

SECTION VII

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
RECOMMENDATIONS

Report No. 1

We recommend that the following funds be distributed to churches on the basis of percentages of average net funds.

FUND	Budget for 2009	Requested for 2010	Approved for 2010	% Change	Average Net Funds Factor
1 Conference Benevolences	2,527,272	2,520,048	2,357,748	-6.7%	0.024966
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,879,024	1,981,599	1,916,604	2.0%	0.020295
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,080,000	1,058,400	1,058,400	-2.0%	0.011207
4 Equitable Compensation	540,000	600,000	475,000	-12.0%	0.005030
5 District Administration	773,000	773,000	773,000	0.0%	0.008185
6 Conference Administration	1,460,136	1,399,376	1,334,776	-8.6%	0.014134
7 Camps & Retreat Ministries	379,862	379,862	354,411	-6.7%	0.003753
8 Congregational Development	1,220,000	1,220,000	1,170,000	-4.1%	0.012389
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,486,904	1,486,904	1,338,214	-10.0%	0.014170
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	750,000	700,000	675,000	-10.0%	0.007148
11 Campus Ministry	617,801	636,335	617,801	0.0%	0.006542
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,446	638,446	595,670	-6.7%	0.006307
Sub-total	13,352,445	13,393,970	12,666,624	-5.1%	
13 World Service **	2,082,716	2,141,929	2,141,929	2.8%	0.022681
14 Episcopal Fund **	565,726	589,159	589,159	4.1%	0.006239
15 General Conference Administration **	232,072	232,081	232,081	0.0%	0.002457
16 Ministerial Education **	720,339	733,241	733,241	1.8%	0.007764
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	56,140	57,067	57,067	1.7%	0.000604
18 Black College **	287,371	292,518	292,518	1.8%	0.003097
19 Africa University **	64,316	65,468	65,468	1.8%	0.000693
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	170,187	170,187	170,187	0.0%	0.001802
Sub-total	4,178,867	4,281,650	4,281,650	2.5%	
TOTALS	\$17,531,312	\$17,675,620	\$16,948,274	-3.3%	

** Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds.

Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Report No. 2

The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 1, Report No. 1) will be divided as follows:

Fund	Budget for 2008	Budget for 2009	Requested Budget for 2010	Approved for 2010	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries (formerly CCOM)					
1. Conference Advance Specials					
Ministry Programs	229,000	193,600	175,000	175,000	-9.6%
Special Salary Supplements	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	263,000	227,600	209,000	209,000	-8.2%
2. Board/Agency Programs	521,150	400,000	300,000	300,000	-25.0%
3. Board/Agency Administration	80,000	85,000	75,000	75,000	-11.8%
4. Operations (100% guaranteed)					
Salaries	700,000	818,940	851,058	776,058	-5.2%
Employee Benefits	226,000	243,995	301,349	276,349	13.3%
Staff Housing Allowances	75,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	0.0%
Staff travel	84,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	0.0%
Office Rent	45,000	47,500	44,000	44,000	-7.4%
Office Operations	40,000	42,000	40,000	40,000	-4.8%
Equipment/Maintenance/Depreciation	15,000	15,000	11,000	11,000	-26.7%
Staff Development	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Insurance & Bond	3,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	-40.0%
Interpretation	1,500	1,500	0	0	-100.0%
Travel Contingency	3,000	3,000	1,500	1,500	-50.0%
Contract Services	2,500	2,500	2,000	2,000	-20.0%
Sub-totals (4)	1,196,500	1,390,935	1,465,407	1,365,407	-1.8%
5. Communications					
Electronics	55,000	55,000	50,000	50,000	-9.1%
Resource Center	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	55,000	55,000	50,000	50,000	-9.1%
Advocate		139,000	187,600	139,000	0.0%
Committee Meetings	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (5)	146,500	285,500	324,100	275,500	-3.5%
Sub-totals (A)	2,207,150	2,389,035	2,373,507	2,224,907	-6.9%
B. Other Conference Agencies					
Cabinet Emergency Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Archives & History					
1) Conference Archivist Contract	15,827	16,302	16,791	16,791	3.0%
2) Program & Administration	7,885	7,885	7,885	2,000	-74.6%
Board of the Ordained Ministry					
1) Operations	55,250	62,550	68,355	62,550	0.0%
2) Formation in Ministry	0	0	2,010	0	
Sub-totals (B)	130,462	138,237	146,541	132,841	-3.9%
Total Conference Benevolences	\$2,337,612	\$2,527,272	\$2,520,048	\$2,357,748	-6.7%

Report No. 3

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 6, Report No. 1) shall be divided as follows:

Fund	Actual for 2008	Budget for 2009	Requested for 2010	Approved for 2010	% Change
1 Advocate (moved to Conf Benevolences)	126,202	0	0		
2 Contingency Fund	273,300	300,000	255,000	255,000	-15.0%
3 Journal Publication	68,140	75,500	75,500	25,000	-66.9%
4 Ministers Book	9	6,125	6,125	6,125	0.0%
5 Director of Administrative Services Office					
Salaries	367,629	388,068	386,268	386,268	-0.5%
Benefits	99,428	112,813	109,900	109,900	-2.6%
Operations	132,633	135,075	123,950	123,950	-8.2%
(Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)	(80,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	0.0%
6 Print Media Services	65,592	80,300	81,900	80,300	0.0%
7 Conference Expense Fund	177,440	152,500	160,000	152,500	0.0%
8 Administrative Committees	3,213	2,750	2,750	2,750	0.0%
9 Conference Secretary	43,690	44,360	44,360	44,360	0.0%
10 Methodist Center Trustees	25,228	30,000	25,000	20,000	-33.3%
11 Coordinator of Clergy Services	154,460	176,645	174,623	174,623	-1.1%
12 General Conference Delegates	14,673	9,000	6,000	6,000	-33.3%
13 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	38,195	7,000	8,000	8,000	14.3%
TOTALS	\$1,509,832	\$1,460,136	\$1,399,376	\$1,334,776	-8.6%

Report No. 4

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2010 will be set at \$88,200.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$13,230) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2010 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
 - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
 - 2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
 - 3) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$3,500 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 15,000. The schedule for 2010 will be as follows:

	Membership	Amount
Anderson	15,259	\$3,500
Charleston	25,278	\$4,500
Columbia	31,980	\$5,200
Florence	19,180	\$3,900
Greenville	20,871	\$4,100
Greenwood	16,576	\$3,700
Hartsville	19,965	\$4,000
Marion	22,340	\$4,200
Orangeburg	18,910	\$3,900
Rock Hill	16,658	\$3,700
Spartanburg	16,936	\$3,700
Walterboro	15,719	\$3,600

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$138,000 for the total of all districts, plus \$6,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$11,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$138,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is set at \$288,000 (\$24,000 per district), and continuing education at \$500 per superintendent.
- 5) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved by the District Committee on Continuing Education prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full

when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.

- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.
- E. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund:

Recommended for 2010				
District	Parsonage	Office	Total	% of District Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	\$13,000	\$43,000	\$56,000	0.008751
Charleston	23,000	33,000	56,000	0.006016
Columbia	5,000	40,000	45,000	0.003137
Florence	15,000	37,000	52,000	0.007786
Greenville	20,000	28,500	48,500	0.005012
Greenwood	15,000	15,000	30,000	0.004383
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	0.006969
Marion	50,000	25,000	75,000	0.007544
Orangeburg	12,000	39,000	51,000	0.008517
Rock Hill	10,000	27,000	37,000	0.005357
Spartanburg	20,000	25,000	45,000	0.006302
Walterboro	15,000	25,000	40,000	0.009584
	\$215,000	\$369,500	\$584,500	

Report No. 5

- A. We call attention to the "Special Days" designated by the *Book of Discipline* and recommend that they be observed with appropriate free-will offerings and that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church.
- Human Relations Day – January 17, 2010
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 7, 2010
 - One Great Hour of Sharing – March 14, 2010
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 18, 2010
 - Peace with Justice Sunday – May 30, 2010
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 9, 2010
 - Work Day – September 12, 2010
 - Church school offering first Sunday each month
 - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 8, 2010
 - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 19, 2010
(youth offering)
 - World Communion Sunday – October 3, 2010
 - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 7, 2010
 - United Methodist Student Day – November 28, 2010
 - Global AIDS Awareness Sunday – December 5, 2010
- B. An offering may be taken to support the Bessie Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund as a part of the observance of Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 7, 2010.
- C. We offer the following recommendations:
- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.).
 - 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage.
 - 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS

mileage rate for 2010 when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$4.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for the evening meal.

- 4) That each charge place in its budget an amount of at least \$500 per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund, and that if the full amount is not used in a given year, the unused portion may be carried forward from year to year during the tenure of a pastor, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's continuing education allowance. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when there is a change of pastor. It is also recommended that the health insurance premium be paid by the local church directly to the Office of Ministerial Affairs; if it is done on a salary reduction basis, the amount must be included in the charge conference worksheet which itemizes compensation and benefits for 2010.
- 5) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 6) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 7) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2010 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. When a church has declined for two consecutive years in "net funds," the term "average net funds" shall mean the average of the last two years only; the first year net funds increases, a three-year average will be used, and the following year the normal four-year average. Newly organized churches will be treated in the same manner as other churches of the conference. A four-year average of net funds will be used, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero.
- 8) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 64 through 72 (inclusive) of Table II.
- 9) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table II statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table II reports for use in future year calculations.
- 10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 12, Report No. 1) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 9, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin College; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 7, Report No. 1) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.
- 11) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts up to \$7,500 from the Conference Contingency Fund to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 12) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of the Conference Council on Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 14) That the budgets of the Director of Administrative Services, the Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 15) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2010, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 16) That local churches of the conference incorporate, as recommended in *The Discipline*. A brochure prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available from the district office to assist in this process. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

Report No. 6

A major reconstruction/repair project for the dam at Lake Junaluska was approved by the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and has been undertaken by the SEJ Council on Finance and Administration. By action of the SEJ, each member conference had been asked to raise \$.50 per member over a four year period. In 2008, the SEJ extended this request for another four years, due to cost overruns in the project. South Carolina's share would be approximately \$121,000, or \$30,250 per year. We ask each church within the South Carolina Conference to contribute \$.125 per member during 2010, based on the membership as reported in the 2005 Report to the Annual Conference (statistical report).

Report No. 7

Due to the uncertainties of the economy, the recommended apportioned budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund and Spartanburg Methodist College have been reduced by 10% compared to the 2009 budget, and the Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund has been reduced by 6.7% compared to the 2009 budget. These causes are significant ministries. Therefore, we ask those churches with sufficient resources to contribute what would have been asked for these funds if no reduction had

been made. A voluntary asking calculated on the normal apportionment formula will be indicated on the bottom of the conference remittance form.

Report No. 8

Following is a listing of the 2008 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of 2010 apportionments.

District	2008	District	2008
Anderson	6,398,984	Hartsville	7,031,568
Charleston	9,308,942	Marion	9,942,266
Columbia	14,347,116	Orangeburg	5,988,202
Florence	6,678,913	Rock Hill	6,906,292
Greenville	9,677,447	Spartanburg	7,140,527
Greenwood	6,844,353	Walterboro	<u>4,173,794</u>
	Total		94,438,404

Edward McDowell, Jr., President
David Surrett, Vice-President
Dora Gafford, Secretary
James H. Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer

Funds Summary as of January 16, 2009

	Authorized Appropriated Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
Conference Benevolences #500									
150 Archives & History/Administrative	3,650	3,650	2,776		1,487	2,163	9,027	0	10,316
152 Archives & History/Archivist	15,827	15,827	13,935		15,827	0	0	1,892	0
154 Archives & History/Program	4,285	4,285	4,166		2,086	2,199	7,499	0	9,579
225 Cabinet Emergency Fund	24,000	24,000	26,413	0	37,447	(13,447)	14,033	0	2,999
260 Board of Ministry (Operations)	44,200	44,200	48,641		54,384	(10,184)	7,765	0	2,022
262 Board of Ministry (Formation in Ministry)	0	0	0		4,424	(4,424)	12,014	0	7,590
264 Career Planning (Programs)	0	0	0		0	0	13,143	0	13,143
270 Committee on Episcopacy	1,200	1,200	1,321		0	1,200	2,908	0	4,229
272 Episcopal Residence	8,000	18,000	8,804	10,000	30,033	(12,033)	40,351	0	29,122
274 Bishop's Discretionary Fund	8,000	8,000	8,804		4,030	3,970	12,145	0	16,919
500 Connectional Ministries (Operations I)	1,135,593	1,135,593	1,014,648		1,189,282	(53,689)	0	174,634	0
502 Connectional Ministries (Operations II)	35,200	35,200	38,738		23,663	11,537	0	(15,075)	0
504 Communications/Electronics	44,000	44,000	48,421		55,174	(11,174)	68,577	(54,240)	7,584
505 CM Program Administration	64,000	64,000	70,431		69,981	(5,981)	20,516	0	20,966
507 CM Programs	416,920	416,920	458,815		365,137	51,783	0	(93,678)	0
510 Resource Center	28,000	28,000	30,814	9,317	30,342	(2,342)	11,426	0	21,215
515 Committee on Communications	1,200	1,200	1,321		0	1,200	0	0	1,321
517 Public & Media Relations	44,000	44,000	48,421	0	40,871	3,129	21,833	0	29,383
535 Ethnic Local Church	64,600	64,600	0	0	60,973	3,627	0	60,973	0
595 Emerging Ministries	0	0	0	7,000	44,967	(6,809)	237,232	61,394	260,659
620 Conference Advance Specials	210,400	210,400	231,543	0	217,209	(6,809)	17,269	0	31,603
	\$2,153,075	\$2,163,075	\$2,058,012	\$26,317	\$2,247,317	(\$32,466)	\$495,738	\$135,900	\$468,650

As of January 16, 2009

Administration Fund #550 -

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
80 Advocate	143,000	143,000	126,140	0	126,202	16,798	0	0	(62)
101 Conference Expense Fund	152,500	157,600	134,549	5,400	177,440	(19,840)	26,914	0	(10,577)
103 Contingency Fund	325,000	325,000	273,300	134,258	179	324,821	100,000	(365,648)	141,731
105 Administrative Services	630,618	630,618	456,724	0	599,690	30,928	306,525	62,967	226,526
107 Administrative Committees	2,750	2,750	2,312	0	3,213	(463)	9,381	0	8,480
110 Conference Secretary	44,360	44,360	37,303	0	43,690	670	0	6,387	0
112 Journal Publication	75,500	80,500	63,490	4,030	68,140	12,360	2,444	0	1,824
114 Minister's Book	6,125	6,125	5,150	170	9	6,116	44,706	0	50,017
135 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	5,600	5,600	5,886	0	38,195	(32,595)	31,616	0	(693)
140 General Conference Delegates	8,000	8,000	7,568	0	14,673	(6,673)	9,885	0	2,780
160 Methodist Center Trustees	30,000	173,300	25,228	149,285	193,446	(20,146)	67,388	0	48,455
180 Print Media Services	78,000	265,000	65,592	200,480	292,418	(27,418)	19,394	0	(6,952)
210 Coordinator of Clergy Services	169,411	169,411	142,462	0	154,460	14,951	0	11,998	0
	\$1,670,864	\$2,011,264	\$1,345,704	\$493,623	\$1,711,755	\$299,509	\$618,253	(\$284,296)	\$461,529

Other Apportioned Funds - January 16, 2009

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
District Administration	780,000	780,000	692,729	0	749,824	30,176	253,928	0	196,833
Campus Ministry	505,473	505,473	471,809	0	510,318	-4,845	22,007	25,809	9,307
Equitable Compensation	540,000	540,000	496,658	19,606	622,007	67,939	153,607	0	47,864
Dist. Supt.'s Salary	1,042,400	1,042,400	967,620	0	1,049,580	-7,180	0	81,960	0
Pension Fund	119,856	5,902,154	106,198	5,435,894	5,479,764	422,390	148,368	0	210,696
Health Insurance	1,746,146	9,538,151	1,553,173	6,944,074	9,000,000	538,151	786,070	0	283,317
Congregational Development		(allocated from 2007)							
Office Operations	229,092	229,092	229,092	0	205,123	23,969	35,868	-8,000	51,837
Existing Churches			143,958	0	0	0	42	-144,000	0
Allocated			0	0	556,078	0	439,634	475,000	358,556
New Congregations			257,626	0	0	0	107,449	-281,000	84,075
Land Acquisition			154,148	0	0	0	250,865	-208,556	196,457
			784,824	0	761,201	23,969	833,858	-166,556	690,925
UM Center Addition			68,120	0	216,884		171,619	0	22,855

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS ON FUNDS BY DISTRICT**

**100.0% of the budget should be in hand at
this point in the conference year.**

COMPARISON THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2009 --

District	Total Apportioned	Total Paid	% Paid	Special Giving	% Pd of Lk Jun Dam
Orangeburg	1,131,757	1,092,159	96.5%	82,079	76.5%
Rock Hill	1,275,496	1,207,176	94.6%	79,645	90.2%
Marion	1,799,124	1,673,001	93.0%	165,704	86.4%
Columbia	2,590,753	2,372,514	91.6%	269,968	69.2%
Anderson	1,240,433	1,090,197	87.9%	84,281	75.8%
Charleston	1,686,726	1,429,309	84.7%	125,336	80.0%
Greenwood	1,257,911	1,037,573	82.5%	127,358	70.8%
Hartsville	1,319,482	1,067,441	80.9%	111,427	70.8%
Walterboro	765,100	614,573	80.3%	69,332	74.6%
Greenville	1,749,180	1,383,723	79.1%	118,501	64.9%
Spartanburg	1,367,494	1,078,002	78.8%	130,225	66.7%
Florence	1,306,325	1,010,391	77.3%	77,878	57.5%
Totals	\$17,489,781	\$15,056,059	86.1%	\$1,441,734	

