

2012 Annual Conference LEADERSHIP Making a Way for ALL

BY SUZY KEENAN

More than 1,000 clergy and lay members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church will gather at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA, beginning with Clergy and Laity Sessions on the morning of Thursday, May 17, 2012.

The theme for the conference is "Leadership: Making a Way for All." Leadership development is one of the four areas of focus for the United Methodist denomination.

Opening Worship will begin at 2:00 pm on the afternoon of Thursday, May 17. Noted Native American storyteller, author/illustrator, and United Methodist leader, Ray Buckley, will preach for Opening Worship. Ray is the interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study. He has served The United Methodist Church as a staff member of The United Methodist Publishing House, Director of the Native People's Communication Office (UMCom) for nine years, and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Alaska Missionary Conference.

Two offerings will be received at Opening Worship. Members of annual conference are encouraged to receive offerings in their congregations for

these two initiatives: Imagine No Malaria, the global health initiative of the United Methodist Church, and undergraduate scholarships to help develop young Eastern Pennsylvania Conference leaders. An additional offering will be

received at Ordination for seminary student scholarships.

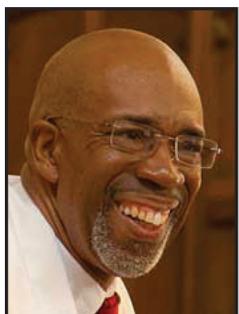
On Thursday evening, the conference will hear and vote on a number of resolutions, and the General Conference delegation will report on its participation in the denomination's quadrennial meeting. The annual conference will also vote on an episcopal nominee to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, scheduled for July 18-20 in Charleston, WV, when three bishops will be elected.



RAY BUCKLEY



ERIC LAW



ALFRED JOHNSON



PEGGY JOHNSON

Annual Conference members will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on mission and ministry, 12:00-2:00 pm, each day of Annual Conference, with Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program provides volunteers the opportunity to package dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world.

United Methodist Men will host a potato drop in conjunction with the Society of St. Andrew, offering 50 lb. bags of potatoes that Conference attendees can take back for distribution to the needy in their communities.

Eric H. F. Law will lead learning sessions on Friday, May 18. Law, an ordained Episcopalian priest, is founder and director of the Kaleidoscope institute, established to develop competent leadership in a diverse,

Continued on page 5

Kurien endorsed as episcopal candidate

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference General and Jurisdictional Delegation voted to endorse The Rev. Dr. Christopher Jacob Kurien as a candidate for the episcopacy.

He has served as Director of Connectional Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference since July 1, 2011.

Christopher was born to missionary parents in India. Growing up, he lived in various places and settings which have allowed him to appreciate and understand different cultures and people, and become fluent in five languages. He completed his Bachelors, Masters, and Theological studies in Andhra, Kerala, Annamalai and Serampore Universities respectively. He was ordained in 1985 and before coming to the U.S served the Church of South India in various settings. He came to the U.S. to pursue his doctoral studies in Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

While a student in Chicago he served Church of South India congregations in Chicago, Illinois and Toronto, Canada. He also planted an Indian congregation in Detroit, Michigan. After completing his studies in Chicago he returned to Bangalore, India, where he served a large congregation and later taught at the United Theological College. He is one of the founding members of the Indian Association of Clinical Pastoral Education and has served as the Vice Chair of the Chaplains section of the Christian Medical Association of India.

He returned to the U.S. to complete a CPE residency program at the Memorial Herman Hospital in Houston, Texas. After completing the program, he joined the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and was appointed to Reading: St. Matthew's UMC. Following this, he was appointed as the Northwest District Superintendent and then as the Southeast District Superintendent. He served as Dean of our cabinet for five years.

Dr. Kurien serves on various boards and agencies in the Annual Conference including: Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Trustees, Commission on Conference Sessions, Committee on Nominations and

Continued on page 4



(Left to right) Mary White, head of the General Conference delegation, Christopher Jacob Kurien, and James Todd, first elected clergy delegate.

April

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Sunday Youth Group Event: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center, 87 Old Mine Road, Lebanon, PA 17042. Free for all!

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Native American worship and gathering: 5:30 p.m. followed by food and fellowship time at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Gloria Knoeller, gknoeller@epaumc.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

District Conferences: Please contact district offices for more information: <https://www.epaumc.org/about/districts> or see page 5.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Spark Retreat: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Hopewell UMC, Downingtown, PA.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Beat the Bug Walk/Run to benefit Imagine No Malaria: 2:00 pm, United Methodist Church of West Chester, located at 129 S. High Street, West Chester. See page 9.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Native American Ministries Sunday: For more information on United Methodist Special Sunday "Native American Ministries Sunday" visit: http://www.umcgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833863/k.2117/Native_American_Ministries_Sunday__Overview.htm

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 - FRIDAY, MAY 4

General Conference 2012: April 24-May 4 at the Tampa Convention Center.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop - Issues for Clergy Women: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609. Child Care: Available for additional fee with reservation. Contact Person for Questions about the workshop: Beverly Andrews, hope-journey@juno.com, 215-260-3304.

MONDAY, APRIL 30

Final Day to Register for Annual Conference: Register online by 11:59 p.m. at www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference.

May

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Retiree Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. David & Steve's Fireside Tavern, 1500 Historic Drive, Strasburg, PA 17579. Lunch served at noon. For information or to register, contact Madeline González-López at mglopez@epaumc.org or (610) 666-9090.

THURSDAY, MAY 17 -
SATURDAY, MAY 19

Annual Conference 2012: The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference 2012 will be held May 17-19, 2012 at the Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA 19456.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Conference Office Closed: The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office will be closed May 21, 2012.

THURSDAY, MAY 24 - FRIDAY, MAY 25

Grant Writing Workshop: Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. Info: cs@grantwritingusa.com.

MONDAY, MAY 28

Conference Office Closed: The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office will be closed May 28, 2012 due to Memorial Day.

June

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Peace with Justice Sunday: For more information on United Methodist Special Sunday "Peace with Justice Sunday" visit: http://www.umcgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833883/k.512C/Peace_with_Justice_Sunday__Overview.htm.

MONDAY, JUNE 4 - FRIDAY, JUNE 29

National Institute in Church Finance and Administration: Emory University Candler School of Theology, 1531 Dickey Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322. <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=998226>

SUNDAY, JUNE 17 - SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Nothing But Spokes bikeride fundraiser: 184 mile bike ride to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria. Contact Pastor John Pfeil at West Willow UMC (717-464-3211) or by email at: jpfeil@comcast.net.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Clair N. Bath

Word has been received of the death of The Rev. Reverend Clair N. Bath, retired local pastor, who passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

He was appointed Pastor of Raubsville United Methodist Church in June 1970 and served until June 1987. He served as Visitation Pastor at Calvary United Methodist Church from 1987 to 2002.

Services were held Monday, March 26, at Calvary UMC in Easton.

He is survived by two sons, Robert and Richard,

Contributions may be made to Calvary United Methodist Church, 4411 Green Pond Rd., Easton, PA 18045. Online condolences at www.ashtonfuneralhome.com.

Mrs. Catherine Ruth Rule

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Catherine Ruth Rule, widow of the late Rev. Jack Rule on Friday, March 9, 2012. Ruth was a resident of Cornwall Manor since February 21, 2008, and was a member of the United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, Lebanon.

Rev. Rule served the following appointments in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Landenberg; McMichaels and Neola; Belfast: Wesley and Wind Gap: First; and Portland.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 in Zerr Chapel at Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, PA.

She is survived by sons John and Robert; and grandchildren Kevin, Kimberly, Lindsay, David, and Stephen.

Condolences may be sent online: <http://www.christmansfuneralhome.com>.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cornwall Manor Benevolent Fund, Development Office, PO Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016.

The Rev. Edward E. Whitehead

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Edward E. Whitehead, (Pal to his friends and Pastor Pal to his congregation), on March 17, 2012.

He was actively serving as the pastor of Audenried-Jeanesville UMC, outside of Hazleton. During his 2 and a half year tenure, he grew the congregation from 13 on a Sunday to over 30. Pastor Pal was a member of Meeds Memorial UMC in Nesquehoning before his appointment to Audenried-Jeanesville. He was an active leader in the church. As a young man, he had served as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Navy, and felt the call to ministry, but at the time of discharge, needed to work to support his growing family. He began work and rose to become production supervisor for Tarkett before his retirement. At that point in his life, he began dedicating more of his time to the church, and eventually accepted a call to serve as a lay pastor at Audenried-Jeanesville UMC. He attended the licensing school here in the annual conference, and was licensed just this March. He served the church with energy and creativity, loving his congregation and beloved by them.

A military memorial service and a Masonic service were held on March 22. A service of death and resurrection was held on Friday, March 23 at Audenried Jeanesville United Methodist Church, 332 Main Street, Jeanesville, the church that Pastor Pal served.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Diane, and their five children: Edward Jr., Wayne, Walter, Diane, and Sheryl; 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Diane Whitehead, 118 E. Center Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Lung Association.

The Rev. Richard Sutton

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Richard Sutton, retired Elder, on April 1, 2012.

Rev. Sutton served the following appointments in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Hatboro: Lehman Memorial; Former Bickley Memorial;

Continued on page 6



(USPS 19-604)

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of
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**Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World**

A Word from the Bishop

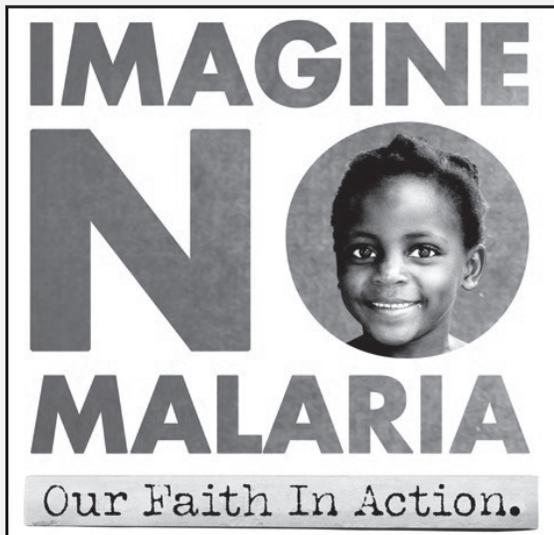
Can you imagine no malaria?

The United Methodist church is transforming the world through Imagine No Malaria.

Did you know that last year more than 25,000 life-saving nets were distributed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 5,000 in Zimbabwe, and that in an ecumenical effort more than 2 million bed nets were distributed in Sierra Leone? In addition, more than 3,500 local people received jobs and training to go out and teach people in their communities about malaria and proper bed net usage. We also trained health boards in five African countries in how to manage anti-malaria programs.

