

Financial Perspective by Pat Curtin

Myriad of changes are before us in 2010

We are approaching the formation of the Upper New York Conference on July 1, 2010 and with it a myriad of changes that are before us. As we work with the members and staff of the four existing Conferences, it is truly amazing how many different approaches and philosophies there can be in the administration of mission and ministry. As other leaders have stated, we are trying to create something new, not just use the ideas of any one of the Conferences.

It is with this in mind that we are aware of how many changes local churches will be faced with in 2010 and 2011.

Have you ever read the book *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change*, by Spencer Johnson? It is a clever little book about how individuals recognize upcoming change, address the reality

and move forward. We see how four little mice realize that how each one thinks and acts is very important in a time of change. There will be many opportunities in the coming year to react positively to the prospects before us and promote the work of Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church.

There will be several adjustments on the financial horizon.

The method of calculating the Shared Ministry apportionment will likely change by 2011. For the NCNY Conference, the new methodology, if approved, should simplify the data collection process for local church members and eliminate much of the confusion around the current complex formula. The new methodology is being referred to as "proportional giving" at this time.

The health care plan for staff and

clergy will be similar to the plan in the NCNY Conference, but there will be administrative changes. The impact of health care pricing will be complex, based on the experience of the clergy coming into the new Conference as well as the turmoil in the health care industry in general.

Direct billing policies and shared ministry collection policies have not been drafted as yet for the new Conference. The new Conference Finance Team (Council on Finance and Administration) will be setting policies and procedures during 2010.

Multi-peril insurance coverage will be different for most churches. The pricing process is underway, and we should know more about personal rep-

resentatives and cost details by early spring 2010.



So there's no one on the Conference staff that is talking about "the good old days". We are in the middle of a vast amount of change and are looking forward to the opportunities that a transaction of this magnitude can bring. It really is a once in a lifetime chance to make a difference in the lives of so many people. If you have an hour of spare time, try to read or re-read *Who Moved My Cheese?* It is very applicable to this transaction before us.

Peace and all good things,
Pat Curtin, NCNY Conference Treasurer

Peace with Justice Day grant deadline is February 12

WASHINGTON, D.C. — February 12 is the deadline to apply for a Peace with Justice grant from the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS).

Funding for this program is generated through the Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering of The United Methodist Church. One of six Special Sundays in the denomination, Peace with Justice "witnesses to God's demands for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world." Peace with Justice Sunday is May 30 in 2010.

Peace with Justice grants are awarded annually. In 2009, \$52,805 was granted to 28 Peace with Justice ministries.

Grant applicants must be either a United Methodist or other affiliated organization, or an ecumenical group working with and through at least one United Methodist agency or organization.

Applicants must work toward achieving at least one of

the following objectives:

- Assist United Methodists in understanding and responding to violence and militarism, and in moving and leading nations and peoples to reconciliation, transformation, and redemption.
- Involve and develop principal leaders among United Methodists and enjoy the general public in efforts to end conflicts, human rights violations and violent aggression around the world;
- Promote just national and international policies and actions (governmental and non-governmental) seeking to address poverty and restore communities; or
- Support policies that promote systematic economic justice and the self-development of peoples, in particular

to respond to the disproportionate effect of injustices on racial, indigenous and ethnic persons.

Preference will be given to institutions related to The United Methodist Church, then to first-time requests and, finally, to those including an advocacy component in their program or project.

Applications will be evaluated by GBCS's Board of Directors.

Applicants may seek assistance in filling out the form, Peace with Justice Grant form, which is available on the GBCS website or by contacting Marvlyn Scott, (202) 488-5643.

For more information or to request an application form also, contact Mark Harrison, GBCS director of Peace with Justice, (202) 488-5645.



Hati relief from 1

They were able to get an email message out noted that they had lost their perimeter walls and a laptop but were ok and helping a team from Pilgrim United Methodist Church (St. John, Michigan) visiting at the orphanage went the earthquake hit.

Their only running water is through a hose outside and they have electricity from the generator. Food will be a problem as the Caribbean Market is gone.

The orphanage is not structurally safe so the girls and the matrons are sleeping in an apartment that is ok.

Pastor Molly T. Golando of Sheridan UMC was planning on flying to Port au Prince, Haiti on January 23 for a one

week's mission trip. She is moving forward as if the trip will still be on knowing that the nature of this trip will be greatly changed, if it can take place. "Knowing the dreadful conditions of the country prior to the earthquake, I cannot image how horrible it will be now," Pastor Golando notes. "I do encourage everyone to give through the UMCOR as I know this will be an effective way to bring relief. I also offer a direct link through the contacts I have established during the last three years with the organization Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti. If any one would like to contact me regarding help to Haiti, I will gladly take your requests. Please pray for the country of Haiti and I also ask

you for prayers of discernment and direction for the team with whom I am working."

Elmira Oakwood (Rev. Grant Nichols) had a prayer service on January 13. Rev. Nichols, who came out of the GNJ conference was called back to his home church to do a Critical Incident Debriefing for their mission team who returned from Haiti last week. They were returning late from a work day to their residence in Hati when the earthquake hit. Had they been on time they would have been crushed as their residence collapsed.

The Elmira Westside UMC committed to an immediate gift of \$500 for UMCOR from the church council, as a matching grant for gifts from the congregation. To page 8

Clifton Springs sending mission team to Red Bird

FINGER LAKES DISTRICT - Clifton Springs United Methodist Church will again send a mission team to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky on spring break from April 18 to 24.

Of 20 spots, 10 openings remain for Finger Lakes District youth ages 15 and older, with adult leader plus any other adults who would like to go.

The cost is \$280 per person that covers food, housing and basic project supplies at Red Bird. There will be some extra cost for travel expenses.

Projects could include painting, ramp building, basic carpentry, organizing in the clothing rooms or counting soup labels.

For more information, contact Lorrie Spence at revspence@juno.com or 315-462-7192.

To apply, send \$140 with the application below to save your spot by Feb. 1. Another \$140 will be due on April 1. You must do your own fundraising, but the group will get together to plan for the trip.

Name:

Address:.....

E-mail:.....

Telephone:

Church:.....

For youth, age:.....

Adult attending with youth:

Please fill out a separate application for the attending adult.

Morning Star UMC hosts Roberts Wesleyan Chorale

MOHAWK DISTRICT - The Morning Star United Methodist Church will welcome the Roberts Wesleyan Chorale for an evening concert on Thursday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at the I-Ion church, 36 Second St.

The chorale is the college's select vocal ensemble comprised of 40 singers devoted to the study and performance of choral works from all major artistic periods. Bonded by passion for compelling musical performance and desire for meaningful Christian fellowship, the Chorale is an ensemble of talented singer-artists who combine

their gifts to cultivate excellence in choral singing.

The Chorale, recognized for its lyric choral tone and spirited performances, tours each spring serving as an ambassador for the College and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Katie Briggs, a graduate of Frankfort-Schuyler High School, is a member of the Chorale.

This concert will be the first stop for the Chorale on their trip to perform in Philadelphia. This concert is free and open to the public, no tickets required. All are invited to mark their calendars now for this special event.