By Ruth A. Daugherty, Secretary, Northeastern Jurisdiction

Important decisions with the potential for extreme change in the church will be made by delegates to the 18th Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in the Sunoco Auditorium of the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg, PA, July 16-18.

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton and the Local Hospitality Committee welcome you and want to provide for your needs.

The Program and Arrangements Committee has endeavored to provide a setting and program for holy conferencing.

Bishop Middleton will review the state of the jurisdiction in the Episcopal Address.

The Rev. Sophia Fosua, director of Invitational Preaching for the Board of Discipleship, will lead delegates in Bible study and a discernment process as they interview Episcopal candidates. During conference sessions, she will focus on the theme: Caught Up in the Spirit to give guidance in decisions that will include:

- **Mission of the Church** - look at the four foci and seven action pathways to build up the body of Christ and transform the world.
- **Structure** - incorporate as the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church and amend Rules of Order and the Plan of Organization of the Jurisdiction.
- **Boundary Changes** - consider the merger of North Central New York, Western New York, Troy and Wyoming conferences to form a new conference and Episcopal area. Pennsylvania churches in the Wyoming Conference plan to join Central PA Conference churches to form a new conference. Vermont churches in Troy Conference would align with New England Conference.
- **Episcopal Leadership** - elect Episcopal leadership as recommended by the Episcopacy Committee and appoint bishops to the Episcopal areas of the Jurisdiction for 2009-12.
- **Budget** - adopt a 2009-2012 budget for resources for mission and ministry and approve the quadrennial apportionments for each annual conference.
- **Resolutions** - hear response to the Restoration & Reconciliation Resolution referred in 2008 to the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction and take action on other submitted resolutions/reports.
- **Church Leadership** - elect persons to serve on Jurisdictional and General Church committees, boards and agencies for 2009-2012.
- **Retirement of Bishops** - celebrate the retiring bishops, Susan M. Morrison and Violet L. Fisher.
- **Consecration Service** - consecrate the newly elected bishop at Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg on Friday, July 18.

Prepare for this conference. Read the materials enclosed here. Pray for God’s guidance for yourself, the process and the connection.

**Extreme Church, Extreme Expectations** reflects an approach to Christian life for this time in history. Extreme has many facets. In Ephesians 3:16-20, God has high standards and expectations for each disciple to live a Christ-like life. Though the bar is high, expectations and standards are often too little - expectations of God and ourselves.

For the church to reach people now, you must practice extreme commitment, extreme hospitality and extreme discipleship!

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**Agenda**

1. List of delegates and reserves
2. List of youth delegates
3. Alphabetic list of the delegation
4. Plan of organization and rules of order
5. Articles of incorporation
6. Articles of incorporation and by-laws
8. Vision table report
9. Annual conference boundaries report
10. Finance and administration report
11. 2009-2012 Proposed apportionment
12. 2009-2012 Proposed budget
13. Report on renewal and reconciliation
14. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
15. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
16. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
17. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
18. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
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28. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
29. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
30. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
31. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
32. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
33. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
34. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration
35. Resolution for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration

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# Agenda

## Monday, July 14
- 8:30 am  Committee on Nominations
- 10:00 am  Registration for delegates begins
- 1:00 pm  Committee on Episcopacy
- 4:00 pm  Session for Interview Group leaders
  Session for Heads of Delegations
- 5:30 pm  Dinner
- 7:00 pm  Bible Study
- 8:00 pm  Small groups (ten groups formed across Annual Conference boundaries)
- 8:00 pm  Nominees for bishop meet in prayer session with a convener
- 9:00 pm  Prayer and Adjournment

## Tuesday, July 15
- 6:30 am  Personal centering/devotional time
- 7:00 am  Breakfast
- 8:30 am  Devotions in Interview groups
- 8:45 am  Begin small group interview process of candidates
- 12:15 pm  Lunch
- 1:45 pm  Small group interview process of candidates
- 5:30 pm  Dinner
- 7:30 pm  Small group interview process of candidates
- 9:30 pm  Prayer and Adjournment

## Wednesday, July 16
- 6:30 am  Personal centering/devotional time
- 7:00 am  Breakfast
- 8:30 am  Holy Communion and Memorial Service
- 10:00 am  Opening Conference Session
  Welcome by Bishop Jane Middleton
  Roll Call
  Adoption of Agenda
  Adoption of Rules and Plan of Organization
  (Includes Resolution on Incorporation of NEJ)
  Naming of Sessions Committees
  Report of Committee on Courtesies
  Election of Secretary, College of Bishops
  Election of Treasurer, Committee on Finance and Administration
  Prayer
- 12:00 pm  Lunch
- 1:15 pm  Caught Up In The Spirit
- 1:30 pm  Conference Session
  Boundaries Committee Report
  Report of Episcopal Committee
  First Episcopal Ballot
  Ministry Report
  Election of Secretary, College of Bishops
  Election of Treasurer, Committee on Finance and Administration
  Prayer
- 5:00 pm  Dinner
- 7:00 pm  Conference Session
  Resolutions/motions related to funding proposals
  Report of Committee on Nominations
- 8:00 pm  Celebration of Retirement of Bishops
  Reception for Bishops who are retiring

## Thursday, July 17
- 6:30 am  Personal centering/devotional time
- 7:00 am  Breakfast
- 8:30 am  Worship – representative of Council of Bishops preaching
- 9:30 am  Conference Session
  Daily reports of Sessions Committees (Journal, Credentials, Courtesies)
  Report of Committee on Examination of Annual Conference Journals
- 10:15 am  Recess
- 10:30 am  Conference Session
  Reconciliation Report by College of Bishops
  Prayer
- 12:00 pm  Lunch
- 1:15 pm  Caught Up in the Spirit
- 1:30 pm  Conference Session
  Treasurer’s Report
  Recess
- 3:00 pm  Conference Session
  Resolutions
  Designation of Conveners and location for Organization for 2009-2012 Jurisdictional Committees
  Prayer
- 5:00 pm  Dinner
- 7:00 pm  Conference Session
  Adoption of Budget
  Final Report of the Committee on Nominations
  Recognition of the 60th year of the Advance
  Prayer and Adjournment

## Friday, July 18
- 6:30 am  Personal centering/devotional time
- 7:00 am  Breakfast
- 8:30 am  Conference Session
  Daily Reports of Sessions Committees
  Praise/Worship
  Assignment of Conferences to Episcopal Areas
  Assignment of bishops to Episcopal Areas
  Closing and Area Welcomings
- 10:00 am  Service of Consecration for Bishops
- 11:15 am  Closing and Area Welcomings
- 1:00 pm  Adjournment

Note: Order of Day in bold
Delegates and Reserves
(* Chair of Delegation)

Baltimore-Washington (32)

Clergy Delegates
Laura B. Easto, 3 Clarks Ln., Reisterstown MD 21136
Joan E. Carter-Rimbach, 6316 Gentle Light Lane, Columbia MD 21044
Joseph W. Daniels, 14629 Stonewall Dr., Silver Spring MD 20905
Peggy A. Johnson, 302 Fourth Ave., Baltimore MD 21227
C. Anthony Hunt, 1305 Cherokee Ln., Bel Air MD 21015
Bruce C. Birch, 3030 Mill Island Parkway #314, Frederick, MD 21701
Mark A. Derby, 4900 Continental Dr., Olney MD 20832-2972
HiRho Y. Park, 3201 Aspen Grove Dr. M-6, Franklin TN 37069
Victoria J. Starnes, 30 Eighth Ave., Brunswick MD 21716
John Philip Wogaman, 4620 Forty-fifth St., NW. Washington D. C. 20016-4479
Rodney T. Smothers, 3313 Dunwood Ridge Terrace, Bowie MD 20721
Barry E. Hidey 21 Linwood Ave., Bel Air MD 21014
Terril Rae Chattin, 37 Cedar Hill Rd., Randallstown MD 21133
Lay Delegates
* Delores M. Oden, 330 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd. Severna Park MD 21146
Sandra J. Ferguson, 601 Oneta Dr., Westminster MD 21157
Mary A. Baldridge, 716 Mattawa Court, Millersville MD 21108-2133
Keya S. Belt, 1502 King Philip Circle, Severn MD 21144
Sherman W. Harris, 11508 Karen Dr., Potomac MD 20854
Sharon Darlynn McCrae, 112 Bright Oaks Dr., Bel Air MD 21015
Mike McCurry, 10313 Fawcett St., Kensington MD 20895
Melissa F. Lauber, 6003 River Birch Ct., Hanover MD 21076
Donna C. Twigg, PO Box 61, Paw Paw WV 25434
Kenneth H. Steward, 600 Maplewood Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912
Lawrence A. Staten, 2129 Mardic Dr., Forest Hill MD 21050
Ruth O. Wong de Balderas, 6804 Calverton Dr., Hyattsville MD 20782-1013
Ralph M. Williams, 1410 Columbia St., NW, Washington D. C. 20001
Frank L. Gould, 923 Boom Way, Annapolis MD 21401
Jennifer H. Ihlo, 5715 N. Kings Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303
Paulette V. Jones, 8372 New Cut Rd., Severn MD 21144

Clergy Reserves
D. Matthews Poole, 6575 Felling Wood Court, Frederick MD 21703
Conrad O. Link, 7191 Stillwater Court, Frederick MD 21702
Ianther M. Mills, 10406 Grandhaven Ave., Upper Marlboro MD 20772
Karim W. Walker, 2919 Placid Dr., Baldwin MD 21013

Lay Reserves
William T. Rooker, 7704 Savannah Dr., Bethesda MD 20817
Sylvia R. Simpson, 670 Long Corner Rd., Mt. Airy MD 21771

Central Pennsylvania (28)

Clergy Delegates
Mark W. Webb, 2550 Kingston Center, Suite 115, York PA 17402
Deborah Heisley-Cato, 1326 Montfort Dr., Harrisburg PA 17110
Lewis A. Parks, 2182 Merrimac Ave., Mechanicsburg PA 17055
Pamela H. Ford, 1200 Haymaker Rd., State College PA 16801
Timothy R. Baer, 3287 Saint Andrews Dr., Chambersburg PA 17202
Kathleen Kind, 44 W. Main St., PO Box 267, Lock Haven, PA 17745
Thomas L. Salsgiver, 303 Mulberry Dr., PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg PA 17055-2053
Dennis R. Keller, 417 South Twenty-Second St., Camp Hill PA 17011
Phyllis M. Bowers, 40 Farmington Dr. Jacobus PA 17407
Michael Minnix, 135 W. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg PA 17055
Dennis L. Otto, 117 Lincoln Ave., Williamsport PA 17701
Samuel L. Sheffer, 31 Baylor Blvd., Lewisburg PA 17837
James T. Dawes, 2044 Southpoint Dr., Hummelstown PA 17036
Jennifer H. Williams, 1605 S. Geysers Church Rd., Middletown PA 17057

Lay Delegates
*A. Vance Hart II, RR1, Box 84, Adams Dr., Williamsburg PA 16693
Zedna M. Haverstock, PO Box 2053, Mechanicsburg PA 17055
Shirley J. Sowers, 2430 Bradford Dr., York PA 17402
Josh Tobias, 710 Fairground Ave., Chambersburg PA 17201
Ethan Shearer, 312 Market St., Lewisburg PA 17339
Benjamin A. Harvey, 300 B Buttonwood Ln., Hallam PA 17406
Gary D. Sowers, 2430 Bradford Dr., York PA 17402
Judith C. Hill, 1819 ½ North St., Harrisburg PA 17103
Edward Keller, 71 Hunt Club Dr., Bloomsburg PA 17815-8385
Joan E. Baxter, 65 Starner Rd., Danville PA 17821
Loretta P. Prouse, 436 N. Third St., PO Box 18, Halifax PA 17032
Daniel J. Moseler, 5730 Kenwood Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112-3129
William S. Kieser, 250 Whitetail Ln., Trout Run PA 17771
Milton W. Loyer, 917 Emily Dr., Mechanicsburg PA 17055

Lay Reserves
Marlin Snider, PO Box 2053, 303 Mulberry Dr. Suite 200, Mechanicsburg PA 17050

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Delegates and Reserves (continued)

(* Chair of Delegation)

Eastern Pennsylvania (24)

Clergy Delegates

*Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., 950 Willow Valley Lakes Dr., I-106, Willow St. PA 17584-9663
Dorothy Watson Tatam, 1531 Christian St., Philadelphia PA 19146
Alfred S. Maloney, 421 Morning Glory Ln., Middletown DE 19709
Larry D. Leister, 19 Sunset Ln., Lititz PA 17543-7929
Michele Wright Bartlow, 621 East Allens Ln., Philadelphia PA 19119
Rene Perez Avalos, PO Box 820, Valley Forge PA 19482
Melinda L. McKonly, 6467 Tupelo Rd., Allentown PA 18104
William Gary George, 217 Idell St., Philadelphia PA 19119
Rodney H. Shearer, 922 Parkway Rd., Allentown PA 18104-3341
James B. Todd, PO Box 271, Bird-in-Hand PA 17505
Joseph F. DiPaolo, 1178 Rossiter Ln., Radnor PA 19087
Christopher Jacob Kurien, 1725 Breckenridge Rd., Orwigsburg PA 17961

Laity Delegates

Mary K. White, 312 Rockingham Rd., Rosemont PA 19010
Lenora Thompson, 5734 W. Oxford St., Philadelphia PA 19131
George J. Hollich, Jr., 212 West Orchard Dr., Palmyra PA 17078
Thomas D. Gibson, 3122 Club Dr., Allentown PA 18103
Ruth A. Daugherty, 1936 North Eden Rd., Lancaster PA 17601-4952
Judith K. Ehninger, 2620 Gracie Lane, Macungie PA 18062
Candace E. Carter, 4376 Garfield Ln., Trevose PA 19053
Joseph F. DiPaolo, 1178 Rossiter Ln., Radnor PA 19087
Christopher Jacob Kurien, 1725 Breckenridge Rd., Orwigsburg PA 17961

Clergy Reserves

Robin M. Hynicka, 55 North Brd. St., Philadelphia PA 19107
Lenora Thompson, 5734 W. Oxford St., Philadelphia PA 19131
Verna M. Colliver, 1213 Columbia Ave., Lansdale PA 19446
Marcus Simmons, 5963 Woodbine Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131
Rebecca Parsons, RRI, Box 1487, Henryville PA 18332
Elizabeth Santos Fisher, 600 Orchard Ave., Schuylkill Haven PA 17972

Laity Reserves

Mary Ann Repsher, 164 South Ninth St., Bangor PA 18013
Brenda Tildon, 133 Portside Court, Bear, DE 19701

Greater New Jersey (20)

Clergy Delegates

*Galen L. Goodwin, 4 Andreann Dr., Annandale NJ 08801
Charles A. Bender, Jr., 21 Guernsey Place, Woodstown NJ 08098
Renee L. McCleary, 27 Ames Rd., Morristown NJ 07960
Bo-joong L. Kim, 60 West Passaic Ave., Rutherford NJ 07070-1963
Lyssette N. Perez, 1001 Wickapecko Dr., Ocean NJ 07712
Vicki M. Brendler, 675 Country Club Rd., Bridgewater NJ 08807
Heasun Kim, 4 Owens Rd., Old Bridge NJ 08857
Varlyna D. Wright, 5 Kelly Dr., Mansfield NJ 08022
William B. Wilson, 638 Park Ave., Collingswood NJ 08108
Ramon A. Evangelista, 89 West Main St., Freehold NJ 07728

Laity Delegates

Constance L. Ace, PO Box 393, Whitehouse NJ 08888
Jay W. Brown, 1145 S. Beecham Rd., Williamstown NJ 08094
Evelyn S. Caterson, 904 Marlborough Ave., Absecon NJ 08201
John W. Bishop, 110 W. Saddle River Rd., Saddle River NJ 07458
June D. McCullough, 2139E. Chestnut Ave., #15, Vineland NJ 08361
Edna M. Barrier, 19 Old Wolfe Rd., Budd Lake NJ 07828
Elizabeth Hoffman, 2510 High St., PO Box 124, Port Norris NJ 08349
Donnalle N. Nelson, 1521 4th Ave., Asbury Park NJ 07712
Janet W. Blomh, 219 DuBois Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028
Bethany L. Amey, 104 Walnut St., Neptune NJ 07753

Clergy Reserves

Robert E. Costello, 3 Dogwood Dr., Somers Point NJ 08244
Paul M. Malie, 207 Northfield Ave., PO Box 86, Northfield NJ 08225
Barbara A. Rambach, 12 Roosevelt Rd., Maplewood NJ 07040

Laity Reserves

Creed S. Pogue, 169 Cumberland Ave., Estell Manor NJ 08319
Mark A. Miller, 1118 Gresham Rd., Plainfield NJ 07062

New England (20)