Did you know that 90% of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5? Every sixty seconds someone dies of malaria.

However, our shared mission is indeed trans-



forming the world. Through a multi-pronged approach of education, communications, prevention, and treatment we are reducing deaths due to this disease.

I recently heard that groups in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have found creative ways to support Imagine No Malaria as a mission project.

The Southwest District and Superintendent Jim Todd have organized a bike ride called Nothing But Spokes, and will be rid-

ing 335 miles from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA, June 17-24. The Eastern PA Conference group will be part of a larger organized ride sponsored by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, which will provide most meals, medical and bike repair support, transportation of luggage, among other things.

The Imagine No Malaria Team at West Chester

UMC has organized the First Annual Beat the Bug Run/Walk. The event will take place on April 22, 2012 in downtown West Chester at 2 pm. The course route will begin at the corner of Church and Market Streets; runners will participate in a 5K course, and walkers will complete a 2K course. Registration for the race is available online at www.umcwc.org/BeatTheBug.

If you can't participate, why don't you sponsor someone, or Imagine No Malaria in your own church, and find ways to support our missions. Then please bring your contributions as an offering to Opening Worship at Annual Conference!

Peggy A. Johnson



Preparing leaders to boldly share the faith

BY REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER KURIEN

I want to wish everyone a blessed Easter season!

After the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples hid from view. They were afraid of being recognized as a disciple of Jesus and having to face similar persecution or execution. When the resurrected Jesus appeared before them, their fears were removed, and they were empowered to share the news



of Jesus' resurrection with courage and boldness. Even though their boldness resulted in tremendous persecution, and some even lost their lives, these leaders modeled for us the true meaning of Christian discipleship.

In our country today, we thankfully do not experience persecution like the early disciples did, however there are disciples living in other countries who do. There are places in the world where worshipping Christ publically is considered illegal. An example of this kind of intolerance is seen in the ministry of one of my seminary classmates, who established a house church in Kathmandu, Nepal. In Kathmandu,

Christians do not have the freedom to share their faith, and many worship in fear. However, the church there continues to grow. Another example is that of a cousin of mine who lives in Saudi Arabia and worships in secret with a vibrant community of Christian believers. In these difficult places, the Christian community, and message of the risen Christ flourishes! Where is the vitality and fervor of the early Christian disciples, and of current disciples living in difficult places, evident among us? Are we preparing leaders with the boldness to share their faith and reach out to the many who need Jesus in their lives today?

The Annual Conference theme this year is "Leadership: Making a way for all." This reflects one of the denomination's four areas of focus. As we prepare for the Annual Conference, let us ask: how do we invite new persons into positions of leadership, and do we equip them to be leaders who will share their faith with boldness?

How is your church calling disciples to be bold leaders? I was just remembering my own call to ministry and my own Christian journey. While growing up in a pastor's family many in the congregations and in leadership spoke to me about full-time pastoral ministry. Although I grew up in a pastor's family, it was in college, after having a conversion experience that I began to seriously consider Christian ministry. I am grateful to God for many whom I met on the journey, like the late Bishop P. Solomon, former Moderator of the Church of South India, who took interest in me and invited me to join him on visits in the mission field. He also encouraged me and even supported

me financially. On several visits with my family, he called me to pray with him and asked me to consider full-time ministry. My parents too, despite the many hardships they went through as missionaries in rural India, encouraged me to consider full-time ministry. Initially I held back, having witnessed the suffering of my parents in the mission context. Yet, God persisted and I was finally released of my inhibitions and decided to go to seminary.

We have a responsibility to discern the work of God's grace in a disciple's life, and to take the initiative to begin a conversation with them about what we are seeing in them. And we have a responsibility to provide opportunity for disciples to explore what God may be calling them to be and do. This sensitivity to the work of God's grace is necessary to raise up leaders who will further strengthen the ministry of the church.

I pray that all of us as leaders will be looking for people to encourage and challenge. To help equip disciples to be leaders in the United Methodist Church, a conference-wide leadership training in faith sharing is being planned for November 3, at Bethany UMC in Wescosville. The training will be led by the World Evangelism Committee of The World Methodist Council. Your hearts will be touched by the passion and preaching that you will experience. Please plan now to come and be empowered to share the Good News!

REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER KURIEN IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of Congregational Transformation and the Director of Connectional Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Kurien continued from page 1

Commission on the Latino Plan and Ministries, and the Conference Strategic Review Team. He serves on the Methodist Hospital Foundation board and the Lutheran Seminary Methodist Advisory Council. He is also a board member of the General Commission on Religion and Race and also chairs the Planning and Evaluation sub-committee of GCORR. He is member of NE Jurisdictional Native American Task force and serves as an alternate member of the NE Jurisdictional committee on Appeals. He embodies the Global nature of our church. Christopher brings his vast experience in pastoral counseling, administration, new church starts, ecumenical relations and conflict mediation to his ministry in the life of the Conference.

He enjoys family, traveling, playing the guitar and listening to music. He is married to Christy, a Math teacher at Reading High School and they are blessed with three daughters, Susan, Elsen and Ann. Susan and Elsen have completed their Doctor of Pharmacy Degrees and are currently doing residency programs in Boston, MA and New Haven, CT. Ann is an undergraduate student at Boston University.

Three bishops will be elected by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegates, July 18-20, 2012, in Charleston, WV. The three openings will be created by the retirement of three bishops in the jurisdiction: Bishops Peter Weaver, Jane Allen Middleton, and Ernest Lyght.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church covers the 9 Episcopal areas (10 annual conferences) located in the area from Maine south to West Virginia. The Northeastern Jurisdiction is one of five U.S. jurisdictions along with seven Central Conferences that serve United Methodists around the globe. For more information on the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference: www.nejumc.org.

Contact Dr. Kurien: 610-666-9090, ext. 230 or christoperkurien@gmail.com

Denman Award

The Congregational Development Team (CDT) is charged with creating new places for new people and with revitalizing existing congregations. If you know of a church that has been recently revitalized, the CDT is asking you to nominate them for the Denman Award. We would like a description of what a clergy person or a lay person have done to revitalize a congregation. We would also like to recognize congregations that have revitalized.

For example, what did they do to make worship more passionate, inspiring, or engaging? What did they do to better meet the unmet social and spiritual needs of their surrounding community? What did they do to offer Christ and to reach out to their community through evangelism and social action? What new demographic or ethnic groups have they reached out to?

Please send your nominations by April 23 to the vice-chair of CDT, Ms. Suzette James, 2317 Springview Road, East Norriton, PA, 19401, suzeq@earthlink.net. And May God bless your revitalization efforts.

Annual Conference Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, May 17, 2012

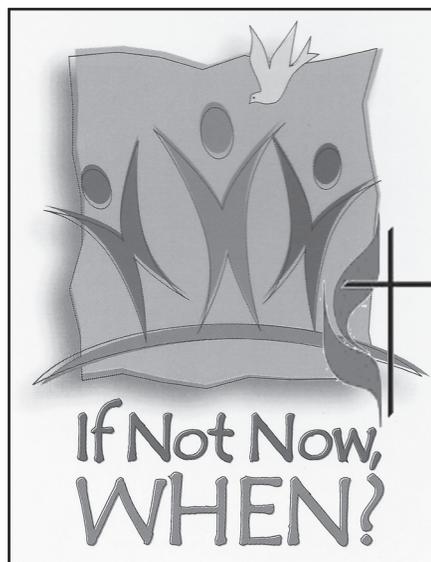
- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Session in Hall D/Laity Session in Hall A
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Registration
- 12:00 noon - 1:45 p.m. Lunch for registered members
- 1:45 p.m. Gathering Music
- 2:00 p.m. Opening Worship Service/Communion (Joint offering for Imagine No Malaria and Higher Education Scholarships)
- Transition to Holy Conferencing
- Holy Conferencing
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner in Hall B for registered members
- Extension Ministers Dinner
- Stop Hunger Now
- 6:45 p.m. Gathering Music
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing
- Resolutions

Friday, May 18, 2012

- 7:30 a.m. Communion by Order of St. Luke's in Prayer Room
- 8:45 a.m. Gathering Music
- 9:00 a.m. Session One with Eric Law
- 10:20 - 10:40 a.m. Break
- 10:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Session Two with Eric Law
- 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch in Hall A for registered members
- Stop Hunger Now
- 1:45 p.m. Gathering Music
- 2:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing
- Lay Leader Report
- 3:00 p.m. ORDER OF THE DAY - Historic Questions and Retiree Recognition Service
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner in Hall B for registered members
- 6:00 p.m. Robing in Hall A
- 7:00 p.m. Ordination Service

Saturday, May 19, 2012

- 7:30 a.m. Communion by Order of St. Luke's in Prayer Room
- 8:45 a.m. Gathering Music
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Conferencing
- ORDER OF THE DAY - District Superintendent Report
- 10:15 a.m. ORDER OF THE DAY - Seating of Families and Memorial Service
- 12:00 noon - 1:45 p.m. Lunch in Hall B for registered members
- Memorial Lunch
- Stop Hunger Now
- 1:45 p.m. Scout-led Gathering Music
- 2:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing
- Resolutions and Reports



Grow • Stabilize • Seed

A Conference-wide Financial
and Stewardship Campaign

To Stabilize Finances for
Our Pension Program and
To Develop Funds to Grow Churches
and Seed Ministries

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Church
Go online, or take time at Annual Conference to complete a survey to
assist our feasibility study.

https://www.surveymonke.com/s/capital_campaign

Guidelines for Holy Conferencing – What God Expects of Us Colossians 3:12-16a, 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. . . . And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups.

als and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.

- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God—not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

We believe Christians can discuss important issues without the acrimonious debate and parliamentary maneuvering that can divide a group into contending factions. We see too many examples of that in secular society. We believe the Holy Spirit leads in all things, especially as we make decisions. We want to avoid making decisions in a fashion that leaves some feeling like winners and others like losers.

We can change the world through honest conversation on matters about which we are passionate.

The Commission on the General Conference offers thanks to the participants at The Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly, sponsored by the Division on Ministries with Young People, through the General Board of Discipleship, held in January, 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa, for inspiring the framework of these guidelines. They adopted similar guidelines for Christian conferencing at the convocation. This work is based on guidelines for "Holy Conferencing" that emerged from the United Methodist "Dialogue on Theological Diversity" in February 1998.

PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, Volume 1, Handbook for Delegates:
<http://umcmedia.org/gc2012/adca/English/Handbook/Delegates%20Handbook.pdf>

Annual Conference continued from page 1

changing world. He is an internationally known consultant and trainer in multicultural ministry and the building of inclusive communities. He is also a photographer, playwright, and composer of church music. Read more about Eric Law: www.ladiocese.org/ki.

The ministry of retirees will be celebrated on the afternoon of Friday, May 18, followed by the Celebration of Ministries, and both the Denman and Kim Jefferson Awards.

The Service of Ordination will take place at 7:00 pm on the evening of Friday, May 18 (clergy will robe beginning at 6:00 pm). Bishop Peggy A. Johnson will preach for the service. Bishop Johnson has led nearly 900 churches in The Philadelphia Area, comprised of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences, since September 1, 2008. She is one of nine active bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which includes ten annual conferences in the northeastern U.S. Bishop Johnson believes that the most important role as a bishop is to pastorally empower and encourage the church to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The role also includes the presiding duties of ordering the life of the annual conference and the denomination and also to be a prophetic voice for justice in the church and the world. During the Service of Ordination, persons will be ordained as Elders and Deacons, and will be commissioned towards Elders and Deacons orders. An offering will be received for seminary scholarships.

A Memorial Service will honor deceased bishops, clergy, and spouses on the morning of Saturday, May 19. Bishop Alfred Johnson, a son of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, will preach. Bishop Johnson was ordained deacon and elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, served as Pastor-Director of the Chester Missionary Project of Chester, PA; at Tioga United Methodist Church in North Philadelphia; in a cross-racial appointment as pastor of Leola UMC in Leola, [Lancaster County] PA; as Conference Consultant to local churches and conference agencies; as Executive Director of the United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc.; and as district superintendent in Philadelphia. Alfred Johnson was elected to the episcopacy in July, 1996, and assigned the New Jersey Area.

Scouts will help lead the praise time on Saturday afternoon and will participate in the Stop Hunger Now food packaging.

The Order of St. Luke will lead early morning Communion at 7:30 am on both Friday and Saturday.

The Cokesbury Bookstore will feature selections by selected conference speakers as well as Bishop Peggy Johnson's recommended bundle of books.

Conference members should register by the April 30 deadline. Churches are invited to share with their members that the entire annual conference meeting can be seen online via video streaming. Closed captioning and American Sign Language translation will be available for the entire conference.

www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference

District Conferences Sunday, April 15, 2012

Who should attend:

- Pastors (Active, Retired, Extension)
- Lay Members to Annual Conference (Local Church & District Equalization)
- Alternate Lay Members to Annual Conference
- Lay Leaders
- Chairpersons of SPRC
- Chairpersons of Finance Committee
- Chairpersons of Local Church/Administrative Council
- Treasurers
- Members of District Boards and Committees

Central District

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Lafayette Hills: Messiah UMC

East District

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Bensalem UMC

Northeast District

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Faith Alive United Methodist Church (Bowmanstown), 678 Pine Street, Palmerton, PA 18071

Northwest District

3:00 – 5:00

Lickdale: Trinity

Southeast District

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Lima UMC

Southwest District

3:00-5:30

Millersville: Grace

For more information: <https://www.epaumc.org/about/districts>

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson Announces Appointments for 2012, effective July 1, 2012 (except as noted):

- Jessica Ross is appointed to Mother African Zoar.
- Gertrude Duckett is appointed to Haven-Peniel.
- Timothy Duchesne is appointed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Peninsula Delaware Conference).
- Eric Ritz is appointed to Grace in Pen Argyl.
- Coryn Elaine Pena is appointed to Willistown.
- BonnieKaren Mullen-Holtz is appointed to Phila.: Fox Chase.
- Lori Wagner is appointed to Prospect Park.
- Brian Reading is appointed to Schuylkill Haven: First, as a part time local pastor, effective February 7.
- Kenneth Klingborg is appointed to Annville.
- Susan Daniels is appointed to St. Luke's in Lebanon.
- Robert Wingfield Kirby III is appointed to be senior pastor of Jarrettown.
- Susan Sliker is appointed to Dagsboro: Bethel (Peninsula Delaware Conference).
- J. Timothy (Tim) Fisher is appointed to Bushkill and Chapman Quarries.
- Larry Mark is appointed to Reeders.

In Memoriam continued from page 2

Phila.: Lawndale; Radnor; Springfield: Covenant; Glen Moore; Spring City; Leave of Absence; and Extension Ministry: Maris Grove Retirement Community, Pastoral Ministries Manager. He retired in 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, and children: Wendy and Jeffery.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Carol Sutton, 929 N. Manor Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344.

The Rev. George C. deKrafft

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. George C. deKrafft, 87, on April 2, 2012, at Manor Care of Bethlehem, PA.

He served the following appointments: Phila.: Port Richmond; Phila.: Olivet-Bethany; Manayunk: Ebenezer; Lykens: Grace; Shenandoah: First; Girardville; Bangor: First; Darby: Mt. Zion; Collingdale: Mariner's; Former Upper Darby: Stonehurst; Phila.: Cooper Memorial; Linwood Heights; Tobyhanna; Honey Brook; Chatham. After retiring in 1992, he served on the Delaware County Small Business Administration for two years.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Isabella; three daughters: Donna Conklin, Gail Chapin, and Patti Bra; two sisters: Eileen Bermudez and Claire deKrafft; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a son-in-law, Michael Seip. A daughter, Linda Joy Seip preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions should be offered in his name either to the Minsi Trails Council, BSA Campership Scholarships, PO Box 20624, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 or to Stroudsburg United Methodist Church Elevator Fund, c/o the church, 547 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Online condolences: <http://obits.nj.com/obituaries/etnj/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=156844421>

Laity Retreat looks at being a disciple

BY TAMARA C. CLARK

Any layperson on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who missed the Laity Retreat on March 31, missed a Spiritual Encounter with God! Retreat Leader Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark gave us a clear depiction of the Church as the Body of Christ, and also taught us about what it means to be a real disciple of Jesus Christ.

In the first session Rev. Clark began by defining the Church as the Body of Christ, with Christ as the head. The Church works in union with Christ and the members must operate in union with one another. Every member of the Body of Christ is important just as every member -or part- of the human body serves a crucial role. If parts of our human body were not to work together as they should, then our bodies would be in disarray. We would suffer from illness and dysfunction. The same is true for the Church. We must always operate in unity with one another remembering that each one of us possesses gifts that are essential to the function of the entire body. Rev. Clark did not end there with her discussion of unity within the Church. Just as the human body has an immune system that

kicks in when disease comes into the body, so does the body of Christ. She shared with us that "The immune system is love; because love covers a multitude of sins."

During our second session we had time for self-examination as Rev. Clark discussed what it means to be a real disciple. She stated that "a lot of people have not made the natural progression from believer to disciple." These words ring true for many of us. Are we indeed disciples of Jesus Christ? Does confession and belief make us disciples? Does attending Sunday morning worship service make us disciples? Or are we just believers? Rev. Clark made it clear for us: "Real disciples learn, pray, fast, participate in corporate worship, evangelize, have faith, tithe, and love. Will the Real Disciple please stand up!"

All of the laity in attendance were nurtured and empowered by this Spiritual experience. The retreat served its purpose because we left spiritually energized by the worship, teaching, fellowship and testimonies that took place. We thank God for all that transpired and believe that God will do a "new thing" in the lives of our churches and in our conference as a whole.



Dr. Mary White (left), Conference Lay Leader, and Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, presenter, stand together at the second annual Laity Retreat, which was enjoyed by more than 100 conference laity.

TAMARA C. CLARK IS A MEMBER OF MID-TOWN PARISH UMC in the Central District, and is support associate of the Financial Ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

United Methodist Night at Citizens Bank Park

Saturday, August 4 7:05 p.m.

Phillies host the Arizona Diamondbacks

Net proceeds from tickets sold through this offer will benefit Conference United Methodist Men Ministries.

Please place your order by July 4. Tickets are subject to availability! For groups of 25 or more, please contact Scott McDade in the Group Sales Office at 215-463-5000, extension 5434. All groups of 25 or more will be welcomed on the Phillies side auxiliary message boards at the top of the 5th inning.

BUY TICKETS FOR A PRE-GAME CATERED MEAL - ALL YOU CAN EAT!

This year we've teamed up with Cav's Catering to provide you with the opportunity to enjoy a great meal before the game. Cav's Catering will

be in the Jetro parking lot, at Darien St. and I-95, directly across from Lincoln Financial Field. This

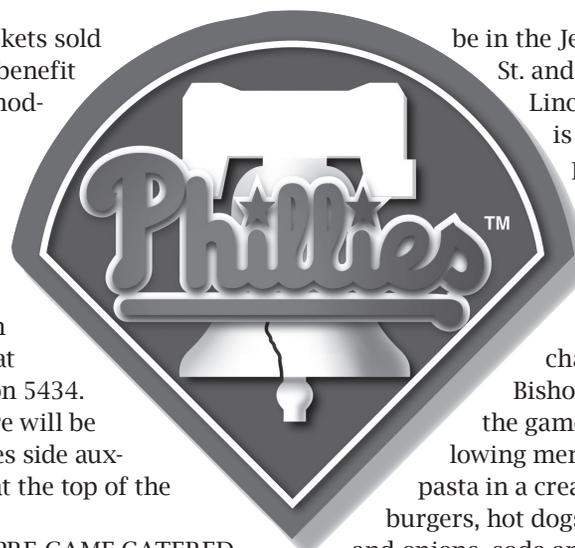
is public parking and the prices are comparable or lower than other lots in the area. Cav's Catering will be serving food from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Don't miss this

chance to meet and greet Bishop Peggy Johnson before the game. For \$13 you get the following menu: Caesar salad, penne

pasta in a cream blush sauce, cheese burgers, hot dogs, sausage with peppers and onions, soda and water.

Buy tickets for both the game and the catered meal:

<https://www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/um-night-at-the-phillies>



Missionaries to visit from Tanzania

BY DAVID J. DAVIS

Two of the missionaries that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference supports will be coming stateside beginning May 5, 2012: The Rev.



The Rev. Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi

Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi and Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine. During their time here, they will share with local churches what the Lord is doing through them aided by the monetary resources the conference provides.

The Rev. Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as director of church development and evangelism for the United Methodist Church in Tanzania. He is also the superintendent of the Dar es Salaam District and the legal representative in Tanzania of the bishop of North Katanga in the



Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The North Katanga Conference, where Rev. Wa Mushidi was ordained and holds membership, pioneered the United Methodist work in Tanzania starting in the early 1990s. The church in Tanzania is now moving toward annual conference status. He says that his primary function "is to proclaim Christ to the world

while working for God's reign of grace, peace, and justice." Mutwale is an evangelist, church planter and builder, and community developer.

