

## Skylands District Day of Learning

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**Register By: February 13, 2012**  
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Funding for this day is made possible through your contributions to the Shared Ministry fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Need Childcare? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many children? Ages? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your first and second workshop choice per session. ALL workshops are offered in both sessions unless indicated.

Session # 1: 10:00 AM—11:30 AM  
1st Choice - Workshop # \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Choice - Workshop # \_\_\_\_\_

Session # 2: 11:45 AM—1:15 PM  
1st Choice - Workshop # \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Choice - Workshop # \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** A light breakfast will be provided during registration time. There is no lunch break.

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**Register on-line at:** <http://www.gnjumc.org/registrations/register/6>

Or mail to:  
Skylands District Office  
246 Millbrook Avenue  
Randolph, NJ 07869  
Fax: (973) 537-7722

# SKYLANDS DISTRICT DAY OF LEARNING

Saturday, February 18, 2012

First United Methodist Church  
111 Ryerson Avenue  
Newton, New Jersey 07860



### Schedule for the Day:

**Registration**  
8:30 am—9:00 am

**Gathering Worship**  
9:00 am—9:45 am

**1st Workshop Session**  
10:00 am—11:30 am

**2nd Workshop Session**  
11:45 am—1:15 pm

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### Event Cancellation Notification

In the event of inclement weather please call the District office for a recorded message at (973) 537-7711.

**#1. Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (For SPRC Committee Members and Pastors)** – This workshop will provide a brief orientation on the work of the SPRC committee, and the responsibilities in the appointment process of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. – The Rev. Dr. Steven G. Bechtold, District Superintendent

**#2. It All Begins Here! (For Pastors, Members of Nomination and Lay Leadership Development Committee, Church Council, Outreach and Nurturing Ministry Team Members)** – “What a huge harvest!” he said to his disciples. “How few workers...” (Mt. 9:37, *The Message*) How can we make the best of the “few workers” we have in our churches to bear more fruit in God’s vineyard? From nomination to discipleship. – The Rev. Sung H. Ahn, GNJAC Director of Connectional Ministry

**#3. The Promise and Purpose of Discipleship (Open to All)** – What does it mean to “make disciples” in the 21st century? This workshop will help your congregation engage a process to disciple people and seek ways to build a discipleship system into the DNA of your church. – The Rev. Dr. Doug Ruffle, GNJAC Congregational Development Coordinator

**#4. Life-Changing Small Groups (Open to All)** – Jesus Christ and John Wesley sure knew what they were doing with small groups. We can too! Together, let’s unwrap the treasure of small group ministry. Why have them? What are they? And how do they work? We will share experiences, strategies, enthusiasm and resources. Whatever the size of the church, we can go home equipped for life-changing small groups. – The Rev. Eunice Vega- Perez and Rev. Joe McCarthy (Both have experience with small groups in small and large church settings).

**#5. Stewardship 201-Creating a Culture of Generosity (For Stewardship and Finance Committees)** – Samuel Chand makes the point in his book, *Cracking Your Church’s Culture Code*, that culture—not vision or strategy—is the most powerful factor in any church system. In our context of ministry, culture determines the receptivity of the congregation to new ideas, unleashes or dampens creativity, builds or erodes enthusiasm, and creates a sense of pride or discouragement about being involved. This workshop will explore the seven keys of culture and how they impact generosity. – The Rev. Dr. Rich Hendrickson, GNJAC Stewardship Coordinator

**#6. Children and Prayer (For Sunday School Teachers, Youth Workers and Pastors)** – A workshop designed to help the teacher understand how children relate to God. We will learn concepts for teaching children about prayer, how to use prayer in the classroom, and dive into the prayers of children themselves. Having a better understanding of the way in which children relate to God, will help you as you create lesson plans, select curriculum and minister to the littlest disciples in your congregation. – The Rev. Erica Munoz, GNJAC Children, Youth, and Young Adult Coordinator

