

# What Is An Annual Conference?

- When you hear the term “annual conference,” it could be referring to any one of three things:
  - The annual conference is a regional body, an organizational unit AND a yearly meeting.
- **Regional Body:**
  - The annual conference is described by the Book of Discipline as the “basic unit” of the church
  - In the United States, an annual conference may cover an entire state, only part of the state, or even parts of two or more states.
  - The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas.
  - There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops
- **Organizational Unit:**
  - In the U.S., the annual conference has a central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference
  - It likely has a director of connectional ministries, treasurer, directors of program areas (such as camping), communications director, and other staff as required by the Book of Discipline.
  - Clergy and laypersons may also serve on conference boards, commissions and committees.
- **Yearly Meeting:**
  - Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference,
  - These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs and budgets; ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders; and election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings

# **GNJUMC Is Our Annual Conference**

- **Regional Body:**
  - GNJUMC encompasses the entire state of New Jersey
  - It has two regions: Metro Highlands, Coastal Plains
  - It has six districts, three in each region
  - Metro Highlands includes the Skylands, Meadowlands and Raritan Shore districts
  - Coastal Plains: includes the Central, Cape Atlantic and Delaware Bay districts
  - There are 80 to 90 churches in each district, almost 500 in all
- **Organizational Unit:**
  - GNJUMC has Superintending & Regional Teams, a Communications Team, a Finance & Administration Team, a Leadership Development Team, A Future With Hope Team: Ida Recovery, The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation Team, a Data & Strategic Analysis Team, the Next Generation Team, Connectional Ministries and the Episcopal Office.
- **Yearly Meeting:**
  - This year the Annual Conference was held from May 21 – May 23, at the Wildwood Convention Center
  - There were Over 800 attendees; 16 resolutions were discussed and voted on; 13 elders and 2 deacons Ordained; 3 Deaconesses commissioned; 17 pastoral retirements; 11 churches closed; 8 churches disaffiliated; 72 pastoral appointments
  - Significant Legislation included Budget, Parsonage Standards, Equitable Compensation, Retirement and Health Benefits, Church Closure, Church Disaffiliation, Sale of Pinelands Campsite, Endorsement of Christmas Covenant, Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Strategic Direction

**The Following slides  
show the GNJUMC  
districts and the  
number of churches in  
each district**

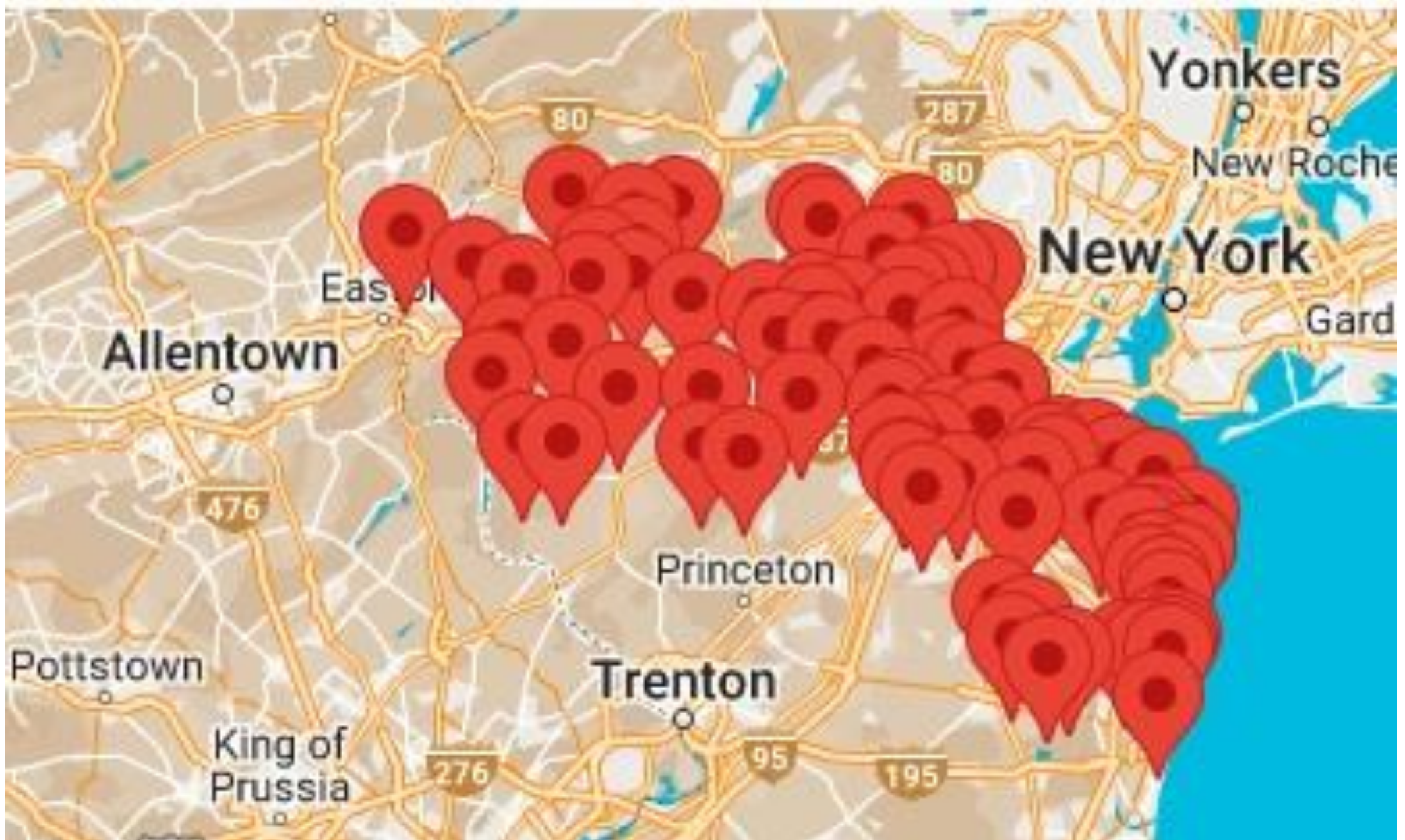
# SKYLANDS DISTRICT – 80



# MEADOWLANDS DISTRICT - 85



# RARITAN SHORE DISTRICT - 83



# CENTRAL DISTRICT - 80



# CAPE ATLANTIC DISTRICT - 80





# DELAWARE BAY DISTRICT - 91



# UMCs in our Area

