Nearly 1,000 clergy and lay members of Annual Conference will gather May 16-18, 2013 at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA. The 2013 Annual Conference will have a focus on health: Head-to-Toe; Heaven-to-Earth; and Heart-to-Heart. The conference will delve into a look at wholeness: physical, spiritual and relational health. Prior to the meeting, participants can enjoy a blog on the health and wholeness theme: http://2013epaannualconference.blogspot.com

At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013 Bishop Johnson will open Annual Conference with a brief devotion followed by a time of sharing the ministries happening on each district.

With our focus on health and wholeness, there will be specific time built into the schedule for fellowship/prayer/reflection to invite you to ponder the question: How is it with your soul? Labyrinths and prayer rooms will also be available for your use.

On Thursday evening, May 16th at 7:00 p.m., the lives of deceased clergy and spouses will be celebrated at the Memorial Service and Communion. Bishop Violet Fisher will preach at this service. Bishop Fisher had been serving as superintendent of the West Chester District when she was elected to the episcopacy in 2000. Now retired from active service, she is known as a dynamic preacher and advocate.

On Friday, May 17, Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference will present an update on the denomination’s efforts to eradicate malaria through Imagine No Malaria, which will be followed by an update from the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries on our shared international health and poverty ministries. The Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Friday, May 17; attendees will be invited to schedule a time in advance.

The Service of Ordination is on the evening of Friday, May 17 at 7:00 pm. Bishop Peggy A. Johnson will preach. On the morning of Saturday, May 18, Dr. Kirk B. Jones, author of numerous books on self-care, will be our keynote speaker. A pastor for over thirty years, Dr. Jones was the founding minister of Beacon Light Baptist Church in New Orleans, and Senior Minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Chester, PA; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Boston, MA; and the First Baptist Churches of Randolph, Whitman, and Tewksbury, MA. Throughout his pastoral ministry, Rev. Jones has served on various religious and civic committees at the local and national level. He will also bring the message at the Hope and Healing Service that will follow his presentation.

Members of Annual Conference are invited to bring their own and their church’s offerings to Annual Conference. The offerings will be:

Memorial Service: Project Tariro. Based at Old Mutare, the oldest mission station of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Project Tariro is a respite center for persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. ‘Tariro’ means ‘hope’ in the Shona language, spoken by the majority of Zimbabweans.

Service of Ordination: Scholarships for Higher Education. The conference annually awards scholarships to undergraduates and seminary students from the annual conference offering.

Hope and Healing Service: Imagine No Malaria. Imagine No Malaria is the United Methodist Denomination’s effort to eradicate malaria through training, education, and distribution of bed nets.

Throughout the conference, members will consider legislation, including fifteen resolutions and three constitutional amendments. See pages AC 1-8 of this issue of NEWSpirit for the full text of resolutions and amendments.

A number of exhibitors and vendors will have display tables in a specially-designated area. Cokesbury will bring a wide assortment of books, robes, communion ware, and more.

NOTE: District Conferences on all six Districts will be held on Sunday, April 14 (See Calendar, Page 2 for Times and Locations.)

ALSO: Clergy and Lay Session will be held at Asbury UMC in AllenTown, PA on May 4, 2013, 9:30 AM – NOON.
April

THURSDAY, APRIL 11
Ongoing Acts of Kindness through Service hosts Clyde McMillan-Gambler: 7:00-8:30 pm. OAKS meets at First UMC of Millersville at 121 N. George St., Millersville, in the 2-story, red-brick building next to the A-frame. Elaine Campbell at campbellpaid@yahoo.com or call 394-8354.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
The LEAD Seminar: one-day only at New Holland: Evangelical UMC, 276 West Main Street, New Holland. The registration fee is only $15 and includes lunch. Further questions can be directed to Rob Stippich at rstippich@msn.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 - SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Urban Summit: “God Has Not Left His Cities”: Camphor Memorial UMC, 56th and Wyalusing Avenue, Philadelphia. Rev. Alfred Jones, III, Pastor. Online registration begins at 8:00 am each day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Breakfast With Mike Netzkin and Gordon Hendrickson: 9:00 to 10:30 am. at Bistro 24 Diner, 100 Marchwood Rd., Exton 19341. For clergy or laity with a call to start a new church or create a new ministry. RSVP to gordonacts6@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
District Conferences: Central District: Valley Forge: St. Matthews - 2:50 p.m.; East District: Bensalem: UMC - 3:00 p.m.; Northeast District: Effort UMC - 3:00 p.m.; Northwest District: Pottsville: First UMC - 3:00 p.m.; Southeast District: Lima UMC - 3:00 p.m.; Southwest District: West Willow UMC - 3:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
Local Church Leadership Training for Including Persons with disABILites in the Life of Your Congregation: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Asbury UMC, Cinnaminson, NJ. For a flyer, go to http://epaumc.org/events/calendar/2013-triconference-disability-conference.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
Native American Worship: 4:00 p.m. at Camp Innabah. Read more and sign up at https://www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/2013-COMAN-worship-apr

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 - SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Module 1 Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Class: If you are interested in participating, please reply as soon as possible. We must have 5 students to run the class and are hoping for 8+. Contact: Judy Ehninger, 610-965-2290, 610-442-5140 or Email: ehninger@ptd.net.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Breakfast With Mike Netzkin and Gordon Hendrickson: 9:00 to 10:30 am. at Bistro 24 Diner, 100 Marchwood Rd., Exton 19341. For clergy or laity with a call to start a new church or create a new ministry. RSVP to gordonacts6@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Volunteers In Mission Team Leader Training: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Hopewell UMC in Downingtown. Registration will be limited to 30 people. Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960.

SUNdAY, APRIL 28
Gretta Glen Spring Work Day, 9:00am-5:00pm: Spring Work Day is a great opportunity for families, clergy and laity to serve the community. Full day of work with lunch provided. Free, all are welcome.

TUESDAY, MAY 14
Gretta Glen Spring Fling Senior Adult Day: 9:30am-3:00pm $20.00 per person. Spring Fling is planned just for adults. Register: www.gretnaglen.org

THURSDAY, MAY 16 – SATURDAY, MAY 18

SATURDAY, MAY 18

June

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

July

FRIDAY, JULY 19 - SUNDAY, JULY 21
School of Christian Missions: Lancaster Bible College

August

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
Academy for Laity

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
United Methodist Night at the Phil- ies: 7 p.m. Phillies vs. LA Dodgers

In Memoriam

Rev. Thomas R. Marsh

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Thomas R. Marsh, retired Elder, 89, who died on January 4, 2013, at Simpson House. Rev. Marsh was ordained in 1955, and served the following appointments: Prospectville (1954-82) and Linwood Heights (1982-93). He retired in 1993. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, grandchildren and nephew and great grand nieces and nephews, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name may be made to Olive Covenant Presbyterian Church, 22nd & Mt. Vernon St., Philadelphia, PA 19130, and Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Ave., Phila, PA 19131.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.paganofuneralhome.com.

Mrs. Lois W. Honigman

Word had been received of the death of Mrs. Lois W. Honigman on December 21, 2012. She was the widow of the Rev. Allan J. Honigman, who passed away in 1992.

Rev. Honigman served the following churches: Phila: Wesley; Tullytown; Phila: Rehoboth; Frankford: Rehoboth; Blue Mt. PAR Emmanuel Trinity; Lancaster: Akron; Akron: Mt. Zion; Trinity: Chester; Former Phila: St. Luke’s; Shoemakersville: Salem; Phila: Solid Rock. He retired in 1993.

She is survived by her children, Alana Mann, Carole Georgia and James Honigman. She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Allan J. Honigman and her son, the Rev. Jan Honigman.

Memorial Contributions may be sent to Doylestown Hospital or Upper Bucks Regional EMS.

Mrs. Jane Schwarz

Word had been received of the death of Mrs. Jane Schwarz, retired long time staff member of the EPA Conference. She passed away on January 25, 2013.

No memorial service or memorial contributions have been set up.

Mrs. Schwarz is survived by her children, Howard and William Schwarz and Ellen Barton.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of Howard Schwarz, 111 First St., Broomall, PA 19008.

Mrs. Nancy Stoner

Word has been received of the death of Mrs Nancy Stoner, surviving spouse of The Rev. Harvey R. Stoner.