Clergy Delegates

Martin D. McLea, 74 Durso Ave., Lawrence MA 01843
Linda Campbell-Marshall, 325 Gillette Dr., Hope ME 04847
We Hyun Chang, 962 Valley St., Manchester NH 03013
Aida Irizarry-Fernandez, PO Box 249, 276 Essex St., Lawrence MA 01842-0449
Gary L. Shaw, 12 Bay Spring Ave., Barrington RI 02806
Wee-Li Tan, 10 Bricketts Mill Rd. , Ste 5, Hampstead NH 03841
Laurel E. Scott, 800 Bridge St., Lowell MA 01850
Wesley E. Palmer, 258 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry NH 03053
Sandra J. Bonnette-Kim, 99 Church St., Wilmington MA 01887

Laity Delegates

*Bonnie I. Marden, 36 Ansie Rd., Chelmsford MA 01842
Ralph R. Oduor, PO Box 249, 276 Essex St., Lawrence MA 01842-0449
Will Green, 117 Sunnyside Ave., Arlington MA 02474
Oscar Harrell, 15 Bent Brook Rd., Sudbury MA 01776
JoAnn Carlotto, 22 Leonard Ave., Bradford MA 01835
Donna Costa, 23 Eisenhower Dr., South Easton MA 02375
Samuel Purushotham, 413 Essex Park Circle, Franklin TN 37069
J. Ronald Boucher, 208 Linden Ponds Way #CL305, Hingham MA 02043
Paul Fleck, 9 Montferr Ave. #1, Brighton MA 02135
Fay Flanary, 27 Lloyd Ave., Belchertown MA 01007
Clergy Reserves
Michael B. W. Davis, 20 Summit Ave., Amersbury MA 01913-4013.
Daniel V. Weaver, 7 Dearborn Rd., Epping NH 03042
Erica Robinson-Johnson, 11 Gracie Rd., Lynn MA 01904
Travis Bonnette-Kim, 98 Church St., Wilmington MA 01887
Jung Sun Oh, 29 Brd. St., Westfield, MA 01085

Lay Reserves
Melissa L. Yosua-Davis, 10 McKenney Point Rd., Cape Elizabeth ME 04017
David Jackson, 6 Newcroft Circle, Mattapan MA 02126
Wes Lavigne, 55 Pleasant Hill Dr., Mapleton ME 04757
Dight Crain, 10 Clover Ln., Natick MA 01760
Richard F. Gross, 57 County Rd., Turner ME 04282

New York (24)

Clergy Delegates
*Allen Pinckney Jr., 1 Hamilton Ave., Mount Vernon NY 10552
Constance Pak, 165 DuBois Ave., Sea Cliff NY 11579
Timothy J. Riss, 230 West Old Country Rd., Hicksville NY 11801
Noel N. Chin, 239 Daisy Farms Dr., Scarsdale NY 10583
Judith A. Stevens, 90 Roe Blvd. East, Patchogue NY 11772
Evelyn R. McDonald, 60 Elmwood Place, Newburgh NY 12550
Stephen Bauman, 520 Park Ave., New York NY 10021
Gunshik Shim, 5 Post Ave., East Williston NY 11596
R. Randy Day, 42 Bittersweet Ln., South Salem, NY 10590
Takayuki Ishii, 210 Elm St., Bridgeport CT 06604
Arturo Maine, 174 S. Plaisted Ave., Hauppauge NY 11788
Edward Horne, 49 Weston Rd., Westport CT 06880

Lay Delegates
Frederick K. Brewington, 275 Moore Ave., Freeport NY 11520
Ernest L. Swiggett, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains NY 10606
Chan K. P. Gillham, 18 Dancy Dr., Stamford CT 06902
Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, 20 Brd.field Rd., Hamden CT 06171
Jorge Lockward, 340 Haven Ave. #1M, New York NY 10033
Natassia Velez, 530 Sherwood Dr. North, Middletown NY 10941
Marva D. Usher-Kerr, 9912 Ave.. K, Brooklyn NY 11236-4422
Betsy Ingram, 25 Millstone Ln., Southampton NY 11968
Kevin M. Nelson, 123 W. 104th St., Apt. 10G, New York NY 10025
Jaewon Kim, 25 Brewster Dr., Middletown NY 10940
Robert G. Hunsinger, 63 Pickerel Rd., Monroe NY 10950
Beverly Peck Risi, 52 South White Rock Rd., Holmes NY 12531

Clergy Reserves
Adrienne Brewington, 275 Moore Ave., Freeport NY 11520
Kun Sam Cho, 45 Greenvale Circle, White Plains NY 10607
Elizabeth Braddon, 10 William Penn Dr., Stony Brook NY 11790
Dennis Winkleblack, 20 Soundview Ave., White Plains NY 10606

Lay Reserves
Robert G. Miller, 205 Silver Creek Ln., Norwalk CT 06850
Inday Larot Day, 1001 Holly Stream Ct., Brewster NY 10509
Maria Maine, 174 South Plaisted Ave., Smithtown NY 11788

North Central New York (16)

Clergy Delegates
*Darryl R. Barrow, 8422 North Main St., PO Box 11515, Cicero NY 13039
Elizabeth Quick, 555 Sayles St., Oneida NY 13421
William Gottschalk-Fielding, 36 Brickyard Rd., Lansing NY 14882
Martha E. Swords-Horrell, 8396 Morgan Rd., Clay NY 13041
Deborah O’Connor-Slater, 55 Drummond St., Auburn NY 13021
Thomas V. Wolfe, 226 Standish Dr., Syracuse NY 13224
Sung Ho Lee, 105 Genesee St., New Hartford NY 13413
Inell Richardson Claypool, 1201 N. George St., Rome NY 13440

Lay Delegates
Gregory A. Forrester, 32 North Church St., Cortland NY 13045
Stephanie J. Deckard, 8219 Old Sunridge Dr., Manlius NY 13104
Ronald Bretsch, 7 Elm St., Norwood NY 13668
Kurt Karandy, 112 Lincoln Ave. South, Liverpool NY 13088
Shirley B. Verity, 770 Southport St., Elmsford NY 14094
Everett Edward Enstine, 363 W. King Rd., Ithaca NY 14850
Julie Stewart, 364 Sheffield Rd., Ithaca NY 14850
Michael Huber, 129 Casowasco Dr., Moravia NY 13118

Clergy Reserves
none

Lay Reserves
none

Peninsula-Delaware (12)

Clergy Delegates
Sandra Steiner Ball, 139 North State St., Dover DE 19901
Charlotte A. Nichols, 211A Phillip Morris Dr., Salisbury MD 21804
Boyd B. Etter, 115 Rudder Rd., Millsboro DE 19966
James T. Seymour, 703 Haddon Rd., Wilmington DE 19808
Jonathan E. Baker, 37561 Bay Harbor Dr., Rehoboth Beach DE 19971
John K. Shitama, 110 Basin Rd., Earleville MD 21919

Lay Delegates
*Kevin Goodwin, 440 Haystack Dr., Newark DE 19711
William E. Westbrook Jr., 813 Devon Dr., Newark DE 19711
Gene Cay, 25321 Ocean Gateway, Mardela Springs MD 21837
Mildred L. Hamilton, 19 Chesapeake Loop, Bear DE 19701
Donna M. Rayne, PO Box 566, Millsboro DE 19966
Megan K. Shitama, 110 Basin Rd., Earleville MD 21919
Delegates and Reserves (continued)
(* Chair of Delegation)

Clergy Reserves
William T. Sterling, 32 S. Washington St., Suite 2, Easton MD 21601
Elaine B. Ayres, 49 Acacia Place, Dover DE 19901
Patricia B. Harris, 1105 Stanton Rd. Wilmington DE 19808

Lay Reserves
Ruth A. Higgins, 5501 Drummer Dr., Preston MD 21655
Howard J. Mason, 406 Shipley St., Seaford DE 19973
Harvey W. Hyland, Jr., 9751 Irene Ave., Laurel DE 19956

Troy (8)

Clergy Delegates
*Henry Frueh, 396 Louden Rd., Saratoga Springs NY 12860
Michelle Bogue-Trost, PO Box 7, Newtonville NY 12128
Janice McClary Rowell, 201 North Ten Broeck St. Scotia, NY 12302
Steve Clunn, 8 Wendy Ln., Burnt Hills NY 12027

Lay Delegates
Emily De Salvatore, 341 Golf Course Rd., Amsterdam NY 12010
Ilah Sisson Walser, 161 Saratoga Ave., Ballston Spa NY 12020
Shirley E. Readdean, 2232 Turner Ave., Schenectady NY 12306
Mildred S. Mason, 1719 Ave. B, Schenectady NY 12308

Clergy Reserves
John Marshall, Jr., 122 Rocky Ridge Rd., St. Johnsbury VT 05819
Marion M. Moore-Colgan, 10 Asbury Ln., Plattsburgh NY 12901

Lay Reserves
Nathan Trost, 10 Arthur Rd., Lagham NY 12110
Evelyn R. Doyon, 560 Doyon Rd., Northfield VT 05663

Western Virginia (20)

Clergy Delegates
Ellis E. Conley, 315 Kerens Ave., Elkins WV 26241
Clifford G. Schell, PO Box 230, Buckhannon WV 26201
J. Montgomery Brown, 900 Washington St., E., Charleston WV 25301
Mary Ellen Finegan, 940 Pine Hill Dr., Fairmont WV 26554

c

Helen D. Bell, 105 Plantation Dr., Mineral Wells WV 26150
J. F. Lacaria, PO Box 2313, Charleston WV 25328
Mary R. Oates, 213 S. Heber St., Beckley WV 25801
David E. Jasper, 307 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont WV 26554
Michael P. Waide, 1224 Locust Ave, Fairmont, WV 26554
I. Mark Conner, PO Box 516, Barboursville WV 25504

Lay Delegates
*Jim Berner, PO Box 2469, Charleston WV 25329
Fred M. Kellerman, PO Box 12, Frankford WV 24938
Zachary Allen, 74 Oakridge Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104
Judith M. Kenaston, 201 Alderson St., Lewisburg WV 24901
William S. Deel, 2208 Circle Dr., Milton WV 25541
Betty L. Migal, 1199 Harris Highway, Parkersburg WV 26101
Judy A. Nutter, 2278 Hebron Rd., St. Marys WV 26170
Diane M. Kenaston, 201 Alderson St., Lewisburg WV 24901
Royce A. Lyden, 414 Buffalo Ave., Fairmont WV 26554
Gail A. Losch, 2526 O’Dell Town Rd., Nettie WV 26681

Clergy Reserves
Jennifer C. Williams, PO Box 306, Lumberport WV 26386
Chuck Pullins, PO Box 866, Charleston WV 25323

Lay Reserves
William I. Hairston, PO Box 4466 Owens Station, Charleston WV 25364
Gayle Leslie, PO Box 2043, Clarksburg WV 26302

Western New York (8)

Clergy Delegates
Larry R. Baird, 15 Morris Ln., Jamestown NY 14701
Sinnathamby Thevanesan, 350 Saratoga Rd., Amherst NY 14226
Jennifer L. S. Green, 118 N. Main St., Lyndonville NY 14098
Cathy H. Stengel, 219 North Third St., Olean NY 14760

Lay Delegates
*Eleanor G. Collinsworth, 14 Mission Hill Dr., Brockport NY 14420
Janet L. Rothfuss, 58 Rome Ln., Ontario NY 14579-8614
Maidstone Mulenga, 238 Desmond Rd., Rochester NY 14616
Christine M. Doran, 120 Catalpa Rd., Rochester NY 14617

Clergy Reserve
D. Gregory Van Dussen, 104 Rauch Dr., Springville NY 14141

Lay Reserve
Anita M. Youtzy, 64 Westview Crescent, Geneseo NY 14454

Western Pennsylvania (32)

Clergy Delegates
John E. Ciampa, 6 Brook Valley Dr., Harrison City PA 15636
Sharon L. Schwab, 107 Carmalt Ave., Punxsutawney PA 15767
Robert F. Zilhaver, Sr., 14 West Sherman Ave., DuBois PA 15801
Eric S. Park, 204 Timothy Dr., Elizabeth PA 15037
Joan E. Reasinger, 2686 Crosby Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15216
Larry P. Homitsky, PO Box 5002 Cranberry Township PA 16066
William B. Meekins, Jr., 310 Oak St., Irwin PA 15642
John W. Seth, 3619 Old William Penn Highway, Murrysville PA 15668
Mark A. Stewart, 311 Allison Rd., Gibsonia PA 15044
Joel S. Garrett, 4000 Impala Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15239
Dale R. Shunk, 149 West Patriot St., Somerset PA 15501
Alyce Weaver Dunn, 126 Elbrook Dr., Natrona Heights PA 15065
Arnold A. Rhodes, 65 Maple Ln., Clarion PA 16214
Roy W. Gearhart, 80 Blair Ln., Mahaffey PA 15757
D. Christopher Livermore, 1 North Fifth St., Youngwood PA 15697
David S. Hampson, 214 Seyesler Rd., Franklin PA 16323

Lay Delegates
Laura E. Zilhaver, 14 West Sherman Ave., DuBois PA 15801
Nyle M. Hershberger, 318 Kerr Dr., Johnstown PA 15904
Luella Krieger, PO Box 121, Sykesville PA 15865
Matthew G. Johnson, 309 W. Maple St., Nicholasville KY 40356
Joe A. Emigh, 636 Mill Creek Rd., Utica PA 16362
Delegates and Reserves (continued)
(* Chair of Delegation)

Richard C. Hoffman, 101 Pembroke Ct., Greensburg PA 15601
Patricia (Pat) A. Morris, 151 Crosswynds Dr., Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Tracy R. Merrick, 2443 Dogwood Dr., Wexford PA 15090
Diane M. Miller, 136 Decker Dr., Newcastle PA 16105
James L. Donner, 405 Indiana Dr., Erie PA 16505
Heather K. Aul, 9869 Route 321, Kane PA 16735
Donna L. Burkhard, 4813 Victoria Way, Erie PA 16509
Mike Bill, 448 Circle Dr., Elizabeth PA 15037
Sharon J. Gregory, 2133 Chalfant St., Pittsburgh PA 15221
Peggy D. Ward, 177 Neville St., Pittsburgh PA 15202
Ted Gross, 138 Church St., Washington PA 15301

Clergy Reserves
Robert W. Higginbotham, 5 South Park Ave., Kane PA 16735
James P. Walker, 5868 Phillips Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15217
Ronald R. Hoellein, 1965 Ferguson Rd., Allison Park PA 15101
Patricia S. Harbison, 5304 Highway 19, Cochran PA 16314

Lay Reserves
Rebekah Swineford, 2 Laurel Dr., Bradford, PA 16701-1511
Faith W. Geer, 1406 Towne Square, Allison Park PA 15101-1591
Josh Cascone, 2899 W. Liberty Ave. #I, Pittsburgh PA 15216

Wyoming (8)

Clergy Delegates
David Masland, 7 Beethoven St., Binghamton NY 13905
Beth E. Jones, 1215 Country Club Rd., Clarks Summit PA 18411
Michael Bealla, 38 Knob Hill Rd., Trucksville PA 18708
Janice M. Marsi, 1036 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal NY 13950

Lay Delegates
*Raymond L. Hamill, 450 Alden Rd., Honesdale PA 18431
Blenda Smith, 31 Page Brook Rd., Whitney Point NY 13862
Eric Yetter, Henderson Settlement, PO Box 205, Frakes, KY 40940
Joyce S. Miller, 15 Forest Ave., Oneonta NY 13820

Clergy Reserves
Bette Poe, 608 North Irving Ave., Scranton PA 18510
Gregory C. Myers, 556 Charles Ave., Kingston PA 18704
Rebekah Sweet, 207 11th St., Honesdale PA 18431

Lay Reserves
Kenneth T. Summers, Jr., 201 Evergreen St. Apt 4-3F, Vestal NY 13850
Hudda Aswad, 17 Sunset Ave., Binghamton NY 13904
Warren Heil, Jr., RR 2 Box 2285, Moscow PA 18444

Youth Delegates

Baltimore-Washington
Daniel Bitzel, 4422 Raspe Avenue, Baltimore MD 21206
William Burnett, 487 Orangeville Ct., Odenton MD 21113
DeAndre White, 1072 Downonton Rd., Baltimore MD 21227

Central Pennsylvania
Lizze Kraft, 136 Park St., Seven Valleys PA 17360
Adam Reinard, 178 South Third St., Hughesville PA 17737
Sarah Wagner, 100 Nottinghhm Ln., Bloomsburg PA 17815

Eastern Pennsylvania
Gabriel Bedell, 4724 Lafayette Ave, Pennsauken, NJ 08109
Ann Jacob, 1725 Breckenridge Rd., Owingsburg PA 17961

Great New Jersey
Rebecca Coram, 1805 Allwood Rd., Forked River NJ 08732
Michael Urgo, 1420 E. Elmer Rd., Vineland, NJ 08361

New England
Matthew Forest, 127 Hastings St., Lowell MA 01851-3735
Falon Sweeney, 47 Gannett Rd., Scituate MA 02066

Peninsula-Delaware
Aaron Foltz, 631 Sewell Branch Rd., Clayton DE 19938
Billy McKee, 320 Hayley Way, Smyrna DE 19977

