

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AT LANDER UNIVERSITY

April 31, 2007, concludes the first year of the United Methodist Student Fellowship (UMSF) at Lander University, Greenwood, SC. The purpose of the UMSF is to provide a Christian environment to UMC students (and students of other Christian persuasions) working on a university degree at Lander University.

This first year has focused on laying a foundation for the program. UMSF facilities are provided by Main Street UMC of Greenwood which is conveniently located near the Lander campus. Though small in number, our current UMSF students spent the year painting and remodeling as time would allow the lower floor of Main Street's Suzanna Wesley House. The facilities provided consist of office space, reception and kitchen area, a room for study and programs, and a room for relaxation and discussion. Students have also participated in fund raising projects, and have added about \$1,600 to help with this year's expenses. The UMSF has received contributions from numerous Sunday School classes and local churches in addition to the financial support of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Student programming of the UMSF facility has been delayed somewhat due to the remodeling activities and security complications. While the building is locked when not in use, thieves were able to steal a new \$900 television set the students had purchased for use in the relaxation and discussion room. The UMSF decided to await better security measures before opening the center for regularly scheduled hourly use. The center has been wired for high speed internet and cable TV access by students. In addition, there is also free telephone service from the center that includes local and long distance service within the USA. Plans are underway for free use of laundry facilities within the center and will be ready by the Fall 2007 academic year.

During this year, the students have been treated to dinner without cost to them in the Wednesday Evening Gatherings at Main Street UMC. These weekly fellowships have enabled our small group of twelve to meet for planning, scheduling, and fellowship.

Dr. Philip Shuler, ordained UMC minister and Lander Adjunct Professor, has served as Chaplain of the UMSF. Student leadership has included Ms. Jesica Morris (nursing student at Piedmont Tech), Ms. Lindsey Arant (early childhood major at Lander University), and Charlie Wolfe (Spanish major at Lander). This year's faculty representative for the UMSF has been Dr. Anita Coffey, professor of Spanish. Dr. Jon Bassett, professor in the Department of Psychology, will serve as next year's faculty representative. Dr. Shuler has tendered his resignation and the UMSF has enthusiastically decided to move aggressively with next year's program.

There is considerable positive anticipation for the opportunities and challenges during the coming year on both the Lander University and Piedmont Tech campuses even as we give thanks for the progress the USF has made during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

Philip L. Shuler, Chaplain