She is survived by her children, Brian and Cathy Stoner.


Condolences may be send to daughter: Mrs. Cathy Stoner, 202 S Walnut Street, Mt Carmel, PA 17851.

Continued on page 3

NEW Spirit!

(USPS 19-604)
The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

Bishop Peggy Johnson - Philadelphia Area Bishop
Suzy Keenan - Coordinator of Communications
Sarah Young - Graphic Design and Layout

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: NEWspirit at EPA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.
Easter is in the air and with it is the promise of resurrection and eternal life. This is the most important Good News for all time! We can live forever with God thanks to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as the women at the tomb went the told the news to the disciples, we are supposed to keep the resurrection story to ourselves. What better way to celebrate Easter and spread the Good News than to invest in our camping ministries this year. Eastern PA, you have wonderful resources at the Innabah Program Center (www.innabah.org), Gretta Glen Camp and Retreat Center (www.grettaglen.org), Carson-Simpson Farms Christian Center (www.cssfarm.org), and Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center (www.poconoplateau.org) They offer resources and programs that make for new life:

A – Stands for “Accessible.” Our camps are accessible to all people. Everyone is welcome here and there are a variety of camps and retreat possibilities for all ages, and many special interest groups. No one is left out. One parent commented, “There was a boy in the group who was somewhat different than the rest. It was nice that everyone worked together to make him feel included and part of the camp.”

M – Stands for “Ministry.” At our camps many people experience the call to ordained ministry. It is also a place for leadership development for young people where leaders of today and the future are empowered for ministry with the campers. Another parent speaks about the influence that camp had on her daughter: “Every year she has become more confident as a Christian and a young lady. She gains independence and camp deepens her spiritual walk.”

P – Stands for “Prayer.” Prayer is what makes our camps keep going all year round. The prayers of the people empower this ministry. Pray for this year’s camp that even more campers are served. Help send young people to camp. There are so many who need to know the saving love of the Lord and camp can make all the difference. Plan to have a retreat at one of our camps. Prayerfully consider giving a gift to the camps in order to help pay off their building debts and enhance our outreach. Use this valuable resource of camp to spread the resurrection story to those who have never heard.

BY CHRISTOPHER KURIEN

Through faith sharing Christian Disciples are called to fulfill the great commission,” Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of father, son and the Holy Spirit.” On March 9th we experienced a wonderful training event held at Wesocosville: Bethany UMC led by Dr. Eddie Fox, World Director of Evangelism for the World Methodist Council. Those who attended the event were able to learn about the why, wherefore, and how of Faith Sharing. Dr. Fox reminded the gathering of more than three hundred persons of the words of John Wesley, “I do not fear that the people called Methodist shall ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. I only fear that they shall exist as a dead sect having the form of religion, but not the power thereof, and that undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast to the doctrine, discipline and spirit with which they first set out.” At least in some communities one wonders whether we have come to the state of being a dead sect. The question is: how can we come out of our complacent mentality and become again a world transforming community?

Many in our conference received a call to be true disciples and were inspired to practice their faith on a day to day basis during the training event. Many people in our society today consider churches as private places and not as public places. So unless someone extends a personal invitation, most people do not consider going to a church on their own. So as members of church family we all have an obligation to extend that invitation on a regular basis. Studies have shown that when we extend an invitation about 50% of the time people might consider coming to our churches. Once they come we have also the responsibility of making our visitors genuinely feel welcome at home.

Being in the Easter season we are again reminded to be Easter people experiencing the power and presence of Christ. The first disciples did not fear the consequences for sharing their faith and most of them were martyred due to their faith. Today at least in the United States we do not have the situation of being persecuted for sharing our faith like many countries in the world. Most of the time we like to be politically correct in our conversations with family and friends when it comes to faith. Some faith groups are growing rapidly: those who are unapologetic about their faith and are willing to share that faith and also spread the Good News than to invest in our camping ministries this year. Eastern PA, you have wonderful resources at the Innabah Program Center (www.innabah.org), Gretta Glen Camp and Retreat Center (www.grettaglen.org), Carson-Simpson Farms Christian Center (www.cssfarm.org), and Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center (www.poconoplateau.org) They offer resources and programs that make for new life:

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Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announces the following appointments:

- The Rev. Homer U. Ashby Jr. to Retirement, effective October 1, 2012
- The Rev. Russell James Atkinson to Quakertown UMC, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. William Theodore Bach to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Sukja Bang to Swarthmore UMC, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow has been appointed to serve as District Superintendent of the East District from January 4, 2013 to June 30, 2013
- The Rev. Mary Ellen Beckman to Avon: Zion United Methodist Church as 3/4 time interim pastor from January 1 to June 30, 2013
- The Rev. Hannah A. Bonner to Extension Ministry: half-time as part-time staff for the Northeastern Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Coordinator and half-time with “Restoration Generation Initiative” with the General Board of Discipleship, effective January 1, 2013
- The Rev. Thomas Brooks to Phila.: Frankford Memorial and Phila.: Somerton, effective February 1, 2013
- The Rev. David Wesley Brown to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Amy Emmett-Rardin to half-time at Jenkintown UMC and half-time Extension Ministry: Spiritual Director, Spiritual Renewal Ministries, Inc., effective February 1, 2013
- The Rev. James T. Ford to Chester: Trinity UMC and Trainer, effective January 1, 2013
- The Rev. Neil Gutmaker to Kennett: Church of the Open Door
- The Rev. Daniel L. Hall to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Thomas C. Haugh to Mount Hope UMC (Aston), effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Joseph P. Henry to Parryville UMC, effective January 17, 2013
- The Rev. Joseph W. Hodges, III to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Larry D. Leister to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Thomas C. McGill to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Jimmy Montgomery to Cochrannie UMC, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Nancy J. Shane to retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Robert E. Sheesley to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Jeffrey A. Snyder to Lancaster: Covenant UMC, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Janet S. Steger to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem to retirement, effective January 1, 2013
- The Rev. George A. Tigh to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013
- The Rev. H. Joe Tyson has been appointed to serve as District Superintendent of the Southeast District from January 4, 2013 to June 30, 2013
- The Rev. Ronald A. Waite to Retirement, effective July 1, 2013

Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training

Volunteers in Mission Team Leader training session has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Hopewell UMC in Downingtown. This will be a full session focused on traditional VM teams, both national and international but is also appropriate for Early Response Team (ERT) leaders. The training includes planning the project and travel, spiritual formation, team orientation, cultural sensitivity and culture shock, safety and health, and emotional responses upon return home. It will be led by Greg Forrester, NE Jurisdiction VIM Coordinator.

The cost of the training will be $40 which includes a copy of the VIM Training Manual for Mission Volunteers. Lunch will be provided and a free will offering will be taken to cover its cost.

Registration will be limited to 30 people. Please make your reservations by April 19 and mail checks payable to “EPA – VIM” to Ben Botti, Eastern PA Conference VIM Coordinator, 127 Barndt Road, Sellersville, PA 18960. Reservations may be made via email to bbotti@verizon.net but the check must be received in order to hold your place at the training.

Hopewell UMC is located at 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.

UM Bishops Urge Governor, Legislature to Say Yes to Expanded Medicaid in Pennsylvania

By Stephen Drachler

Pennsylvania’s United Methodist bishops urged Governor Corbett and members of the General Assembly to say yes to expanding Medicaid service to vulnerable individuals and families under the federal government’s new health care law in a joint meeting on March 11.

The bishops – Thomas Bickerton of the Western Pennsylvania (regional) Conference, Peggy Johnson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and Jeremiah Park of the Susquehanna Conference – met with the governor and a series of legislators on Monday, March 11. Among the legislators were House Speaker Sam Smith and House Republican Policy Chair Rep. David Reed. Both are active United Methodists. The bishops made an impromptu visit to Rep. Mark Painter, D-146th District, husband of the Rev. Colleen Brandt Painter, pastor of Honey Brook UMC.

As they met with the governor in his Capitol office, they presented him with a letter urging him to “take the necessary steps to enact Medicaid expansion within our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” They also sent a similar letter to each member of the General Assembly.

Citing Scripture, the bishops said a requirement for faithful living is “to do what is just… As members of our 2,300 congregations across Pennsylvania experience anxiety and despair because they cannot afford health care, we believe if one suffers, all suffer.”

Expansion of Medicaid, they said, will bring health care coverage to nearly 1 million more Pennsylvanians. Under the new law, the federal government will pay for the majority of the costs during the first three years. That means an additional $43 billion in federal support for health care in Pennsylvania.

“Health care is the justice issue of our day, and by your action, Governor Corbett, to join governors across the country that are joining in Medicaid expansion, we will be found faithful,” the bishops said. They sent a similar letter to members of the House and Senate.

During their 45-minute meeting, they presented the governor with an inscribed Bible signed by each bishop.

Stephen Drachler is Executive Director of United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania: www.umadvocacypa.org.
Barriers Made into Bridges – Adaptive Leadership

When talking about the Great Commission - to make disciples - I sometimes hear a litany of barriers which stop us from accomplishing this mandate from God.

“Do we only care about the numbers?” Numbers are people - who are souls for us to reach for Christ. As long as there are numbers in our communities there are people to reach for Christ.

“The people in our community are mostly Jewish or Roman Catholic.” This is not a barrier, but an opportunity to bring people into your church. About 30% of church attendees from my previous churches were former Roman Catholics who became disenchanted with the Catholic Church; many were divorced. Our church was a great bridge to bring them back to the Body of Christ. And as far as having a Jewish community around your church, you can use the "Jews for Jesus” movement to reach out to these people.

“We are mostly Anglos in our church but we have Latinos or African Americans in our community.” This is not a barrier! It is rather a gift from God to grow your church. Build bridges to your community. Create ministries attractive to persons of many ethnic backgrounds.

“Culture is keeping us from growing.” Yes, we do worship differently in the varying cultures of our different churches. Cultivate your unique culture and bring those to Christ who resonate with your culture. The Holy Spirit will provide the growth.

“We are in an urban setting with declining communities.” Build a bridge to the needs of your community. There are hurting people all around you who need the love of Christ. Share the Word and the Love of Christ.

“We are a small church in a rural area. How can we grow? We can’t even pay our pastor and are late on our oil bills.” Shift your focus from a survival mode to finding a vision from the Holy Spirit to look at the needs of your rural area. Meet the needs and God will bless you.

“All we have are poor people who are living on welfare. How can we expect to do anything?” Poverty is not an excuse for lack of discipleship. I have been in poor areas around the world where hundreds are gathered to worship and where thousands are being helped in their impoverished communities. Money doesn’t determine spirituality or the love of Christ.

As you can see, God can use what we call barriers to build bridges to grow His Church. We need to shift our thinking to look at barriers as opportunities to grow the Body of Christ.

GORDON HENDRICKSON IS THE COORDINATOR OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference UMC.
Bishop’s Lenten Day Apart

Conference clergy gathered for a time of learning and worship at the Lenten Day Apart with Bishop Peggy Johnson on February 11.

Bishop Ernest Lyght first spoke on the ancient practice of prayer on Lenten Journey. “I will make no assumption that preachers pastors, local pastors, and deacons have a regular prayer life,” joked Bishop Lyght. “I am assuming that if one has a regular prayer life that you will see results from that prayer life.”

He added, “Lent - in profound way - is an opportunity to focus on what separates us from Jesus and God.” Bishop Lyght named five crises that cause us to be out of tune - not in alignment - with God: Crisis of faith (estrangement from Jesus), of vocation, of stress, of conflict, and of family.

“I am not trying to depress you, but calling attention to them to figure out ways to deal with crises in our lives,” Lyght said. “One way is through prayer. It is honorable to realize your cup is empty, and tell it to the Lord in prayer. Only God can fill your empty cup. The Rev. Dr. Rodney Shearer spoke on the ancient practice of the Last Supper. Dr. Shearer recounted a Christmas dinner in Hershey with close to 30 guests. “It was the longest table at which I ever sat, and I was invited to give the prayer as resident clergy person,” Dr. Shearer said. Children then joined him around the piano to sing sacred and secular Christmas songs. “I cherish the memory of that long table with room for everyone… the one thing in common is that we all received the invitation from the one who wanted us to be together - despite denomination and political differences.” He added, “The practice of meal had a sacred quality to it.”

Dr. Shearer quoted from Luke: “But behold the hand of my betrayer is on the table.” He then asked, “Why would Jesus include such a person among his hand? Isn’t there a limit to sacred inclusion? Even while receiving the elements from the hand of the Lord, my hand is on the table. Jesus knows who I am and yet he includes me.”

Recounting a memory, Dr. Shearer said, “Bishop Howard had us picture a table surrounded by persons roughly dressed as fisherman, Mary, Thomas, Barnabas, Martin Luther, Wesley, Otterbein, Allen, Hoosier, my grandmother, our parents: these comprised the church triumphant. And the church militant - those present on earth - all there at the same table all there by invitation, all with a hand on table.”

Married to a miracle

I watched the Life Flight helicopter take off through the glass door of the hospital emergency room. I wasn’t permitted outside because the nurses said the spinning of the propeller was dangerous and threw up too much debris. So, I stood and watched as my husband was lifted away. There are no words to describe what I felt in that moment. I assume it was shock. All I could pray was “Please, God. I know this is selfish, but I need him more than you do right now.”

My husband, Reverend Zachary Hopple, was flown to Geisinger Medical Center on Sunday, February 24 because of a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction to the contrast dye given before a CAT scan. I drove him to the emergency room that morning because he was complaining of chest pain. Less than thirty minutes after the CAT scan, Zach started to convulse and cough. The nurses and doctors came in and ordered a portable chest x-ray. The doctors were shocked to see that his lungs were filling with fluid, a very rare way for the body to respond to a foreign allergen.

Things happened really fast after that. Oxygen masks. Breathing treatments. “Mrs. Hopple,” the doctor said to me, “your husband is very sick and needs to be transported to Geisinger. We are doing our best to fly him there. Please call and notify his family.” That was when I knew it was bad. When the Life Flight team of medical professionals arrived, they made the decision to intubate Zach before taking him on the helicopter. I had to leave for that procedure, which later I realized was the very thing that saved his life.

My dad drove me to the hospital. They told us no matter how fast we drove we would never get there before the helicopter. From lift off to landing it was a 4 minute flight. By car, 30 minutes. I was greeted by a warm and kind-hearted nun when we arrived at the trauma center. Her name was Sister Lyla, and she told me she had already notified the other sisters to start praying for Zach. And that was only the beginning. Prayers were being lifted from all over the state, all over the country. Word started traveling quickly about what happened and the heavens were full of prayers for my husband.

By the time the first trauma doctor was in to see us, my mother had arrived and a few of Zach’s family members. The news was grim. “He’s very sick. We hope he pulls through this. But you must be prepared that he may not make it.” All I could think of was was my husband fighting for his life… and our two boys, 3 years old and 3 months old. I just prayed that God knew how badly we needed him.

Zach was moved to the Intensive Care Unit and was stable enough for me to see him around 7:00pm. He was sedated and paralyzed. His body was not working for itself at all at that point. He was on 100 percent life support. The ventilator was breathing for him and pushing 100 percent oxygen into his lungs. He was on a medicine to help his lungs oxygenate and a medicine to raise his blood pressure. The doctor explained to me what had happened. Of course, I asked about a time frame of how long it would be until he was awake and at that point, people were talking in terms of weeks and not days.

On Friday, they were barely treating him like an intensive care patient. He was eating and drinking, talking and walking. He sent a few messages to friends and family to notify them he was doing well and posted a “Thank You” message to Facebook. Zach moved out of ICU on Friday night and was discharged on Saturday morning. At the beginning of the week, when the reaction first occurred, most people didn’t even think he would be off of life support by Saturday and there I was, driving him home.

There is no question in my mind that I am married to a miracle! God heard us, moved in amazing ways, and healed miraculously! Many friends and acquaintances who were skeptical have come to know God through this process. There were new faces in church this past Sunday. Tears of joy were shed over the amazing work God had done to bring my husband, one of His own, back home to his family and church families.