His wife, Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine, is also a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned as coordinator of women's activities and training for the United Methodist Church in Tanzania and director of the United Methodist preschool in Dar es Salaam. "My function," she says, "is to proclaim Christ to the world while striving for God's reign of grace, peace, and justice." Her work includes Christian education and health education, especially concerning HIV/AIDS. The couple has been in Tanzania since 1992.

The schedule of church visits, May 5, 2012 through May 18, 2012

- Saturday, May 5: Arrival
- Sunday, May 6: 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Olivet UMC
- Monday, May 7: Available all day
- Tuesday, May 8: Available for evening meeting
- Wednesday, May 9: Northwest District
- Thursday, May 10: Attending Retiree Luncheon, Available for evening meeting
- Friday, May 11: Available all day
- Saturday, May 12: Available for morning or lunch meeting
- Sunday, May 13: First UMC in Phoenixville
- Monday, May 14: Day in Philadelphia
- Tuesday, May 15: Available all day
- Wednesday, May 16: Lunch at Willow Grove UMC, Evening at West Lawn in Reading
- Thursday, May 17: Annual Conference
- Friday, May 18: Annual Conference/Departure

The couple will present a missionary moment on Thursday evening, May 17, at the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference meeting, and will be present on May 18 as well.

For information on being in a covenant relationship to support our missionaries, please contact the Rev. David J. Davis, dnavdave@juno.com or 215-510-3793. Rev. Davis is pastor of Olivet UMC in Coatesville, and is Conference Missions Secretary.

For more information on UM Missionaries: www.umcmmission.org.

"In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these..."



When you give a financial gift to Methodist Services

- A child without insurance receives counseling
- A homeless family can move into permanent housing
- A student can attend an after-school program
- A mother and her children can receive temporary shelter

"You have done it unto me!"
(Matthew 25:40)

Native American Worship and Gathering



April 15 at 5:30 p.m.
Food and fellowship time
at 6:30 p.m.

Boe Harris and Ragghi Rain Clementine from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference will lead the worship. This will be an historic first gathering, and we will plan for subsequent gatherings as well. Please encourage any Native Americans in your congregation or other interested persons to attend.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Gloria Knoeller, gknoeller@epaumc.org.

For more information on how you can help make a difference in the lives of children and families please contact:

Methodist Services
4300 Monument Road
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215-877-1925, ext. 116

General Conference Worship

Watch live via video streaming

APRIL 24

Opening Worship: 4:00 PM
Preacher: Bishop Larry Goodpaster
Theme: Call
Text: Jesus Call the Disciples at the Shoreline

APRIL 25

Evening Worship: 8:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop James King
Theme: Invite
Text: Jesus Encounters Levi, Tax Collector, at the Sea

APRIL 26

Evening Worship: 8:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop Robert Hoshibata
Theme: Heal
Text: Jesus Heals at the Shore

APRIL 27

Act of Repentance: 7:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop Robert Hayes
Theme: Listen - Act of Repentance
Text: Jesus Teaches at the Sea

APRIL 30

Evening Worship: 8:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop David Kekumba Yemba
Theme: Embark
Text: Jesus Rebukes the Wind and Waves

MAY 1

Ecumenical Day - 8:30 PM
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit
Theme: Encourage - Ecumenical Day Worship Service
Text: Jesus Walks on the Water to get into the Boat with the Disciples

MAY 2

Memorial Service - 8:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop Jane Middleton
Theme: Encounter - Memorial Service
Text: Jesus Plans to meet the followers at Galilee after the Resurrection

MAY 3

Evening Worship: 8:30 PM
Preacher: Bishop Debra Kiesey
Theme: Feed - Love Feast
Text: The Risen Jesus meets his Disciples back at the Shore

MAY 4

Closing Worship: When all plenary business is completed
Preacher: Bishop Rosemary Wenner
Theme: Follow - Closing
Text: The Ascension of Jesus and the Disciples go out to Proclaim the Good News

General Conference 2012

April 24, 2012 through May 4, 2012
Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL 33602
Preview to Church Restructuring Debate

BY HEATHER HAHN

Months before the 2012 General Conference, delegates to The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking body got a hint of the debate to come regarding restructuring the denomination.

More than 300 delegates, communicators and agency staff gathered Jan. 19-21 for the Pre-General Conference News Briefing at the Tampa Convention Center, where discussions of the proposed changes dominated conversation.

The main piece of legislation — the result of the multiyear Call to Action process — would consolidate nine of the church's 13 general agencies into a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry under a 15-member board.

The board would be appointed by and accountable to a 45-member advisory board called the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, which would replace the Connectional Table that presently coordinates the denomination's mission, ministry and resources.

An over arching question for many at the briefing: Will the reorganization achieve its goal of promoting more vital congregations or have the opposite effect?

The Council of Bishops and Connectional Table initiated the Call to Action to reorder the life of the church in the wake of the 2008 global economic crisis and after decades of declining U.S. membership. The Call to Action Interim Operations Team devised the recommended changes, and the Connectional Table drafted the legislation.

Concerns about connectionalism

The Council of Bishops endorsed the restructuring at its November meeting, but the vote was not unanimous. Phoenix Area Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño shared her concerns about the plan during a presentation.

"Studies have shown that there is duplication and even competition among our general agencies that does not benefit the mission and ministry that God is



calling us to be about," Carcaño said.

"Yet, general agencies have served a vital function for resourcing the church and enabling us to act connectionally, and we should not lose these essential functions. There are things even our strongest local churches cannot do alone, and

some things they will not do."

In addition, she and others at the Pre-General Conference News Briefing echoed concerns raised by the denomination's ethnic caucuses that the smaller governance boards would severely limit the contributions of people of color. "In the U.S., a church that does not reach out to people of color is a church that will die," Carcaño said.

The Rev. Tim McClendon, a Connectional Table member and the Columbia (S.C.) District superintendent, explained his worry that the Connectional Table legislation would give too much power to the denomination's bishops.

At the coming General Conference, delegates also will take up a proposed amendment to the denomination's constitution to create a bishop without the usual responsibility of overseeing a geographical area. That bishop would be elected by the Council of Bishops and would have — among other duties — the authority to serve as the denomination's chief ecumenical officer, help align the strategic direction of the church and focus on growing vital congregations.

The Connectional Table endorsed this change, and under the proposed restructuring legislation, the "set-aside" bishop would be chair of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and ex-officio member of the board of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

Five of the voting members of the proposed Council for Strategy and Oversight would be bishops. The Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry would make its financial decisions in consultation with the Council of Bishops.

Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service.

Have a Smartphone or tablet?

The General Conference 2012 app brings the April 24-May 4 event in Tampa, Florida, to your mobile device. Features live streaming of conference sessions and worship; news stories, photos and videos related to General Conference; petition information; schedules; maps of the convention center and downtown Tampa; list, locations and phone numbers of Tampa restaurants, pharmacies, transportation, and others points of interest; General Conference sponsors and exhibitors.

Read more and watch video live: www.gc2012.umc.org

Share this with members of your church:

- Sign up to receive The Upper Room's "50 Days

of Prayer Before and During the General Conference." Download a free e-book (epub) or PDF version, or subscribe to the daily email at 50 Days of Prayer. <http://50daysofprayer.upperroom.org/>

- Organize a prayer vigil in your local church, cluster or district. Consider praying throughout the hours that General Conference is in session (April 24-May 4 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT).
- Contribute to social media sites. Visit Facebook page "2012 UMC General Conference Prayer Ministry" and Twitter @GC2012Pray to participate in conversation about this prayer movement.

SAVE THE DATE!

August 3-5, 2012

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The Rev. Thomas Haugh, DS of the Southeast District

Confusion of Faith or Confession of Faith?

The Rev. Joseph DiPaolo

Creating Healthy Congregations

The Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell, DS of the Central District

Stable and Healthy Church Leadership in Changing Times

The Rev. James Todd, DS of the Southwest District

Motivating for Our Mission

The Rev. Walter Unterberger

Are You Prepared to Worship with the Diverse

Christian- Language And Functional Need?

Rosaline McKelvey

Youth Emphasis Course

Evan Corey Jones, CSM and Tamara C. Clark, CSM

Registration with suggested special area hotel list

West Lawn UMC Campus is handicap accessible

More details to follow...

Laity Academy Team

Janet A. Mills, Dean, jmills6240@aol.com

Aubrey Bates, Assistant Dean, aubreybates@verizon.net



Southwest District Superintendent Jim Todd invites fellow bicycle riders for a major ride this summer to raise funds to help combat malaria! The Southwest District of the Eastern PA Conference has organized a ride called Nothing But Spokes to raise funds for the Conference's Imagine No Malaria efforts. We are inviting bicycle riders from across the Annual Conference (and beyond) to solicit pledges and to ride as a group 335 miles from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA. The ride will take place June 17-24, and the Eastern PA Conference group will be part of a larger organized ride sponsored by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, which will provide most meals, medical and bike repair support, transportation of luggage, among other things.

Riders will have a choice of starting in Washington, DC, or starting in Pittsburgh and being transported by motor coach to Washington, DC for the beginning of the ride. Before the ride begins, the group will hope to meet with representatives of the General Board of Church and Society headquartered near Capitol Hill, and Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Western PA Conference has promised to meet the riders at the conclusion of the ride in downtown Pittsburgh. Bishop Bickerton has spearheaded the denomination's efforts to raise \$75 Million in the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

The route of the ride from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh is very safe and involves very little cycling on roads. It is also a relatively flat ride, with minor inclines along the way. The first 184 miles will be on the C&O Canal from Washington, DC to Cumberland, MD, and the remaining part of the ride will be on the Great Allegheny Passage, a rail trail from Cumberland to Pittsburgh, PA. The cost of the ride is \$975, and riders are asked to pay the initial \$250 to register. The remaining part can be paid through the fund-raising efforts required by each of the riders. Riders will be challenged to raise \$5000 each, with a minimum of \$2500 required to be raised to go on the ride. Churches have already shown a great willingness to sponsor riders from their churches. There will be a series of practice rides prior to the main ride in June, with each rider biking more than 500 miles total to help combat malaria.

Interested? <http://www.epaumc.org/news/stories/nothing-but-spokes>



Beat the Bug 5K Walk/Run April 22

A giant mosquito and members of West Chester UMC invite people to join the Beat the Bug 5k Walk/Run on April 22 to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria.

