

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on October 20, 2006, to evaluate the 2006 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2007 Annual Conference. The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2006 Annual Conference and considered the agenda for the 2007 Annual Conference.

In reviewing the over-all experience of Conference, the committee agreed that less time should be devoted to informational reports, recognitions, and awards, and more time should be devoted to substantive matters that require a decision by the Annual Conference. The Committee considered several methods to re-allocate time, including making all awards and recognitions presentations at one time in a single session of Conference.

A discussion of the over-all structure of Conference focused on the possibilities of holding ordination on some evening other than Tuesday. Sunday evening ordination will allow families and churches to attend the service on a weekend, and will allow those who are newly ordained to participate in voting when Conference opens on Monday morning.

The committee agreed to devote one afternoon to community service, similar to programs followed by other annual conferences. Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to various forms of ministry throughout the Florence community. All Conference participants are invited to take part, both lay and clergy. On the evening following there will be a celebration service.

The Committee voted to approve three motions: 1) To prohibit secular political campaigning at Conference; 2) To limit Exhibitors to those already on the list of exhibitors; entities of the SC Conference, SEJ, or General Conference; and others specifically allowed by the Executive Committee; and 3) To require that Conference members vote for the specified number of delegates on each ballot for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The Committee recommends that the 2008 Annual Conference be held again at the Florence Civic Center in Florence. Following the 2007 Conference, committee members will have the experience to allow them to compare other locations to the Florence location. An informed decision, based on the experience of the 2007 Conference, can then be brought to the 2008 Session concerning future Conference locations.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to Central United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2007 Session. Their gracious spirit and genuine enthusiasm over the opportunity to host Annual Conference - shared by many individuals and congregations around Florence - have been crucial to the success of this Conference in a new location.

*Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson
Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary*