



## **Pastor's e-Note**

**Morristown United Methodist Church (5/25/2017)**

**Greetings, good friends. Hope this note is finding you well.**

**Greater New Jersey Annual Conference was held earlier this week in the Wildwood Convention Center, NJ. The theme of this year's Annual Conference was REJOICE. Pastor Charles, Pastor Jennifer, Jack Scharf, Lee Schubert, Jane Rehmke, Charlie Buck attended with me.**

**Some of the highlights of this year's Annual Conference session include:**

- **The GNJ Student Ministry Plan** – a comprehensive and collaborative plan to reach out to youth and college students in our congregations, campuses and communities. I was given the honor to present this plan to the Conference, and it received an overwhelming support.
- **10 Year Intercultural Competence Plan** – an intentional strategy to develop the leadership capacity to create a systemic shift in GNJ from diversity to intercultural competence.
- **New Formula for Shared Ministry Budget** – This new formula will reduce the overall Shared Ministry apportionment to congregations by \$894, 542 in 2018 and will reduce each congregation's shared ministry percentage for 2018. The present apportioned goal is to be 15.6% from 16.3% within the next five years.

- Of course, the real joy was the commissioning of Pastor Charles Perez as a new Provisional Elder of The UMC, a milestone of his ministry and his ordination process. We rejoice with Pastor Charles and I encourage you to keep him in your daily prayers.

**Pastor Jennifer is officially appointed to the Bridgewater United Methodist Church as its new Senior Pastor. Pastor Laura Steel will join her as a new associate pastor of that church.**

**I am glad and grateful to be appointed back to our church for another year. I am eagerly looking forward to serving our loving God with you and in your midst.**

**This coming Sunday, we will continue to celebrate the gift of a healthy and happy family in Christ. What would it take to raise up a healthy and happy family? Let's think about this question on Sunday, and I will share my thoughts in my morning message.**

**May the joy of the Lord be with you as the source of your strength. God bless you and see you in Church.**

**Rejoicing With You,  
Brandon**