Troy
John Kenny, 301 Murry Ave., Delmar NY 12054
Maegan Lipinski, 1142 Johnsonville Road, Johnsonville NY 12094

West Virginia
Connor Kenaston, 201 Alderson St., Lewisburg WV 24901
Michael Ludle, PO Box 518, Sophia WV 25921

Western New York
Matt Anderson, Box 33, Chautaqua NY 14722
Mario Reto, 1 Barringer Dr., Hamlin NY 14464

Western Pennsylvania
Rachel Pinkerton, PO Box 723, Mars PA 16046
Molly Winters, 706 Harbison Rd., Beaver Falls PA 15010
Polly Zilhaver, 14 West Sherman St., DuBois PA 15801

Wyoming
Bryant Clark, 17 Nanticoke Ave., Endicott NY 13760
Paul Kellogg Sweet, 207 11th St., Honesdale, PA 18443
Alphabetic List of Delegates and Reserves

Ace, Constance L. Greater New Jersey
Allen, Zachary West Virginia
Amev, Bethany L. Greater New Jersey
Aswad, Hadda Wyoming
Aul, Heather K. Western Pennsylvania
Ayers, Elaine B. Peninsula-Delaware
Baer, Timothy R. Central Pennsylvania
Baird, Larry R. Western New York
Baker, Jonathan E. Peninsula-Delaware
Baldridge, Mary A. Baltimore-Washington
Ball, Sandra Steiner Peninsula Delaware
Barrier, Edna M. Greater New Jersey
Bauman, Stephen New York
Bender, Jr., Charles A. Greater New Jersey
Brendler, Vicki M. Greater New Jersey
Bretsch, Ronald North Central New York
Broady, John E. Western Pennsylvania
Brown, J. Montgonery West Virginia
Brown, Jay W. Greater New Jersey
Brown, Jonathan E. Western Pennsylvania
Brown, Montgomery Troy
Browning, Robert W. Baltimore-Washington
Browning, Robert W. Peninsula-Delaware
Browner, Roger C. Western Pennsylvania
Burkhart, Donna L. Eastern Pennsylvania
Burkert, James E. Western Pennsylvania
Burton, William G. Western Pennsylvania
Butler, Robert A. Western Pennsylvania
Butler, Roy L. Western Pennsylvania
Byrne, Charles F. Western Pennsylvania
Campbell, William (Scott) New England
Campbell-Marshal, Linda New England
Carter, Candace E. Eastern Pennsylvania
Carter-Rimbach, Joan E. Baltimore-Washington
Carlow, JoAnn New England
Cascone, Josh Western Pennsylvania
Cassidy, Anthony S. Western Pennsylvania
Chang, We Hyun New England
Chattin, Terri Rae Baltimore-Washington
Chin, Noel N. New York
Cho, Kun Sam New York
Ciampa, John E. Western Pennsylvania
Coakley, S. Jay New York
Claypool, Inell Richardson North Central New York
Clunn, Steve Troy
Collinsworth, Eleanor G. Western New York
Colliver, Verna M. Eastern Pennsylvania
Conley, Ellis E. West Virginia
Conner, I. Mark West Virginia
Costa, Donna New England
Costello, Robert E. Greater New Jersey
Cray, Gene Peninsula-Delaware
Daniels, Joseph W. Baltimore-Washington
Daugherty, Ruth A. Eastern Pennsylvania
Davis, Michael B. W. New England
Dawes, James T. Central Pennsylvania
Day, Alfred T. Eastern Pennsylvania
Day, Inday Larot New York
Day, Randy R. New York
De Salvatore, Emily Troy
Deckard, Stephanie J. North Central New York
Deel, William S. West Virginia
Derby, Mark A. Baltimore-Washington
DiPaolo, Joseph F. Eastern Pennsylvania
Donner, James L. Western Pennsylvania
Doran, Christine M. Western Pennsylvania
Doyon, Evelyn R. Troy
Dunn, Alyce Weaver Western Pennsylvania
Easto, Laura B. Baltimore-Washington
Ehninger, Judith K. Eastern Pennsylvania
Emigh, Joe A. Western Pennsylvania
Engelhardt, Carolyn Hardin New York
Enstine, Everett Edward
Etter, Boyd B. Peninsula-Delaware
Evangelista, Ramon A. New York
Fassett, Thom White Wolf
Ferguson, Sandra J. North Central New York
Finegan, Mary Ellen West Virginia
Fisher, Elizabeth Santos Eastern Pennsylvania
Flanary, Fay New England
Fleck, Paul New England
Forbes, Charles North Central New York
Ford, Pamela H. Central Pennsylvania
Forrester, Gregory A. North Central New York
Frueh, Henry Troy
Garrett, Joel S. Western Pennsylvania
Gearhart, Roy W. Western Pennsylvania
Geer, Faith W. Western Pennsylvania
George, William Gary Eastern Pennsylvania
Gibson, Thomas D. Eastern Pennsylvania
Gillham, Chan K. P. New York
Goodwin, Galen L. Greater New Jersey
Gottschalk-Fielding, William North Central New York
Gould, Frank L. Baltimore-Washington
Green, Will New England
Green, Jennifer L. S. Western New York
Gregory, Sharon J. Western Pennsylvania
Gross, Richard F. New England
Haiden, Will Western Pennsylvania
Hainias, Raymond L. Wyoming
Hamilton, Mildred L. Peninsula-Delaware
Hampson, David S. Western Pennsylvania
Harbison, Patricia S. Western Pennsylvania
Harrell, Oscar New England
Harris, Patricia B. Peninsula-Delaware
Harris, Sherman W. Baltimore-Washington
Hart, II, A. Vance Central Pennsylvania
Harvey, Benjamin A. Central Pennsylvania
Haverstock, Zedna M. Central Pennsylvania
Heil, Jr., Warren Wyoming
Heisley-Cato, Deborah Central Pennsylvania
Hersberger, Nyle M. Western Pennsylvania
Hidey, Barry E. Baltimore-Washington
Higginbotham, Robert W. Western Pennsylvania
Higgins, Ruth A. Peninsula-Delaware
Hill, Judith C. Central Pennsylvania
Hoellin, Ronald R. Western Pennsylvania
Hoffman, Elizabeth Greater New Jersey
Hoffman, Richard C. Western Pennsylvania
Hollich, Jr., George J. Eastern Pennsylvania
Horne, Edward New York
Huber, Michael North Central New York
Hunsinger, Robert G. New York
Hunt, C. Anthony C. Baltimore-Washington
Hyland, Jr., Harvey W. Peninsula-Delaware
Alphabetic List of Delegates and Reserves (continued)

Hyникa, Robin M. Eastern Pennsylvania
Ihlo, Jennifer E. Baltimore-Washington
Ingram, Betsy New York
Irizarry-Fernandez, Aida New England
Ishii, Takayuki New York
Jackson, David New England
Jasper, David E. West Virginia
Johnson, Peggy Baltimore-Washington
Johnson, Matthew G.

Western Pennsylvania
Jones, Paulette V. Baltimore-Washington
Jones, Beth E. Wyoming
Karandy, Kurt North Central New York
Keller, Dennis R. Central Pennsylvania
Keller, Edward Central Pennsylvania
Kellerman, Fred M. West Virginia
Kenaston, Judi M. West Virginia
Kenaston, Diane M. West Virginia
Kieser, William S. Central Pennsylvania
Kim, Bo-Joong L. Greater New Jersey
Kim, Heasun Greater New Jersey
Kim, Jaewon New York
Kind, Kathleen Central Pennsylvania
Krieger, Luella Western Pennsylvania
Kurien, Christopher Jacob

Eastern Pennsylvania
Lacaria, J.F. West Virginia
Ladd, J. Robert “Bob” Eastern Pennsylvania
Lauber, Melissa F.

Baltimore-Washington
Lavigne, Wes New England
Lee, Sung Ho North Central New York
Leister, Larry D. Eastern Pennsylvania
Lesure, Gayle West Virginia
Link, Conrad O. Baltimore-Washington
Livermore, D. Christopher

Western Pennsylvania
Lockward, Jorge New York
Losch, Gail A. West Virginia
Loyer, Milton W. Central Pennsylvania
Lyden, Royce A. West Virginia
Maine, Arturo New York
Maine, Maria New York
Maine, Paul M. Greater New Jersey
Maloney, Alfred S. Eastern Pennsylvania
Marden, Bonnie I. New England
Marshall, Jr., John Troy
Marci, Janice M. Wyoming
Masland, David Wyoming
Mason, Howard J. Peninsula-Delaware
Mason, Mildred S.

Troy
Matthews, Eugene W.

Baltimore-Washington
May, Susan J. Eastern Pennsylvania
McCleary, Renee L.

Greater New Jersey
McCrae, Sharon Darlynn

Baltimore-Washington
McCullough, June D.

Greater New Jersey
McCurry, Mike Baltimore-Washington
McDonald, Evelyn R.

New York
McKonly, Melinda L.

Eastern Pennsylvania
McLee, Martin D.

New England
Meekins Jr., William B.

Western Pennsylvania
Merrick, Tracy R. Western Pennsylvania
Miller, Mark A.

Greater New Jersey
Miller, Robert G.

New York
Miller, Diane M. Western Pennsylvania
Miller, Joyce S.

Wyoming
Mills, lanther M. Baltimore-Washington
Minnix, Michael Central Pennsylvania
Moore-Colgan, Marion M.

Troy
Morris, Patricia (Pat) A.

Western Pennsylvania
Moseler, Daniel J.

Central Pennsylvania
Mulenga, Maidstone Western New York
Myers, Gregory C.

Wyoming
Nelson, Donnalie N.

Greater New Jersey
Nelson, Kevin M.

New York
Nichols, Charlotte A.

Peninsula-Delaware
Nutter, Judy A.

West Virginia
Oates, Helen R.

West Virginia
O’Connor-Slater, Deborah

North Central New York
Oden, Delores M.

Baltimore-Washington
Oduor, Ralph R.

New England
Oh, Jung Sun

New England
Otto, Dennis L.

Central Pennsylvania
Pak, Constance

New York
Palmer, Wesley E.

New England
Park, HIRho Baltimore-Washington
Park, Eric S.

Western Pennsylvania
Parks, Lewis A.

Central Pennsylvania
Parsons, Rebecca Eastern Pennsylvania
Perez, Lyssette N.

Greater New Jersey
Perez Rene Avalos Eastern Pennsylvania
Pinckney, Jr., Allen

New York
Poe, Bette

Wyoming
Pogue, Creed S.

Greater New Jersey
Poole, D. Matthews

Baltimore-Washington
Prouse, Loretta P.

Central Pennsylvania
Pullins, Chuck

West Virginia
Purushotham, Samuel

New England
Quick, Elizabeth

North Central New York
Rambach, Barbara A.

Greater New Jersey
Rayne, Dona M.

Peninsula-Delaware
Readdean, Shirley E.

Troy
Reasinger, Joan E.

Western Pennsylvania
Repsher, Mary Ann

Eastern Pennsylvania
Rhodes, Arnold A.

Western Pennsylvania
Risi, Beverly Peck

New York
Riss, Timothy J.

New York
Robinson-Johnson, Erica New England
Rooker, William T.

Baltimore-Washington
Rothfuss, Janet L.

Western New York
Rowell, Janice McClary

Troy
Salsgiver, Thomas L.

Central Pennsylvania
Schell, Clifford G.

West Virginia
Schwab, Sharon L.

Western Pennsylvania
Scott, Laurel E.

New England
Seth, John W.

Western Pennsylvania
Seymour, James T.

Peninsula-Delaware
Shaw, Gary L.

New England
Shearer, Ethan Central Pennsylvania
Shearer, Rodney H.

Eastern Pennsylvania
Sheffer, Samuel L.

Central Pennsylvania
Shim, Gunshik

New York
Shitama, John K.

Peninsula-Delaware
Shitama, Megan K.

Peninsula-Delaware
Shunk, Dale R.

Western Pennsylvania
Simmons, Marcus Eastern Pennsylvania
Simpson, Sylvia R.

Baltimore-Washington
Smith, Blenda

Wyoming
Smothers, Rodney T.

Baltimore-Washington
Snider, Marlin

Central Pennsylvania
Sowers, Shirley J.

Central Pennsylvania
Sowers, Gary D.

Central Pennsylvania
Starnes, Victoria J.

Baltimore-Washington
Staten, Lawrence A.

Baltimore-Washington
Stengel, Cathy H.

Western New York
Sterling, William T.

Peninsula-Delaware
Stevens, Judith A.

New York
Steward, Kenneth H.

Baltimore-Washington
Stewart, Julie

North Central New York
Stewart, Mark A.

Western Pennsylvania
Summers, Jr., Kenneth T.

Wyoming
Sweet, Rebekah

Wyoming
Swiggett, Ernest L.

New York
Swineford, Rebekah

Western Pennsylvania
Swords-Horrell, Martha E.

North Central New York
Tan, Wee-Li

New England
Tatem, Dorothy Watson

Eastern Pennsylvania
Thevanesan, Sinnathamby

Western New York
Thompson, Lenora Eastern Pennsylvania
Tildon, Brenda Eastern Pennsylvania
Tobias, Josh Central Pennsylvania
Todd, James B.

Eastern Pennsylvania
Alphabetic List of Delegates and Reserves (continued)

Trost, Nathan Troy
Twick, Donna C. Baltimore-Washington
Usher-Kerr, Marva D. New York
Van Dussen, D. Gregory Western New York
Velez, Natassia New York
Verity, Shirley B. North Central New York
Waide, Michael P. West Virginia
Walker, Karin W. Baltimore-Washington
Walker, James P. Western Pennsylvania
Walser, Ihah Sisson Troy
Ward, Peggy D. Western Pennsylvania
Weaver, Daniel V. New England
Webb, Mark W. Central Pennsylvania
Westbrook, Jr., William E. Peninsula-Delaware
White, Mark Eastern Pennsylvania
White, Mark K. Eastern Pennsylvania
Wigal, Betty L. West Virginia
Wilcox, Rebekah Central Pennsylvania
Williams, Ralph M. Baltimore-Washington
Williams, Jennifer C. West Virginia
Williams, Jennifer H. Central Pennsylvania
Wilson, William B. Greater New Jersey
Winkleblack, Dennis New York
Wogaman, John Philip

Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the Northeastern Jurisdiction shall be subject to the current DISCIPLINE of The United Methodist Church.

PART A — ORGANIZATION

Article I — PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Opening Session

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall assemble according to the provisions of the current Discipline at the time and place arranged by the Committee on Program and Arrangements. The conference shall be opened with a service of Holy Communion directed by the bishops of the Jurisdiction and therefore proceed as hereinafter provided.

2. Presiding Officer

A bishop of the jurisdiction, designated by the bishops of the Jurisdiction, shall preside. The College of Bishops shall select one of their number to preside at each session.

Roll Call

At the conclusion of the Communion Service the bishop designated to preside at the first session shall call the conference to order.

The Roll shall be called by the Secretary in the following order and manner: the names of any bishops of the Jurisdiction who have died during the quadrennium and any delegates who have died since their election, the Conference standing; the names of the bishops of the Jurisdiction; and a statement by the Secretary regarding registration and the assurance of a quorum present.

The chairperson of each delegation shall report absentees and substitutions to the secretary on forms provided prior to the beginning of the first business session. Reserve delegates shall be substituted in the order of their election.

Adoption of Rules

If the Secretary indicates that a disciplinary quorum is present, the Committee on Rules shall propose for adoption the Rules of Order for the session as in force at the preceding session, with such amendments, if any, as it deems wise. The Rules of Order may be adopted in part, or in principle, until after the organization of the Conference is completed.

5. Election and Duties of Secretary

The Secretary shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, and the Secretary shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the College of Bishops. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The election, if there be two or more nominees, election shall be by ballot. A person elected Secretary who is not a delegate shall have the privilege of the floor, but without vote.

The quadrennial term of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall begin January 1 of the new quadrennium. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall serve until the next Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference is organized and a successor is elected. Except as provided in Article I, Section 7. The work of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall be supervised by the Vision Table and financially supported through the budget of the jurisdiction.

In addition to those duties imposed by the Discipline, the Secretary shall be the custodian of the permanent records of the Jurisdictional Conference and its committees and shall transmit the same to a successor in office.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Jurisdictional Conference, and prepare, edit and distribute the official Journal of the conference.

The Secretary shall prepare the roll and other lists and forms necessary to facilitate the business of the succeeding Jurisdictional Conference, and perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Jurisdictional Conference.

The Secretary shall appoint such assistants as are reasonably required to carry out the work of the conference consistent with a budget for such services as approved by the Jurisdictional Conference.
The business sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be recorded in such manner as arranged by the Secretary with the approval of the Committee on Program and Arrangements. Such record, when approved by the conference on recommendation of the Committee on Journal, after making the necessary corrections, if any, shall be the official Journal of the Jurisdictional Conference. The record for the last session of the conference shall be corrected and approved by the Committee on Journal.