Although saying “thank you” is not enough, “THANK YOU” for the countless prayers you have offered for Pastor Zach over these weeks. We are truly grateful and praise God that He has heard and has answered! As we move forward, Zach and I will probably never look at each other the same way, as we now know that our love and our God can get us through anything. “But He endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment set by God. But because of our sins He was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received.” (Isaiah 53:4-5 GNT)
RESOLUTION #2013-01
Relating to Amendment of the By-laws of United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc.
Submitted by the Commission on Urban Ministries (formerly Urban Alliance)
WHEREAS, Resolution 2012-01 (submitted by the Commission on Urban Ministries) proposed a Comprehensive Amendment to the By-laws of United Methodist Ministries, Inc.; and
WHEREAS, in May, 2012, the Board of Directors of United Methodist Metro Ministries did not support the proposed Comprehensive Amendment; and
WHEREAS, Resolution 2012-01 was referred by vote of the Annual Conference for review and discussion to a Committee chosen by the Bishop; and
WHEREAS, as a result of the Committee discussions, the Board of the United Methodist Metro Ministries, Inc. has voted to amend its By-laws in certain respects;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the By-laws of the United Methodist Ministries, Inc. are hereby amended as follows:

1. One member appointed by the Bishop.
2. The Urban Ministry Coordinator
3. Two clergy representatives from the Metro area;
4. Two United Methodist lay persons who are active members of United Methodist Churches and are residents of the area served by Metro;
5. 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
6. A representative of the Urban Commission
7. Such other Directors based on expertise or experience and reflecting the diversity of the communities served by Metro as recommended by members of the Corporation.

4.03 Term: The Board of Directors shall serve until their successors are elected and shall have tenure equal to that allowed by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference policy as amended from time to time.
4.04 Election of Directors: Directors shall be elected by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.
4.05 Vacancies: Vacancies occurring mid-term, prior to February 1 of the Conference year, shall be filled by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Cabinet and the Commission on Urban Ministries, based on qualifications described in section 4.02. Vacancies occurring after February 1 will be referred to the Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by Annual Conference action.
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, telephone, or 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 statutes 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 be signed by all of the Directors of 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 the 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.

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.

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 members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

3.03 Membership

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 by be exercised and done by the members.
4.02 Number: There shall be a minimum of nine (9) Directors who shall include the following Directors:
1. One member appointed by the Bishop.
2. The Urban Ministry Coordinator
3. Two clergy representatives from the Metro area;
4. Two United Methodist lay persons who are active members of United Methodist Churches and are residents of the area served by Metro;
5. 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
6. A representative of the Urban Commission
7. Such other Directors based on expertise or experience and reflecting the diversity of the communities served by Metro as recommended by members of the Corporation.

5.01 Selection and Designation: The President, Vice President, and Sec...
retary of the Corporation shall be elected by the Directors on an annual basis. The conference Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the organization and serve without vote. The officers shall serve until their successors have been elected and qualified.

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 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 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 book 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 disburse 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.

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 Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law. 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.

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 5533 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 the 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 reasonably 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 indemnifying 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), unless the breach or a failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness; provided, however, that the provisions of this By-law 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.
support to this work of archival preservation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference designate that henceforth $5,000 will be set aside from the assets of each church that is approved for closure by this annual conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these funds will be transferred from any remaining liquid assets of the closed church within 30 days of the congregation’s closing service. In the absence of liquid assets, the $5,000 shall be taken from the proceeds of property sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these monies will be placed in a dedicated account under the joint control of St. George’s UMC and the EPC Historical Society; and that it will be the responsibility of the District Superintendent, in cooperation with the local church treasurer and the Conference Board of Trustees, to forward the funds to St. George’s.

Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Joe DiPaolo and Fred Day.

RESOLUTION #2013-04
Resolution Relating Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of MPASA and the Mission Leadership of Dr. Rebecca Yohadi
Presented by The Eastern PA Congo Partnership
WHEREAS, the mission of the Congo Partnership at MPASA began in 2002 under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Yohadi; and
WHEREAS, MPASA a refugee community supported by UMCOR in the Democratic Republic of Congo, began in order to provide medical and nutritional care in a war-torn area of Africa; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi, a refugee herself, began her work at MPASA with no staff with for little or no compensation for the first two years; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi has grown MPASA’s outreach to the community to serve thousands of patients yearly, 250 children fed daily, and a program for elderly women; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi has given oversight to the construction of several new buildings, improvements in equipment, medicines, patient services and staff; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi is providing oversight for the planned construction of a new pediatric building to better serve the growing needs of children; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi is a person of deep Christian Faith whose life and witness touches hundreds of lives daily as she serves the children, cares for patients, leads worship and singing, and is always giving God thanks and praise; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Yohadi and the MPASA Medical and Nutrition Clinic celebrated their 10th Anniversary of dedicated service to God and the Congo Partnership;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania and the Congo Partnership express its deep appreciation to Dr. Yohadi for her dedicated work at MPASA and declare her “Missionary Extraordinaire.”
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPA Congo Partnership join the Pended Congo Partnership in expressing appreciation to Dr. Yohadi and Bishop Yamba at the W. Kinshasa Annual Conference in the DRC when it meets this summer.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: David T. Ryan, EPA Congo Partnership Chairperson.

RESOLUTION #2013-05
Resolution Affirming and Adopting the Statement of Principle of the Northeastern Jurisdiction
Presented by Arch Street United Methodist Church, Philadelphia: Calvary United Methodist Church, Chestnut Hill United Church, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Penns Park United Methodist Church, Swarthmore United Methodist Church
WHEREAS, the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adopted the following Statement of Principle on July 19, 2012:

“Be it resolved, that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference affirms its commitment to the civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons, and declares its passionate opposition to continued distinctions of church law that restrict the rights and privileges of LGBT people in The United Methodist Church; and be it further:

Resolved, that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, acknowledging the grave pastoral crisis facing the church at all levels with regard to the pastoral care of LGBT people, acknowledge that clergy, lay persons and congregations encountering institutional discrimination that inhibits equal access to the means of grace for all persons may feel bound by conscience to offer the ministries and sacraments of the church to all persons on an equal basis. Those who so act according to conscience do so in a way that is consistent with the principles of this jurisdictional conference; and be it further:

Resolved, that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference acknowledge that leaders of the conferences that comprise our jurisdiction, including cabinet members, bishops and members of boards and agencies of the annual conference, while bound to The Book of Discipline, are also bound to exercise their consciences and are bound by Jesus’s commandment to stand with the marginalized and the oppressed in our midst when called upon to enforce unjust laws, policies and procedures to the detriment of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender individuals wishing to participate fully in the life of The United Methodist Church and those who minister faithfully to them; and be it further:

Resolved, that the jurisdictional conference recognize that individuals who take punitive actions against others for offering the sacraments and rituals of the church on an equal basis do so contrary to the highest ideals of The United Methodist Church at the risk of causing grave harm to LGBT persons, their loved ones, their sisters and brothers in Christ, faithful clergy and The United Methodist Church itself.”

WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson invited the congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to a series of three Dialogues on Homosexuality, where more than two hundred (200) individuals engaged in full, frank and enlightening discussion of the relevant provisions of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

WHEREAS, the following organizations, all affiliated with The United Methodist Church, support the fully inclusive church and reject the discriminatory language found in sections 161.6 and 341.6 of The 2012 Book of Discipline: Affirmation: United Methodist, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodist Federation for Social Action, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, Native American International Caucus of The United Methodist Church, Parents Reconciling Network, United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church, Reconciling Ministries Clergy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church adopts the foregoing Northeast Jurisdiction Statement of Principle and declares that it supports the full inclusion of all people, including all LGBT people, in the full life and worship of the Church. We humbly encourage all conferences to join us in being the church that Jesus has called us to be.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: The Rev. Dr. Herbert J. Snyder, co-chair of Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION #2013-06
Resolution Relating to the Racial Justice Act
Presented by EPC Church and Society Work Team and EPC United Methodist Women Mission Team
WHEREAS Ezekiel 33:11 says “As I live, says the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his ways and live.” This principle is illustrated in the judgment of Cain (Genesis 49:15), The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38-39), and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11)
WHEREAS The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, Paragraph16(4g) specifies: “We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform human beings.”
WHEREAS of Pennsylvania’s homicides, Blacks committed 53%, Whites committed 45%, and others committed 2%. As of March 1, 2013, there were 204 inmates on Pennsylvania’s Death Row. Of those 204 inmates, 137 were minorities. Of these 204 inmates, 116 (57%) were Black, 68 (33%) were White, 19 (9%) were Latinos, and 2 (0.09%) were Asians. Only Texas has a higher Black/White ratio. If Pennsylvania’s death sentences were race neutral, our Death Row would be 108 (53%) Black, 92 (45%) White, and 4 (2%) Latinos and Asians. Blacks are presently 4% over-rep-
resented, Whites are 12% under-represented, and Latinos and Asians are 7% over-represented.