COMPARISON THROUGH JANUARY 17, 2008 --

District	Total Apportioned	Total Paid	% Paid	Special Giving	% Pd of Askings
Rock Hill	\$1,233,780	\$1,202,872	97.5%	\$112,705	52.1%
Marion	1,689,312	1,588,485	94.0%	206,482	56.6%
Orangeburg	1,106,677	1,029,115	93.0%	98,670	38.0%
Columbia	2,519,489	2,275,250	90.3%	271,302	35.6%
Greenville	1,737,645	1,532,878	88.2%	119,879	34.6%
Greenwood	1,222,218	1,033,455	84.6%	132,270	40.7%
Hartsville	1,289,290	1,087,810	84.4%	115,143	40.3%
Anderson	1,216,683	1,015,995	83.5%	111,022	35.7%
Walterboro	733,842	608,034	82.9%	86,128	47.3%
Spartanburg	1,339,821	1,088,964	81.3%	68,885	42.6%
Charleston	1,627,906	1,285,059	78.9%	163,432	42.9%
Florence	1,263,928	991,033	78.4%	103,558	33.7%
Totals	\$16,980,591	\$14,738,950	86.8%	\$1,589,476	

*Jim Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer
January 16, 2009*

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS ON APPORTIONED FUNDS**

Comparison for the period January 17 through January 15, 2009

**100.0% of the budget should be in hand at
this point in the conference year.**

BUDGET --		2007		2008		2008		%	
No.	FUND	BUDGETED	PAID	BUDGETED	PAID	BUDGETED	PAID	%	CHANGE
585	World Service	2,059,584	1,783,509	2,173,507	1,890,993	86.6%	87.0%	87.0%	0.4%
500	Conference Benevolences	2,270,103	1,968,058	2,336,231	2,041,323	86.7%	87.4%	87.4%	0.7%
210	Episcopal Fund	529,559	497,230	568,332	522,430	93.9%	91.9%	91.9%	-2.0%
220	District Superintendent's Salary	1,012,000	945,650	1,041,696	958,906	93.4%	92.1%	92.1%	-1.3%
240	Equitable Salary Fund	275,000	255,205	539,724	494,703	92.8%	91.7%	91.7%	-1.1%
255	Retiree Health/Transitions	2,102,492	1,885,258	1,865,555	1,638,809	89.7%	87.8%	87.8%	-1.9%
100	District Administration	780,000	699,637	779,771	688,883	89.7%	88.3%	88.3%	-1.4%
111	District Parsonage/Office	472,900	422,561	500,834	438,396	89.4%	87.5%	87.5%	-1.9%
310	Senior College Scholarship Fund	1,374,824	1,136,326	1,415,686	1,155,211	82.7%	81.6%	81.6%	-1.1%
325	Spartanburg Methodist College	534,344	452,972	587,624	505,090	84.8%	86.0%	86.0%	1.2%
330	Campus Ministry	511,636	433,799	561,473	468,844	84.8%	83.5%	83.5%	-1.3%
350	Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,447	533,683	638,261	532,800	83.6%	83.5%	83.5%	-0.1%
375	Camps & Retreat Ministries	368,800	311,735	368,689	312,285	84.5%	84.7%	84.7%	0.2%
385	Congregational Development	1,050,000	872,236	1,049,693	855,636	83.1%	81.5%	81.5%	-1.6%
550	Conference Administration Fund	1,566,002	1,314,603	1,599,804	1,338,053	83.9%	83.6%	83.6%	-0.3%
575	Jurisdictional Mission & Ministry	166,023	140,876	165,976	138,536	84.9%	83.5%	83.5%	-1.4%
590	General Conference Administration	178,121	151,424	191,336	158,538	85.0%	82.9%	82.9%	-2.1%
600	Ministerial Education	708,723	593,688	706,399	582,910	83.8%	82.5%	82.5%	-1.3%
670	Interdenominational Cooperation	54,873	46,801	55,793	47,206	85.3%	84.6%	84.6%	-0.7%
710	Black College Fund	282,209	237,799	281,284	232,641	84.3%	82.7%	82.7%	-1.6%
715	Africa University Fund	62,322	55,120	62,115	53,865	88.4%	86.7%	86.7%	-1.7%
	TOTAL	\$16,997,962	\$14,738,170	\$17,489,783	\$15,056,058	86.7%	86.1%	86.1%	-0.6%
	OTHER ASKINGS --								
099	UM Center Addition	400,000	367,366	564,075	204,098	91.8%	36.2%	36.2%	-55.6%
576	Lake Junaluska Dam	30,210	22,466	30,163	22,141	74.4%	73.4%	73.4%	-1.0%
	TOTAL	\$17,428,172	\$15,128,002	\$18,084,021	\$15,282,297	86.8%	84.5%	84.5%	-2.3%

*Jim Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer
January 16, 2009*

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Council on Connectional Ministries is being intentional about its role of implementing our vision and purpose by following a process that focuses exclusively on mobilizing all resources of the conference to equip congregations to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

We have in place Guidelines for chairpersons that include their responsibilities such as: timeline for meetings; required meetings; responsibilities of chairperson; the basic responsibility of the board or agency; relationship with connectional ministry staff; funding cycle and some basic tips on how to run a meeting. This document was designed by several congregational specialists and presented as a training tool with chairpersons at the organizational meeting for boards and agencies.

Chairpersons are to complete grant requests forms by answering the following questions: Why is this program necessary? How does this program strengthen local United Methodist congregations? How does this program enhance the connectional bonds of the United Methodist Church? And what will take place if this program is successfully completed? These forms can be completed on line and submitted to the Grant Funding Committee for approval, then recommended to connectional ministries for approval.

Evaluation forms are placed on line for all chairpersons to evaluate programs that were implemented. The Grant Funding Committee will use these evaluations to help determine the effectiveness of programs in meeting the needs of congregations.

Our Congregational Specialists have been and are very busy as they strive to complete the many requests they are receiving from local churches for assistance. Most specialists have scheduled appointments months in advance and over the last two years they have had contact with more than 50% of our congregations. This is an indication that our churches are very receptive to our willingness to listen to their needs and provide needed assistance.

The 2008 session of the Annual Conference approved the request made by the African American Committee for a full time Congregational Specialist for African American Ministries. As a result of this action Rev. Ken Nelson has been appointed to this new position. Cathy Joens has been hired as a new Congregational Specialist.

As we continue to redirect our emphasis to equip local churches we move to become more effective in connecting local churches to ministries beyond themselves.