The Imagine No Malaria Team at the United Methodist Church of West Chester is pleased to announce the First Annual Beat the Bug Run/Walk. The event will take place on April 22, 2012 in downtown West Chester at 2 pm and will benefit the Imagine No Malaria, a campaign which seeks to

eradicate Malaria in Africa by 2015.

The course route will begin at the corner of Church and Market Streets. Runners will participate in a 5K course, and walkers will complete a 2K course. Prizes for the top female and male finishers will be given.

Race day registration and packet pick up will be available from 12:30 until 1:50 at the United Methodist Church of West Chester, located at 129 S. High Street, West Chester. All pre-registered runners and walkers are

guaranteed a t-shirt and goodie bag. The race mascot, dubbed Skeeter by a contest held at the church, will be making an appearance on race day.

Registration for the race is available online at www.umcwc.org/BeatTheBug.

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The Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL) continuing care retirement communities have a historical relationship with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our communities are non-profit with a mission to deliver a purposeful life to residents. For more information, please visit: www.WEL.org.



2012 Resolutions

RESOLUTION #2012 - 01

Relating to Amendment of the By-laws of United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc.

Submitted by the Commission on Urban Ministries (formerly Urban Alliance)

WHEREAS, United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc. (Metro) was created by resolution of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference adopted in 1984, having evolved from The Philadelphia Missionary and Church Extension Society, and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of Metro has been “to acquire, receive, and hold by gift, legacy, devise, purchase or otherwise to establish and aid The United Methodist Churches, Missions, and other agencies of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for the advancement of the cause of Christ in Philadelphia and Chester and such other urban areas contiguous to Philadelphia or Chester as may be agreed upon by the Corporation” (By-laws, ¶1.02), and

WHEREAS, the By-laws establish that “The members of the Corporation shall be the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference” (By-laws, ¶ 3.02) and permits the amendment of the By-laws by action of the Board of Directors “subject always to the power of the members to change such action” (By-laws, ¶ 8.01), and

WHEREAS, in July 1994, Metro adopted a reorganization plan and “ceased its active program funding ministry” since the Office of Urban Ministries, an agency of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference was providing the program funding ministry on behalf of the Annual Conference. (2010 Metro Audit, p. 5), and

WHEREAS, The Office of Urban Ministries has suffered staff and funding cuts as a result of economic circumstances which the Annual Conference faces and, therefore, is not functioning as the primary program funding ministry for Philadelphia and Chester churches, and

WHEREAS, formerly Metro Ministries and its predecessor agencies employed an Executive Director and other similar models for urban ministry offices (eg, The United Methodist City Society in the New York Annual Conference) employ an Executive Director for the management of day-to-day activities, development of funding sources, and other professional responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, Metro Ministries, Inc. at the end of 2010 reported assets of nearly \$1.9 million in its audit report submitted to the Annual Conference, and

WHEREAS, in 2012 Metro was designated as recipient of the assets from the discontinuance of churches within Philadelphia and Chester in accordance with ¶ 2548 of the 2008 Book of Discipline to “be used for new and/or existing ministries within urban transitional communities, as described in ¶ 212, and consistent with the Annual Conference’s urban ministry strategic plan,” and therefore it needs to create a plan or strategy for making those funds available to local churches in urban transitional communities, and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate, critical, and vital need for the funding of ministries in Philadelphia and Chester requiring a refocusing, reorganization, and restructuring of Metro to better meet the program ministry needs of congregations in urban transitional communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the By-laws of United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc. are hereby amended as follows:

UNITED METHODIST METRO MINISTRIES, INC. BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I INTRODUCTORY

1.01 Definition of By-laws. These By-laws constitute the code of rules adopted by United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc. for the regulation and management of its affairs.

1.02 Purposes. The corporation will have the following purposes: to acquire, receive, and hold by gift, legacy, devise, purchase or otherwise, resources to establish and aid the local churches, missions, and other agencies of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church for the advancement of the cause of Christ in Philadelphia, Chester and such other urban areas contiguous to Philadelphia or Chester as may be agreed upon by the Corporation, including funding program ministries and innovative ministries in urban congregations.

ARTICLE II OFFICES

2.01 Registered Office. The registered office shall be located at Madison Avenue and Monroe Boulevard, Montgomery County, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19482.

2.02 Other Offices. The corporation may also have offices at such other place or places as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Class of Members. There shall be one class of members of the Corporation whose voting and other rights and interests shall be equal.

3.02 Members. The members of this Corporation shall be the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.01 Duties and Authority. The Board of Directors shall establish policies and may exercise all such powers of the corporation and do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute or by the articles of incorporation or by these by-laws directed or required to be exercised and done by the members.

4.02 Number. The number of Directors which shall constitute the Board of Directors shall be a minimum of ten (10) and no more than fifteen (15) as follows:

- a. The Director of the Office of Urban and Global Ministries (or its successor agency or professional) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference with voice but no vote.
- b. One District Superintendent from a Metro District (East District; Central District; Southeast District) on a rotating annual basis designated by the Bishop and Cabinet with voice but no vote;
- c. Two clergy representatives from Metro Districts ;
- d. Two United Methodist lay persons from Metro Districts who are active members of United Methodist Churches and are residents of the area served by Metro;
- e. One United Methodist lay person who is an active member of a United Methodist Church in Chester and is a resident of the Chester area.
- f. One representative designated by the Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP) caucus.
- g. One representative designated by the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) caucus.
- h. One representative designated by the Commission on Urban Ministries
- i. One representative designated by the Latino Commission.
- j. Such other Directors based on expertise or experience as recommended by members of the Corporation, nominated by the Board, and elected by the Annual Conference reflecting the diversity of the communities served by Metro.

4.03 Term. The Board of Directors shall serve until their successors are elected.

4.04 Election of Directors. Directors shall be elected annually by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

4.05 Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board of Directors in mid-term shall be filled by the Board of Directors based on nominations made by persons described in 4.02 subject to Conference ratification at the next session.

4.06 Regular Meetings. The Board shall meet at least four times per year as determined by the Board of Directors.

4.07 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by three members of the Board on 72 hours notice to each Director, either personally, by mail, by telegram, or by Email. Notice of each special meeting of the Board shall specify the date, place and hour of the meeting. The notice shall state the general nature of the business to be conducted at such special meeting.

4.08 Quorum. At all meetings of the Board a majority of the Directors in office shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the acts of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the Board of Directors, except as may be otherwise specifically provided by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these By-laws.

4.09 Participation in Meeting by Telephone or Electronic Media. One or more Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board, or a Committee of the Board, by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment or by electronic media, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear and/or see each other, and all Directors so participating shall be deemed present at the meeting.

4.10 Informal Action by Directors or Committees. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Directors or of the members of a Committee of the Board, may be taken without a meeting, if a consent or consents in writing setting forth the action so taken shall by all of the Directors or the members of the committee, as the case may be, and shall be filed with the secretary of the corporation.

4.11 Committee of Directors. The Board of Directors upon recommendation

of the president may, by resolution adopted by a majority vote, designate one or more committees and their members; each committee to consist of one or more of the Directors of the Corporation. Non-Directors may also be appointed by vote of the Board and serve on a committee with vote. The Board may designate one or more Directors as alternate members of any committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member at any meeting of the committee. Any such committee shall make reports to the full Board of Directors.

4.12 Unexcused Absences of Directors. Three (3) consecutive absences from Board of Directors' meetings in any calendar year shall be grounds for removal from the Board. The Director removed shall be notified by certified mail. In the event any Director is removed for unexcused absences, the Board may fill the vacancy for the remainder of his or her term in accordance with Section 4.05.

**ARTICLE V
OFFICERS and STAFF**

5.01 Selection and Designation. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the corporation shall be elected by the Directors on an annual basis. The officers shall serve until their successors shall have been elected and qualified; officers may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Due to potential conflict of interest, no District Superintendent or Conference Staff Person may serve as an officer of the corporation.

5.02 Additional Officers. The Board of Directors may also elect such other officers and assistant officers and agents as the needs of the corporation may require who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as from time to time shall be determined by resolution of the Board.

5.03 President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation; shall preside at all meetings of the Directors; and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board, all applicable resolutions of the Annual Conference; all applicable provisions of The Book of Discipline, and all other applicable laws are carried into effect.

5.04 Vice President. The Vice President will perform all duties and exercise all powers of the President when the President is absent or is otherwise unable to act. The Vice President will perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

5.05 Secretary. The Secretary shall record all the votes of the Corporation and the minutes of all the transactions in a book to be kept for that purpose or by electronic means as agreed by the Board, shall make records available for review by members of the Corporation, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or President.

5.06 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation or by electronic means as agreed by the Board, and shall deposit all moneys and other valuable assets in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

5.07 Disbursement of Funds. The Treasurer shall authorize disbursement of the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and Directors, at the regular meetings of the Board, or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation.

5.08 Chair of Directors' Meetings. If the president is not available to preside at a meeting, the officers in the following order shall take the president's place and preside at meetings: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

5.09 Professional Staff. The Board shall employ a full-time Executive Director and such other staff as the Board determines.

**ARTICLE VI
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**

6.01 Other Body. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Investment Committee is hereby designated as an "other body" within the meaning of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania not-for-profit corporation code. Said committee shall be empowered to invest, buy and sell investments held in the corporation's portfolio. The Investment Committee shall report at least quarterly to the Directors.

6.02 Investment Policy. The Directors shall determine broad investment policies and goals of the corporation which shall be conveyed to the Investment Committee. The Investment policies shall be in accordance with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church as defined in the current Book of Discipline. 6.03 Distribution of Income and Principal. The Board of Directors shall determine the distribution of income and or principal in accordance with the purpose of the corporation.

**ARTICLE VII
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

7.01 Financial Report to Members. The Directors of the corporation shall present annually to the members of the Corporation a report, the contents of which are prescribed in Section 5553 of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law, a copy of which report shall be filed in the Journal of the Annual Meeting of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

7.02 Checks and Notes. All checks or demands for money and notes of the corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

7.03 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.

7.04 Indemnification. The corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding (including actions by or in right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor) by reason of the fact that he is or was serving at the request of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and, amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonable incurred, if such person has been successful on the merits or otherwise in any such action or, upon a determination in the specific case that such indemnification is proper in the circumstances because he has met the standard of conduct applicable in Section 5741 or Section 5742 of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. In addition, the Corporation shall purchase and maintain insurance for the purpose of indemnification on behalf of any or all persons to the full extent permitted under Section 5747 of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988.