WHEREAS Representative Rob Matzie and some other Representatives have introduced “The Racial Justice Act.” This Bill would require Pennsylvania Courts to consider any evidence of racial profiling in Death Sentences.

WHEREAS The Racial Justice Act provides that “No person shall be sentenced to death or shall be executed under any judgment sought or obtained on the basis of race.”

WHEREAS under the Act, the defendant must specifically show evidence to support a claim that race was a significant factor in a decision to seek or impose the death sentence in that specific case.

WHEREAS if the defendant does show that race was a significant factor in the prosecution or sentencing of that specific case, the defendant is moved from Death Row to general prison population to serve Life Without the Possibility of Parole.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass the Racial Justice Act, which will allow Pennsylvania Courts to consider evidence of racism when reviewing Death Sentences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clergy and laity of the Conference demonstrate their support for this resolution through letters and testimony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our local congregations should continue to cooperate with groups and faith organizations working for a general moratorium on the Death Penalty in Pennsylvania in order to implement The Social Principles of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, Paragraph 1644g). Examples of such groups would include The Senate Resolution 6 of 2012 Committee, Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Pennsylvania Committee for Analysis and Reform of Our Criminal System, United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and the Pennsylvania Moratorium Coalition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be immediately delivered to the Chair of the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Barbara E. Drake

RESOLUTION #2013-07
Resolution Relating to Continuing Education for clergy
Presented by Congregational Development Team and the Board of Ordained Ministry
WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has continuing education requirements for clergy on a quadrennial basis.
WHEREAS, the Eastern Pa. Conference has certain required continuing education courses on sexual ethics and healing the wounds of racism.
WHEREAS, the mission of the Eastern Pa Conference is “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that clergy be required to have at least one continuing education event on Faith sharing and evangelism per quadrennium.
THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congregational Development Team in partnership with Board of Ordained Ministry and Board of Lay Ministry provide events on Faith Sharing and Evangelism for clergy to meet this requirement.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Bob Wilt and Gordon Hendrickson

RESOLUTION #2013-08
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”);
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;
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;
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 2014 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 Clergyperson; 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 Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.
NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: David Koch

RESOLUTION #2013-09
Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for the Year 2014
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, 2014: 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, 2014. Clergy persons on incapacity leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that on January 1, 2014 the ministerial pension rate for past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be $502.00 and the personal contributor’s annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the participants formula benefit;
AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant’s formula benefit;
AND FURTHER BE IT 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: David Koch
RESOLUTION #2013-10
Resolution Concerning a Comprehensive Funding Plan for Benefit
Obligations
Presented by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
WHEREAS Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2012 Book Of Discipline requires that each Annual Conference shall develop, adopt and implement a formal funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations; and
WHEREAS Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2012 Book Of Discipline further states that the funding plan shall:
1. Address the funding for liabilities;
2. Be approved annually by the Annual Conference, following receipt and inclusion of a favorable opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and
3. Meet the minimum standards established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for all benefit liabilities;
WHEREAS The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has developed a spreadsheet template with which all Annual Conferences are to develop and submit their funding plans in a uniform format; and
WHEREAS The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference staff and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits have developed the Comprehensive Funding Plan for 2014, a summary of which is attached as Exhibit A (the detailed plan is available on the conference website and is included in the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits annual report);
WHEREAS Exhibit A has been submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and a favorable opinion has been issued a copy of which is included as Exhibit B;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference adopts Exhibit A as its Comprehensive Funding Plan for 2014.

RESOLUTION #2013-11
Resolution Concerning Retirement Plan Participation of One Quarter-time, Half-time and Three Quarter-time Clergy
Presented by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
WHEREAS The 2012 General Conference modified the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) effective 1/1/14 by: 1) eliminating the participation of one quarter-time clergy; and 2) making participation by half-time and three quarter-time clergy the option of each Annual Conference;
WHEREAS The 2012 General Conference required each Annual Conference to make an affirmative choice by 1/1/14 on whether or not it would allow CRSP participation after 12/31/13 for: 1) half-time and greater clergy; 2) three quarter-time and greater clergy; or 3) full-time clergy only;
WHEREAS The choice made by an Annual Conference will remain in effect until changed by an Annual Conference, but an Annual Conference may adjust its choice each year;
WHEREAS There are currently 27 one quarter-time clergy, 49 half-time clergy, 38 three quarter-time clergy, and 241 full-time clergy in ministry in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference;
WHEREAS The cost to continue CRSP eligibility for half-time and greater clergy beyond 12/31/13 is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $1,607,044 in 2014, $672,337 or 29% less than the 2013 contribution of $2,279,381;
WHEREAS The cost to continue CRSP eligibility for three quarter-time and greater clergy beyond 12/31/13 is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $1,486,771 in 2014, $792,610 or 35% less than the 2013 contribution of $2,279,381;
WHEREAS The cost to continue CRSP eligibility for only full-time clergy beyond 12/31/13 is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $1,356,264 in 2014, $923,117 or 40% less than the 2013 contribution of $2,279,381;
WHEREAS The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is a 403(b) tax deferred investment vehicle for clergy and other eligible participants to which eligible participants and their employers may contribute;
WHEREAS The 2012 General Conference granted each Annual Conference the option to continue to allow one quarter-time, half-time, and three quarter-time clergy to participate in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) whether or not those clergy are allowed to participate in the CRSP after 12/31/13;
WHEREAS The cost to make a 2.0% of plan compensation employer contribution on behalf of one quarter-time clergy is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $5,496 in 2014;
WHEREAS The cost to make a 2.0% of plan compensation employer contribution on behalf of half-time clergy is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $22,719 in 2014;
WHEREAS The cost to make a 2.0% of plan compensation employer contribution on behalf of three quarter-time clergy is forecast by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be $62,799 in 2014;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will allow half-time, three quarter-time and full-time clergy to participate in the CRSP effective 1/1/14;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will continue to allow one quarter-time clergy to participate in the UMPIP after 12/31/13 and will make a 2.0% of salary employer contribution on their behalf.

RESOLUTION #2013-12
Related to Creation of Task Force to Review and Revise Housing Allowance Guidelines
Submitted by The Cabinet of EPAUMC
WHEREAS, clergy housing is an important and integral part of our United Methodist connectional system, reflecting both our theology and practice of ministry; and
WHEREAS, the 2012 Book of Discipline § 252.4 establishes that it is the responsibility of the local church Staff-Parish Relations Committee to recommend and the charge conference to approve "provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s)" and requires that that provision "shall comply with the annual conference housing policy and parsonage standards"; and
WHEREAS, the current Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Housing Guidelines and Standards (2012 Journal, pp. 814-820) outlining requirements for local church provision of parsonages and housing allowances were adopted by the Annual Conference effective July 1, 1991; and
WHEREAS, there has not been a comprehensive review of those policies since that adoption more than 20 years ago; and
WHEREAS, housing needs and options have changed during the interim and periodic review and revision of housing policies will benefit local churches, clergy, the Bishop and Cabinet, and the Annual Conference;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Conferences requests that the Bishop establish an ad hoc Housing Task Force to review the current Housing Guidelines and Standards and recommend revisions as needed regarding parsonage and housing allowance guidelines; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Housing Task Force shall include representatives of the Commission on Equitable Compensation (which is charged with establishing adequate compensation guidelines), the Board of Trustees (which is responsible for all real property in the Conference), the Cabinet (which is responsible for deployment of clergy to serve local churches), the Board of Pensions & Health Benefits (which annually recommends that pension for retired clergy be considered housing allowance) and such other members on account of expertise and experience at the discretion of the Bishop; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force will report back its findings and recommendations to the 2014 Annual Conference.
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Anita Powell