Earline Haywood Ulmer, Chairperson

Report 2 – Part I

SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2010

A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 17
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 24
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2010
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 7
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 14
Women's History Month	March 2010
World Day of Prayer	March 5
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 14
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 14
Religion in American Life Month (Worship)	April 2010
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 18
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2010
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2010
National Day of Prayer	May 6
Christian Family Week	May 3-8
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 23
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	May 30
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 3
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 17
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance in cooperation with the Children's Defense Fund	October 8-10
World Community Day (UMW)	November 5
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 14
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 28
World AIDS Day	December 1

B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 21
Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 7
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 9
United Methodist Men's Day	June 20
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	August 8

Call to Ministry Sunday
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering
SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday

August 22
September 12
September 19
November 7

Resources for 2010 Special Day Observances

United Methodist Communications develops interpretive material for special days designated by the General Conference. Sample materials and order blanks are sent to pastors 60 days prior to the special day. Also check out the website at www.umc.org. Resources for special days designated by the Annual Conference will be provided as below:

- SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministry Sunday** – The Conference Board of Global Ministries provides materials for this special day.
- Women in the Pulpit Sunday** – The Commission on the Status and Role of Women publishes annually Worship Aids on the conference web site for Women in the pulpit Sunday
- Mother's Day and Work Day for Epworth** – Epworth Children's Home prepares bulletin enclosures and sends samples from the General Church.
- Golden Cross Sunday** – Supports the work of health and welfare ministries in the annual conference, including nursing scholarships and emergency medical care scholarships.
- United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday** – Asbury Hills United Methodist Camps and Sewee Coastal Retreat Center provide materials upon request for this special day.

Report 2 — Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2010

- Alston Wilkes Society:** Since 1962, the Society has been in the business of rebuilding lives and providing second chances. It creates and supports opportunities statewide to help adult and juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, homeless veterans and other homeless people, emotionally- and behaviorally-disturbed children, and the families of these groups of people to become responsible and productive through employment, mediation, life skills, rehabilitation, prevention, volunteerism, and transitional housing services.
- Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** This ministry's purpose is to strengthen the local churches in their ministry, and to minister to all of the people in its geographical area by a program of activities which can best be realized through the cooperation of the churches within the parish. The services provided are: Joint Worship, Bible Study, Activities for Children and Youth, Leadership Training in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission (ex. distribution of food commodities, health fair, mission fair, blood drive, clothes closet and relief kits.), Tutorial Program (K-12) In-School and After-School, Vacation Bible School, Transportation, Newsletter and Shalom Zone (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Emergency Medical and Inadequate Housing), Shalom Literacy and Congregational Resource Center for Strengthening the Black Church.
- Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia:** The mission of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment where children and youth are nurtured through activities and programs that address their educational, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. Additionally, the Center seeks to empower women and families to enhance their quality of life by providing assistance and services with special attention to the concerns of justice and advocacy. Since its inception in 1945, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center continues to service the residents of the Waverly-Edgewood and surrounding communities. It provides a variety of programs to include a lab for Computer Literacy Technology, Pre-GED classes, After-School Enrichment and Tutorial Program, Summer Reading Activities, Vacation Bible School, Emergency Food Distribution, Community Forums, Internship Opportunities, and Parenting Classes. The Center's facility is available for utilization by the community for programs, weddings, meetings, worship services and other activities.
- Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg:** The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's day care facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of two and five. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts (dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults include Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.
- Church and Community Workers Field Share:** A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries and the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant— Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.
- Cooperative Ministry:** A unique ministry of the religious community serving as an instrument of God's love to those in crisis. Through the Ministry, religious congregations in the Greater Columbia area respond to requests for help from local and transient people, improve the quality of life for the needy and visibly reflect God's care and concern for the total well-being of all persons in our community. This ministry offers direct financial assistance, counseling, information, referrals, clothing, computers and furniture, and long-term programs to address the root causes of poverty.
- Crisis Ministries-Anderson:** The ministry responds to critical, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. It provides crisis prevention, intervention, stabilization, and education. This

includes telephone crisis lines and a walk-in center providing for stabilization of immediate crisis situations, information and referral to other community agencies and brief crisis counseling. The ministry works with other community agencies such as Mental Health and Anderson Interfaith Ministries to extend access to their services after business hours. Through our Providence Project, we seek to enlist churches and mentors/volunteers to help provide emotional and supplemental assistance to those in our community who are in crisis. They also provide Camp Providence, a summer day camp for community groups and children in the community who cannot afford a day camp experience.

Grand Strand Leisure/Crisis Ministries: Responds to critical needs of persons vacationing in or traveling through the Grand Strand area. It provides worship services, Bible study, recreation, a snowbird ministry (October-March), crisis assistance, information and referrals.

Interfaith Community Services, Inc.: Addresses social challenges and meets community needs through advocacy, education, collaboration, research and services. Interfaith Community Services provides training and technical assistance to churches and other community groups working to meet critical social needs, sponsor and support local and state efforts which help people overcome the interrelated barriers of racism and poverty, and develop cooperative programs and resources which respond to the needs of children, young people and families. Current program areas include child care resources and referrals, faith-based community health initiatives and community development.

Killingsworth: This is a transition home for women in crisis. Our ministry is to support, empower, and advocate for women recovering from crisis within a safe, nurturing Christian environment. This includes: room and board, counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and community re-orientation.

Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry: The Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry is an Advance Special that ministers to children and adults visiting six of the area's campgrounds. Services include day camps, crafts, drama, music and evening and Sunday services. A seminary student serves as the campground chaplain and is provided with room and board from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The main goal is to advance Christian education while meeting the religious and social needs of families and individuals visiting the Grand Strand area.

Oliver Gospel Mission: Operating within its third century of service, the Mission continues to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the homeless and needy citizens of Columbia, South Carolina. This mission's purpose is to glorify God and to evangelize, educate, and disciple while providing food, shelter and spiritual guidance to the poor and neglected. The ministries of Oliver Gospel Mission provide counseling, referrals, life-skill training, employment, and an alcohol/drug recovery unit. It is our desire that all will go forth refreshed and newly aware of his place in society as a new creature in Christ.

Rural Mission, Inc.: This is an ecumenical organization that provides human, spiritual and social services to low-income Sea Island residents and migrant workers. Through education, advocacy and outreach, Rural Mission provides a lifting hand – spiritually, emotionally, physically, and economically – whatever the need, ministering to anyone on the S.C. Sea Islands. To better meet the needs of our migrant children and families, the mission collaborates with outside agencies by networking their local migrant task force, schools, health and social services, and governmental agencies, as well as farm workers' organizations and local churches.

