

**Errata to replace the Mission Central Report and Resolution found on page 34 of the
2017 Annual Conference Programs & Reports Workbook**

**REPORT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND
MISSION CENTRAL TASK FORCE**

In the Spring of 2016, representatives from the Mission Central Board of Directors entered into conversation with the leadership of the Susquehanna Annual Conference in regards to the future steps of the “Unfolding Story of Mission Central”. This conversation was mutually requested by Mission Central and the Conference. Mission Central came into existence by affirmation of the action of the former Central Pennsylvania Conference meeting in June 2002 at Messiah College. From the outset Mission Central operated primarily as an “affiliate ministry” of the Conference with no legal division; thus, Mission Central would never be funded directly through the Conference budget. That agreement has been honored ever since. Mission Central is currently funded through the gifts of churches, individuals and organizations, and has never received ministry shares.

It became apparent over the past several years that the next steps in the future development of Mission Central needed to be addressed. Therefore, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park initiated a Task Force comprised of persons from the Susquehanna Annual Conference and the Board of Directors of Mission Central. The Task Force met several times over the past year. The ultimate intention for the group was to determine how the ministry of Mission Central hopefully could continue to expand. At no time in the conversation was the language of “separation from the Annual Conference” ever used by Mission Central or the Conference representatives. In fact, the Task Force was committed that no matter whatever the next steps would be the Conference and Mission Central would continue their mission partnership. In 2016 Mission Central collected over seven million dollars of new and reused resources to serve over three million people locally, nationally, and globally. Seventy percent of the 2016 output remained in the Central Pennsylvania Region. The annual budget of Mission Central is now around \$500,000. Mission Central continues to be good stewards of resources and maintains minimal staffing and operating costs; and yet it is extremely effective in its mission and purpose.

The Task Force looked at a number of considerations in regards to future funding, including the formation of an independent, non-profit, tax exempt organization. The Task Force unanimously concluded that the formation of such an organization for Mission Central would be the most logical next step. Some of the benefits that were discussed included:

- Expansion of ministry to the larger community beyond the United Methodist Church and further the vision of Mission Central to be a gift to the world as first offered by Bishop Irons.
- Accessibility to greater financial resources from other sources beyond the denomination, including granting sources that are willing to fund faith based organizations but not a specific faith or denomination. Having Mission Central operate as a distinct organization will inform grant funders that Mission Central truly is a faith based non-profit organization with no strings attached to the services we provide.
- Allow Mission Central to function and utilize standard non-profit operating practices allowing us to “speak the language” to the non-profit world. For example, as a Section 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code, Mission Central would be required to file an IRS 990 which publicly discloses how it operates and functions as an effective non-profit organization that makes a significant impact locally, nationally and internationally. This procedure establishes Mission Central’s credibility before potential new funding organizations and definitely will broaden Mission Central’s potential funding opportunities.
- Also the formation of a distinct entity will ensure greater financial and legal protection for both the Susquehanna Annual Conference and Mission Central. At present Mission Central is part of the Conference corporation and all legal and financial matters are the responsibility of the Conference. Much like the United Methodist Children’s Home and Neighborhood Center, there would now be a legal distinction between the Annual Conference and Mission Central to protect both bodies.

Therefore, the Task Force brings the following Resolutions to the 2017 Susquehanna Annual Conference for consideration and adoption. The Task Force members unanimously believe that the process as outlined in the Resolutions provide the best possible avenue for the present and future development of the ministry of Mission Central along with sufficient legal and financial controls for both the Susquehanna Annual Conference and Mission Central and at the same time keeping important connections between the two entities.

RES-9 MISSION CENTRAL

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The Central Pennsylvania Conference, now known as the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church (the “Conference”) at its December 2, 2000 special session of Annual Conference, established a Mission Central Task Force to explore the establishment of a mission center;

WHEREAS, the Annual Conference at its meeting on June 8, 2001 voted that the Mission Central Task Force should report to the 2002 session of Annual Conference on the feasibility of envisioning Mission Central;

WHEREAS, the Annual Conference at its meeting in 2002 authorized the purchase of the building located at 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania for use of the ministry being advanced by Mission Central (the “Mission Central Building”);

WHEREAS, Mission Central is an important ministry of the Conference governed by an advisory board that is elected annually by the Annual Conference, it relates to the Conference Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief and it conducts its activities within the social principles of the United Methodist denomination;

