaction of knowing we helped our brothers and sisters in need, the genuine appreciation that was expressed to us and the real satisfaction we felt as the hands and feet, the voice and heart of God. That was the main en- couraging was the team camaraderie. Our group of 18 bonded quite well and tried to support each other through every experience. So, the best word would be ‘Encourage’ That is, encourage people to go. The folks there need encouragement, hope and support and the best way to do that is by going and being with them in the rebuilding process. It means so much to so many.”

From Joe Parazo of The Garden Church in Lansdowne, PA: “I just wanted to let you know, to pass on to other Churches that are thinking about sending a team: somehow the money comes in to pay for the trip, don’t worry about it. They will team you up with someone with what you don’t want or can not physically do work - you can work in the soup kitchen - just go. What fun - I wish I was retired and could go all the time.”

From Drena Miller of Willistown UMC: “As were enroute to MS, I received a call from our contact person, Dena, who told us that our team was cancelled from coming because they were so backed up on their paperwork. When I told Dena that we had a former caseworker and a hospital secretary on our team, she said, ‘Dena, this is an answer to prayer,’ Dena had been praying because she did not know how they would get the paper work completed before the caseworkers could assess the cases and the work teams scheduled again. When we entered the office our first day we saw a new, empty, file cabinet and files one the desks, on the floor, and in boxes. That night I told the women on our team that our goal was to get a file cabinet and files one the week. By the time we left, they had a functional office with a file system in place and contact had been made to three-fourth of the applicants. Many who had been abandoned, sometimes called, sometimes dismissed, were tracked down, painted, helped put on a roof, un- locked doors, found homes, and gave people a second chance.

For information on serving on a VIM team contact Rev. Bob Otten, UMW Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barrad Road, Sellersville, PA 19490; 215-723-8367; e-mail, bobtnl@centennial.net.

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Christ Ministries
by George Hollich

Is your church one of the 281 being served by the Eastern Pennsylvania or Christ Ministries? The people in the pew have a long tradition of serving in the church. When the early circuit riders moved to attend other churches on their charge, it was the laity who handled the affairs of the church. The laity who filled the pulpit when the pastor was elsewhere were called exhorters. In the 1940’s the program name was changed to Lay Speaker.

The General Conference of 1902 gave a new look to the Lay Speaking program. No longer did it highlight just speaking, but rather the program was expanded to include caring, leading, and communicating. There were quite a few people in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who felt the name “Lay Speaker” didn’t fit the expanded description. Conference Lay Leader, Keith Ladd, George Hollich, and others on the Board of Lay Ministry held conference meetings and discussions that addressed other names to call this new direction.

In 1987, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference approved a resolution to use the name Lay Servant Ministries to identify programs used for the training, service, and recognition of the Lay Servant within our conference.

The “Book of Discipline” lists two training levels for Lay Servant Ministry. The Local Church Servant is someone who completes the basic course (written in 1998 by the Rev. Dennis Williams) and is dedicated to ministry in the local church. The Christ Servant Minister is either active in local church ministry but is also involved in ministry outside the limits of the local church. Christ Servant Ministers also take the Basic Course...but continue their training by taking advanced courses in leading, caring, and or speaking.

The 2005 Annual Conference recognized the contributions of the Lay Servant throughout history, the challenges in the world uniquely suited to the ministry of the laity, and passed Resolution 3017, that called each church in the annual conference to have at least one Christ Servant Minister before 2007.

Over the past year there were CSM training courses conducted in Lansdale, Reading, Stroudsburg, Myerstown Theological Seminary, Stroudsburg, Camp Lebanon, Evangelical Manor, and Simpson House in Philadelphia and the number of Local Church Servants and Christ Servant Ministers grew at a 12% rate. Today the program recognizes over 800 trained lay and does not include the over 80 Elders and Local Pastors who started their journey as a Christ Servant Minister or Lay Speaker.

The work of this year’s annual conference entitled, “Now you are a Christ Servant Minister,” was the Next Step,” can suggest additional ways for your church to use Local Church Servants and Christ Servant Ministers.

*George Hollich is the conference direc-
tor of Christ Servant Ministries.