The secretary shall be responsible for arranging the publication of the Daily Christian Advocate. There shall be published and distributed to the delegates, reserve delegates, and youth representatives at least two weeks prior to the conference sessions the first issue of the Daily Christian Advocate. The first issue shall contain the names of the delegates, reserve delegates, youth representatives, the report of the treasurer, membership lists of the several committees, reports from all standing committees, and such information as may be necessary for the orderly procedure of the business. Digest of the previous day’s proceedings shall be distributed prior to the first session of each day. Corrections of the first issue of the Daily Christian Advocate and succeeding digests as to names and statements shall be sent to the secretary’s desk signed by the author. The last issue of the Daily Christian Advocate will summarize all the actions taken by the conference and will be mailed to each person at the address of record.

The Secretary and members of the staff designated shall distribute among the committees all memorials, petitions and similar communications addressed by lay members, diaconal ministers, ordained ministers or organizations of The United Methodist Church to this Jurisdictional Conference. Documents not otherwise provided for shall be reported directly to the conference by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall provide standardized biographical information on all Episcopal nominees (Rule 32) and provide for an interview schedule (Rule 33) and the voting process (Rule 34) as determined by the Jurisdictional Conference.

The Secretary’s staff shall have the resources available at the conference site to produce information about any additional nominee(s) who may emerge during the balloting (10 votes required) using the same form, and the Secretary will see that said information is distributed to all delegates forthwith.

6. Election and Duties of the Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the College of Bishops. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. If there be two or more nominees, election shall be by ballot.

The Assistant Secretary shall perform such tasks as the Secretary may direct and be familiar with the duties of the office.

In event of vacancy in the office of Secretary during the quadrennium, the Assistant Secretary shall assume the office of Secretary for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Secretary is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the Assistant Secretary shall carry out such duties upon authorization of the Vision Table.

6. 7. Election and Duties of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be nominated by the Committee on Finance and Administration and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the College of Bishops after consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. If there be two or more nominees, election shall be by ballot. A person elected Treasurer who is not a delegate shall have the privilege of the floor but without vote.

The Treasurer shall serve until the next Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference is organized and a successor elected, except as provided in Article 1, Section 8. The quadrennial term of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall begin January 1 of the new quadrennium. The outgoing Treasurer shall be responsible to work with the auditor to complete the audit of the previous quadrennium.

The work of the Treasurer shall be supervised by the Committee on Finance and Administration and financially supported through the budget of the jurisdiction.

The duties of the Treasurer shall be those normally incidental to the office and others as assigned by the Committee on Finance and Administration. The Treasurer shall function as the business manager of the Northeastern Jurisdiction. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report to the conference for publication in the first issue of the Daily Christian Advocate and a report by the following October 31 for publication in the Journal, and a final quadrennial report to the first meeting of the Vision Table in the ensuing quadrennium.

8. Election and Duties of the Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the College of Bishops. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. If there be two or more nominees, election shall be by ballot.

The Assistant Treasurer shall perform such tasks as the Treasurer may direct and be familiar with the duties of the office.

In event of vacancy in the office of Treasurer during the quadrennium, the Assistant Treasurer shall assume the office of Treasurer for the balance of the quadrennium. If the Treasurer is unable to perform any duties of the office due to incapacity, the assistant secretary shall carry out such duties upon authorization of the Vision Table.

7. Election of Secretary Designate

If prior to adjournment of the conference the Secretary advises the College of Bishops of the need to be replaced after all work in connection with the conference is completed, a Secretary designate shall be nominated and elected in the same manner as provided for the Secretary. The Secretary designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of Secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the conference has been completed, including the preparation, printing and mailing of the Journal. It is expected that the work of the outgoing secretary will be completed by the beginning of the new quadrennium.
8. Election of Treasurer Designate

If prior to adjournment of the conference the Treasurer advises the Committee on Finance and Administration of a desire to be replaced after all work in connection with the conference is completed, a Treasurer designate shall be nominated and elected in the same manner as provided for the Treasurer. The Treasurer designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of Treasurer as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the conference has been completed, including the filing of the final quadrennial financial report and the audit of accounts. The exact date of the transfer of responsibility to the treasurer designate shall be determined by the Vision Table. but no later than six months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference.

9. Vacancies in Office of Secretary or Treasurer or Their Assistants

If in the interim of the quadrennial meetings of the Jurisdictional Conference the office of Secretary or Treasurer or Assistants, or both, for any reason becomes vacant and is not filled by automatic succession as stated above and no designee has been elected as provided in Article I, Sections 7 and 8, the Vision Table shall elect a successor to serve until the regular election of a Secretary or Treasurer or Assistants upon nomination by the College of Bishops. The Committee on Finance and Administration shall be given the opportunity to make recommendations of persons to be elected to the office of Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. The Program and Arrangements Committee shall be given the opportunity to make recommendations of persons to be elected to the office of Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Article II - TABLES

The organization structure of Tables is based on the Report of the Task Force on Functions and Membership to the NEJ Executive Committee that was approved on February 9, 2002 for testing during the second half of the 2001-2004 quadrennium. The image is that of the community gathered around the Lord’s Table in the rich diversity of the Northeastern Jurisdiction focusing on a common vision and mission. Each Table shall be a place of creative, flexible, interaction and mutual nourishing.

The following Rules are bridge proposals to enable the Jurisdiction to live into a new form of organizational structure. The report of the Task Force shall continue to be a reference for the functioning of the Tables during the ensuing quadrennium.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction shall have four “common tables” – The Vision Table, The Leadership Table, The Partner Ministries Table and the Holy Conferencing Table – to fulfill the functions of visioning, strategic planning, coordination of resources and to carry out the functions of the Executive Committee. Northeastern Jurisdiction between its quadrennial conferences in cooperation with the College of Bishops and its Standing Committees.

The Tables shall meet at least once annually as directed by the College of Bishops and at such other times as the Tables shall decide. In convening, they shall apply the principles of Holy Conferencing.

A delegate may serve as a voting member of one, and only one of the Tables or Standing Committees, unless serving in their representative or ex officio capacity. A vacancy occurring during the quadrennium that is not otherwise self-fulfilling shall be filled by action of the College of Bishops.

1. The Vision Table

The Vision Table shall be the central table with which all the other tables connect for determining mission objectives, establishing priorities, making final decisions and coordinating the work of the Northeastern Jurisdiction. The Vision Table shall have the authority of a Board of Directors under the laws of its incorporation unless otherwise limited by these Rules or the DISCIPLINE of The United Methodist Church.

a. Membership and Organization

There shall be a maximum of thirty-two-five members not including bishops.

The membership shall include the Jurisdictional Secretary and Jurisdictional Treasurer, the chairperson or designate of each Table and each Standing Committee and the Northeastern Jurisdiction Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries. The balance of the membership shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference nominated by the Nominations Committee to assure representation from each annual conference and diversity, including one person from each Table, four bishops, the Jurisdictional Secretary, the Jurisdictional Treasurer, and Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Administration, one theologian, two Directors of Connectional Ministries, one young adult person between the ages of 18 and 30, one person from the Youth Council, and “at-large” members for balance (to ensure inclusiveness including representation from each Annual Conference) to be named by the College of Bishops.

The president of the College of Bishops, or such other bishop as the college shall determine, shall be the chairperson of the Vision Table, and the Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall maintain the minutes and other records.

b. General Powers

The Vision Table shall serve through the ensuing quadrennium with the functions of an executive committee, and is authorized to take such actions as may have been referred to it by the Jurisdictional Conference or as may be necessary to support jurisdictional activities between quadrennial sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference. The Vision Table shall not exercise any powers which, in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Discipline or these rules, require a vote of the Jurisdictional Conference.

c. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Vision Table shall consist of the chairperson of the Vision Table, chairperson of each of the other Tables, the chairperson of Finance and Administration Committee, Jurisdictional Secretary and Jurisdictional Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall be
authorized to take such actions as may have been referred to it by the Vision Table or as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities between meetings.

o. Duties and Responsibilities

In carrying out its general powers the Vision Table shall:

Review and evaluate the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference after adjournment to determine what changes in procedure or program should be commended to achieve greater effectiveness of future conferences.

Receive at its last meeting before the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the budget recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Administration for the Jurisdictional Conference, the Tables and the administrative units [the Standing Committees of the jurisdiction (Article III, IV,2 a-f), and the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer] and the information concerning financial asking: for program activities (Article V VI) for the succeeding quadrennium. It shall also authorize the Committee on Finance and Administration to present to the Jurisdictional Conference the budgets with any amendments the Vision Table may approve, and authorize annual conference apportionments consistent therewith.

3) Review and supervise the work of the Standing Committees;

4) Receive interim reports from Standing Committees, and provide consideration and evaluation of methods of strengthening the programs of The United Methodist Church at the jurisdictional level.

5) Consider questions of delegate qualifications and present recommendations for action by the Jurisdictional Conference.

d. Budget

After consultation with the Vision Table, the Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall submit a budget request to the Committee on Finance and Administration covering the estimated expenses for meetings and other activities of the Vision Table and Companion Tables during the ensuing quadrennium.

The Leadership Table

The Leadership Table shall focus on leadership development for to fulfill the missional objectives of the Jurisdiction.

There shall be ten members who bring expertise with the Board of Ordained Ministry, the NEJ Laity, NEJ Youth Council, urban issues, rural issues, youth and diversity (racial ethnic) and bishops.

There shall be ten members elected by the Jurisdictional Conference nominated by the Nominations Committee giving consideration to obtaining expertise from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the NEJ Laity, NEJ Youth Council, urban issues, rural issues, and including diversity.

The Partner Ministries Table

The Partner Ministries Table shall relate to the NEJ organizations that wish to partner in working on the mission objectives of the Jurisdiction. The Partners Ministries Table shall receive and review reports from all funded program ministries, facilitate the sharing of best practices and support partner ministries in fulfilling the mission objectives of the Jurisdiction. All funded program ministries shall submit annual reports to the Partner Ministries Table.

There shall be ten members including five at large members and five members representative of the funding agencies of the jurisdiction as nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference. There shall be a core of five persons and two bishops. Representatives from related organizations may be invited to serve at their own expense, participate without vote.

4. The Holy Conferencing Table

The Holy Conferencing Table shall encourage and monitor holy conferencing through the Tables and NEJ Standing Committees. The Holy conferencing Table shall receive and share the Table members reports of the Standing Committees which shall include how they have followed holy conferencing principles, shall communicate those reports to the Vision Table and advise Table members of the Vision Table’s action relating to those reports.

The membership shall consist of a representative from each of the Standing Committees, two bishops, the Secretary of the Jurisdiction, the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction, one Director of Connectional Ministries, one Conference Lay Leader, one Conference Treasurer, and up to three “at large” members to ensure diversity appointed by the College of Bishops.

Article III COLLEGE OF BISHOPS ORGANIZATION PLAN FOR TABLES AND STANDING COMMITTEES

No later than thirty (30) days following the first meeting of the College of Bishops after jurisdictional conference, the College of Bishops shall send to the Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference a Plan of Organization for Tables and Standing Committees. This plan shall supplement the membership of each Table listed in Article II and each Standing Committee in Article V by at least one bishop. More than one bishop may be placed in membership of any Table or Standing Committee as deemed necessary by the College of Bishops to meet the needs of the church or to best utilize the mixture of gifts and graces of the bishops in the College.

Article IV COMMITTEES

1. General

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall have the committees listed and described in the following sections. Unless otherwise provided herein, each committee shall be composed of at least one, but not more than two bishops as may be determined by the College of Bishops.

One delegate from each area of the jurisdiction and two youth representatives to the conference. It is recommended that the elected membership of each committee shall have an equal number of ordained ministers, laymen and laywomen.

Unless otherwise provided herein, the members of each standing committee shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations from persons recommended by
the annual conferences and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, and the members of each conference session committee shall be named by the College of Bishops.

Each conference session committee shall be considered discharged upon making its final report to the Jurisdictional Conference.

2. Standing Committees

a. Rules

The membership of this committee shall be supplemented by two bishops assigned by the College of Bishops, and the Secretary of the conference as an ex-officio member. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the adopted procedure, rules of order or organization.

This committee shall serve through the ensuing quadrennium and report to the next Jurisdictional Conference such changes as in its judgment may seem necessary.

b. Program and Arrangements

It is recommended that the membership of this committee be composed of one ordained clergy delegate and one lay delegate from each area of the jurisdiction, two bishops assigned by the College of Bishops, two youth representatives to the conference, and the Secretary and Treasurer of the Jurisdiction. The committee shall serve during the quadrennium.

This committee shall select the place and make detailed arrangements for the next meeting of the conference, unless the Jurisdictional Conference shall specifically express its desire to meet in a certain place and the committee finds it possible to make arrangements to meet at such designated place. When the place of meeting has been fixed and determined, the bishop of the area where the place is located shall become a member of this committee.

The committee shall continue to provide area delegations with opportunities to meet with each of the persons who have been nominated for the episcopacy by Annual Conferences or nationally recognized caucus groups during the Jurisdictional Conference Session. Questions which arise with respect to the appropriateness of any pre-Conference communication shall be referred to this committee.

This committee shall be responsible for arranging for the publication of the Daily Christian Advocate, securing a record of the conference, arranging for the details of the physical accommodations of the conference and arranging for the program.

c. Finance and Administration

It is recommended that this committee be composed of three ordained clergy, three laymen, three laywomen, two youth and two young adults who are delegates or representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference but not members of any other conference committee, and two bishops assigned by the College of Bishops. The Secretary and the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction shall be ex-officio members, without vote. This committee shall serve during the quadrennium.

The committee shall, during the year preceding the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, make a diligent effort to ascertain the budgetary needs for the conference session, the Vision Table and its administrative units, namely the standing committees of the jurisdiction (Article III, 2 a-d) and the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. From this information a Conference Session and Administrative budget shall be recommended to the last meeting of the Vision Table prior to the session of the conference, along with a recommendation of a formula to apportion this budget to the annual conferences. After approval by the Vision Table, the committee shall submit to the Jurisdictional Conference, at its first business session, the proposed Conference Session and Administrative Budget for information and clarification. This budget shall also be printed in the first edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

The committee shall invite program funding requests from the ministry entities of the Jurisdiction. Said askings shall be reported with the recommendations of the Vision Table to the first business session of the Jurisdictional Conference and shall be printed in the first edition of the Daily Christian Advocate. Additional program requests must be submitted to the Committee on Finance and Administration by the end of the first day’s plenary session. The committee shall then receive, review and recommend to the conference a Program Activities Budget for adoption seriatim by a majority vote of those present and voting. The adopted Program Activities Budget shall be apportioned to the annual conferences on the same formula used for the Conference Session and Administrative Budget.

The committee in conjunction with the Vision Table Executive Committee, during the year preceding Jurisdictional Conference, shall solicit budget requests for the following quadrennium for the sessions budget, the administrative budget and the program budget. The Vision Table shall develop a program budget and submit it to the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee shall develop the sessions budget and the administrative budget. The committee shall submit the total budget to the last meeting of the Vision Table prior to the meeting of the jurisdictional conference, along with a recommendation of a formula to apportion the budget to the annual conferences. After the approval of the budget by the Vision Table, the Treasurer shall submit a tentative apportionment to each annual conference. The total budget as approved by the Vision Table shall be printed in the first edition of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE and submitted to the Jurisdictional Conference by the Finance and Administration Committee on the first day for information and clarification.

Additional budget requests must be submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee by the end of the first days plenary sessions. The committee shall review these requests and recommend a final budget to the Conference for adoption seriatim by a majority of those present and voting. Final action on the budget shall be an order of the day, not later than the next to last day of the conference. The Committee on Finance and Administration, upon its request, will have the right to make the last speech for/against any requests to alter the budget as printed in the first edition of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE. After the budget is adopted, the Finance and Administration
Committee shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference the amount to be apportioned to each annual conference for approval by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Unpaid apportionments from the previous quadrennium are due and payable by each annual conference in addition to apportionments of the current quadrennium. The Jurisdictional Treasurer is to apply payments received for the current quadrennium first to the unpaid amount of the previous quadrennium until said amount is paid in full. After which, payments will be credited to the current quadrennium apportionments.

Final action by the conference on the budget shall be an order of the day, no later than the last day of the conference. The Committee on Finance and Administration, upon its request, will have the right to make the last speech for against any request to alter the budget as printed in the first edition of the DCA. During the quadrennium, this committee shall make allocations from contingency funds of the Conference Session and Administrative Budget and shall recommend to the Vision Table allocations from Program Activities contingency funds. The committee shall also provide bonding for the Treasurer in an amount deemed necessary. An annual audit of the Treasurer’s books by a certified public accountant shall be required. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

d. Annual Conference Boundaries
This committee shall be composed of one delegate from each annual conference of the jurisdiction, and two bishops assigned by the College of bishops. It is recommended that there be an equal number of clergy and lay persons. It shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference and the College of Bishops the boundaries of the annual conferences within the jurisdiction, provided that there shall be no annual conference with membership of fewer than 50 ordained clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference. (see ¶ 25.4 of the Discipline). This committee shall serve during the quadrennium.

e. Episcopacy
This committee shall be composed of one ordained clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference in the jurisdiction, nominated and elected as provided in ¶ 48 and ¶ 522 of the Discipline.