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow): This is an ecumenical Christian mission providing children with food for the body, mind and spirit. It serves children during the summer months at sites located in Abbeville and Anderson Counties. All services are free. For the children's bodies it provides SCDSS approved lunch's weekdays and physical activities at each site. For the mind it provides games, activities, speakers and field trips that the children would not experience without the program. It also provides back-to-school supplies to program children. For the spirit the sites are led by caring Christian people. Some sites have Bible Study and all sites say grace.

United Methodist Relief Center-Mount Pleasant: An agency of the South Carolina Conference, the United Methodist Relief Center's mission is provide affordable housing to very low and low-income families through housing rehabilitation, replacement, or first-time homebuyer opportunities, while at the same time offering opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in hands-on ministry. Volunteers work under the guidance of experienced construction supervisors and participate in spiritually enriching activities led by clergy.

Through its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, the UMCR addresses the critical need for safe, adequate housing for families living at or below 50 percent of the median income, with priority given to those at or below 30 percent. The program also includes an advocacy component called the "Helping Hand." The primary goal of "Helping Hand" is to work with individuals and/or families to increase their level of self-sufficiency in maintaining their homes once rehabilitated or replaced and to increase their awareness of their property as an asset. This additional assistance serves to instill a feeling of dignity and self-worth in the participants, as well as to ensure their ability to maintain and manage their asset.

The ET (Elderly Transportable) Housing Program is a statewide program that enlists local churches and businesses to participate in the construction of housing for elderly recipients. These handicapped accessible housing units constructed on recycled mobile home frames in parking lots are used to replace dilapidated housing and are provided rent free to the recipient as long as needed.

The newest program of the UMRC is the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. This construction programs enables low and very-low families to participate in home ownership through construction of their own homes in partnership with one another, building community while building homes. During this process, families learn decision-making skills, as well as construction skills, thus preparing them for the responsibilities of home ownership.

UMRC was born of devastation generated by Hurricane Hugo.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission: Its mission is to provide opportunities for South Carolinians to get personally involved in short-term mission projects at home and abroad. Its services include construction, medical care, education, agriculture and supportive services.

United Ministries of Greenville: The United Ministries is an extension of the servant ministry of cooperating congregations in Greenville County. United Ministries assists poor people in emerging from hurting situations by providing for basic needs and by creating environments that allow people to make positive changes. United Ministries has developed a process for helping people move from basic survival to self-reliance. The process includes: **Survival** (Emergency Assistance – help with rent, utilities, food, heat, medicine; Place of Hope – a day shelter for homeless people; and Travelers Aid), **Stabilization** (Transitions – helping families access public services; and Adopt-A-House – rehabilitation for low/moderate income homeowners), and **Barrier Removal** (Employment Readiness – helping find, get and keep jobs; Magdalene Project –

working with women who are homeless, addicts, pregnant or prostitutes; and Life Skills – teaching basic skills for health and responsible living.)

Wallace Family Life Center: This is a family-oriented facility whose mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people in the Wallace community.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Board of Church and Society continues to serve The United Methodist Church in South Carolina both as an advocacy arm and as a resource for local churches in coping with the many issues confronting them in their communities. Our task is to confront and change the obstacles that impede our efforts to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world.

Because quality education for the children of our state has been a major focus of this Board for some time, we have continued to keep education as one of our primary areas of advocacy for this year. In order for our citizens to be prepared to cope with the demands of the modern world, we believe a quality education should be available for everyone. We, therefore, support Goodbye Minimally Adequate, and we have applied for and received a grant to assist them in their efforts to communicate this need to the citizens of South Carolina. An inadequate education is a significant obstacle to fulfilling our mission of making disciples for Christ.

We also have an ongoing concern about the issue of payday lending and the destruction that it causes in the lives of the already struggling poor in our state. Engaging in ministry with the poor is one of the four areas of focus for the United Methodist Church, and the conditions which payday lending encourages are a definite obstacle in this ministry. We, therefore, continue to work with the United Methodist Women and other organizations to change the lending policies of our state. Current lending practices take advantage of our poorest citizens in order to benefit wealthier individuals. In order to address our church's area of focus on poverty, we must change the practices that perpetuate poverty.

In addition to these areas of advocacy, the Board has recently begun to address the issue of human trafficking. To that purpose, we have presented a resolution to this Annual Conference to address our concerns. Human slavery for whatever reason is unacceptable for any one of God's children. The church will have to face this objectification of human beings in order to bring Christ to both those who are buying and selling God's children and the individuals who are being used in such a manner.

In order to be the best possible resource for churches in the South Carolina Conference, the Board brought Rev. Clayton Childers, Director of Annual Conference Relations for the General Board of Church and Society, to provide training for its members. Members of the Board have now been trained to conduct workshops for local churches. In addition, Rev. Mike Vandiver, the Peace with Justice Coordinator, and Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Chair of Board, along with 77 other chairs and coordinators from 48 conferences participated in an intense training session prior to attending the Quadrennial Training session in Jacksonville at the end of January.

There is much work to be done for God's people in the state of South Carolina, and the current economic climate makes that work even more challenging. The Board of Church and Society, however, is striving to address these tasks, and we look forward to continued work with local churches and other Boards and organizations to fulfill our mission of making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Mary Lynn C. Polk, Chair

THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Conference Board of Education's Vision is: To be a vital resource for churches in the South Carolina Conference, to bring fresh, workable, and enabling ideas and challenges to equip churches to be places of learning, spiritual growth, and service in our world, while celebrating and fostering diversity and inclusiveness in support of making disciples for the world.

Throughout the year the Board of Education has attempted to become more a more hands on committee as we transition from activities led by conference staff with participation by Board of Education members toward a working board with minimal support from conference staff. The current board consists of the Children's Council, eChristianEd, Ministries with Families, and Older Adult Council. It has been discussed that we, the Board of Education, research the possibility and the need of reorganizing a Singles Council. Sentiment of continuing board members is that a singles ministry is needed and that a new board should undertake to reorganize the Singles Council or similar singles ministry.

The board provided scholarships equal to 80 percent of the registration fee for Bible study training offered by Cokesbury (Disciple, Christian Believer, etc.).