UM’s advocate for justice
continued from page 1

A UM Witness has been in the forefront of informing the PA state representatives of our denomination’s beliefs on the issues for more than twenty-four years. In 2005, A UM Witness is expanding our work in opposition to the death penalty, opposing the expansion of gambling, and advocating for property tax and educational reforms. In 2006 A UM Witness has two resolutions before the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference: one in support of Local Church Servant Ministries to identify programs used for the training, service, and recognition of the Lay Servant within our conference.

The formation of A UM Witness began in 1982 at the suggestion of the bishop of the four United Methodist annual conferences in the commonwealth. Western PA, Central PA, Eastern PA, and Western PA (in northeastern PA). Organized as a non-profit corporation organized under the charitable laws of Pennsylvania, A UM Witness is governed by a board of directors that includes the four bishops, as well as lay and clergy persons elected and appointed by their respective conferences, and is funded by the four annual conferences in Pennsylvania. Board members from the four conferences are Bishop Marcus Matthews, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, the Rev. Dr. Sherrin Marshall, Mr. Hank Hershey, Mrs. Barbara Drake, the Rev. Mark Young and Mrs. Peggy Wood.

United Methodist churches in Eastern Pennsylvania support the important work of A UM Witness directly through the conference Connectional Ministries Fund. In addition, A UM Witness receives financial support from lay and clergy persons throughout the state who pay a membership fee of $10 per year, who then receive news and periodic legislative “action alerts” about specific bills that relate to the Social Principles. Finally, A UM Witness, as an approved Conference Advance Special, is eligible to receive an additional $2,500 in funds.

Please stop by our table in the vendor area at Annual Conference for more information about the work of A UM Witness, for information on contacting your legislators, and to find out how you can become a United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania.

For more information on A United Methodist Witness, go to www.umwitness.org.


*Peggy Wood is a member of West Chester United Methodist Church, serves on the Church and Society Work Team, and is chairperson of A United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania.

The Katrina Church Recovery Appeal
continued from page 1

an appeal across the conference request-
ing dimes to erect the building. Ward has preached twice here, including one occasion, right after the storm, when the church had its com-
munication table set up in the parking lot. Today, about 100 members of the congregation meet for worship in a nearby warehouse that the church owns.

The conference is expecting more than $4 million in uninsured and under-
insured losses to churches and related properties.

“It is essential that we respond to the bishops’ appeal for the rebuilding of our churches,” Ward says. “Our churches are strategic centers for nurturing and worship, she says, noting that 30 conference churches are hosting work teams along the coast. United Methodist giving is helping keep pastors in their communities, she says. “In Mississippi, the pastors who evacuated returned very soon to their congregations. A number of the pastors never evacuated and experienced the storm as they traveled and their churches were destroyed. The presence of pastor leadership in a community is a shepherding gift to the entire community.”

Rev. Rick Brooks, of Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis, is one such pastor. The financial support helps sustain congregations in need, he says. “I use that word ‘sustain-
ning,’” and I really believe that’s true. It’s sometimes amazing the difference a little bit of help can make.”

“It’s essential that our pastors be present in our devastated communi-
ties,” Ward says. “Unless the connec-
tion stays connected, to stay vitally alive, the whole church will be lost.”

The weight of grief in Mississippi is great, Ward says. It’s a grief reflected in her account of a church member weeping that her town won’t be rebuilt in her lifetime, or in a simple message spray painted on the ruins of a home: “This was our house.”

In some ways, the Gulf Coast area seems starker and harsher than it did right after the hurricane hit, she says. Now empty expanses exist where before there had been buildings, churches, homes, playgrounds. “There is nothing, where before there was life and vitality.”

Vital connection
People on the coast are tired of the destruction, but Ward says she knows the strength of the Christian community. Daily, the conference receives thousands of volunteers. A week earlier, a team of Bolivians arrived to help, and tsunami survivors also have traveled to Mississippi for relief work. Volunteer in Mission teams stay for periods ranging from a week to months. The conference coordinates their work throughout the hurricane season.

