

## THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

“The conference board of church and society shall serve to connect the General Board of Church and Society and the district and local churches in relating the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to the persons and structures of the communities, nation, and world in which they live. Program shall be developed that provides education and action on issues confronting the Church consistent with the Social Principles and the policies adopted by the General Conference” (From ¶ 628.4. *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church – 2004. Copyright © 2004 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission).

Our board has been active in working on some of the issues that are affecting our churches and our society today.

Last year the South Carolina Annual Conference referred “A Resolution Supporting Human Rights and Peace in the Middle East.” While our board supports human rights and peace, the board makes no recommendation concerning this resolution. As a matter of practicality, it would be better if persons submitted such resolutions directly to this board if this board is asked to deal with the issue. Otherwise, the Annual Conference would do well to vote its will on such issues. Our board welcomes input from any member of the Annual Conference. In fact, one of our main issues this year has become predatory lending. This was due in large part to concerns shared with the board from lay and clergy members of the conference. A resolution from our board was circulated amongst our churches in March. Thank you for your efforts in supporting our board’s work to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our state from financial exploitation. If the South Carolina Legislature has not passed legislation by the time we meet for Annual Conference, we anticipate another resolution for the conference’s consideration. Our board will also bring resolutions on immigration reform and the atrocities going on in Darfur. These issues were the focus of a special meeting of the board this spring. Last year the South Carolina Annual Conference also referred part of “A Resolution To Support The UMC Global Aids Fund” to our board. While we wholeheartedly endorse this resolution, we do not have a preference for a date to observe “Global AIDS Awareness Sunday.” We believe that the boards and agencies that set the dates for all the special days should set this day as well. Finally, in continuation of our resolution approved at last year’s Annual Conference, we encourage you to continue to work to protect our children against poverty.

*Scott Wachter, Chairperson*