Board members also participated in conference wide implementation of the Safe Sanctuaries resolution, which took effect January 1st. That effort was spearheaded and fully supported by Willie Teague and the Council on Connectional Ministries.

The Board of Education heard reports from the Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries at each meeting and commended the board for its stewardship and plans for the future. The Board of Education also approved the nominees to the Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries.

A board which meets only twice a year with members from around the state will continue to struggle so long as adequate conference staff resources are not provided. At a time when Cokesbury has reduced its training events and Christian education is so important in the local church, we believe that the board should be resource helping churches to become leaders in knowing, understanding, and informing their people about effective Christian education materials and teaching methods at all age levels, and with the present resources available to the board, that is extremely challenging if not impossible.

A new quadrennium has brought with it new members, a new chairperson, and a fresh approach to dealing with the responsibilities of the Board of Education. We thank all members of the Board of Education for their faithful work this year and single out for special thanks the leaders of the councils: Dawn Compton, Ruth Arant, Bart Sistare, Betty Shuler, and Judson King, our congregational specialist Cathy Joens, our vice-chairperson Rhonda Jones, and our recording secretary Carol Singletary.

We thank and praise God for the extensive and effective efforts of the council chairpersons and their colleagues that made so many ministries and programs so successful this year. We are optimistic that the Board of Education indeed will become a more effective resource as it moves forward.

Rev. Kevin F. Dalton, Chairperson

THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES

This has been a year of transition for the Council on Ministries with Families. After five years of immersion in the philosophy and methods of Family Ministry led by Dr. Roland Martinson, the Council has developed four comprehensive areas that will be offered via facilitators who will support congregations when invited into our local churches through your District Superintendent or your Conference Specialist. These facilitators are presently being trained to enter congregations with listening ears and discerning spirits as they guide congregations in discovering their potential for Family Ministry. The facilitators do not impose any preconceived program though they are prepared to suggest a number of available resources. Rather, they will listen to the congregation's concerns, celebrate their successes, and offer tailored support for that particular context. The support will be born out of the four areas of emphasis: Storytelling, Interacting with Integrity, Healing and Restoration, and The Baptismal Journey.

The Council on Ministries with Families is excited to have grown to this point and we are eager to empower and employ Local Church Facilitators into action. All who would like to be part of the Council, to be trained as a facilitator, or would like their congregation to be supported by a facilitator, should contact one of the Council members.

Council members include: Ms. Rubielee Addison, Rev. Steve Brown, Ms. Fran Elrod, Mr. Francis Hipp, Rev. Kathy James, Ms. Robin Landers, Ms. Doris Seals, Ms. Carol Singletary, and Rev. Bart Sistare.

Rev. Bart Sistare, Convener

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

In keeping with the focus on the local church and serving as an advocate for older adults in the South Carolina Conference, activities are planned to inspire, enrich, and equip older adults to be in ministry with one another as they serve God. Three local churches in the Charleston District experienced our ministry in April as we engaged in assisting them in repairing and giving a lift to their fellowship halls during the Mission Event. Working alongside older adults of the churches, we painted, built cabinets, and cleaned floors. Nineteen older adults from across the Conference participated in this activity.

The 2009 Spiritual Life Retreat was a time of inspiration and fellowship as we heard our Resident Bishop, Mary Virginia Taylor, as she shared the Wesley Heritage which is so relevant today. Very inspiring thoughts were shared at the Morning Prayer and Praise as the sun was rising in the East. Two hundred ninety seven persons attended the Retreat and enjoyed a special event this year as ten older adults provided entertainment ranging from solos to skits.

An intergenerational video, "Talk to Me", is being made which will promote better understanding of how each generation has experienced and used communication. It will be shared across the Conference with the hope that it will provide the beginning of discussion that will lead to a better understanding of intergenerational communication.

Plans are also underway for One-Day Events in each District so that more people will be able to participate in our activities.

Betty Shuler, Chairperson Council on Older Adults

THE DIVISION ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Division on Youth Ministries began a busy 2008 year with six Spiritual Life retreats in January and February...2 at Lake Junaluska and 4 at Springmaid Beach. Over 2000 youth and adults attended these Spiritual Life weekends that contained dynamic speakers and awesome music. These Spiritual Life weekends connected youth and youth workers together from around the conference helping them to understand what it is like to be a part of a connectional church.

A confirmation retreat led by Chris Hughes was held in January at Springmaid beach. In March and April many of our South Carolina confirmands participated in confirmation retreats at Lake Junaluska.

The 31st annual State Basketball Tournament was held the weekend of March 7-9 at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina. The Reverends Jerry Temple and Jerry Hill lead the communion worship service for the participating teams. Over 750 youth participated in the three day tournament with over 2,000 youth and adults in attendance to support their teams.

June of 2008 brought a change of leadership to the Division of Young Peoples Ministries. After more than 28 years Mrs. June Willson retired from her position as staff person overseeing the youth programs of South Carolina. During the 2008 Annual Conference Mrs. Willson was recognized for her many years of service to this conference and this conference's youth. "Mrs. June", as she was affectionately called by the teenagers of the conference, touched the lives of many youth during her years of ministry. Many of those teenagers are now participating in some form of ministry in our local churches because of her influence on them.

A diverse group of teenagers from around the conference went to Washington D.C. in June for the Washington Seminar. Each year this group of youth explore a social justice theme that can bring information back to our local churches for education and ways to make effective change in our world.

June 24th was the beginning of camp for the Spirit Singers, which is a group of auditioned teenagers in grades 8-12 that perform in concert at churches around the conference. Auditions were held in March in Summerville, Marion, Greenville, and Columbia. The Spirit Singer which are comprised of 31 youth and perform under the direction of Kathy Jo Long. This group of youth spends a week at Spartanburg Methodist College learning a full service of music and then goes on tour to churches around the conference for four days. The Spirit Singers then perform at churches through out the year. In 2008 the Spirit Singers performed at the Methodist Oaks, Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee, Manning UMC, First UMC/Marion, and several other United Methodist churches across the conference.