The committee shall be convened by the president of the College of Bishops at the close of the Jurisdictional Conference to which the delegates have been elected. It shall serve through the succeeding Jurisdictional Conference.

f. Ordained Ministry
The Jurisdictional Board of Ordained Ministry shall be composed of: the chairperson of the conference boards of ordained ministry or their representatives, the deans/presidents of the United Methodist Seminaries in the Jurisdiction or their representatives, two representatives from the College of bishops and five members at large, named by the committee and including at one district superintendent, at least one deacon, at least one layperson, and others to insure inclusivity. These persons shall be named at the time and place of the Jurisdictional Conference with the exception of the five at large members who shall be named by the board at its first meeting, and should be organized no later than three months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. One bishop, named by the College of Bishops, shall be asked to convene the board. The work of the board shall include continued dialogue among conference boards, cabinets and theological schools on effective ministry, support of annual conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and other such items as will contribute to more effective ministry to and for our churches.

3. Conference Session Committees
a. Credentials
The membership of this committee shall be supplemented by an assistant secretary named by the secretary. To this committee the chairperson or secretary of the respective annual conference delegations shall report the absence of any delegate and the legal reserve delegate substituted. A reserve delegate may be seated when the substitution has been reported in writing to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. If the Committee on Credentials finds the substitution in order, it shall report in the Daily Christian Advocate as soon as practical. If the committee disapproves the substitution after consultation it may report to the Jurisdictional Conference with its recommendation. The report of the first roll call shall be referred to this committee for review and report to the conference.

Only the delegates seated at the opening of conference shall be eligible to receive lodging, meals and travel at Jurisdictional expense. If, during the conference, a reserve delegate is permanently seated in place of an original delegate, the original delegate will make the necessary adjustments in expenses with the seated reserve.

b. Journal
The committee shall be composed of two ministerial delegates and two lay delegates. It shall be its duty daily to examine the Journal and report its findings to the conference with appropriate recommendations.

c. Examination of Annual Conference Minutes
It shall be the duty of this committee to examine the journals of the annual conferences of the jurisdiction and report upon the same to the conference with recommendations in accordance with ¶ 606 and ¶ 525 of the Discipline.

d. Courtesies
This committee shall prepare, with due regard to brevity, and present to the conference for its action such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand.

It shall arrange and propose to the conference the presentation of such persons who, in the committee’s judgment, may appropriately be given the courtesy of introduction or privilege of briefly addressing the body.

e. Nominations
This committee shall be composed of the effective bishops of the jurisdiction; one ordained minister, one layman and one laywoman from each area of the jurisdiction who are delegates to the conference, elected by their area delegation.
in such manner that each annual conference is represented; and two youth representatives to the conference named by the College of Bishops. One of the bishops, named by the bishops, shall preside over this committee to which shall be referred nominations to the general boards and recommendations for membership on boards, agencies and committees not otherwise provided for by the Discipline.

Nominations for the general boards, unless otherwise provided, shall originate in the annual conference and shall be limited to the members of the respective annual conference or churches therein. Nominations may be made from the floor of the annual conference. Persons so nominated shall stand for election with other nominees in the same category as mandated by the Discipline.

The composition of the Jurisdictional pool shall be consistent with those prescribed for the General Boards and Agencies as defined by the Discipline, ¶ 705.1b.

This committee shall meet immediately prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional conference and shall consider carefully the matter of area representation on the various boards, agencies and committees in the formulation of its report.

4. Committee on Appeals

This committee shall be nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference. It shall perform those functions consistent with ¶ 5.6 and 2716.1 of the Discipline.

1. The College of Bishops will consult with one another in nominating members and alternates to the Committee on Appeals to insure ethnic and gender inclusiveness as well as continuity.

2. The Committee on Appeals shall be convened at the site of Jurisdictional Conference by the president of the College of Bishops, or his-her designate, for the purpose of electing a president, vice-president and secretary.

After organization the committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

In the event the president is unable to serve, the vice-president will preside.

In the event any member is not able to serve at a particular time, an alternate, chosen by lot, will serve in his-her place.

Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Investigation (Article IV, 5).

5. Committee on Investigation

The Committee on Investigation shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the College of Bishops, and shall elect a chairperson and organize at the Jurisdictional Conference. The committee shall perform those functions consistent with ¶ 2703 of the Discipline.

Persons elected to this committee shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee on Appeals (Article IV, 4).

Article IV 5—GENERAL PROVISIONS AFFECTING STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Recommendations by Annual Conference

Each annual conference delegation to the Jurisdictional Conference shall recommend to the Committee on Nominations, from persons who are delegates or youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference, one ordained minister, one layman, one laywoman, and one youth for membership on each standing committee. A delegate or youth representative may be nominated for one or more standing committees but may be elected to only one. These recommendations may be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the conference at least three months prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference, and shall be accompanied by a biographical sketch of each nominee not exceeding 100 words. To be nominated for committee membership, a delegate must be present at the Jurisdictional Conference.

2. Restrictions on Membership

A delegate may serve as a voting member of one, and only one, of the standing committees. If, however, a matter is under consideration in any committee which in the judgment of any annual conference vitally affects the interests of its conference, and such delegation has no member on that committee, then such delegation may designate one of its members to meet with the committee when the particular matter is under consideration. Such designee shall be entitled to the floor, subject to the rules, but shall not be entitled to vote.

3. Organization

Each standing committee shall meet as soon after the election of the membership as permitted by the program of the Jurisdictional Conference. The initial meeting shall be convened by a bishop designated by the College of Bishops, at which time the committee shall organize by election of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and secretary. If the chairperson is an ordained minister, the vice-chairperson shall be a lay person and vice-versa.

4. Meetings and Budget Requests

At its initial meeting each standing committee shall receive and review the written report of the appropriate predecessor committee which served the jurisdiction during the preceding quadrennial. Each committee shall determine its times of meeting, either during the period of the Jurisdictional Conference as the program may permit, or after adjournment of the conference as necessary funds may be provided.

Each standing committee, through its chairperson, shall submit to the Committee on Finance and Administration during the year preceding the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, at a date determined by the Committee on Finance and Administration, a budget request for the succeeding quadrennial. The standing committee may request the personal appearance of each of its members, and such delegation has no member on that committee, then such delegation may designate one of its members to meet with the committee when the particular matter is under consideration. Such designee shall be entitled to the floor, subject to the rules, but shall not be entitled to vote.

5. Reports

At least 90 days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference each standing committee shall file
with the secretary of the conference a written report of its activities during the preceding quadrennial. Each such report shall be printed in the first issue of the Daily Christian Advocate, and copies shall be provided for the Vision Table and the successor standing committee as elected by the conference.

6. Vacancies in Committee Membership
Nominations for vacancies occurring during the session of the jurisdictional conference shall be made by members of the area nominating committee from which the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy in the membership of a standing committee occurring after adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be filled through appointment by the College of Bishops. Such appointment shall be made with due regard to the conditions of eligibility for membership on that committee represented by the vacancy.

7. Attendance Policy
Persons elected to standing committees and failing to attend two successive meetings, without any response or explanation, shall be referred to the College of Bishops for consultation as to their possible replacement.

8. Expenses for Required Attendance of Non-delegates
Any member of a standing committee who is not an elected delegate, but whose attendance is required for the proper conduct of business at the ensuing session of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be entitled to payment of expenses for the period of required attendance in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

Article V—PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Financing
Program activities of boards, agencies and organizations within or related to the Northeastern Jurisdiction shall be financed by the participants, unless funding is provided in the jurisdictional budget or through special funding under Section 2 of this article.

2. Special Funding
If between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference the Vision Table shall determine that a program activity or event which could not have been presented for consideration at the last session of Jurisdictional Conference should be supported as consistent with the mission of The United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, the committee shall work with the Vision Table to provide a review and evaluation of the cost of the proposed activity or event. If the Vision Table should then determine that such cost cannot be financed fully from other sources, it may authorize a special allocation of funds from the current budget or from reserves available to the Jurisdictional Conference.

3. Conditions of Disbursement
Funds authorized in the jurisdictional budget or allocated under Section 2 of this article will be disbursed by the Jurisdictional Treasurer upon submission of appropriate vouchers. Vouchers submitted by the participants must be approved by the chairperson of the board, agency or organization and documented by invoices and/or receipts.

4. General Boards and Agencies
The Vision Table shall request the general boards and agencies to observe the procedures it has established for coordinating and calendaring programs, activities and events to be held within the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Article VII—YOUTH REPRESENTATION

1. Number and Election
Each annual conference shall be entitled to youth representatives to the Jurisdictional Conference in a number based upon ten per cent of its elected conference delegation, with a minimum of two youth representatives from each annual conference. The youth representatives shall be elected by each Annual Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

2. Voting and Expenses
A youth representative shall be entitled to present matters to and have a voice on all matters before the Jurisdictional Conference consistent with the rules of order, but shall not be entitled to vote. The expenses of a youth representative shall be paid in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

3. Youth Coordinator
The jurisdictional youth coordinator, if not an elected delegate, shall be entitled to attend the Jurisdictional Conference as an advisor to the youth representatives, with expenses paid in the same manner and extent as in the case of an elected delegate.

4. Recommendation to Election
The jurisdictional youth organization may recommend to the annual conference Councils on Youth Ministry guidelines concerning the election of youth representatives.

PART B — RULES OF ORDER

Article 1 — Daily Schedule

Rule 1 — Daily Order
The daily order for the Jurisdictional Conference shall be as approved by the conference.

Rule 2 — Agenda
After devotional services the daily sessions of the conference shall be conducted as follows:
  a. report of the Committee on Journal;
  b. report of the Committee on Credentials;
  c. report of the Committee on Courtesies;
  d. calendar; and
  e. miscellaneous business.
**Article II — PRESIDING OFFICERS**

**Rule 3 — Duties of the Chair**
The bishop presiding shall be the legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference. The chair shall decide points of order raised by the members, and shall rule on points of order not raised by the members as necessary to conform to these rules of order. Any ruling by the chair shall be subject to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in that order, shall each have five minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the chair. When any member raises a point of order there shall be cited, by number, the rule adjudged violated.

**Rule 4 — Deference to the Chair**
When the chairperson stands and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand, while the chairperson stands.

**Article III—RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

**Rule 5 — Attendance and Seating Reserves**
No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise from being present, shall be absent from the sessions of the conference without permission of the conference, and all attendees shall be reported by the chairperson of the several annual conference delegations to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. No reserve delegate shall have the privilege of membership until the substitution has been approved by the conference, except at the first session of the conference, as provided in the Plan of Organization, Part A, Article 1, 3. Roll Call or as provided in Part A, Article IV, 3.a.

**Rule 6 — Directions for Securing the Floor**
A delegate desiring to speak to the conference shall arise at the assigned seat, respectfully address the chair and, after recognition, state his or her name and the annual conference presented. The delegate shall speak from a microphone as provided unless requested by the chair to proceed to the speaker’s platform.

**Rule 7 — Interrupting the Speaker**
No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a breach of order, or a misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

**Rule 8 — Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech**
No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, nor more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, nor longer than ten minutes unless the time shall be extended by the conference, except as provided in Rule 42. This limit may be reduced by majority vote of the conference at any time.

**Rule 9 — Question of High Privilege**
A member claiming the floor at any time for a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question and, if found in order by the chair, shall proceed until the chair judges that the privilege has been exhausted.

Should the purpose of high privilege be to withdraw his/her name from consideration for election to the episcopacy, the person shall be allowed to speak for the up building of the whole church, without endorsing any particular candidate.

**Rule 10 — Voting Area of Conference**
Only delegates within the area of the conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the area at the time a question is put shall vote, except such as shall have been excused for special reasons by the conference.

**Rule 11 — Voting Procedure**
Voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise ordered by the conference. A vote by “yeas” and “nays”, if taken, shall be by signed ballot. A count vote may be ordered on call of any member supported by one-third of the members present and voting, in which case the delegates shall rise from their seats and stand until counted.

No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been called, until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the Secretary on a count or a vote by “yeas” and “nays”.

**Rule 12 — Division of Question**
Before a vote is taken any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is objection the chair shall put the question of division to a vote, not waiting for a second.

**Article IV — BUSINESS PROCEDURE**

**Rule 13 — Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary**
Whenever a report of a committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a resolution signed by two or more members of the conference, shall be presented to the conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the conference without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

**Rule 14 — Required Forms for Report, Resolutions, Motions**
All resolutions and committee reports shall be presented by the Secretary; and when requested by the Secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

**Rule 15 — Reading of Report and Resolutions**
All resolutions, committee reports, and communications
to the conference shall be read by the Secretary except as otherwise provided in Rule 39.

**Rule 16 — Alterations of Motions, Etc.**

When a motion is made and seconded and stated by the chair or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read, or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the conference, and may not be altered except by action of the conference (See Rule 38).

**Rule 17 — Undebatable Motions**

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

1. To adjourn, when unqualified except to adjourn the conference finally.
2. To suspend a rule or rules.
3. To lay on the table except as provided in Rule 42.
4. To take from the table.
5. To call for the previous question.
6. To reconsider a non-debatable motion.
7. To limit or extend the limits of the debate.
8. To call for the orders of the day.

**Rule 18 — Right of “The Main Question”**

When main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: To adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of except as provided in Rule 11. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

**Rule 19 — Precedence of Secondary Motions.**

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

1. To fix the time at which the conference shall adjourn. (This is subject to amendment or it may be laid on the table.)
2. To adjourn.
3. To take recess.
4. To raise a question of privilege.
5. To call for the order of the day.
6. To order the previous question.
7. To lay on the table.
8. To postpone to a given time.
9. To limit or extend the limits of debate.
10. To refer.
11. To amend or to substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment).
12. To postpone indefinitely.

**Rule 20 — Tabling Related Motions**

No motion which adheres to another motion, or has another motion adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table carry with them the motion to which they adhere, or which adhere to them.

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**Rule 21 — Reference of Section of a Report**

It shall be in order for the conference to refer to a committee a section or a part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for consideration, or any amendment thereto.

**Rule 22 — Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes**

When a resolution or committee report is properly before the conference for consideration and action (even if amendments thereto are pending) a substitute therefore may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the resolution or report under consideration. The presiding bishop shall decide whether the motion to substitute is in fact a bonafide substitute for all that is under consideration and not a motion to amend by substitution.

If the substitute is ruled in order, the conference shall then proceed first to perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon any amendments which may be offered to it. The same perfecting process shall then be followed with respect to the substitute. The questions shall then be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report or resolution; provided, however, that the motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two member to speak on each side of the question of substitution or adoption.

**Rule 23 — Previous Question (See Rules 17, 22, 42)**

When any member moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending), he shall indicate to what he intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If he does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate, and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate except as provided in Rule 22.

**Rule 24 — Unlawful Motion After Speech**

It shall not be in order for a member immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

**Rule 25 — Exceptions to Majority Vote**

A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

1. One-fifth of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a count vote in case the decision of the chair is doubted (Rule 11). A two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 44) or amend (Rule 45) the rules; to sustain a motion for the previous question (Rule 23); to set aside a special order; to consider a special order before the time set thereof, or any motion which adoption would limit debate.
Rule 26 — Reconsideration
A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated.

Rule 27 — Calendar: Regular and Non-Concurrent Reports
The Secretary shall keep a chronological record of orders of the day and of report of committees (Rule 38), and this record shall be called the calendar, and the matters of business placed on it shall be considered in order, unless by a two-thirds vote of the conference an item is taken up out of its order.

Report recommending non-concurrence shall be kept upon a separate calendar to be taken up when the regular calendar is exhausted or at the pleasure of the conference, except when a minority presents a report recommending concurrence in which case both shall be included in the regular calendar.

Rule 28 — Motions to Adjourn
The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except
(1) when a delegate has the floor;
(2) when a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
(3) when the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending;
(4) when a motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened; or when the motion to fix the time at which the conference shall adjourn is pending.

The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

Article V - ELECTION OF BISHOPS

Rule 29 — Election Process
The process for the election of bishops shall be governed by the rules set forth in The Book of Discipline (406, 2004), as supplemented by the additional provisions of this Article. Rule 30 — Nominations
In addition to nominations to the episcopacy made by an Annual Conference, (The Book of Discipline, 2004 Par, 406.1) the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall recognize nominations made by national, NEJ caucuses, and other recognized organizations as listed in the current edition of The United Methodist Directory.

If the nomination is brought forward by a group or caucus not listed in the current edition of The United Methodist Directory, a group of not more than six (6) comprised of three (3) current bishops (selected by the College of Bishops) and three (3) members of the Vision Table (selected by the Vision Table) will decide whether to allow the nomination to be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference. The chairperson will be selected by the President of the College of Bishops.

Other persons may be nominated by ballots cast at the Jurisdictional Conference (Rule 32).

