

## THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Conference Board of Education's vision is: to be a vital resource for The United Methodist Church in the South Carolina Conference, to bring fresh, workable, and enabling ideas and challenges to make our churches places of learning, spiritual growth, and service in the world. Our responsibilities are in the area of Christian education for the entire life span of church members.

This past year, the Board of Education has experienced many successful programs, and activities. It has been a very interesting year with the change from conference staff persons to congregational specialists. A positive outcome has been that we have been forced to be more intentional about why and how we do things. This has included taking more responsibility in eChristianEd and being more intentional in the way we organize our Age-Level Councils. Our Older Adult Council has a very effective structure. We are now seeking to mirror the nomination process and structure of the older adult council for all of our Age-Level Councils.

One of the more significant items of interest has been trying to determine how we as a committee must shift focus from conference events to empowering local churches. At this point we continue to see the importance for encouraging training in areas of Disciple Bible Study, Christian Believer, FaithQuest, and Companions in Christ. In order to shift our focus onto empowering local churches, we will be exploring a variety of approaches to education. For example, we will be sending Christian educators into local churches to equip congregations during this next year.

A great deal of the work of the Board of Education is done through Age-Level Councils. The reports of the Age-Level Councils of the Board of Education give details of their activities and significant achievements during this past conference year. We offer praise to God for all of their hard work and their cooperation as we seek to empower all of God's children.

*J. Michael Arant, Chairperson*