7.05 Personal Liability of Directors. No member of the Board of Directors shall be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or any failure to perform the duties of his or her office under Section 8363 of the Pennsylvania Directors' Liability Act (relating to standard of care and justifiable reliance), and (b) the breach of failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness; provided, however, that the provisions of this Bylaw shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of a member pursuant to any criminal statute, or to the liability of a member for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, state or Federal law.

**ARTICLE VIII
INTERPRETATION, AMENDMENT AND APPLICATION OF BYLAWS**

8.01 Amendments. The By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors entitled to vote thereon at any regular or special meeting duly convened after notice to the Directors of that purpose, subject always to the power of the members to change such action by the Directors and except on certain subjects committed exclusively to the members as described in Section 5504 (b) of the Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation Law of 1988, such as but not limited to election of officers, personal liability of directors, removal of officers, quorum, etc. (see 15 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 5504)

Persons responsible for presenting resolution: Rev James F. McIntire and Rev. Gregory Holston

RESOLUTION #2012 - 02

Resolution for Conference Advance Specials- June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013. Submitted by Rev. David J. Davis. CSGM Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

WHEREAS the Conference Advance Special is a program of ministry which can seek funds from a local church that keeps its financial commitments to the conference and General Church in full in the previous years budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the church through designated giving; and

WHEREAS a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in need of support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of mission of the church; and

WHEREAS practicality indicates a change in the time period covered by a list of conference advance specials to as soon as possible after they are approved;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials for the year June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013.

The Congo EPA Partnership \$20,000
Leader: Rev. David T. Ryan

This is a partnership with the Congo Episcopal Area, Supporting medical and nutritional initiatives, also Aviation Ministries and local Church projects. This ministry deals with poverty, developing indigenous leadership, Health initiatives led by Lay and clergy volunteers from our conference.

Hope on the Hill. \$2,000*Applicant: Rev. Dennis G. Keen*

The Ministry is a feeding program which ensures a hot meal and opportunity to socialize every Wednesday evening. Currently it meets the needs of approximately 75 individuals. The ministry leads to new memberships; they have received 5 individuals into their membership. This program also celebrates the Holy Communion for those who desire to stay back after the meal.

Hope Christian Counseling & Retreat Ministries \$3,000*Applicant: Rev. Susan L. Worrell*

The ministry offers professional counseling, and facilitates retreats and workshops covering a wide range of issues by Qualified and certified professionals and ordained clergy regardless of a person's ability to pay a full fee. The ministry nurtures healing which leads to transformation and kingdom building. The ministry is open to all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation.

Palmyra Circles Initiative of Lebanon County \$70,000*Applicant: Rev David P. Harris*

A program that deals with poverty through developing and building social capital across social and economical lines through training and intentional relationship building. They meet weekly and foster support, encouragement and mutual care.

Greater Hazelton Metro Ministries. \$5,000*Applicant: Carol Vinson Lawfer*

This ministry is designed and focused on the need of immigrants. 5 classes meet each week and serve up to 25 students learning English. They also assist with homework and computer literacy.

New Journey United Methodist Church \$10,000*Applicant: Rev. Alicia M. Julia-Stanley*

A comprehensive ministry that runs a soup kitchen 4 days a week, a food pantry once a week, and a clothing closet every Saturday. The ministry also addresses literacy through ESL, Financial education, provides scholarship funds for our camps especially Latino week at Gretna Glen.

Hazelton Enlarged Ministry \$30,000*Applicant: L. Joanne Young*

HEM is basically an outreach program dedicated to nurture children, and build their self esteem, helping them to discover their gifts and talents in a safe environment, while they play and learn. They also meet the needs of persons in crisis situation and help enrich the ministry of the local churches.

Lumina. \$10,000*Applicant: Rev. Sally Wisner Ott*

They coordinate the outreach of over 75 churches in the Southwest District. Their primary foci are:

1. Children's ministries (Camps and VBS)
2. Clothing (Professional outfits and school uniforms)
3. Nutrition Education (nutrition and basic life skills)

They also serve individuals and families living in poverty.

North West District HUB \$5,000*Applicant: Jeanne A. Earnshaw*

This outreach ministry services a wide range of organizations with humanitarian goods and logistics. They host volunteers, process kits, and provide all types of needed supplies, locally, nationally and internationally.

Spiritual Renewal Ministries Inc. \$10,000*Applicant: The Rev. Sara J. Davis Shappell*

This ministry has been in operation for the past 20 years as an integral part of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. They forge partnerships with churches, groups and individuals seeking to deepen their relationship with God. They have scholarships, retreats and seminars for spiritual formation.

Asbury Ministry at Drexel University \$25,000*Applicant: Amy & Tim Emmer Rardin*

The only full-time college ministry supported by Eastern PA conference. It is an ecumenical ministry, demonstrating God's love by providing a spiritual presence, pastoral guidance and prophetic voice to the university community.

Methodist Services for Children and Families (MSCF)**Methodist Family Services of Philadelphia (MFSP). \$10,000***Applicant: Angele Marie Parker (president/CEO)*

A Comprehensive approach which includes safe haven for children, child care, summer camps, permanent housing, supportive social services, educational advancement and job placement. Focuses on displaced families and victims of intense poverty.

United Campus Ministry at Millersville University \$10,000*Applicant: Kirstin B. Shrom-Rhoads. (Director)*

This ministry is an ecumenical approach organizing events for fun, fellowship, growing faith and serving together. It provides and promotes open faith-building, personal growth facilitates authentic relationship building and enhances ones faith journey.

Casa del Pueblo-New Church Start. \$20,000

This is a growing ministry with people from Hatboro, Warminster, Warrington and Horsham attending. They have been able to reach over 80 children and youth, and over 50 adults. This is a growing congregation with great potential. The ministry provides a safe and welcoming environment for the poor and immigrants and nurtures leadership and mobility to get out of poverty.

United Methodist Neighborhood Services \$20,000*Applicant: Dr. Mary White*

The ministry is a non-profit social service organization time tested and founded as a Deaconess Home in 1890. They service the needs of Low income families of the inner-city Philadelphia residents. Services include, Mother's Group, Summer Camps, Literacy Classes, English course, and women's shelter.

La Trinidad UMC \$12,000*Applicant: Madeline González-López*

This is a multicultural congregation made up of members from North, Central and South Americas, and some members from the Caribbean. Their mission is to reach out to the Latino population with a Spiritual/Social mandate and assist people in becoming the people of God. Their area of mission is the south side of Allentown.

United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania \$8,000*Applicant: Stephen Drachler*

With 2,400 congregations in neighborhoods and communities across Pennsylvania and upwards of a half-million members, United Methodists have a potent voice. United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania educates and advocates on behalf of the church in the halls of the State Capitol in Harrisburg based on the United Methodist interpretation of the Bible and the denomination's Social Principles. We depend upon Pennsylvania's annual (regional) conferences for more than financial support. Our efforts bear fruit only when grassroots United Methodists organize to tell their elected officials of the church's perspective on legislation. It is vital for United Methodists learn about issues, and then pass on the results of what they learn to their elected representatives.

Resolution presented by Rev. David J. Davis.

RESOLUTION #2012 - 03**Resolution Related to Escalating Increase in Alcohol Availability****Submitted by SW District Church and Society**

WHEREAS, alcohol is a harmful and often deadly drug whose use is coming under more and more scrutiny re: negative health impacts, and

WHEREAS, in the past, government's role has been to restrict alcohol availability and sales, and

WHEREAS, over recent years, that has changed to increase the number of alcohol outlets and licenses, and

WHEREAS, easy availability and access leads to greater use and, consequently, an increase in the problems associated with alcohol use, and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, in 2007 there were 14,406 alcoholic liver disease deaths and 23,199 alcohol-induced deaths, excluding accidents and homicides¹

WHEREAS, Center for Disease Control figures from 2006 show that binge drinking cost the economy \$223.5 billion²

WHEREAS, in Pennsylvania, underage drinking annual costs \$2.1 billion³

WHEREAS, life is precious and not replaceable, and

WHEREAS, alcohol use is costly in terms of lives and the economy, and

WHEREAS, alcohol producers do not cover the costs of the negative impact of their drug, and

WHEREAS, state and federal taxes do not cover the economic costs which is dumped on taxpayers and society-at-large, (NOTE: beer taxes in PA have not been raised since 1947⁴) and

WHEREAS, government is to be working for the common good of its citizens' health, safety and well-being, and

WHEREAS, reducing not expanding availability of the drug alcohol would be in the best interest of the citizens' health, safety and well-being:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop, congregations and members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church make contact with their state senators, representatives, (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>) members of the House Liquor Control Committee (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/cteeInfo/cteeInfo.cfm?cde=28&body=H>), members of the Senate Law and Justice Committee (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/cteeInfo/cteeInfo.cfm?cde=29&body=S>) and the Governor (Governor@pa.gov) requesting an

1 <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alcohol.htm>

2 <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/BingeDrinking/index.html>

3 <http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/pa.pdf>

4 <http://alcoholjustice.org/campaigns/charge-for-harm/450-neglected-and-outdated-state-beer-taxes.html>

5 <http://www.cnn.com/id/36267223>

end to the expanding number of alcohol licenses and availability as well as the reduction of the existing number of alcohol licenses and outlets by closing those whose have violations of the PA Liquor Code.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Ms. Dianne Berlin

RESOLUTION #2012 - 04

Resolution Relating to The Importance of Education in the Success of Our Society

Presented by Church and Society Team, Covenant United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA

WHEREAS, the future of our nation depends on the development, growth, and education of our young people, and

WHEREAS, the sound education of our youth is the stepping stone for the upward mobility of our population, and

WHEREAS, state and federal programs providing funds for public education have been slashed to the bone, and

WHEREAS, the upward mobility of our citizens has fallen far below the standards of other civilized societies, and

WHEREAS, the future hopes of our young people have been put in jeopardy by the cuts in public education funding, and

WHEREAS, Pell Grants from the federal government provide financial support for students who may not be able to afford higher education, and

WHEREAS, we the people of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, seek to reverse these disastrous trends;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we petition Governor Corbett and our state legislators to restore all funding for public education at the local level and to all of our state-supported universities to the levels of 2009 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we petition President Obama and our members of Congress to increase the funding for Pell Grants by 50%, to be paid for by the establishment of new tax brackets for higher income individuals reaching a level of 45% for those earning more than \$1 million.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Mr. George Bergey

RESOLUTION #2012 - 05

Resolution Relating to Salary/Benefits Recommendations for 2013

Presented by the Commission on Equitable Compensation

WHEREAS, 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 recommending conference standards for pastoral support; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged with annually recommending to the conference for its action, a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and those clergy members of the annual conference appointed to less than full-time to a local church; and