Rule 30 — Campaigning
There shall be no campaigning for or by a nominee before or during the Jurisdictional Conference. Neither letter, buttons, nor other publicity materials advocating or opposing the election of any nominee shall be distributed by the nominee, nor by any delegation, caucus, or support group.

Rule 31 — Publicity
Information shall be furnished the Secretary concerning each nominee of an Annual Conference or a national or NEJ caucus, which information shall be approved in writing by the nominee. A format, including a photograph, with pertinent and helpful information, standard as to style and length, shall be established by the Episcopacy Committee. The Secretary shall forward the information to each of the delegates and the reserve delegates at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference (The Book of Discipline, 2004 ¶406.1). No other promotional or informational material shall be exhibited or distributed.

When a person who is not a nominee of an Annual Conference or a recognized caucus receives ten (10) votes, or five (5) percent of the valid votes cast, whichever is less, the Secretary shall forthwith prepare and distribute to the delegates and reserve delegates information concerning that nominee (The Book of Discipline, 2004 ¶406.1).

Rule 32 — Interviews
The Secretary shall prepare an interview schedule so that each delegate shall have an opportunity to participate in an interview process with each nominee of an Annual Conference, or recognized caucus, prior to the commencement of voting. To the extent space is available, reserve delegates and visitors will be permitted to be present during the interviews. Additional interviews may be scheduled by each delegation, as it desires.

Rule 33 — Voting
a) Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in voting to elect bishops, shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of the United Methodist Church with respect to sex, race, and national origin, as well as to the nature of superintendency as described in (The Book of Discipline, 2004 406.2a).
b) Prior to each ballot, the presiding officer will ask for a period of discernment and silent prayer.
c) The secretary shall establish a voting procedure where-by each delegate will cast a secret ballot.
d) In order for a ballot to be valid it shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected.
e) All elders in full connection with any annual conference in the connection are eligible to be elected to the office of bishop (The Book of Discipline, 2004 404.1).
f) Balloting will continue until eligible person receive sixty (60) percent or more of the valid ballots cast, until all vacancies are filled (The Book of Discipline 2004 406.2b).

Rule 35 — Withdrawal
nominee, upon being recognized by the presiding bishop, may announce his/her withdrawal. The presiding bishop, upon request, may permit a withdrawing nominee to make a
brief comment, without reference for or against the election of other nominees.

**Rule 36 — Consecration**

Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which election occurs, or at a place and time designated by the Conference (The Book of Discipline, 2004 406.2c). The Consecration Service may include bishops from other Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and representatives from other Christian Communions (The Book of Discipline, 2004, 406.2c).

**Article VI - COMMITTEES**

**Rule 37 — Duties and Prerogatives**

When a memorial or a resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the several committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred for such action as deemed wise. Reports to the conference upon all matters referred as resolutions, memorials, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by the numbers they bear respectively, or in some other suitable manner.

When a committee ascertains that another committee is or should, in its judgment, be considering a subject, which the former is also considering, it shall proceed to arrange for a conference of representative committees in order to settle the question at issue.

**Rule 38 — Copies of Reports to Secretary**

At the close of each meeting the chairpersons and secretaries of the several committees shall provide the Secretary of the Conference with a copy of all reports adopted for the purpose of presentation to the conference. The Secretary shall enter said reports on the calendar in the order received, and shall furnish the editor of the Daily Christian Advocate with one copy of each of said reports for publication in the next issue.

**Rule 39 — Published Reports in Possession of Conference**

A report of any committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof and printed in the Daily Christian Advocate and succeeding digests shall be regarded as in the possession of the conference on the day following its first appearance, or any time thereafter, in order for its consideration at the pleasure of the conference. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of any committee signed by one-third of its members.

**Rule 40 — Preparation and Printing of Reports**

All reports shall be presented to the Secretary of the conference, bearing at the top the name of the committee, its total membership, the number present at the time the report was adopted, the number voting for and the number voting against the report respectively, and the number not voting. Reports shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate and succeeding digest at least one day before being presented for consideration by the conference and they shall not be read on the floor of the conference unless by its order.

Only reports with action items requiring the vote of the Jurisdictional Conference shall be considered for agenda time. Reports for information shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate and succeeding digests.

Reports of minorities of committees, adopted by them with a view to their being offered as substitutes for majority reports, shall likewise conform to this rule as far as it is applicable, indicating clearly to which committee the respective minorities belong and for what reports by serial numbers, etc. they propose the respective substitutes.

**Rule 41 — Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report**

The chairperson of a committee who is not in harmony with any adopted report shall state this fact, and the committee shall then elect one of its members to represent it in the presentation and discussion of the report before the conference. If a representative is not so elected, the chairperson shall designate a member to represent the committee, and such representative shall have all the rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such report.

**Rule 42 — Presentation of Minority Reports**

A minority report presented as a substitute for, or an amendment to, a committee report shall indicate the specific report with which it relates. A minority report shall be signed by 10 percent or 10 members, whichever is less and the names of the members of the committee signing the report shall be indicated. A minority report shall be handled as a substitution for the report of the committee pursuant to Rule 22 as would any substitute.

A member selected to present a minority report shall have the same rights and privileges in relation thereto as belong to a chairperson in the presentation of the majority report, except that the minority report shall not be presented until after presentation of the majority report, at which time the minority report shall be offered as the first business of the conference. In closing debate on the minority report the member presenting the minority report shall speak first, and the chairperson last (see Rule 22).

**Rule 43 — Speakers For and Against**

When the report of a committee is under consideration it shall be the duty of the chair to ascertain, when recognizing a member, on which side he or she proposes to speak, and the chair shall not assign the floor to any member proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding, if any member desires to speak on the other side.

Except for undebatable motions, no report shall be adopted or question relating to the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least one speech for and one against the proposal, provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly authorized member presenting the report (and the minority report if there be such) is presented to close the debate.

When all have spoken who desire to do so, or when (and after) the previous question has been ordered, the chairperson or duly authorized member presenting the report (and the minority report if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken.

The right of the chairperson or other member or members
to close the debate shall prevail in like manner, to a limit of five minutes, when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, to lay on the table or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration; provided that this five minutes limit shall not apply to a motion to substitute a minority report for a majority report.

Article VII - SUSPENDING, AMENDING, AND SUPPLEMENTING

Rule 44 — Suspending Rules
The operation of any of the provisions of this plan of organization or of these rules of order may be suspended at any time by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting (Rule 25,2).

Rule 45 — Amending Rules
This plan of organization and these rules of order may be amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting; provided the proposed change or amendment has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to the Committee on Rules, which committee shall report thereon no later than the day following (Rule 25,2).

Rule 46 — Robert’s Rules of Order Revised Supplemental Authority
In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by this plan of organization or these rules of order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its action by Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

Articles of Incorporation - Non-Profit

In compliance with the requirements of the applicable provisions relating to articles of incorporation, the undersigned, desiring to incorporate a nonprofit corporation, hereby state(s) that:

FIRST: The name of the corporation is: Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

SECOND: The address of this corporation’s current registered office in this Commonwealth and the county of venue is: 303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 100, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050, Cumberland County.

THIRD: The Corporation is incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988 for the following purpose or purposes: To carry out the Christian Ministry and specific purposes of a jurisdictional conference as defined in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

FOURTH: The corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.

FIFTH: The corporation is organized on a non-stock basis.

SIXTH: The incorporators constitute a majority of the members of the committee authorized to incorporate by the requisite vote required by the organic law of the association for the amendment of such organic law.

SEVENTH: The name(s) and address(es) of each incorporator(s) is(are): Dight Crain, 10 Clover Lane, Natick, MA 01760; Ruth A. Daugherty, 1936 N. Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601; John R. Schol, 100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002.

EIGHTH: The business of this corporation shall be conducted in conformity with The Discipline of The United Methodist Church as the same now exists or as may hereafter be amended, changed, or modified, and the bylaws of the corporation shall include The Discipline of The United Methodist Church and no bylaws shall be adopted inconsistent with the provisions of said Discipline.

In addition to the powers and duties granted to this corporation by The Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the corporation assumes for itself all the rights, powers, and privileges and immunities which are now, and which may be during the existence thereof be conferred by law upon corporations with a similar character, provided the same are not inconsistent with said Discipline. All amendments, bylaws, and regulations of this corporation shall at all times be in conformity with The Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

But notwithstanding the above, however, at no time shall any of the amendments, by laws, or regulations of the corporation be prohibited by or in conflict with the nonprofit corporate laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

NINTH: The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors who shall be the same persons as those that constitute The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Vision Table under the Plan of Organization of the corporation.

TENTH: The members of the Corporation shall be those lay and clergy persons elected as delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference by the Annual Conferences as provided in The Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

ELEVENTH: The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes as such purposes are defined by §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Internal Revenue Law of the United States), and in accordance with the provisions of that law:

(a) No part of any net earnings of the corporation shall
inure to the benefit of any individual and no member, director, officer or employee of the corporation shall receive any pecuniary benefits of any kind except reasonable compensation for services in effecting the corporate purposes.

(b) No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the corporation participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation/organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation/organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code) or (b) by a corporation/organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.)

(d) Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, transfer all of the assets of the corporation to the several Annual Conferences existing at that time in the Northeast Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church or their successors and assigns to be held subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. However, if the named recipients are not then in existence or no longer qualified distributees or unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, then the assets of this corporation/organization shall be distributed to a fund, foundation or corporation organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code).

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the incorporator(s) has/have signed these Articles of Incorporation this day of , 2008.

________________________________________________
Signature

________________________________________________
Signature

________________________________________________
Signature

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

ARTICLE I
OFFICE

SECTION 1.1 The registered office shall be located at 303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 100, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050, Cumberland County.

SECTION 1.2 The Corporation may also have offices at such other places as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE II
GOVERNANCE AND POWERS

SECTION 2.1 The Corporation shall look to these By-laws, the Articles of Incorporation, The Book of Discipline, (The Discipline), the laws of Pennsylvania with reference to non-profit religious corporations, and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (as amended from time to time) for guidance in the operation of its affairs.

SECTION 2.2 Where these By-laws conflict with The Discipline, The Discipline shall control. Where these By-laws conflict with the Plan of Organization and The Rules of Order of The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order shall control.

SECTION 2.3 The Corporation shall have all the powers authorized and permitted by The Discipline (as amended from time to time by the General Conference) for a Jurisdictional Conference together with such powers granted to the Corporation by the Non-profit Code of Pennsylvania, as amended from time to time and the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

SECTION 2.4 The By-laws of the Corporation shall be the provisions contained herein together with the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church as from time to time amended.

ARTICLE III
GENERAL PROVISIONS
PARTICIPATION IN MEETING BY TELEPHONE

SECTION 3.1 One or more Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board by
means of conference, telephone, or similar communications equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and all Directors so participating shall be deemed present at the meeting.

INFORMAL ACTION BY DIRECTORS OR COMMITTEES

SECTION 3.2 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 or the members of the Committee, as the case shall be and filed with the secretary.

PERSONAL LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 3.3 No member of the Board of Directors shall be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or any failure to take any action unless:

a. The member has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office under the Pennsylvania Non-profit Code (relating to standard of care and justifiable reliance) and

b. The breach of failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness, provided, however, that the provisions of this 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

SECTION 3.5 The directors of the Corporation shall present annually to the members, a report, the contents of which are described in Section 5553 of the Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation Law, a copy of which report shall be filed with the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The report will be transmitted to the Members by means of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference web site.

Reports

Report of the Rules Committee

Incorporate Northeastern Jurisdiction as Non-Profit Corporation

Background

The Northeastern Jurisdiction exists under the authority of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church as a Jurisdictional Conference. The membership of the NEJ consists of its clergy and lay delegates elected by the Annual Conferences as provided in the Discipline. As such the NEJ is an unincorporated association. Each member bears legal responsibility for the acts and omissions as well as debts and obligations of the NEJ. As the membership changes from session to session so does the identity of those who are subject to these responsibilities and liabilities.

The organizational structure and manner of operation of the NEJ are currently provided by the Discipline and the NEJ Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

The current legal structure of the NEJ as an unincorporated association has created difficulties for its various officers, Tables, committees and other authorized bodies in carrying out various business functions. Other parties and entities have expressed uncertainty in identifying those ultimately responsible for authorizing the actions and having ultimate responsibility for the obligations of the NEJ as the NEJ has no separate identity as a legal entity. Other difficulties have included: obtaining government authorizations, especially sales tax exemption certificates; entering into contracts with hotels, restaurants and other service providers; incurring usual business debts and giving assurance of payment in routine business transactions; restricting the inappropriate use of the name "Northeastern Jurisdiction" and variations thereof, which have caused, and may in the future cause, third parties to mistakenly believe they are dealing with an authorized act, official or agency of the NEJ; exposing the NEJ to liabili-
ty for unauthorized expenditures and actions.

In order to address and remedy these issues and to gain recognition as a separate legal entity, the Rules Committee has recommended to the Vision Table that the NEJ organize as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Vision Table has endorsed this recommendation and the form of the Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws and the changes to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order necessary to implement the incorporation.

**Recommendation**

The Rules Committee recommends the Incorporation of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in accordance with the following Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws which are intended to preserve the traditional NEJ manner of operation under its Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, subject to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

Upon approval of the incorporation the Rules Committee further recommends the adoption of the amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Operation as set forth in its report.

It is further recommended that the incorporators be authorized to file all necessary documents to carry out this recommendation including Articles of Incorporation with the Pennsylvania Corporation Bureau.

**Amendment to NEJ Plan of Organization and Rules of Order**

The Rules Committee is pleased to present to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference our recommendations for amendments to the Jurisdiction’s “Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.”

The proposed amendments have been presented to and endorsed by the Vision Table. The proposed amendments are intended to effect the following changes:

1. Accommodate the Jurisdiction to reorganize as a corporate entity in accordance with the recommendation of the Vision Table.
2. Create the offices of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer who will be trained to assist those officers and to succeed them in case of a vacancy in the office during the quadrennium; clarify the terms of office, election procedure and duties of the Secretary and Treasurer and their assistants.
3. Provide for the vision Table to act as the corporate entity’s Board of Directors while clarifying its membership and formalizing the practice of its Executive Committee carrying out the Vision Table’s function and duties between meetings.
4. Restate the functions and clarify the membership of the Leadership, Partner Ministries and Holy Conferencing Tables in accordance with their respective recommendations to enhance their functioning during the ensuing quadrennium.
5. Accommodate the College of Bishops in their determination as to the number and identity of the Bishops who will serve on the Tables and Standing Committees.
6. Restate the budgeting process and time table which the Committee on Finance and Administration in conjunction with the Vision Table utilizes to establish the Jurisdictional Budget.
7. Provide for necessary technical and editorial changes.

Respectfully submitted,
William S. Kieser, Chairperson

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**Northeastern Jurisdiction Vision Table**

He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ… from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:10-12; 16 (NSRV)

The 2004 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference gifted the church with a vision of what the Church within the jurisdiction could become. A diverse church guided by the Holy Spirit, gathered in holy conferencing, focused on leadership development and committed to the outward movement of the church. Today, the ministry of the jurisdiction gathers around table (vision, leadership, holy conferencing and partner tables) to discern they guidance of the Holy Spirit to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction is seen as a model for holy conferencing and is influencing the worshipful work of conferences and bodies within our denomination. Discernment, gathering around table, focusing on leadership development is an ongoing process and one in which we will continue to grow. But we are making progress and will continue to grow so that the whole body will be knit together and built up in love as we equip spiritual leaders to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Within the Northeastern Jurisdiction, we are becoming more like Christ and the church Christ invited us to be. Here are a few highlights:

Seven conferences paid 100 percent of their apportionment. This is the largest number of conferences in a single jurisdiction giving 100 percent of their apportionments within the denomination. The conferences include: Baltimore-Washington, Central Pennsylvania,

Missions of peace have been led by our youth to Cuba, India, and Russia.

Our Volunteers in Mission which has experienced a 30 percent increase in the number of teams this quadrennium is leading the rebuilding efforts along the Gulf Coast as well as in other parts of the country and around the world. The Northeastern Jurisdiction has become specialists as first responders when there is a disaster. This means that when there is a disaster, the church turns to the Northeastern Jurisdictions trained first responders to go to become the initial disaster response.

We are unique within the life of the church because we initiated a multi-ethnic center and we commit to the long-term effort of developing multi-ethnic leadership and congregations as we continue to work toward being an authentic inclusive church.

We have resourced the Korean Mission Conference within the jurisdiction which has started 63 new congregations throughout the jurisdiction.

There is much to rejoice about and there are important challenges before us: The Northeast continues to be an area that is changing in population and continued exploration is essential of how to be the faithful and authentic church to reach new generations of immigrants and young people within a multi-ethnic church.

As a whole, we have lost worshipers and are receiving fewer new believers in our churches.

We are faced with economic challenges that leave conferences and congregations making harder and harder decisions about mission resources.

The Vision Table will work with all of the tables and committees of the jurisdiction to build on our rich tradition, uniqueness and strengths as we are guided by the Holy Spirit to meet the challenges before us.