**#7. Growing a Healthy Church with Natural Church Development – (Open to All)** Explore how the Natural Church Development process can bring growth to your congregation. This workshop will focus on the eight quality factors for growth, the basics of the process, and a case study from one of our district churches. The workshop is designed for those new to the NCD process and churches already participating. – Mr. Jack Scharf, Skylands District Lay Leader

**#8. Are You Facebook Official? (Open to All)** – Feeling overwhelmed by all the ways you can communicate in the current digital era? This workshop will help break down the most common digital tools churches can use to communicate with their members and outreach to their communities. Also included will be an overview of how the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference is evolving its presence online. – Heather Fullerton, GNJAC Media Specialist

**#9. Youth Leader’s Tool Box (For Youth Workers and Pastors)** – This workshop will look at youth ministry and current trends. We will discuss strategies and tools for guiding your congregation in creating and sustaining powerful, spirit-driven ministry for your youth. We will explore together what is working and what is not working, and what we need to do next. – Jessica Stenstrom, Youth Minister at Denville UMC

**#10. Employee-Related Taxes (For Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Pastors, Treasurers, and Finance Committee)** – Are the people on your church’s payroll “employees” or “independent contractors”? What is the difference between a “clergy housing allowance” and a “clergy housing exclusion”? What is an “accountable reimbursable” expense? These and other questions will be addressed in a review of tax issues related to people who are paid for their work at a local church. – The Rev. Daniel Gepford and Mr. Bob Dietz, GCFA Member. **Workshop offered in 1<sup>st</sup> Session only.**

**#11. Year-End Statistical Reporting (For Pastors, Finance Committee, Treasurers, and anyone involved in preparing the local church’s Year-end Statistical Report)** – Be in control of your Shared Ministry obligation. Understand “netting” your income and expenses to reduce expenses reported. The focus will be Income (table III) with a review of the key issues for Expenses (Table II). – The Rev. Daniel Gepford and Mr. Bob Dietz, GCFA Member. **Workshop offered in 2<sup>nd</sup> Session only.**

**#12. Worship and Media (For Worship Committee, Lay Leaders, Pastors and Lay Speakers)** – This workshop is designed to help small to mid-size churches enhance their worship experience. We will discuss ways of implementing new ideas for creative and meaningful worship, as well as exploring the use of technology. – Cari Cruz, Certified Lay Speaker

**#13. Intro to Lay Speaking (Open to All)** - The Lay Speaking Ministry is not just about preaching. This course will give an overview of the role of a lay speaker, the difference between basic and advanced lay speaking and the educational requirements. We will also talk about encouraging those who have a call for this ministry. – Cara Quick, Skylands District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

**#14. Vacation Bible School – (For Children’s Ministry Coordinators and Pastors)** – Vacation Bible School is a great opportunity to reach out to your community and welcome families who are not yet connected to a church. Come and learn about some creative ways to lead a successful and exciting VBS. – Pastor Sharon Yarger, Assoc. Pastor at Succasunna UMC

**#15. General/Jurisdictional Conference Q&A. (Open to all)** – Members of the 2012 Delegation will present a brief overview of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and want to hear from congregations about their opinions on the issues. – The Rev. Jessica Campbell, General Conference Delegation Member

**#16. Ministry with the Poor – (For Mission/Outreach Chairs, UMW, UMM, Youth Workers, Pastors)** Jesus Christ calls us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, and visit the imprisoned. We are called to love kindness and to seek justice for all people. This workshop will focus on what it means to be in ministry with the poor among us, and to provide specific information about one such ministry within our annual conference – CUMAC in Paterson. Learn how you can be involved in doing hands-on ministry in our conference and in our community. – Stephanie Aimes, CUMAC/ECHO – Paterson

**#17. Learning about the Social Principles of the UMC – (Open to All)** - In this workshop, the Social Principles Booklet will be reviewed and people will learn how to discuss and utilize the information. This is a great opportunity to learn, discuss and share. - Ms. Cynthia Ann Kent, Conference Board of Church and Society.