WHEREAS, the economic turbulence we find our nation in has caused great difficulty for many of the churches in the Conference to meet their financial obligations, and

WHEREAS, in two of the last three years (2010 and 2012) no increases were mandated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the salary of clergypersons for 2013 shall reflect a 2.5% increase. The schedule for persons beginning under appointment in the local church for the year 2013 as follows:

1. Elders and Deacons in Full Connection \$38,300
2. Transitional Deacons, and Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments 35,500
3. Associate Members..... 34,650
4. Full-Time Local Pastors 32,800

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to arrive at the minimum cash salary for each pastor, the required service year increments will be added to the appropriate base listed above in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of service for 20 years, (defined as full-time service under appointment [part-time accrues, i.e., two years in half-time appointment equals one year of service]); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each church or charge, in recommending increases, consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security as self-employed persons, family needs, and payment of health insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet concerning the altered status of the church or charge.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Mark Moore

RESOLUTION #2012 - 06

Resolution Related to Gambling

Submitted by SW District Church and Society

WHEREAS, our Social Principles state that "gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, and destructive of good government." and

WHEREAS, because gamblers expect to take either money or something else of value without the other gambler(s) giving it freely as a gift or prize or without buying, earning or trading for it, gambling is a form of theft, which violates the Commandments against coveting and stealing, and

WHEREAS, gambling is a harmful activity both economically as well as health-wise and is harmful not just the gambler but also to society at large, and

WHEREAS, government's primary responsibility is the common good of the health, safety and well-being of its citizens and

WHEREAS, government is to at least reduce and where possible eliminate unnecessary harm to its citizens rather than cause harm or to be the enabler of preventable harm, and

WHEREAS, benefiting a "good cause" is not an excuse for deliberately legalizing and even promoting unnecessary harm, and

WHEREAS, on an annual basis, every operating slot machine costs the loss of one job (*UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL GAMBLING, 2009, page 328*) and

WHEREAS, according to Earl Grinols in "*Cutting the Cards and Craps: Right Thinking About Gambling Economics*," the social costs outweigh benefits by a factor of \$190 to \$34 or 5.6 to 1 which means that we are paying a very high price for legalized gambling, and

WHEREAS, more and more gambling continues to be legalized in the Commonwealth from more lottery "games", helping horse racing by legalizing slot machines (in an unconstitutional law) at tracks and casinos, legalizing table games at the casinos as well as expanding more charitable gambling, and

WHEREAS, the legalization of various forms of gambling results in the normalization of what used to be an illegal activity, and

WHEREAS, gambling interests have been exerting undue influence on the legislative process and have been able to avoid being held accountable for the negative costs of gambling, and

WHEREAS, making gambling more available places an additional, preventable burden on our already overburdened governmental healthcare, welfare and criminal justice systems, on faith communities and other social welfare organizations which serve many of these needs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop, congregations and members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, make contact with their state senators, representatives (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>) and the Governor (Governor@pa.gov) to urge their support for rollback of legalized gambling by doing any or all of the following: contacting their elected officials, writing letters to the editor, posting comments on related articles online and by providing opportunities for public debate on the gambling issue and spread this resolution to others in various parts of the Commonwealth to get them to do likewise.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Ms. Dianne Berlin

RESOLUTION #2012 - 07

Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons

Presented by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is 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"); and

WHEREAS, the practice 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; and

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.

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 2013 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a

member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designed as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the pension and 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 Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergy person 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 Clergy person 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 Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person'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 Clergy person 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.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Mr. Dave Koch

RESOLUTION #2012 - 08

Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for the Year 2013

Presented by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adoption Agreement shall be applicable to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and, unless another date is specified below, shall be effective as of January 1, 2013: The Clergy Retirement Security Program shall be the base retirement plan for the clergy persons under Episcopal appointment including deacons and members of other denominations serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible unit, conference controlled entity including clergy on incapacity leave receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in accordance to the plan adoption agreement beginning on January 1, 2013. Clergy persons on incapacity leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on January 1, 2013 the ministerial pension rate for past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be \$513.00 and the personal contributor's annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the participants formula benefit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant's formula benefit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized to make annual deposits at the end of each calendar year as required by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the purpose of funding for past service prior to January 1, 1982.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Mr. David Koch

RESOLUTION #2012 - 09

Relating to the Discontinuance of New Philadelphia United Methodist Church Presented by Northwest District of the Eastern PA Conference

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia United Methodist Church of Schuylkill County was founded in 1849 and has a long and proud history of serving the people of New Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia United Methodist Church voted on June 5, 2011 to discontinue the church on January 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia United Methodist Church contacted the Northwest District Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Superintendent of the congregation's decision to close as of November 13, 2011, due to a broken furnace and lack of heat; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees was granted full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that New Philadelphia United Methodist Church discontinue, effective November 13, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the New Philadelphia United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Gary L. Nicholson

RESOLUTION 2012 - 10

Relating to a Comprehensive Urban Strategy

Submitted by the Commission on Urban Ministry

WHEREAS, the Commission on Urban Ministry (formerly Urban Alliance) responsibilities include long range mission strategy development and ministry for metropolitan communities with populations of 50,000 or more, fulfilling the functions as outlined in section 633.5h of the 2008 Book of Discipline, and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church approved a Comprehensive Urban Strategy for Philadelphia (CUSP) and while all urban areas have their differences, CUSP was intended as a model of urban strategy that could be implemented throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and

WHEREAS, CUSP focused on five areas including (1) personnel policy, (2) congregational/local church development, (3) community/outreach, (4) finance and (5) facilities, and

WHEREAS, CUSP, which was an excellent strategy, has largely been an unfulfilled strategy and the effectiveness of urban ministry has continued to decline in many churches and the demands on urban churches continue to increase while funding from apportionment dollars steadily decreases, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Urban & Global Ministries has suffered staff and funding cuts as a result of the economic circumstances of the Annual Conference, and is therefore not functioning as the primary program funding ministry for our urban areas,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference reaffirms its commitment to urban ministry and the necessity of a Comprehensive Urban Strategy for all urban areas and directs that the Commission on Urban Ministry review historic strategies and present to the November 2012 Adjourned Session an Urban Strategy for Eastern Pennsylvania.

Persons responsible for presenting the Resolution: Reverend Gregory Holston and Reverend Robin Hynicka.

RESOLUTION #2012 - 11

Resolution Related to Restoring Civil and Factual Election Campaigns

Submitted by Southwest District Church and Society

WHEREAS, misleading, negative election campaigning is growing, and

WHEREAS, the spin and innuendo of negative campaigning deliberately distorts the facts, and

WHEREAS, voters need the facts in order to make a well informed decision, and

WHEREAS, fact based information in ads, speeches or debates allows voters to become better informed, and would help restore civility which has been disappearing in the campaign process, and

WHEREAS, restoring integrity and civility during campaigns could lead to restoring integrity and civility in the governing process as well, and

WHEREAS, our elected officials need to make well informed decisions on many important and critical issues on behalf of the citizens, and

WHEREAS, citizens should be able to expect civility from our elected governmental leaders,

WHEREAS, civil and respectful debates could lead to decisions made in the best interests of the common good,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop, congregations and members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church help create change to more civil and factual campaigns by using opportunities for example but not limited to: talk radio, in letters to the editor and/ or in op-eds to call for the end to spin and innuendo and a return to civility and factual campaigns.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Tim Smith

RESOLUTION #2012 - 12

Resolution Regarding Anti-Racism Work In The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Of The United Methodist Church

Submitted by the Core Team of Healing the Wounds of Racism and the Commission on Religion and Race

WHEREAS the Core Team and the Commission together reaffirm the sacred importance of anti-racism work in, through and beyond the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC to dismantle the structures of racism within and beyond the Conference, its churches and its communities; and

WHEREAS the Core Team and the Commission recognize and reaffirm each of their distinct and complementary roles in that work;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Core Team and the Commission continue to communicate with clarity for a better understanding of roles and assignments when working together to accomplish agreed upon goals regarding the existing anti-racism learning and living process in The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and to develop a mutually accountable relationship with each other as that work proceeds, including measurable goals with time lines, and discussion of term limits for Core Team members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Commission become involved in the ongoing process of evaluating the Introductory Workshop for Healing the Wounds of Racism and restructuring it as necessary, including broadening of required reading; the recruitment and training of additional workshop facilitators/presenters; and the development of one-day sessions for ongoing educational opportunities to replace 3 day, second level workshops; each having specific focus areas, e.g. varied ethnic/cultural communities and their individual concerns/differences/needs, continued training in and affirmation of ongoing anti-racism work, and future agreed upon topics of importance to the "Beloved Community of Healers," to be held at least once during each Conference year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission assist the Core Team in its ongoing efforts to identify the broadest possible balance of ethnic/cultural communities on the Team, while maintaining a balance of laity and clergy, male and female, youth and young adult membership, with at least 2/3 of the Team being People of Color. The Core Team shall determine its membership through the established interview process with prospective members.