RESOLUTION #2013-13
Submitted by Mark Moore, Chair of CEC
WHEREAS, it is a mandate 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 is charged with annually recommending to the Conference a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and those clergy members appointed to less than full-time to a local church; and
WHEREAS, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and recognize the economic difficulties encountered by churches,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference establish the minimum starting salary reflect a 1% increase for 2014. The sched-
Resolution for Setting Up a Divestment Task Force
Presented by the Methodist Federation for Social Action, Bob Coombe

WHEREAS, we affirm Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, and Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth Geneva Convention forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into territory it occupies, and there are currently almost 500,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories, with thousands of new settler housing units being planned and constructed, making a viable Palestinian state less likely; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian land is still being confiscated for these settlements and for construction of a separation wall now advancing deep inside the Palestinian territories, and

WHEREAS, to make room for such illegal settlements Israel has illegally demolished hundreds of Palestinian homes, leaving thousands of Palestinians homeless, destroyed hundreds of acres of olive trees, devastating the Palestinian economy, confiscated thousands of acres of land in the Palestinian territories for Israeli settlements and built hundreds of miles of exclusive settlement access roads, all of which has placed nearly half of the Palestinian Territories under settler use and control; and

WHEREAS, the above illegal destruction of Palestinian homes and economy, and confiscation of Palestinian land, is made possible by the use of armored bulldozers, helicopter gunships, tanks and other equipment supplied to Israel by multinational corporations that profit from such violent and deadly activities; and

WHEREAS, "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings" (2008 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, Resolution 6073: "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land"); and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or the destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards, and lives; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to ensuring that our denomination's money is used in a manner consistent with our beliefs, with international law, and with Christ's teaching; and

WHEREAS, we are called to support members of Christ's church to place clergy in the settings where they can make the biggest difference for the Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is one Body, with many members under one Head, Jesus Christ, with every part of the Body gifted for the good of the whole; and

WHEREAS, to effectively serve the mission fields in which we find ourselves we must be culturally sensitive; and

WHEREAS, cross racial and cross cultural appointments enable the church to effectively serve the mission fields in which we find ourselves and to forge solutions based on the principles of international law and human rights.

Proposed by: Bob Coombe

RESOLUTION #2013-15
Resolution Relating to Cross Racial and Cross Cultural Appointments
Presented by Commission on Religion and Race and Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team

WHEREAS, the communities, congregations and clergy of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are becoming increasingly diverse racially and culturally; and

WHEREAS, the Church is one Body, with many members under one Head, Jesus Christ, with every part of the Body gifted for the good of the whole; and

WHEREAS, to effectively serve the mission fields in which we find ourselves we must be culturally sensitive; and

WHEREAS, cross racial and cross cultural appointments enable the church to effectively serve the mission fields in which we find ourselves; and

WHEREAS, the Bishop and Cabinet are expected make Cross Cultural and Cross Racial appointments every year as part of our covenant as described in Para 425 of the Book of Discipline; and

WHEREAS, it is important to have deeper conversations with all those who are appointed Cross Racially and Cross culturally as well as those receiving congregations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference appoint a task force to create a process which would

1. guide the Cabinet in cross racial and cross cultural appointments,
2. prepare clergy and congregations for cross racial and cross cultural ministry together,
3. and support those persons so engaged.

Person Responsible for Presenting this Resolution: Mert Shane
Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments
The United Methodist Church
Voted General Conference April-May 2012

I. (¶ 6) The proposed amendment acknowledges God’s action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

II. (¶ 14) The proposed amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.

III. (¶ 32) The proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the spiritual gifts of the laity.

IV. (¶ 40) The proposed amendment gives the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – I

On April 30, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 865 Yes, 50 No (Calendar Item 211, DCA p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶ 6, Article VI, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶ 6, Article VI) amend by addition as follows:

After “it will” add “pray.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 6 (¶ 6) would read:

Ecumenical Relations—As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will pray, seek, and work for unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches and united churches related to The Methodist Church or The Evangelical United Brethren Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – II

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 731 Yes, 181 No (Calendar Item 205, DCA p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, Article II, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, Article II) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “shall meet” delete “in the month of April or May” and add “duly authorized committees.” add a new sentence, “The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 14 (¶ 14) would read:

The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.

A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III

On May 3, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 618 Yes, 306 No (Calendar Item 54, DCA pp. 2672-73). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, Article I, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, Article I) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “director of Lay” delete “Speaking” and add “Servant”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diocesan ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the
ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 848 Yes, 57 No (Calendar Item 207, DCA p. 2431). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, Article I, (2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, Article I) amend by deletion, and addition, as follows:

Delete the first two words, “Changes in” and following “episcopal areas” delete “may be effected” and add “shall be determined” and after “and the central conferences” add “The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:

The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

Daniel Lebo: Director of Camp Innabah

Dan Lebo is the new director of Camp Innabah. Dan is currently a Provisional Elder in our conference and has been approved by BOOM to be ordained at annual conference this year. Dan comes to Innabah after serving as the pastor of Somerton UMC in northeast Philadelphia. He served on staff at Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center, one of the camps of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, for four summers including two years as the Program Coordinator. Dan received his call to ministry while at Aldersgate and knows firsthand how important Camp and Retreat Ministries are in the faith development of children, youth, and adults alike. “We often think of Sabbath in terms of time, but I like to think of camp as a place of Sabbath; a place set apart to rest in God and reconnect to the source of our strength, hope, and purpose,” he says. Dan’s wife, Becca, currently working as the children and youth coordinator at Exton UMC, will be serving as Innabah’s Day Camp Director this summer. Dan and Becca both look forward to many years of bright hope and future ministry at Camp Innabah.

Welcome New Staff!

Kenneth Kuhnle: Part-Time Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries

Kenneth Kuhnle has joined the Conference as a part-time Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries. In this role Ken will help the four camps in their marketing and fund-raising efforts, as well as provide some financial support. He has his own financial consulting practice which is geared to small and medium healthcare organizations. Previously he served as Chief Financial Officer for a diagnostic company and as Sr. VP and Treasurer for a large eldercare company in Kennett Square. He and his wife Anita have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters. Ken and Anita are active members of Hopewell UMC. He also enjoys coordinating the Men’s Ministry program at Hopewell, golfing, cooking, and with photography.


Bishop Johnson has set aside special time at Annual Conference to recognize the ministry of the UMM and all of our churches that have come on board. We pray that your church will be part of this ceremony that makes the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference a 100% United Methodist Men Conference.

For more information: Ross Brightwell, rossbrightwell@verizon.net, 215/643-1269. If you are not sure if your church men’s group is a chartered United Methodist Men Group or if its charter is up to date please call Joe Strausbaugh at the United Methodist Men Headquarters in Nashville at 615/340-7145. Thank you.
FULFILLING OUR COVENANT
Promises of Our Past ~ Foundation for Our Future

Matthew 17:20 says, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there.” And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

In the early 1980s, General Conference mandated that all annual conferences pay the liability for those pastors covered by the pre-82 program over a forty-year period ending in 2021. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has never missed a payment on this liability. For nearly 20 years, the Board of Pensions and Health Care Benefits paid the annual pension liability. Beginning in 2000, the Board of Pensions and Health Care Benefits began to share the costs associated with the annual liability with local churches. Initially, the payment was shared with local churches in a 50/50 manner and starting in 2012, the share with churches increased to 25/75 (Board/Local Churches). Without a new plan to fulfill the Pre-82 Pension liability, local churches would be responsible for 100% of the annual liability starting in 2014. Thankfully, we have identified a path forward that will not place this additional 25% burden on local churches.

In 2012, Annual Conference adopted Resolution 2012-21. It is a 3-part plan to eliminate the pre-82 Pension liability of $12 million. Two elements of the plan are already in place and performing as projected. They are reductions to the Conference and Connectional Ministries budget ($3 million) and the sale of property ($6 million). Already in 2012, reductions to the Conference and Connectional Ministries budget resulted in $202,885 being applied to the Pre-82 Pension, and the sale of property (the proceeds from the sale of closed local churches outside an urban area) generated $183,987 toward the Pre-82 Pension Obligation.

At the Adjourned Session of Conference in November 2012, the results of a study to test support for a capital campaign were reported. At that session, a campaign was approved to be the third facet of Resolution 2012-21 with a goal to raise $3 million over the next 3 years. The successful implementation of the budget reductions, sale of property and capital campaign will significantly reduce the amount local churches pay toward the Pre-82 Pension for the next 3 to 6 years and hopefully eliminate annual payments by local churches before 2021.