WHEREAS, Mission Central is not funded by Conference denominational “ministry shares” and relies on individual donations for a substantial part of its annual budget;

1 **WHEREAS**, Mission Central partners with other non-profit organizations by providing space within the Mission Central
2 Building to Bethesda Mission, Computer Ministry, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, New Digs and Project C.U.R.E.,
3 and further partners with hundreds of other ministries throughout Pennsylvania and around the world;

4 **WHEREAS**, Mission Central has hosted thousands of volunteers who come to experience being “the hands and feet of God”
5 in service and with its volunteers, processes United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits of various types (School,
6 Birthing, Health, Sewing, etc.) for use all around the world, as well as provides supplies of all types needed for local, national and
7 international ministries and assists countless projects that are sending God’s love around the world;

8 **WHEREAS**, working in concert with other denominational and non-denominational programs, and as a member of the
9 UMCOR Relief Supply Network, Mission Central has been able to provide aid for people affected by every major weather disaster
10 since 2002;

11 **WHEREAS**, a new Mission Central Task Force has been formed (the “Task Force”) consisting of the following named
12 persons:

13 *Lisa Bender, Secretary, Mission Central Advisory Board*
14 *Adam Hoover, Director of Development, Mission Central*
15 *Bishop Neil Irons (Retired), Former Bishop, Central Pennsylvania Conference*
16 *Rev. Gregory Myers, Assistant to Bishop Jeremiah J. Park*
17 *Rev. Barry Robison, Harrisburg District Superintendent*
18 *Rev. Bob Ryder, President, Mission Central Advisory Board*
19 *Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver, Director Connectional Ministries*
20 *Amev Srignoli, Member-at-Large Mission Central Advisory Board*
21 *Rob Visscher, Executive Director, Mission Central; and*

22 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force has explored options and opportunities to expand Mission Central’s mission and role within the
23 Conference and the United Methodist connection as well as to allow its growth beyond the boundaries of the Conference and
24 recommends and approves the following Resolutions.

25 **NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Conference recognizes, affirms and lifts up Mission Central and its staff and
26 volunteers for caring for this important mission of the Conference; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Annual Conference recognizes the time has come to build upon Mission Central’s
28 enormous success and empower and support Mission Central’s unfolding mission by staking it as an independent entity allowing
29 it to continue to minister as it has from its beginnings as a vital and important mission and part of the connectional relationship of
30 the Susquehanna Annual Conference and the larger United Methodist denomination, but also to garner additional support for its
31 mission from foundations and other philanthropic organizations outside of the connection which goal is greatly facilitated by having
32 Mission Central operate as an independent corporation; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Annual Conference specifically authorizes the following:

- 34 (1) Establishing an independent, non-profit, tax exempt organization under the name of Mission Central, Inc., for the purpose
35 of continuing and enhancing its ministry and mission (“Mission Central, Inc.”), including naming of the initial board of
36 directors of Mission Central, Inc.;
- 37 (2) Entering into a Covenant Relationship Agreement by and between the Conference and Mission Central, Inc. which will
38 affirm the principles upon which Mission Central was founded and its ongoing commitment to those principles;
- 39 (3) Upon qualification of Mission Central, Inc. by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt
40 organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, allocating those assets and liabilities of the
41 Conference that relate to Mission Central (including without limitation the building currently used by Mission Central,
42 the existing debt thereon and the Conference’s interest in such building);and
- 43 (4) Providing such other further support, resources and relationship as determined appropriate by boards and persons
44 authorized to implement these tasks as set forth below; and

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that our Bishop Jeremiah J. Park and the Task Force, with the cooperation and assistance
46 of the Conference Board of Trustees, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and any other relevant Conference
47 committee, board or agency are hereby ordered, authorized and empowered to take all action necessary to effectuate the Resolutions
48 herein and in accordance with the current Book of Discipline and Pennsylvania law; and

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Task Force shall present a report at the 2018 Annual Conference regarding Mission
50 Central and the Conference’s progress implementing the Resolutions herein.

51 **CONCLUSION**

52 Finally, we, the members of the Task Force, encourage your support of this recommendation in order to provide the best
53 potential future for Mission Central and the Susquehanna Annual Conference. Truly it is the hope and belief of the Task Force that
54 Mission Central will become an even greater gift locally, nationally, and globally.