

**807. Statement of Relationship
between the North Georgia Conference and
The New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc., Augusta, Georgia**

John Wesley sought to reach out to the poor, the outcast and imprisoned. Today we must do the same, but also include the homeless, those addicted to drugs and alcohol, the latch-key children and the elderly, low income families and especially women, children and youth.

~~The New Bethlehem Community Center, 1336 Conklin Avenue, Augusta, Georgia (formerly the New Hope Community Center) was established in 1997 as an outreach ministry of the the North Georgia Conference. Its purpose was to work through local churches in the Bethlehem Community to respond to the needs of these peoples living in low income communities, to assist local churches in outreach to their neighbors and to provide an avenue for United Methodists to be in an outreach mission.~~

New Bethlehem Community Center, 1336 Conklin Avenue, Augusta, Georgia (formerly the New Hope Community Center) is a non-profit community based organization providing adult education and services for family, children, senior adults, and at-risk people in Augusta, Georgia. Their history began in 1911 when a Deaconess from Alabama was appointed by the Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South to begin a social settlement for black people in the Augusta area. This was the first ever of its kind that was promoted by the council. Augusta was selected because the Methodist church had established Paine College to which the missionary council was already contributing funds. The doors opened for service in 1912. New Bethlehem opened in 2004 with that same passion and mission as the original Bethlehem Community Center. New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. is a National Missions Institution of the United Methodist Church and the first Bethlehem Center established in the United States.

The needs of the poor and disadvantaged continue to increase. People are being called to be in hands-on ministries of love, care and support and are looking for places to express their faith. The New Bethlehem Community Center hopes to accomplish this as we continue to be in service to others.

The North Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recognizes New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc., Augusta, Georgia as a viable mission and **ministry, related to the conference** through its Outreach and Missions Team, in cooperation with the ~~General Board of Global Ministries~~ **Women's Division of the United Methodist Church.** This agency is not a

program arm of the Office of Connectional Ministries, but is an agency working in cooperation with the Conference Outreach and Missions Team to fulfill ministries in the geographical area of the Augusta District of the North Georgia Conference. The Conference assumes no legal, financial, administrative or operational responsibility for this agency. The board of directors of this agency assumes full responsibility for its operation.

I. The North Georgia Conference shall:

1. Identify and promote the ministries of the New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. on the same basis as the Conference's own ministries or programs.
2. Provide financial support for this agency as deemed appropriate by the Conference.
3. Make available to this agency various materials, resources and technical assistance.
4. Encourage and facilitate coordinated planning by New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. and Action Ministries, Inc. of the North Georgia Conference.
5. Promote Advance Special support of this agency.

II. New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. shall:

1. Provide services to targeted neighborhoods.
2. Report to the Outreach and Mission Team of the North Georgia Conference as mutually determined appropriate for accountability.
3. Participate in coordinated planning with the Outreach and Missions Team and Action Ministries, Inc. as needed or requested.
4. Serve as a resource for church volunteers' involvement, including training experiences.
5. Provide for representation of the Conference on the board of directors of this agency. The Outreach and Missions Team shall name at least one representative who shall be a voting member of the board.
6. Provide for inclusion of the Outreach and Missions Team in the process of review or change of the by-laws and missional statement; in evaluation and employment of the director of the agency, in budget development and in other aspects of the operation of this agency.

III. ~~The General Board of Global Ministries~~ **Women's Division** shall:

1. Be responsible for its property occupied by the New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc., including maintaining the property and liability insurance.
2. Provide financial support for the agency.

3. Consult about and approve the employment and evaluation of the director of this agency; personnel policies; by-laws and missional statement.
4. Indicate mission priorities as a framework for program development by New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc.
5. Provide technical assistance to NBCC, Inc.
6. Promote Advance Special support for NBCC, Inc.

Mission Statement:

~~We have a common concern for the citizens of the Central Savannah River Area and so we come together in a cooperative and collaborative way to dialogue and share our expertise, resources, programs and personnel. We seek to enhance, enrich and empower the citizens through a joint effort; a holistic approach to empowerment; a ministry in collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.~~

New Bethlehem Community Center Mission: "To be an extension of God's ministry and to improve the quality of life". Our Goal: To make a difference in the lives of persons of all ages.