Since mid-January, CCS, the company approved by the Adjourned Session to assist in conducting the campaign, has been working in the conference. CCS has been meeting with clergy and lay members to develop a campaign that is unique to our conference and our local churches. The campaign will address the pension liability and also provide opportunities for local churches to utilize fundraising counsel for local needs. Every congregation has the opportunity to combine specific, local needs with the campaign. It is an exciting plan that offers several options to meet the needs of all of our various churches.

The campaign plan being developed takes into account nearly one-thousand response documents from the feasibility study. Additionally, it is being informed by an Advisory Board of clergy and laity from across the conference. In two short months, this group has helped to shape the campaign starting with the name and mission: Fulfiling Our Covenant, Promises of Our Past ~ Foundation for Our Future; we understand our mission is calling people to new life in Jesus Christ. The Fulfiling Our Covenant campaign will honor the ministry of those who have gone before us and release future ministries to new life in Jesus Christ.

At Annual Conference, everyone will have the opportunity to learn more about the campaign and how it can benefit your ministry. Resolution 2012-21 and by extension the Fulfiling Our Covenant campaign are extremely important to our conference and our local churches. Please continue to look for updates regarding the campaign at www.epaumc.org. Most importantly, please pray for God's blessing on our endeavor and that in all things God's will is accomplished.

Native American Worship Night
April 21, 2013
4:00 p.m.
Camp Innabah
712 Pughtown Road
Spring City, PA 19475

Guest Speaker:
Homer Noley
Former Director of the National United Methodist Native American Center, on the campus of Claremont Lincoln University/Claremont School of Theology. Established in 1983, NUMNAC aims to strengthen the self-sufficiency and self-determination of Native American churches and Native American in ministry. The Rev. Homer Noley is the author of First White Frost: Native Americans and United Methodism and co-authored Native American Theology, addressing issues faced by Native Americans today.

PLEASE RSVP TO GLORIA KNOLLER, (484) 762-8222 OR GKOELLER@EPAUMC.ORG.
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Awakening: The Night & Day Gathering for Young Adults

BY KRYSTL JOHNSON

After several months of planning, nearly two dozen young adults trekked through the snow to reach a bigger and better relationship with God. On Friday, January 25 of this New Year, 15 young adults and supporters met on the snowy hills of Camp Gretna Glen for a revival known as The Awakening. The revival intentionally set in the conference for a meeting with God while in seclusion. The focus of the overnight retreat was turning points, like the sudden peak where Night and Day meet or like the abrupt occurrences when Christian’s undergo a transformation from being asleep to a God driven awakening. Shortly after settling in at the camp, Bishop Peggy Johnson called in via video chat with opening remarks. The excitement she expressed triggered a zeal that blazed for the entire revival.

“It was a really awesome opportunity to gather with Christian leaders who have the same passions and desires to reach this generation in new ways,” Christian Hesling shared. His favorite part of the retreat was the open discussion where the young adults brainstormed solutions to problems hindering the growth of young adult ministries, shared ideas to strengthen young adult ministries and engage adults, as well as, tackled touchy topics that they felt uncomfortable discussing with “out of touch” and older adults. Hesling commented: “Jason Perkowski (Co-Chair of Connectional Table for EPA Jurisdiction Staff for Young People’s Ministries. The enthusiastic revival speaker, Minister Victor Gimenez, brought two powerful messages filled with media clips and pop culture references. The ministry driven revival also allotted time for open worship, workshops, and a benedictory activity.

The Awakening Revival was hosted by the Conference Council for Young Adult Ministries (CCYAM). CCYAM is a newly revived council within The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. In July 2012, twelve young adults gathered at the conference office to discuss the needs of young adults, the effectiveness and creative application of ministry tools used to connect with the current generation, and how to provide better resources for Young Adult Ministries within our conference. Now in 2013, they are already implementing their newly chartered mission statement - To create a sense of connectivity and community among young adults and to encourage the pursuit of a life of discipleship, as taught by Jesus Christ - and are steadily planning and promoting events that will keep young adults in fellowship, driven to do ministry, and connected to God.

A Young Adult Retreat at Pocono Plateau in May, the Young Adult Course at the Academy for Laity in August, and Restoration Generation in the Maryland/D.C. Area in August, CCYAM plans on providing support for young adults interested in starting or enhancing young adult groups in their churches and communities. Follow our Young Adult Ministry Facebook page: www. Facebook.com/EPAC-CYAM.

KRYSTL JOHNSON (ST. DANIEL’S UMC, CHESTER, PA) is a member of the EPA Conference Council of Young Adult Ministry.

Summer Camping 2013 is On The Way!

“On the Way” is the theme for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference summer camping program. Campers will learn about how God is with us on our way through life.

- Discovery 1 the story of Abram and Sara being called to a new place, Genesis 12:1-2. Blessed on the Way will introduce campers to a journey that promises a blessing and being a blessing to others.
- Discovery 2 is story of the pillars of cloud and fire leading the Israelites away from Egypt, Exodus 13:17-18a, 20-22. Campers will learn how we are Led on the Way and explore God’s faithfulness to us.
- Discovery 4 teaches how we are Challenged on the Way through Jesus’ baptism and temptation in the wilderness, Luke 3:21, 4:1-15. Campers will learn of the path Jesus took towards his ministry.
- Discovery 5 teaches us to Rejoice on the Way through the story of Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple gate in Acts 3:1-10.
- Discovery 6 teaches that we are Sent on the Way through the great commission, Matthew 28:16-20, from Christ after his resurrection and how that still instructs us as Disciples of Christ.

2013 Urban Summit: "God Has Not Left His Cities" April 12 & 13, 2013 Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church 58th & Wyalusing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

“And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

- Jeremiah 29:7
Six recently-confirmed youth from First United Methodist of Germantown (FUMCOG) spent the months of September through January educating themselves on the challenges of children who have an incarcerated parent. The students then met with Ann Adalist-Estrin, Director of National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, to review their findings and formulate a project.

The project became a skit and a logo, working hand-in-hand with FUMCOG members Sandy Clay Bauer and Bob Bauer, graphic designers and theatre directors. The youth devised a script for the skit to present to the congregation. Brianna narrated, and Brinn and Tim read fictional stories of two children with incarcerated parents; the other students held up large posters of sobering statistics from the Fact Sheet. They made tons of beautiful woven Swedish heart Valentines to hand out to donors, and we learned that St. Valentine was the patron saint of prisoners, which was a happy coincidence for our timing.

They raised $1600 to purchase “Connect Sacks” to present to local children with an incarcerated parent. The sacks contain writing material and stamps that allow a child to communicate with their incarcerated parent (written communication has been determined to be the most effective). During their meeting with Ann Adalist Estrin, the youth learned that the children of inmates can’t send crayon drawings to their parents: an old law on the books forbids use of wax crayons because the wax could be scraped off and used to make impressions of keys. So they chose colored pencils to include in the Connect Sacks instead! The sacks also contain a book and stuffed “pillow pet” to provide some comfort for the child, and a few miscellaneous items. A non-denominational prayer and personal letter for the child, and a few miscellaneous items. A non-denominational prayer and personal letter for the child, and a few miscellaneous items.

The FUMCOG congregation blessed 36 sacks in April 2013. Volunteers will be building a dining hall which will include a trip to Costa Rica where Barbara and her team of volunteers spent almost five weeks remodeling the men’s dormitory at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary to prepare for married students. The project involved plastering, plumbing, electrical work, tile laying, painting and landscaping.

The Discovery Service Project team also make a difference in the lives of those in need in the United States. In 2012, the Discovery Service Projects mission team went to Schoharie, New York, thirty miles west of Albany where they assisted local homeowners in rebuilding, following severe flooding from Hurricane Irene. In late August 2011, Hurricane Irene dumped more than ten inches of rain in some parts of New York State. The Schoharie Creek overflowed its banks, and the main street of Schoharie was under four to six feet of water. A coalition of local citizens, including members of the Reformed, Presbyterian, Catholic, and United Methodist Churches, formed the Schoharie Recovery Volunteer Mission to help meet the needs of those who suffered loss in the flooding.