Presented by Ms. Cheryl Washington and Rev. David Brown

RESOLUTION #2012 - 13

Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Sharon Hill Christian Center

Presented by Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHEREAS the congregation of Sharon Hill Christian Center, an unchartered new church start, located at Sharon and Maple Avenues, Sharon Hill, PA 19079, had vacated the property prior to the 16th day of April 2011; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the building and land of Sharon Hill Christian Center has been transferred to the care of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS approval has been granted from the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 8th day of September, 2011, gave advice and consent to discontinue the Sharon Hill Christian Center.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sharon Hill Christian Center discontinue effective the 8th day of September 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Sharon Hill Christian Center be as follows: 25% to Phila.: Eastwick United Methodist Church and 75% to the Board of Trustees Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Thomas C. Haugh

RESOLUTION #2012 - 14

Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church

Presented by Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the financial resources of the South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 623 Manchester Avenue Media, PA 19063, are limited and insufficient to maintain operations; and

WHEREAS, there is declining membership; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue; and

WHEREAS the members of the South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church voted to discontinue at a special session of charge conference on February 6, 2011; and

WHEREAS approval has been granted from the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 8th day of September, 2011 gave advice and consent to discontinue the South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the building, land and any other assets of South Media: Packard Memorial has been transferred to the care of the Board

of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that South Media: Packard Memorial discontinue effective the 8th day of September 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the South Media: Packard Memorial United Methodist Church be distributed as follows: 20% to a New Church Start and 80% to the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Thomas C. Haugh

RESOLUTION #2012 - 15

Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church

Presented by Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the financial resources of the Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church located at Brookhaven & Rose Valley Roads

Wallingford, PA 19086 are limited and insufficient to maintain current operations; and

WHEREAS, there is declining membership; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue; and

WHEREAS the members of the Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church voted to discontinue at a special session of charge conference on March 11, 2012; and

WHEREAS, members of the Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Trustees have consulted with the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church; and received consent to discontinue; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 14th day of March 2012 gave advice and consent to discontinue the Wallingford: Old Union United Methodist Church, effective the 17th day of June 2012; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the building and land of Wallingford: Old Union UMC has been transferred to the care of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Wallingford: Old Union UMC discontinue effective the 17th day of June 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any residual assets be distributed in the following way: 20% to Prospect Park United Methodist Church and 80% to the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Thomas C. Haugh

RESOLUTION #2012 - 16

Relating to the Discontinuance of Portland United Methodist Church

Presented by Northeast District of the Eastern PA Conference

WHEREAS, the Portland United Methodist Church of Northampton County was founded in 1872 and has served the people of Portland with energy and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and,

WHEREAS, the Portland United Methodist Church voted on February 19, 2012, to discontinue the church effective March 31, 2012 after a year of discernment and prayer; and,

WHEREAS, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees was granted full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Portland United Methodist Church discontinue, effective March 31, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Portland United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as they deem appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Bronwyn Yocum

RESOLUTION #2012 - 17**Relating to the Discontinuance of St. Andrews United Methodist Church of Havertown****Submitted by the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference**

WHEREAS the St. Andrews United Methodist Church located in Delaware County was founded in 1897 and has a long and proud history of ministering to the community in Llanerch, later Havertown;

WHEREAS the charge conference of the St. Andrews United Methodist Church voted on August 29, 2011 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of St. Andrews United Methodist Church and transfer of membership to Havertown: Union, and Ardmore United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the remaining congregation of St. Andrews and the Superintendent has recommended that the property be sold and the sale proceeds be paid to the Conference Trustees, to the Methodist Home for Children, to Union UMC in Havertown, and to the Food Bank at St. Mark's UMC in Broomall; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Andrews United Methodist Church be discontinued effective October 29, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by St. Andrews United Methodist Church, following the above recommendations, as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Dr. Anita A. Powell

RESOLUTION #2012 - 18**Relating to the Discontinuance of Gladwyne United Methodist Church****Submitted by the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

WHEREAS the Gladwyne United Methodist Church located in Montgomery County was founded in 1840 and has a long and proud history of ministering to the community of Merion Square, later named Gladwyne; and

WHEREAS the charge conference of the Gladwyne United Methodist Church voted on October 13, 2011 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of Gladwyne United Methodist Church and transfer of membership to Ardmore and Bala Cynwyd United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the remaining congregation of Gladwyne and the Superintendent has recommended that the property be sold and the sale proceeds be paid to the Conference Trustees; and

WHEREAS the remaining Trustees of Gladwyne request the Conference Board of Trustees allocate up to one-third of the funds from the sale of Gladwyne United Methodist Church real estate property to support Main Line ministries, i.e. the "Emergent Ministries" of Plumblin Fellowship of Narberth UMC; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gladwyne United Methodist Church be discontinued effective November 13, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by Gladwyne United Methodist Church, following the above recommendations, as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Dr. Anita A. Powell

RESOLUTION #2012 - 19**Relating to the Discontinuance of St. Luke's Snyder Avenue UMC Charter****Submitted by the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

WHEREAS the St. Luke's Snyder Avenue Church located in South Philadelphia at 440 Snyder Avenue has a long and proud history of ministry; and

WHEREAS in 2009 there was no longer an existing congregation known as St. Luke's Snyder Avenue, making it a church abandonment; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the St. Luke's Snyder Avenue charter, effective March 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent has recommended that the property be retained and used for the new church start that is currently occupying the building; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue the charter has been granted by the presiding bishop, the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the charter for St. Luke's Snyder Avenue United Methodist Church be discontinued effective March 20, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference assume responsibility of the disposition of assets and follow the recommendations of the Cabinet that the new church start, St. Luke's Restoration Worship Center, will continue to occupy the property at 440 Snyder Avenue, Philadelphia PA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Dr. Anita A. Powell

RESOLUTION #2012 - 20**Relating to the Discontinuance of Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church Presented by East District of the Eastern PA Conference**

WHEREAS, the Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church of Philadelphia was founded in 1869 and has a long and proud history of serving the people of the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia with passion and dedication, and

WHEREAS, the Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church contacted the Superintendent of the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Bishop and the Cabinet of the congregation's decision to close, due to the dwindling of financial resources necessary for continuing ministry in this urban community, and

WHEREAS, the Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church voted on Sunday, February 19, 2012 to discontinue the church, effective June 30, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the pastor and lay leadership of the Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church met with the East District Board of Church Location and Building on Saturday, March 10, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees was granted full responsibility for the care and disposal of building and all other assets,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church discontinue, effective June 30, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem

RESOLUTION #2012 - 21**Resolution to Eliminate the Pre-82 Pension Liability, Stabilize Conference Reserves, Grow Churches and Fund Ministries****Submitted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Pension, Trustees and Conference Committee on Finance and Administration**

WHEREAS For the past several years, The EPA Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB) has paid half (50%) of the annual obligation of pension payments for clergy who served in ministry prior to 1982, and the remaining half (50%) has been billed to local churches;

WHEREAS The annual payment for this pension account will continue until 2021 unless funds can be raised to fund the account at 100%. (The Unfunded Liability currently stands at \$14 million);

WHEREAS The EPA BOPHB has monitored its investments to ensure there was adequate funds available to fund its portion of the annual obligation along with other obligations that it must meet, such as, necessitous grants, educational opportunities and administration of the Conference health and pension accounts for clergy and laity;

WHEREAS The Market crash of 2008 significantly affected the investment reserve balance used to fund half (50%) of the annual payment and in 2012, the subsidy was reduced to twenty five percent (25%) with the local churches billed at seventy five percent (75%);

WHEREAS The Leadership of the Conference realizes that the best option is to pay down the liability completely and fund the Pre-82 Retired Clergy Pension and Health Obligation at 100%;

WHEREAS The Conference Plan to raise \$14 million to fund the Pre-82 Retired Clergy Pension and Health Obligation at 100% will take, at a minimum, six years;

WHEREAS The Annual billing to the local churches for this obligation will cease at the time the Pre-82 Pension is funded at 100%, which is in six years based on current plan projections. However, if market and actuarial conditions

result in less than 100% funding, then billing to local churches will resume and continue until 100% funding is attained.

WHEREAS The Local church will have more funds for ministry once this obligation is funded at 100% and removed from the local church remittance form;

WHEREAS The Conference Board of Trustees' reserves are less than \$100 thousand and need to be rebuilt to a minimum of \$500 thousand for it to adequately perform its duties. The Trustees are responsible for managing the conference office, six district offices, four district parsonages, three conference owned camps, and eleven discontinued owned cemeteries;

WHEREAS The Trustees also secure group insurance for all local churches covering property and liability and workers compensation, and administer three endowment funds (Bookstore Fund, Dewees Fund and Adams Fund). In the past year, Trustees have been responsible for disposing of property related to several churches that closed. Sufficient reserves are needed to cover expenses for maintaining the property until it is sold;

WHEREAS The Annual Conference reserves are less than \$200 thousand and should be at a level equal to 25% of the annual operating budget,(three months of operating expenses), or about \$650 thousand. A priority is to maintain operating reserves at levels adequate for achieving financial stability and to preserve the Conferences' capacity to deliver on its mission and ministry, in the event of unforeseen financial shortages;

WHEREAS The need for maintaining adequate reserves is critical to avoid cash flow stress resulting from insufficient revenue to meet financial obligations, and to continue delivery of programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Strategy to fund the Pre-82 Pension obligation at 100% and to restore Trustee and Conference reserves to an adequate level involves raising \$14 million over six years by employing the following three key action plans:

1. The first tier of the strategy calls for using the savings from expense reductions made to the Conference Budget or the Connectional Ministries Fund (CMF), as follows:

- Use 50% of the budget savings in the first two years of the six year plan to replenish the Conference Reserve Balance and the remaining 50% will go toward the Pre-82 Pension Plan Funding.
- In years three through six, use 100% of the budget savings toward the Pre-82 Pension Plan Funding.

The strategy is based on the assumption that spending will be \$2.6 million in year one and decrease to \$2.3 million in year six of the plan. In addition, local churches will continue to give to CMF during this period. The plan assumes giving will be \$3.4 million in year one and decline 3% each subsequent year. Projections show that \$3.9 million can be raised during the six year period from this initiative to be used toward the Pre-82 Pension Plan Funding.

2. The second tier of the strategy calls for a Conference Wide Financial and Stewardship Campaign.

- The services of Kirby Smith Associates, Inc. have been secured by the EPA Board of Pension and Health Benefits to conduct a feasibility study.
- A task force, appointed by the Bishop, consisting of Conference Leaders will work closely with Kirby Smith Associates throughout the study.
- Results from the feasibility study will be used to develop a strategy for a financial and stewardship campaign and criteria for a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from companies to conduct the campaign.

For purposes of planning, it is assumed that \$3 million will be raised toward the Pre-82 Pension Plan Funding.

3. The third tier of the strategy calls for using the proceeds from the sale of churches outside of an urban area as follows:

- 50% of the proceeds would go to paying the Pre-82 Pension Plan Funding.
- 25% of the proceeds would go to the replenishment of the Conference Board of Trustees Reserve Balance. After there is a balance of \$500,000 in their reserve this portion (25%) would be used for ministry in the area where the church was located at the discretion of the cabinet.
- 25% of the proceeds would be directed to New Church Development and the Re-development of older churches for strengthening our presence in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

The assumptions used for this strategy indicate that 50% of the proceeds for church sales will generate approximately \$6.3 million in six years using an average sale of \$350 thousand and three church sales per year.

Note: Paragraph 2548.7 in the Book of Discipline 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 urban transitional communities, as described in ¶212, and consistent with the Annual Conference's urban ministry strategic plan. Therefore this strategy can not apply to net proceeds from the sale of churches in urban centers as described in Paragraph 2548.7

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is supported by the attached schedule of financial projections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when funds generated by the campaign in the second tier exceed the need of the Pre-82 Pension Plan they will be used to grow churches and fund ministries.

Persons presenting the resolution: Dave Koch, Rev. Mike Netznik, Rev. John Laughlin, Rev. Jim Todd.

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women



2012

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