

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

This will be my final report as the Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, having served an 8 year term. It has been a joy and privilege to be a part of this vital ministry, and I urge you to read the exciting reports from our campus ministers and college presidents. I am grateful to God and to the S.C. Conference for the opportunity to work with such life-changing, disciple-making experiences. On behalf of the Board, I express deep appreciation to the local churches for generous support of the Senior College Scholarship Apportionment and the Campus Ministry Apportionment. Your prayers and financial gifts have enabled us to expand ministry and shape students as leaders and disciples who will transform the world.

This past year has been one of growth in campus ministry, as we have achieved several goals that were a part of our long-range dreams. Effective February 1, 2008, Rev. Jo Anna Fallaw was appointed to the newly created full-time position of Francis Marion Campus Minister & Central UMC Associate Pastor. Previously, Francis Marion Campus Minister was a part time position, but a nearly full-time program. Our next goal is to move the Furman Wesley Campus Minister position from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to full-time. Furman Wesley is thriving with strong student leaders, inspiring worship, and a commitment to missions. An increase in our Campus Ministry budget will help us expand at Furman. While we have expanded ministry at Francis Marion and Furman, our next growing program is Lander Wesley. We have seen growth in spirit and in numbers, with the capable leadership of Glenn Williams, a lay person who is the part-time Lander Wesley Director. Our more established Wesley programs (Winthrop, Clemson, Charleston, Claflin/SC State, and USC) continue to flourish with weekly Bible studies and programs, service projects, engaging worship, and international mission trips.

In a declining economy, it is critical to continue supporting the colleges, Claflin University, Wofford College, Columbia College, and Spartanburg Methodist. The Senior College Scholarship Apportionment enables the 3 senior colleges to offer financial support to students. Students need scholarships more than ever in this troubled economy. We can be proud that our Annual Conference supports 4 colleges, and each serves a unique niche of students. The stellar academic reputation, coupled with small student-faculty ratios, makes our Methodist colleges places where transformation occurs. We are not just about the business of education, but rather shaping students to be ethical, faithful, empowered leaders who can change the world. Read the college presidents' reports, and you will see the "fruits of our labors."

Let me close my report by sharing a concern on behalf of the Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry. Our Board studied the survey that was conducted about the location of Annual Conference. We noted the question related to the importance of holding Annual Conference on our college campuses. The total response (clergy and laity) for the two categories of "Very Important" and "Somewhat Important" was 465. While this is a significant number, we realize that nearly as many indicated "Of Little Importance." This disheartens those of us who are passionate about the ministry of higher education. The survey results indicate the need for even *more* promotion of our colleges. We hope the Annual Conference lay and clergy delegates would consider these issues every year during the discussion and vote about the location of Annual Conference.

May God bless the "ties that bind" church and college in the ministry of making disciples.

In Christ,

Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chair