The Vision Table believes it is imperative to grow by aligning our ministry with the mission and priorities of the entire church and focus on raising-up and equipping jurisdictional spiritual leaders to lead conferences, congregations and ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

To this end we are moving forward with the following as the mission and work of the Northeastern Jurisdiction:

**Mission**

The Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church will **raise-up and equip jurisdictional spiritual leaders** to lead conferences, congregations and ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Strategic Foci and Pathways**

As a denomination we have committed to follow Christ’s example as we:

- Develop principled Christian leaders for the church and the world
- Create new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones
- Engage in ministry with the poor
- Stamp out killer diseases (malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis) by improving health globally

These four foci are embodied in the seven action pathways of The United Methodist Church.

- Eliminate Poverty in Community with the Poor
- Eliminate Racism as we expand Authentic Racial/Ethnic Ministries
- Reach and Transform the Lives of New Generations of Young People
- Teach the Wesleyan Model of forming Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Develop New Congregations
- Transform Existing Congregations
- Strengthen Clergy and Lay Leadership

The first three pathways are the

outward movement of the church, 1) ending poverty, 2) eliminating racism and expanding authentically racial/ethnic ministry, and 3) reaching new generations of young people. Our primary witness is through the church’s movement into the world to be the body of Christ.

The last four pathways are the inward journey of the church to build up the body of Christ so that it will be God’s presence in the world for transformation.

Both movements, the inward journey to build up the body of Christ and the outward movement to transform the world are essential and one can not exist faithfully without the other.

**Recommendation**

As a jurisdiction we will raise up and equip jurisdictional spiritual leaders to lead in The United Methodist Church’s four foci and seven action pathways.

Submitted by:

Bishop John R. Schol, Chairperson
Ruth A. Daugherty, Secretary

1Raise-up and equip jurisdictional spiritual leaders – the commitment and process to call, equip, send and support episcopal, jurisdictional and conference leaders of all ages so that we strengthen the church across the jurisdiction through the seven action pathways. This continues the emphasis on leadership development that was birthed in 2004. It also aligns with the emerging direction within the denomination.

2The seven action pathways, sometimes called vision pathways are actions of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These actions are carried out in annual conferences and resourced through annual conferences and the General Agencies of the Church. The jurisdiction raises-up and equips jurisdictional spiritual leaders to lead conferences to carry out the pathways.
Annual Conference Boundaries Report

The Boundaries Committee met three times during the quadrennium, and we celebrate the commitment and talents of our members. We communicated early in the quadrennium with Annual Conference leadership to gather input on emerging issues and opportunities. Several Conferences expressed openness to new possibilities if they became missionally appropriate. Sydney Sadio and Bonnie Marden also served on an interim task force considering Episcopal needs of the Jurisdiction with a report submitted to the Episcopal Committee.

While we heard verbal input about exploratory conversations in the northern New York region, we did not receive official communication until 2007. Since conversation and funding decisions occurred at the Jurisdictional Vision Table where Boundaries is not represented, we deeply appreciate the help from Jurisdictional officers who kept us in the loop. (In the future, we recommend sharing the minutes from the Vision Table with the Boundaries Committee to facilitate collaboration and communication.)

In February 2008, a team from four New York Conferences (Troy, Wyoming, North Central New York, and Western New York) attended the Boundaries Committee meeting and presented an update on the ongoing exploration of creating one Conference during the next quadrennium. An excerpt from their proposal follows this report.

Responding to the vision and hopefulness conveyed in the report and presentation, the Boundaries Committee unanimously affirmed continued discernment by the region’s leadership. Some constructive feedback was offered as well as a commitment to ongoing dialogue. With further dialogue scheduled for two other conferences potentially impacted, a plan was formed to continue to communicate through the Annual Conference sessions in June with reports to the Boundaries Committee in mid-June. The results of those discussions and further details of the regional proposal for consideration by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference this July will be forwarded to members through a late June mailing.

In addition, the Boundaries Committee is updating the current boundary descriptions listed in the Conference Journal which will be presented for perfection and approval this July. An additional inquiry from West Virginia was not clearly before us and some clarifying communication was provided.

Please note that since some proposals are still emerging and additional information will be available after General Conference and the Annual Conference Sessions, we offer at this time a summary of matters to be brought for consideration. We will distribute additional materials on these matters in late June, 2008.

Boundary adjustments proposed include:

- The proposal from the New York West and Albany Areas to form a new annual conference during the next quadrennium.
- Adjustments to two of the contiguous conferences: Central Pennsylvania and New England during the next quadrennium.
- Adding Bermuda (British protectorate) to the Baltimore-Washington Conference (approved by action of 2008 General Conference)
- Enacting a boundary change for Franklin and Treadwell from the New York Conference to the Wyoming Conference retroactive to 1995 (the year the conferences passed legislation on this matter).

Best wishes to our Chair, Sydney Sadio, who will not be present at Jurisdictional Conference as he moves onto that higher calling – retirement!

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Marden, Vice Chair, NEJ Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries

Excerpt from New York Region Proposal* - adapted for information purposes and pending updates

I. The Vision

A vision of a vibrant New Conference of the United Methodist Church existing to embody the word and to give itself away in love and service to the world has emerged among the people of the North Central New York, Troy, Western New York and Wyoming Conferences. This New Conference has the following vision:

A new community of congregations, lay leaders and pastors working together to meet the changing needs of our society.
- A sharing of wisdom, personnel, finance and facilities
- A conference size able to influence the state capital
- Concentrating episcopal leadership through one episcopal area served by one bishop
- A chance to start fresh and move in new directions
- A sharing of the varied ministries of each annual conference across conference lines and
- An opportunity for the NEJ to give the whole church a model of congregational re-creation in which the conference seeks to become a kingdom community where congregations live together in the way of Jesus.

Guided by this vision these Conferences met in simultaneous adjourned sessions on October 6, 2007 and overwhelmingly approved a joint recommendation:

“Therefore, be it resolved: The people of the North Central New York, Troy, Western New York and Wyoming Conferences, in order to revitalize the mission of The United Methodist Church in the region to make disciples of Jesus Christ, agree to request the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference to create a new Episcopal Area and a new Annual Conference from all or portions of these and/or other contiguous conferences, with the Pennsylvania churches of the Wyoming Annual Conference considering alignment with the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference and the Vermont churches of the Troy Annual Conference considering alignment with the New England Annual Conference, to be implemented in 2010.”

The votes were:

<table>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Abstain</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Western New York</td>
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<td>42</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>196</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Background Summary
The driving force behind this movement has been mission and vision. Over the last generation, this four conference region has experienced changes which have altered the demographic, financial and missional topography of our world. While the General Church has encouraged us to keep the urgent issues of financial shortfalls and membership decline on the table, these four conferences sought to talk with one another about an entirely new mission strategy and organization for the region. (Note: Using a formula in The Book of Discipline (¶405.2), General Conference determines the number of bishops in each jurisdiction based primarily upon church membership. This formula also states that a jurisdiction’s number of bishops “shall be determined on the basis of missional needs.”)

At the time of the 2004 General Conference, local church membership in the Northeastern Jurisdiction was below the formulas requirements for 10 Episcopal areas. Additional recommendations from a study on the episcopacy will be considered at the 2008 General Conference.

Following the 2004 General Conference, Bishop Violet Fisher and Bishop Susan Morrison urged each of their Annual Conferences (North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming) to establish Boundaries Task Forces to shape their future. In light of anticipated changes to the deployment of bishops, they were asked to consider new ways of organizing themselves for effective mission and ministry.

The Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries expressed the hope that the conferences of the jurisdiction would develop a plan to their own liking.

So it was that in 2005 intentional conversations among the four conferences in these two Episcopal areas began. A wide variety of listening sessions, meetings, and brainstorming sessions happened within each of the four conferences, within each Episcopal area, and among all four conferences. It was soon discovered that there had already been a high level of interaction and mutual ministry among the conferences. The youth 4WORD events in 2005, 2006 and 2007 had brought the youth together on multiple occasions.

Resolution on New York Region Proposal
Whereas there has been extensive work and discernment by United Methodists in the four Annual Conferences of the Albany and New York West Areas, and with the understanding that dialogue and discernment continue, and will continue in the coming months including resolutions presented to certain annual conferences,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference affirms this discernment by creating a new annual conference composed of North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming Annual Conferences. (Note: Additional information will be sent to delegates prior to the July 2008 Jurisdictional Conference)

Resolution on Franklin/Treadwell
Whereas, at the 1995 sessions of Wyoming and New York Annual Conferences, petitions were passed intending to transfer Franklin and Treadwell from New York Conference to Wyoming Conference, but these petitions were not conveyed to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference for action,

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2008 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference officially approve this boundary change retroactively effective as of July 1, 1995.

Committee on Finance and Administration Report
The Committee on Finance and Administration is pleased to report that the finances of the Northeastern Jurisdiction are in excellent condition. As of December 31, 2007, 75 percent of the four year apportionments have been paid and 51.75 percent of the expense budget has been expended. The committee states we will finish the quadrennium within the budget.

At the end of February 2008, Central Pennsylvania, New York and Troy Conferences have paid their 4-year apportionments in full.

The Finance Committee has worked in cooperation with the Vision Table Budget Task Force to develop the budget for the 2009-2012 quadrennium. The budget was approved by the Vision Table in February 2008 and is before you in separate form for your consideration. It is anticipated that we will be recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference that a portion of our reserves be used to re-establish the Judicial Process fund at a level of $40,000 and $100,000 to partially fund the area re-alignment line item for 2009-2012.

Patterson & Gerry, CPA's, LLC, performed the annual audits of the Treasurer's books for 2004, 2005 & 2006 since the Jurisdictional Conference, July 2004. The Finance Committee members reviewed each audit and approved it at the October 19, 2007 committee meeting. Copies of the audits are on file with the Jurisdictional secretary. The 2007 audit is in progress and will be completed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

The Treasurer’s report for January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008 will be available in Harrisburg.

Our appreciation goes to Dight W. Crain, our treasurer, for his proficient work.
Recommendations

The Committee recommends DIGHT W. CRAIN be re-nominated as Treasurer of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

To reaffirm the policy that requires full payment of the Annual Conference jurisdictional apportionments, as stated in Article III 2c of the Conference rules, adopted at the 1992 NEJ Conference.

The travel policy for the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference and the remainder of the 2005-2008 quadrennium and 2009-2012 is as follows:

♦ AIRFARE: Actual coach fare.
♦ AUTO: for 2008 Jurisdictional Conference & Committee meetings: $.28 cents per mile for an individual traveling by car. $.40 cents per mile to the driver for two delegates or committee members in the same car. $.445 cents per mile to the driver for three or more delegates or committee members in the same car.
♦ RENTAL VEHICLES: The cost of the vehicle plus fuel will be reimbursed, not to exceed the designated Jurisdictional reimbursement per mile.
♦ Travel Expenses for those living outside the Jurisdiction are paid as follows:
  -CLERGY: The least expensive of: 1) actual cost, or 2) from the location of their charge conference membership, which must be within the Northeastern Jurisdiction.
  -LAITY: The least expensive of: 1.) actual cost, or 2.) from the location of their church membership, which must be within the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

All travel shall be at the lowest cost. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

Honourarium to be paid to the secretary and treasurer in the amount of $2,500 each annually for 2009-2011. Secretary and treasurer will be paid $5,000 each in 2012, the year of Jurisdictional Conference.

The Pastoral Care Fund and the Judicial Process Fund will be continued in the 2009-2012 quadrennium. The Judicial Process Fund will be funded in the amount of $40,000 on December 31, 2008 from the Jurisdictional reserves. If the Pastoral Care Fund balance on December 31, 2008 is below $20,000.00 it shall be re-funded to $20,000 from Jurisdictional reserves. Interest earned shall be credited to each fund as received. The Pastoral Care Fund is to be expended upon recommendation of the College of Bishops. The Judicial Process Fund will be used for expenses of the Committee on Investigation and the Committee on Appeals.

The Finance Committee is authorized to establish and recommend to the Vision Table at the February 2011 meeting, the travel reimbursement rates for the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and the following quadrennium.

Submitted by: Dr. Mary White, Chairperson

Apportionments 2009-2023
Based on Budget of $1,300,191 with $1,200,191 Apportioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Apportionment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore/Washington</td>
<td>$176,18</td>
<td>14.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Pennsylvania</td>
<td>145,583</td>
<td>12.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Pennsylvania</td>
<td>130,701</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater New Jersey</td>
<td>138,982</td>
<td>11.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>79,693</td>
<td>6.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>106,817</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central New York</td>
<td>43,567</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peninsula/Delaware</td>
<td>69,491</td>
<td>5.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>27,604</td>
<td>2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>83,653</td>
<td>6.97</td>
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<td>Western New York</td>
<td>41,887</td>
<td>3.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Pennsylvania</td>
<td>127,460</td>
<td>10.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>28,565</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>$1,200,191</td>
<td>100</td>
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Voted by Vision Table on 2/15/08 upon recommendation of the NEJ Committee On Finance & Administration.

NOTE: Should the July Session of Jurisdictional Conference change the proposed budget totals, apportionments will also adjust.
## Northeastern Jurisdiction Budget 2009-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005-2008</th>
<th>2009-2012 Request</th>
<th>2009-2012 Recommended</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. CONFERENCE SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 2008 Session</td>
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<td>$305,000</td>
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<td>B. 2008 Journal</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<td>C. Sessions Contingency</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Common Tables</td>
<td>54,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Rules Committee</td>
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<td>C. Program &amp; Arrangements</td>
<td>29,000</td>
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<td>42,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Finance &amp; Administration</td>
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<td>E. Boundaries Committee</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Episcopacy Committee</td>
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<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Ordained Ministry Committee</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<td>H. Secretary’s office</td>
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<td>I. Treasurer’s office</td>
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<td>J. Judicial Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ja. Appeals Committee</td>
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<td>0 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jb. Investigation Committee</td>
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<td>L. Directors Connectional Min.</td>
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<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Youth</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
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<td>N. NEJ Treasurers***</td>
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<td><strong>3. PROGRAM BUDGET</strong></td>
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<td>A. Anna Howard Shaw Center</td>
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<td>B. Multi-Ethnic Center</td>
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<td>136,000</td>
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<td>C. Korean -American Mission</td>
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<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Vounteers in Ministry</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Congress of Deaf NEJ</td>
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<td>F. Visioning Pool Funds</td>
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<td>F. Missional Priority Funds</td>
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<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. UM Men***</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Youth</td>
<td>admin</td>
<td>admin</td>
<td>30,000 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td>514,000</td>
<td>508,500</td>
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<td><strong>4. AREA RE-ALIGNMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 2005-2008 Funding</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. 2009-2012 Funding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000 ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,097,468</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,362,855</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,300,190</strong> ***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Recommend funding from reserves into a separate Judicial Process Fund.

** CF&A and Vision Table recommend Youth line item be transferred back to Program section of budget effective 1/1/2009.

***Financial assistance for proposed re-alignment of area boundaries to be acted on at Jurisdictional conference in July 2008. It is anticipated that CF&A will recommend $100,000 of this amount be funded from Jurisdictional Reserve Funds.
On Feb. 15, 2008, this 2009-2012 budget (page 30) was adopted by the vision Table after taking action on the proposal to create a New Conference in the Upstate New York area. This budget includes $200,000 for Area Re-Alignment funding assistance. The balance of the budget increases $2,722 over the 2004-2008 budget. The conference sessions budget increases while the program budget decreases. The program budget drops due to budgeting with four years of experience with the pool funds. The program budget was developed to raise up and equip jurisdictional leaders through the seven action pathways of The United Methodist Church. The 2012 Sessions budget reflects the estimated costs for NEJ conference sessions in Charleston, West Virginia.

Response to the Resolution: Renewal, Restoration & Reconciliation
(Initial Report presented to 2000 and 2004 NEJ Conferences)

BACKGROUND
During the 2000 NEJ Conference, Dody Matthias spoke to the conference on behalf of the primarily African American Churches of the Jurisdiction and proposed the following motion which was adopted.
"Be it resolved that the College of Bishops name and work in consultation with a Task Force to study the methods/possibilities of establishing a fund to bring about the fiscal renewal and revitalization of churches formerly in the Central Jurisdiction. The report of the Task Force shall be presented no later than the 2004 Jurisdictional Conference."

Subsequently, a Task Force was formed that worked throughout the quadrennium. The Task Force had limited data, and the reality of the geographical parameters of the former Central Jurisdiction Conference, a conference whose members, even though some were Afro American, did not attend churches that were in the Central Jurisdiction. Most Black American United Methodist Churches in New York, New England, and upstate New York were not in the Central Jurisdiction. Also, the Washington Conference included churches and property in Virginia, which are no longer included in Northeastern Jurisdictional records.

Nevertheless, the Task Force wrote a helpful report and presented it to the Jurisdiction in 2004. It was received with appreciation with a number of stated concerns: financial implications, questions as to the implementation of the recommenda-

tions, and the role of the College of Bishops.