The next Discovery Service domestic project will take place in Swan Quarter, North Carolina where the volunteers will be repairing and rebuilding homes and buildings damaged by Hurricane Irene. The project will begin on April 21st and conclude on May 3rd. Volunteers can choose to go for one or both weeks.

The next Discovery Service international project will include a trip to Costa Rica where Barbara and her volunteers will work with the Rice and Beans Ministry, which is an Advance Special #3021052 through the GBGM of the United Methodist Church. The volunteers will be building a dining hall which will be used as a sanctuary. They will also participate in the community outreach program by distributing food bags containing rice, beans, milk, and masa to individual families.

Discovery Service Projects developed from the vision of Rev. Rowland Carlson and his wife Barbara, and their willingness to follow God’s leadership. Volunteers from many faiths work alongside local citizens in developing countries to build churches, clinics, community buildings, schools, and private homes, enriching the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

Inspired by mission sites in South Africa and Kenya, Rowland and Barbara saw the need for similar mission work in the not-so-distant countries of Central America and in Mexico. Rowland and Barbara joined with Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, where they were members, to form Discovery Service Projects, a mission outreach of that church. Over the past 26 years, nearly 1,000 volunteers, ages 8 to 91 have participated – including 22 United Methodist pastors and 8 Baptist, Lutheran, and Evangelical Free pastors from 23 different states. In addition, many members of the Carlson family, as well as staff members and their families from Barbara’s retirement community, have also volunteered. Many others have contributed to the costs of each year’s projects including parishioners from United Methodist Church of Doylestown and Rolling Hills UMC, and resident attendees at the Sunday service held at Wesley Enhanced Living Doylestown.

Barbara fondly remembers their first project in 1987. Four volunteers went to Kenya to build an addition to the media building on the campus of the Highland Bible College in Kericho. The next year, 32 friends joined the team to build an addition to a hospital in the support town of Cancun, Mexico. Since then, Discovery Service Projects has taken volunteers to most of the countries in South America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Many have expressed their appreciation for everything Discovery Service Projects has done, including two of the Carlson’s grandkids, Kurt and Matteah Reppart, who in a letter wrote, "Rowland and Barbara Carlson have made an immeasurable impact on our lives. They have provided a witness of love and service. Who we are today is largely a result of their influence and our experiences with Discovery Service Project – 17 trips combined!” Discovery Service Projects and friends also recognized Rowland and Barbara by building The Carlson Lodge at Pocono Plateau Camp in their honor.

Barbara invites you to participate in future mission opportunities by praying for the project’s success, contributing to the cost of materials, joining the volunteers, or making a donation to the cause. http://www.discovery-serviceprojects.org. KAREN DOLER is PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER for Wesley Enhanced Living: www.wesleyenhancedliving.org.
Working together for immigration reform

BY CARMEN SOL COTTO

On March 31, 2013 the Eastern PA Conference will celebrate its first year in our justice journey as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations! We are truly blessed as United Methodists to be part of a national movement that is directly connected to one of the top priorities of our national agenda: Comprehensive Immigration Reform!

The United Methodist Church is named as one of the strongest organizations leading this national movement. We learned last week, after a meeting at the White House with President Barack Obama, that UM Bishop Minerva Carcano’s leadership has been recognized.

Many agencies from the UMC nationally have united their voices during this historic moment: the United Methodist Women, Justice for Our Neighbors, and Rapid Response (Immigration) Teams under the leadership of Bill Mefford, Director of Civil and Human Rights at the General Board of Church and Society. It takes many of us to unite as people of faith and make an impact for the transformation of our world.

All over the nation we have held over 250 prayer vigils lifting up our immigrant brothers and sisters and bringing forth the need for a pathway to full citizenship, family unification, and the protection of the rights of workers.

Here in Pennsylvania, we are blessed with a group of talented, creative, and dedicated people that are truly invested in the mission of just and humane immigration reform.

Bishop Peggy Johnson has been supporting this movement with her prayers, with the cabinet, and attending many of our gatherings. She inspired us with her words at our last gathering in February 23, 2013 held at El Redentor and St. Paul’s UMC in Lancaster, PA where we came together for our Prayerful Action Gathering. We had representatives from many of our churches in Pennsylvania including pastors, church leaders and two District Superintendents.

During this vigil, we dedicated a moment to call our elected officials as part of our service. That was a powerful exercise demonstrating our commitment to move from mercy to action.

As usual, we displayed our Immigrant Welcoming Congregations banner and sang our theme song.

Our Education for Transformation gathering at Holy Spirit UMC in Philadelphia last October included 100 people in attendance. This gathering included a panel presentation with a professor from Villanova University, an immigration attorney from the Nationalities Service Center, and the Director of the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. We also had leaders from the New Sanctuary Movement and many other community supporters and collaborators. The presence of many immigrant workers that participate at the Holy Spirit UMC Ministerio Milagro was a palpable testimony of the impact that one congregation is able to make.

The gathering at La Trinidad UMC in Allentown last summer was a moment of reflection on what we mean by Incarnational Relationships. The testimonies of our immigrant brothers and sisters and the fellowship that we experienced that day was inspiring and profound.

During our first gathering in Reading, PA last March, we began this journey with the goal of assisting congregations to build teams that would incorporate the justice work as an integral part in their walk as people of faith and a fundamental piece of their service and mission. Bill Mefford and Kristin Kumpf offered training for 16 congregations, and shared with us basic tools as we explored this approach to justice work.

Congregations and clusters presented their strategic plans and these plans were blessed in a simple but moving ceremony led by Bishop Peggy Johnson at the conclusion of our all day training.

This spring we will have a special celebration at Hope UMC, at 1108 Steel Rd. Havertown, PA led by Rev. Jim McIntire. We will share testimonies, do public engagement, and reflect on the journey and our next steps as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations. It will be an opportunity to look at our successes and set new goals. One special element about this gathering is also the celebration of a cluster of UMC congregations in the Main Line in Philadelphia that are working together to make a difference in their context.

We look forward to new growth, new challenges and new transformational experiences in our Immigrant Welcoming Congregations this year!

CARMEN SOL COTTO IS JUSTICE DISCIPLER with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Mission ConneXion

BY REV. GARY NICHOLSON

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In order for each congregation to more effectively accomplish this mission all congregations in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will participate in a grouping of 4 to 15 congregations called a “Mission ConneXion”. Mission ConneXions will enable congregations to resource one another for ministry within the congregation growing disciples and mission beyond the congregation in the community making new disciples and transforming the community and world beyond.

Each congregation will be invited to indicate the other congregations with whom they would like to be aligned. Each congregation will be represented on a Mission ConneXion Council by two lay representatives and their pastor. A Mission ConneXion Leader, lay or clergy, will be chosen by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Council. This Leader will preside at the Council meetings. The Mission ConneXion Leader will serve as a liaison between the District Superintendent and the ConneXion. The Leaders will receive special training and will assist congregations and pastors to become more vital and effective. The Leaders will be reimbursed for travel expenses. Each congregation will retain autonomy and may opt out of any joint mission, program, or training at their discretion. The Mission ConneXion is not intended to replace existing clergy groups, ecumenical councils or other associations of congregations or clergy.

The District Superintendent will serve as the “chief missional strategist of the district” (Discipline paragraph 419.1). Four key roles for the DS will be: 1. Deployment of clergy for greatest effectiveness in our mission, 2. Training and support of Mission ConneXion Leaders, 3. Fostering collaboration among congregations to serve their mission field, and 4. Developing and maintaining structures of support and accountability for clergy and congregations. Each District will continue to have the committee mandated by the Discipline: Committee on Ordained Ministry, Committee on Superintendency, and a Board of Church Location and Building.

The plan, more fully described in “Creating a Mission ConneXion 2013”, is intended as a two year experiment and will be evaluated with recommendations presented to the 2015 annual conference.

No individual is the Body of Christ alone. No congregation constitutes the whole Body. Only as we come together are we fully equipped to carry on the work of Christ today in the mission field where Christ has placed us. The theological basis for the Mission ConneXion can be found in Jn. 3:16, Jn.1:4, Mk. 12:30-31, Mt. 28:18-20, Mic. 6:8, I Cor. 12:7,14, 19 and Acts 1:8.
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