

## SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONNECTIONAL TABLE

It is an honor to report to the South Carolina Annual Conference on behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and our President, Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey. We have worked diligently this past year to evaluate and make more effective the many offerings in the jurisdiction.

The Connectional Table has led in the study of our preferred future. Through the work of the Organizational Task Group, we have studied the entire ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. A report made at the annual meeting of the Connectional Table was passed. It called for a Transition Team that is presently working in preparation for our report and recommendations to the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference.

As we considered our organization for the future, there was an extensive study done by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency Task Group. Through meetings with the 7 agencies (Commission on Archives & History, Gulfside Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center, Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries, Southeastern Methodist Agency for Rehabilitation, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission), we evaluated their effectiveness and considered the relationship of the agencies to the jurisdiction as we move into the future. All of these groups are commended for their service to the members and leaders within the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

At Lake Junaluska we are planning for a great year as we welcome over 100,000 guests. We anticipate the Bishop Joseph and Mrs. Shirley Bethea Welcome Center being completed in the summer. A special word of thanks to your annual conference for committing resources to make this building a reality. As people come to Lake Junaluska they will be greeted in a hospitable manner in this building that has been built as a symbol of reconciliation.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction continues to offer opportunities for leader development as we do our part in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Southeastern Jurisdiction ministry staff has given leadership in thirteen of the Southeastern Jurisdiction annual conferences this past year. The Ministries with Young People have had record numbers of events this winter and is preparing for a great summer of retreats for youth and adults at Lake Junaluska. We plan to serve over 5,000 young people of the Southeastern Jurisdiction this year. The summer children's program is planned for daily study and activity, serving families that come to Lake Junaluska in the summer and children from the community.

This past year in Hispanic Ministries we have held events for small churches; a Module I training program for lay missionaries and pastor mentoring; and a course of study consultation. The Korean-Asian Ministry has provided consultation in nine of the annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and events: (1) Clergy Family Retreat; (2) Korean-American Pastors Continuing Education Program; (3) Lay Leadership Academy; and (4) Korean-Asian-American Youth Event.

We are working with leadership in the Jurisdiction to sponsor a multi-cultural event in December at Lake Junaluska. Our African American office is giving support to the design team along with all Southeastern Jurisdiction ethnic ministries. We were thrilled to co-sponsor the event "Our Call to Hospitality, A Biblical Response to Immigration" conference with the General Board of Church and Society in February.

Our guests continue to enjoy the recently renovated Terrace Hotel and the beautiful grounds. Work is being done to Stuart Auditorium anticipating renovations in the future. We have done \$2.7million dollars worth of renovations to the dam at Lake Junaluska. The work has allowed us to bring up to code the 93-year-old dam, assuring a beautiful lake as well as a safe structure. A special thanks goes to the annual conferences and local churches of the Southeastern Jurisdiction who are contributing to the special asking for dam reconstruction. Presently we have received \$395,960 from the special asking.

We provided leadership, staff support, and hospitality to SoulFeast, The Older Adult Event, Soul at Work, Choir Music Weekend, The Ministers' Conference, Pastors of Large Churches, and District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries.

The jurisdiction has been represented on the United Methodist Council of Bishops Committee on Katrina Church Development. All local churches and annual conferences are challenged to remember the local churches that are in desperate need of support. Along with the annual Katrina offering in the fall, partnerships with local churches are being sought throughout the church.

It is a pleasure to serve The United Methodist church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

*Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director*