After much discussion, the conference agreed to refer the matter to the College of Bishops after eliminating the word "implementation". The final motion adopted reads as follows:
"In light of the need for the Task Force on Renewal and Reconciliation to continue to investigate (preliminary) evidence of lost property, history and decision-making power and in order to bring about a fiscal renewal and revitalization of churches formerly in the Central Jurisdiction, we move referral of the entire report to the College of Bishops."

With this background the College of Bishops presents the following response:

SUMMARY OF THE 2004 REPORT BY TASK FORCE

1. The Task Force should be commended for its efforts over a quadrennium, including interviews, research and consultations. The findings and history reported in the document will be an asset to our Jurisdiction for many years. The report did not limit itself to churches in the former Central Jurisdiction, but recited a litany of dilemmas representing the context of all African Americans from slavery through segregation, discrimination, and racism.

2. The historical documentation primarily addressed matters after the 1939 creation of the Central Jurisdiction. Much of the outstanding history of African American churches can be traced back as far as Methodism itself, even to 1733 and the Christmas Conference of 1784. The Delaware and Washington Conferences were created in 1864; these developed hundreds of vital congregations, institutions and ministries. To tell the true story, one must include 240 years of history. The stories of Annie Sweitzer, Harry Hosier and Richard Allen, Charles Tindley, Mary McLeod Bethune, Frederick Douglass and others represent the paradoxes of inclusiveness and exclusion that marked the next 180 years concluding in the Central Jurisdiction.

3. In this regard, we affirm the Task Force's recommendation to "develop a comprehensive history" of those black congregations in both the former Central Jurisdiction and in other conferences. Towards this end, there have been a number of endeavors, including a Reunion of the former Delaware Conference, and a Reunion of the former Washington Conference. Many materials were gathered and are being cataloged under the auspices of the African American Methodist Heritage Center and the General Commission on Archives and History.

Thanks are expressed to the Baltimore Washington Conference, Bishop John Schol, the Epworth Chapel United Methodist Church, and the Ad Hoc Committee for a reunion of the former Washington Conference. Dr. Horace Wallace has written a 100 page overview of the Washington Conference. It was published in collaboration with the United Methodist Publishing House.
Dr. Wallace is now writing a book that will address the African Americans’ place in early Methodism, and that relationship to the Wesleys. (A few copies of this book are available for sale) The Task Force suggestion of historical research should be duplicated by the Delaware Conference. The other conferences, whose history is also valuable, do not have a definitive segregated context.

4. The Task force suggested the creation of Charter Schools, non-profit housing and other innovative programs. Such ventures might have merit, but would present dilemmas of staffing, logistics, oversight, legal liabilities and management that are not possible with a Jurisdiction that has no staff or offices. The development of criteria for approving such projects and oversight and implementation, also presents difficulties. Local congregations and communities should be encouraged and under girded to pursue such projects.

5. We recognize that many of the resource needs listed by the Task Force are already being addressed by existing General Boards and Agencies, such as: the Board of Discipleship, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Commission on Religion and Race, and Board of Global Ministries. The Jurisdiction approved a Multi- Ethnic Center several quadrennias ago. In addition, most annual conferences have some programs related to grants, loans and scholarships for ethnic persons. The dilemma is to ascertain the adequacy and utilization of such resources, and to identify any vacuums currently existing. Any new proposals should not be undertaken without a careful examination of the programs presently available and utilized.

To advance and clarify the goals of the initial task force the College engaged in its own study to produce the following:

A. List of institutions created and sustained by the former Central Jurisdiction Conferences, and the status of those institutions

B. Research of existing resources (scholarships, grants, loans, consultants, etc.) available through Boards, Agencies, Annual Conferences and congregations. An initial attempt to collate General Agency resources has been completed by Ms. Diane Johnson and the staff of GBGM, and is available as a power point presentation.

C. Determination of the adequacy, or inadequacy of such resources, and recommendations as to how the Jurisdiction could address such vacuums, without overlapping such aid. (Not yet accomplished, but referred to NEJ Vision Table)

D. Probed the perceived dichotomy existing between Pastors’ salaries and support -- specifically between African Americans and others.

E. Listed and reviewed existing institutions of the former Central Jurisdiction, their disposition, present status, and on-going support received from the annual conference.

F. Opportunities for empowering inclusiveness in congregations.

SURVEY OF CONFERENCES

The attached data and spreadsheet is a result of a survey conducted by Bishops and staff of all the conferences of this Jurisdiction. From the data received, we share the following.

1. Some conferences had few or no congregations in the Central Jurisdiction: W.NY (2 in Buffalo); WPA (2 in Pittsburgh); CPA (2); Wyoming (0); Troy (0).

2. There are many African American pastors serving in predominantly Anglo congregations: NYC (17); CPA (10); WNY (14); NCNY (5).

3. More congregations are multi-racial than were 40 years ago, which makes statistical data difficult. New Jersey, for instance, lists 14 such congregations. Such congregations in New York and Baltimore-Washington include dozens.

4. At the time of the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction there were 576 African American congregations, compared to 477 currently. Some congregations were merged, transferred or disbanded, yet the membership increased from 86,381 to 87,581. These figures can be misleading because most of the New York and New England Conferences were not a part of the Central Jurisdiction.

5. In 1968 there were 210 African American pastors (listed), and today there are 689. (Again, New York and New England were added. Also, there were probably different definitions of credentialed Active Pastors)

6. Most conferences have funds specified for African American churches and/or pastors. Here is a breakdown of those conferences with the largest sample African American presence.

   Eastern PA. $135,903.
   Peninsula Delaware $412,460
   Baltimore-Washington $584,664
   New York $539,743
   West Virginia (over $42,000.)

7. Few properties (excluding churches) were owned by Central Jurisdiction Conferences. Baltimore-Washington had the most including the present Morgan State Christian Center and the N.M. Carroll Home for the Aged (still operating). The sale of Morgan State College to the state of Maryland, decades before dissolution, included property and support for the Morgan Christian Center, which was staffed and overseen by African Americans. Most local church properties in the Jurisdiction that ceased to exist were absorbed or used by the new Conference. WV has a plan in place to use portion of funds from sale of former church properties for African American pastors and congregations. Peninsula has one listed property originally intended for a camp development owned by its Conference trustees.

8. All merger assets were absorbed by the Trustees of the respective new Annual Conference. Pension Funds and other dedicated funds were continued under the same or similar line items in the new merged conference. The same policies apply for all properties, regardless of ethnicity.

THERE IS NO DATA SUGGESTING THAT ANY FUNDS FROM CENTRAL JURISDICTION CONFERENCES WERE MISUSED OR DIVERTED.

CONCLUSIONS AND POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NE JURIS-
The data, though incomplete, indicates that the inclusiveness in the Jurisdiction has been mostly positive, statistically and financially. Further, all pastors and congregations of all colors have benefited from the mergers in terms of program and financial support. There are more scholarships, special programs, higher equitable salaries, and pensions. Further, all of the national Boards and Agencies offer special grants and scholarships, specifically designated for African American churches and leaders.

However, the subjective perspective of many African Americans in the entire denomination indicates feelings of an erosion of strength, and a loss of power. The hard data is clear. In the area of church attendance, membership, and pastoral recruitment, African Americans in the United Methodist Church are in decline. This is especially so in the northeast, even with the additional statistics of New York and New England.

The reduction of evangelism began in the latter days of the Central Jurisdiction, but has not abated. A 20 year overview revealed that from 1985 until 2005, there were 416 fewer African American congregations in our denomination. The key element in this decline is in limited pastoral recruitment and development. We are not sufficiently growing our own.

No hard data can reveal subtle and intangible financial dilemmas and/or abuse. This data, and other historical research indicate the significant involvement of African Americans in Methodism since its inception in spite of much discrimination, marginalization and emotional abuse -- all indicators of unconscious and conscious racism. The Jurisdiction then needs to address these perceptions and reality in a number of ways.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The College is convinced that the Jurisdiction has made significant progress in its attempt to be fully inclusive. We confess we are not what we need to be, but we are better than we were. The merger of the former Central Jurisdiction into the new Jurisdiction, though sometimes clumsy, has been mostly effective and just.

2. The video you are about to see, tells the stories of African American persons and congregations, who have been a part of this denomination from its inception. Copies are available for every delegation. It should strengthen African Americans in the sense of their own positive identity. It should help others understand the genius of this denomination and its diversity.

3. The intangible data revealed that the primary issue of African-American churches is leadership. We need our Multi-Ethnic Center to help us develop ways and means to address this issue. Whereas we affirm the need to empower all ethnic groups, each ethnic group requires special and focused attention. One size does not fit all. Each annual conference needs to determine ways and means to address the dilemma of recruitment and the development of new African-American congregations, since many persons of color are moving into new suburban areas.

4. Finally, in spite of all of our work, racism is not dead. We must continue to be vigilant and proactive in its demise. Restitution is not the answer, but Restoration and Reconciliation between all God’s children is the only answer.

Submitted by the NEJ College of Bishops
### Northeastern Jurisdiction African American Churches Survey

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of AA Congregations</th>
<th>Percentage this represents of total congregations</th>
<th>Number of AA Pastors</th>
<th>Percentage this represents of entire conference</th>
<th>Number of AA Members</th>
<th>Percentage this represents of entire conference</th>
<th>Funds given to AA churches and ministries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore-Washington</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>1%</td>
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Comparison of the Central Jurisdiction Conferences in the NE with the NEJ Conferences:

1964 Former Central Jurisdiction Conferences in NEJ. This also includes data from Virginia and West Virginia which were apart of the NEJ Washington Conference.

1964 NEJ Non Central Jurisdiction Conferences but does not include churches from Virginia and West Virginia.
Resolution to Affirm Collaboration of UMVIM/UMCOR Protocol and Covenant  
(Re: Jurisdictional and Annual Conference responses to Disaster)

Background

Over the past 7-10 years, United Methodist Committee on Relief and UM Volunteers in Mission have worked cooperatively in disaster response and recovery within the United States. UMCOR has given oversight responsibility for The United Methodist Church’s disaster response by the General Conference (Par. 1326.2.a.1 2004 BOD). That oversight includes training of annual conference staff and disaster response coordinators, solicitation and management of emergency funds through the Advance, and assisting an annual conference in a disaster zone with the design of their response. The Mission Volunteers Program Area of the General Board of Global Ministries is given the responsibility of enabling the participation of persons in volunteer programs and projects so that affirming, empowering, and trusting relationships are established (Par. 1312.5).

UMCOR’s work with an annual conference following a disaster is to establish a mechanism for immediate and long-term response. One piece in the response mechanism is the management of volunteers. This piece has grown increasingly important to the recovery process but also increasingly unwieldy.

Early Response Teams (ERT) serve a vital role, but theirs is not the only role for volunteers. Very early in the disaster we need to put a system in place that will not only find appropriate work for volunteers who are not ERTs, but also appropriate housing for them. Housing in the intermediate relief stage is important, as is housing for the long-term recovery.

Most often a conference has depended upon its UMVIM coordinator to take on the responsibility of managing the incoming volunteers, the disaster response committee will work with UMCOR to appoint a new person or persons to create the volunteer management system. In the meantime, the volunteers are calling, arriving in the zone and asking for assistance and direction.

The staffs of UMCOR and Mission Volunteers now desire to clarify the roles played by UMCOR and UMVIM in the early days of a disaster. The consistent use of ERTs formed by UMVIM, and the addition of an UMVIM presence with UMCOR in the early assessment and guidance process will bring an improved United Methodist presence to the disaster response. Therefore, UMCOR proposes to work with the Jurisdictional UMVIM coordinators to create a team from each jurisdiction that can work with annual conferences to set up the volunteer management system following disasters. This Jurisdictional Disaster Volunteer Management Team (JDVMT) will be included in the consulting team UMCOR creates after being invited to assist by the area bishop.

Meanwhile, we give thanks that God has raised up UMCOR and UMVIM to coordinate and strengthen the servant leadership of the church for US Disaster Response, and recognize the unique and complementary gifts and grace of these two programs. We affirm that by working collaboratively in the oneness of the Body of Christ they are much more effective and responsive than either can be separately.

Whereas

UMCOR is responsible for the United Methodist Church’s disaster response through the annual conferences; and

UMVIM is responsible for enabling the participation of persons in volunteer programs and projects so that affirming, empowering and trusting relationships are established; and

UMVIM’s unique role in disaster response is acknowledged to be in the training and deployment of Early Response Teams and in developing Jurisdictional Disaster Volunteer Management Teams to work with UMCOR in initial disaster response in the development of the volunteer management system; and

UMCOR’s unique role in disaster response is to manage the “big picture” of the annual conference’s program of response in coordination with the General Church’s contribution of resources;

The following is presented as a Protocol for the collaborative UMCOR/UMVIM response in US disasters:

Jurisdictional Disaster Volunteer Management Team (JDVMT)

Understanding not every disaster will require the deployment of the JDVMT, the decision to request their participation will be made by UMCOR in consultation with the bishop of the disaster area.

Responsibilities of the Jurisdictional Disaster Volunteer Management Team (JDVMT) will be as follows:

1. Work with the annual conference affected by a disaster to create a structure for the management of all volunteers coming into the disaster zone.

2. Assist the Annual Conference Disaster Team in setting up a call center so that offers of volunteers can be appropriately managed.

3. In cooperation with the Annual Conference Disaster Team, find and assign appropriate work for all volunteers - both teams and individuals - until such time as the annual conference is able to manage this work on its own.

4. Propose to the Annual Conference Disaster Team volunteer housing options that can be used during relief and early recovery phases of the disaster.

5. Make recommendations to the Annual Conference Disaster
Committee on volunteer housing solutions for long-term recovery.

**Early Response Teams**

Early Response Teams (ERTs) are trained volunteers who are able to arrive self-contained and self-sufficient on a disaster scene to provide assistance with making homes "safe, sanitary, and secure". The ERs "belong" to their annual conference and enter into another conference's disaster zone at the invitation of the Bishop through UMCOR. The primary responsibility for training ERs will be with Annual Conference Disaster Response and UMVIM coordinators using UMCOR authorized trainers and materials. Responsibility for maintaining a list of trained teams in each annual conference will be with the Jurisdictional UMVIM Offices. Specifics related to the deployment of ERs are:

- UMCOR will request ERs through the Jurisdiction UMVIM office, who will then contact and deploy ERs to a disaster.
- ERs will report on their location and work to their Jurisdictional coordinator.
- ERs will report to and serve under the authority of the annual conference in which they are responding, generally through that conference's disaster coordinator.
- ERs serving within the bounds of their own annual conference will work under direction of their own Annual Conference disaster coordinator or incident coordinator.

This integrated approach between UMCOR and UMVIM, with UMCOR providing oversight of the disaster response and UMVIM providing leadership in the management of volunteers and deployment of ERs, will provide a more efficient response and use of volunteers following disasters. UMVIM involvement in the disaster response ranges from the very beginning to the long term, and, with the establishment of appropriate systems, those who suffer the devastation of disaster will be better served.

Whereas
In February 2007, the Annual Conference Disaster Response and UMVIM coordinators from all the US conferences, along with the leaders of UMCOR and the Mission Volunteers offices of GBGM, came together at Mt. Sequoyah, Arkansas. Past practices and also Katrina/Rita responses were reviewed in an effort to improve and enhance our responses to domestic disaster. We agreed and signed the following covenant:

**The Covenant**

With the grace of God and the support of my colleagues in UMCOR and UMVIM, I will:

- Treat all people involved in a disaster as children of God and worthy of my respect.
- Regard the collegiality of my fellow workers as a gift from God.
- Seek to understand and support the variety of roles needed in Disaster Response.
- Practice good stewardship of my own resources and those of the various disaster volunteer teams understanding that the funding of the work of the UMVIM is the responsibility of the volunteers, and that General Advance funds collected by UMCOR for a disaster are distributed within an annual conference by the conference leadership.
- Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning my own role.
- Be ready to listen as a ministry of healing.
- Avoid taking sides in local dynamics that may be exacerbated in a disaster.
- Hold fast as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the midst of the chaos of disaster.

**Covenant Commitment**

Mindful of the suffering of Christ in the suffering of others,
- I hereby make my commitment, holding myself accountable to my colleagues in Disaster Response and seeking to be mutually supportive at every opportunity

Whereas
In the past quadrennium - ALL of the Annual Conferences in the Northeastern jurisdiction have received disaster declarations of State or Federal levels proving that we are not immune to disaster.

Therefore:
The annual conference Disaster Response and UMVIM coordinators of the Northeastern Jurisdiction move:

1. That the Jurisdictional Conference affirm this new protocol and covenant.
2. That the Jurisdictional Conference strongly encourages each NEJ annual conference to establish a written disaster response plan and have the appropriate conference leadership review it annually and submit a copy to UMCOR and the jurisdictional UMVIM offices.

(There are no financial implications with this resolution)

Submitted by Gregory Forrester on behalf of the NEJ Disaster Response and UMVIM Coordinators

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**Remember -**

A delegate in session may not have a laptop/desktop.
Cell phones must be completely off during any sessions.
Bring this Advance DCA with you to Harrisburg.
The DCA is now online at www.nejumc.org.