*Tanton is managing editor for United Methodist News Service.
Investing Church Funds

Two of the questions we often get asked at the Foundation are what types of church funds do you manage and how do you manage church assets? As one of its main services the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation manages approximately $28 million for more than 150 churches and agencies, covering all types of church assets, including the following:

- Endowment Funds
- Memorial Funds
- Parsonage Funds
- Trustees Funds
- Building Funds
- Cemetery Funds
- Donor Restricted Funds
- Charitable Gift Annuities

Generally any type of non-operating fund that a church might have is a candidate for solutions offered by the Foundation. The two last are funds created by donors for their churches, perhaps for a specific purpose, such as a church=s music program, or to generate income to support the church=s operating budget. The minimum investment is $5,000.

The first step we take in managing assets for a church is to understand what the church=s objectives are for their assets. What is the purpose of the assets in the life of that church? Churches are blessed to have assets from donors, and are meant to use those assets in a responsible manner in order to move forward the work of the church. How those assets play a role in the ministry of the church is very important when setting up an investment program.

In addition, there are three questions we want church=s to be able to answer quantitatively: What are the income or return targets for these assets? How long will they be invested for? How much risk are you willing to tolerate in order to achieve your objectives? These questions go a long way to establishing the right mix of stocks and bonds in a portfolio for each church. Some church committees can tolerate stock market risk, some cannot, and for many, an equal blend of stocks and bonds is the right place to be. This is the most important step in the investment process as asset allocation is the greatest contributor to a portfolio=s success.

Once we know what the right blend of stocks and bonds is for an investment portfolio, we invest the assets across a series of funds created by the Foundation. These funds are much like mutual funds without the underlying fees and regulatory requirements since the only investors are Philadelphia Area United Methodist churches and agencies. The Foundation currently has two domestic equity funds, one bond fund (with another to become available in the next quarter) and asset allocations for international and small cap investments. Most of the funds are actively managed, that is, the Foundation=s Board has hired firms to select the holdings within the funds. This allows for the funds to be in compliance with our United Methodist social principles. Performance for these funds is available upon request.

Individuals may invest with the Foundation through the creation of a gift to their church or other local United Methodist agency. As noted above, these are in the form of Donor Advised Funds or Charitable Gift Annuities where the individual makes an irrevocable gift of the principal. Details on how these gifts can benefit you and your church are available at the Foundation.

Stacy J. Martin
Executive Director
Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula
United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
800-828-9093 x2247
Email: stacymartin@epaumc.org

Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula
United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

Workshops at Annual Conference

Lunch will be served in the workshop room. In order to have an accurate count for the hotel, you should only attend the workshop that you registered for.

Thursday, June 22 and/or Friday June 23 (12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m.):

- Church DNA – Part 2 “Know your Church Culture” - Thursday Only
- This Holy Mystery – A Discussion of Our Official Statement of Communion - Thursday and Friday
- Writing Successful Proposals and Grants - Thursday Only
- I am a Church Servant Minister – Now What? - Thursday and Friday
- Clergy and Church Board Coaching - Thursday Only
- Faith Science and Intelligent Design - Thursday Only
- **Developing Spiritual Leadership and Ministry Teams - Thursday and Friday**
- The United Methodist Connection and You - Thursday and Friday
- Understanding AIDS and the Response of Our Churches - Thursday Only
- How Your Church Can Come Alive in Missions - Thursday and Friday
- Pastoral Transition Workshop - Thursday and Friday
- Deacons, Transforming Ministry Through Service - Friday Only
- **Helping Movers and Shakers, Move and Shake! Creating a High Impact Leadership Team - Friday Only**
- So you have a new pastor; Who Broke the Old One? - Friday Only
- So You’ve Tackled HWOR, Now What? - Friday Only

**Workshops are filled.** For more information on workshops, please contact Brenda Tildon at brendatildon@aol.com.

Classifieds

**RISOGRAF AVAILABLE FOR FREE. Needs repair. If you’ll take it away, it’s yours. Call Bron Yocum at First UMC of Phoenixville, 610-933-9936.**

**USED CHOIR ROBES AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION. Burgundy and cream robes in good condition available. About 30 choir robes in adult sizes and matching acolyte robes in youth sizes.**

Call Bron Yocum at First UMC of Phoenixville, 610-933-9936.

**PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR NEEDED:**
Memorial United Methodist in Quarryville is seeking a part-time associate pastor to assist in all pastoral duties. The chief responsibilities include hospital and shut-in visitation, assisting in worship on Sunday mornings, pastoral counseling, and some administration of program ministries. For a full job description please contact Rev. John Longmire, Memorial United Methodist Church 109 S. Hess St., Quarryville, PA 17566 717-766-1541. memorialumc@comcast.net

**DISCIPLES PASTOR POSITION OPENING:**
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church is a growing church in Mount Joy. We are seeking a part-time Discipling Pastor who will participate in the overall staff team emphasis of discipleship and disciple-making, equipping our congregation in spiritual formation and the development of leadership skills that will empower the Church to fulfill its mission and vision. Call (717) 653-5493.

**YOUTH PASTOR/STUDENT MINISTRY DIRECTOR:**
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church a growing church in Mount Joy is seeking a part-time (30 hr/week) Youth Pastor/Student Ministry Director who will participate in the overall staff team emphasis of discipleship and disciple-making to Middle School and High School students and their families. Call (717) 653-5493.

FOR A DONATION

**USED CHOIR ROBES AVAILABLE**

- Burgundy and cream robes in good condition available. About 30 choir robes in adult sizes and matching acolyte robes in youth sizes.

Call Bron Yocum at First UMC of Phoenixville, 610-933-9936.

**“Healing the Wounds of Racism”**

Introductory

(Reading L. Year 2005)

August 14-16 - (Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday) at Daybrook Abbey, Ephrata, PA

August 15-18 - (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Daybrook Abbey, Ephrata, PA

September 15-18 - (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Oratory Glim Glaz Geve and Reisum, Seattle, Massachusetts, PA

October 6-9 - (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Twin “AAR” - Anderton Camp

November 12-15 - (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) at Twin O-Call-Mat, Ocean City, NJ

NO CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE ARE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS

PERSONS ATTENDING FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD TIMES WILL NOT PAY FURTHER ROOM AND BOARD.

Registration Fee is $200.00
Celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSEYPARK on June 17 and a portion of each ticket sold will help to support conference ministries for youth and young adults. Bring your family, friends, youth group, Sunday School - or your whole church!

If you ordered your ticket before May 15, you may have received a free T-shirt. Wear your T-shirt through the park to show your United Methodist team spirit!

**Ride the rides**, including 10 world-class roller coasters, six drenching water rides, 20 kiddie rides, and many family rides.

New this year: **REESE’S XTREME CUP CHALLENGE**, the first interactive dark ride to pit car against car in a high-energy score-fest that is unequaled anywhere in the world. Hang onto your laser blasters!

**Picnic** in the picnic area just outside the park, or enjoy one of the many restaurants in the park: pizza and pierogies, iced tea and ice cream, and of course, chocolate!

**EVENING IN THE AMPHITHEATER**
Christian music and entertainment in the park’s amphitheater at no extra cost, 6:00 p.m. until the park closes at 10:00 p.m.

**EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**
Christian music and entertainment in the park’s Amphitheater from 6 p.m. until closing (10 p.m.). Groups who will inspire and entertain include:

**Faith driven, highly-energized, infectiously original modern rock music**

**UNIVERSAL ROYALTY**
An urban flavored blend of hip-hop, rap and rock.

**EVERYDAY PROCESS**
A no-compromise message using hip-hop’s own magnetism to spread the truth everywhere.

**Food**
Restaurants, Fast Food & Snacks are available throughout the park.

**ADMISSION COST**
$33 - Ages 9-54
$25 - Ages 3-8 and 55+
Free - Age 2 and under

**Share a day of fun and fellowship and an evening of Christian music and entertainment as we celebrate United Methodist Day at HERSEYPARK on June 17 and a portion of each ticket sold will help to support conference ministries for youth and young adults. Bring your family, friends, youth group, Sunday School - or your whole church! If you ordered your ticket before May 15, you may have received a free T-shirt. Wear your T-shirt through the park to show your United Methodist team spirit!**

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