The highlight of the Spirit Singers in 2008 was a trip to Italy, June 9-18. This group performed at St. Peter's Basilica, St. Angelo Spirito Methodist, and Duomo de Firenze in Florence, among other places in Italy. The Reverend Joe Long led Spiritual Growth Study, "Faith Journey-Italy" and the group did some site-seeing in such places as Rome, Florence, Sienna, Pisa, and Venice.

Youth Annual Conference was held at Spartanburg Methodist College July 7-11. 350 youth and 40 adults attended the week long event which included family groups, workshop, games, and worship. The Reverend Tiffany Knowlin brought an inspiring message to the teenagers each morning of the conference. The 2008-2009 Youth Network was selected through an interview process at Youth Annual Conference. Thirty-eight teenagers from across the conference were selected to serve on the Youth

Network Committee. Candice Dennis of St. Mark UMC in Taylors was elect Chairperson of the Y-Net for the 2008-2009 year. The Youth Network group met in August at Ashland UMC in Columbia to plan for the 2008-2009 year. During this one day meeting the Y-Net planned for the upcoming Spiritual Life retreat for 2008-2009.

The Division on Youth Ministry is in the process of enhancing the ministries for youth in the upcoming year and looking at ways we can better connect and equip local churches for youth ministry. This July the event formerly known as Youth Annual Conference will become "Breeze" and will focus on discipleship for our teenagers in South Carolina. January 2010 will see the Spiritual Life retreat move from Springmaid beach to the Columbia Convention Center the weekend of January 22-24. This move will allow our teenagers to connect and experience powerful worship in one place.

The Youth Network group looks forward to the ways we can continue to share Christ to the World and to the youth of South Carolina in the year ahead.

Candice Dennis, Chair, Y-Net

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism has been intent in pursuing its responsibilities according to the Book of Discipline. The Book of Discipline says the board is to plan and promote comprehensive ministry for evangelism for persons of all ages. In an effort to promote evangelism, the board published a newsletter for and another will be published before Annual Conference. The Bishop's 5-Star Awards will be presented this year at Annual Conference, as will the Denman Awards for Evangelism.

The Bishop's BASH on March 15, 2009 served as a means to extend an invitation to committed discipleship for this year's confirmands. In addition to learning of polity and women's and African American influence in Methodism, confirmands had time with Bishop Taylor. This year they were also invited to show their intention to being Jesus' disciples by attaching their names to a central cross.

The Board of Evangelism began an ongoing relationship with the Foundation for Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship. Rev. Kenneth Lambert, Director of Church Relations, spent a day meeting with the board and helping interpret, refine, and interpret evangelism. After a theological and biblical foundation, Rev. Lambert shared his research from interviews in growing churches across the nation and identified the common traits among them. In an effort to help the board be effective in its responsibilities to the conference and local churches, he proceeded to lead the board through a time of assessing conference, district, and congregational needs in the area of evangelism. One year and quadrennial goals for impacting evangelism were established. Subcommittees were formed and met at various times in the spring to put these goals into accessible and usable formats for districts and local churches.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Kitty Cooper Holtzclaw

THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Conference Board of Global Ministries continues to work with the Council on Connectional Ministries in equipping our local churches for mission and ministry in the world. Our new structure, begun last year, has been working well.

We have written new applications for certification for Advance Special Ministries, along with applications for funding for those ministries. These are available on the conference website. We have also made webpages for Church Extension Partnership and Hungrief.

During the year, the CBGM made the following grants:

From the James M. Belin Trust-

- Rural Mission- \$8,000 for youth workcamp scholarships
- Old Bethel UMC, Charleston- \$15,000 to start mentoring program
- Cordessville UMC- \$4,000 to start an emergency food pantry
- Bluff Road UMC Child Development Center- \$10,000 for computer equipment
- Trinity UMC Spartanburg- \$6,000 to start ministry with hearing-impaired people
- UMVIM- \$62,000 to make four Emergency Relief Trailers

From Hungrief Funds-

- Tracey Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.- \$500
- Manna Station, Wesley UMC, Columbia- \$500
- Cordessville UMC Emergency Food Pantry- \$1,000
- ARCH Ministries, Spartanburg- \$1,000
- Camden First Kidz First Afterschool Program - \$500
- God's Helpers, Hartsville District - \$500

From Church Extension Partnership-

- St. John-Shiloh UMC, Florence District (Advent Call 2007)- \$2,880
- Bethel -Union UMC, Spartanburg District (Lenten Call 2008)-\$4,436
- Prospect UMC, Florence District (Conference Call 2008)-\$3,487

Guidelines and applications for the Belin Trust, Hungrief, and Church Extension Partnership may be found online at www.umcsc.org, and for the Renfro Trust by writing Renfro Trust Fund, P.O. Box 237, Lake Junaluska NC 28745

We would also like to thank Ms. Millie Nelson, Ms. Tammy Fulmer, and the Rev. Willie Teague for their invaluable help over the past year.

Michael B. Henderson, Chair

THE COMMUNITIES OF SHALOM

The South Carolina Communities of Shalom continue to seek to build community, weave unity and transform the world, one community at a time. Communities of Shalom are equipped local ministry teams in asset based and collaborative approaches to systemic change, economic prosperity, healing and health, and sustainability. The Communities of Shalom have adopted a six-point approach to community transformation that can easily be remembered by the letters of Shalom:

- S** = systematic sustainable change
- H** = healing, health, harmony and wholeness
- A** = asset-based community development
- L** = love for God, self and neighbor
- O** = organizing for direct action
- M** = multicultural, multifaith collaboration

South Carolina Annual Conference still maintains the largest number of Communities of Shalom (31) in the world and because of our history and work, we were blessed to be selected by the National Communities of Shalom Board to host the National Shalom Summit on October 29-31, 2009. We are expecting Communities of Shalom representatives from around the world to be present at this summit. Persons interested in attending can register at <http://www.communitiesofshalom.org>. The theme for the Summit is **“Stepping Up To Shalom”** and the South Carolina Communities of Shalom continues to step up for change. Yes We HAVE!

Reverend Ellis White, Jr., Chairperson

THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Like so many other groups at the beginning of a new quadrennium, the past year for the Annual Conference's Disaster Response Committee has been marked by change. After a long and distinguished tenure as Chair, the Rev. Lee C. Bines “retired” from this role and the Board of Global Ministries selected a new Chair. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Lee for his long service and commitment to the goal of getting the local churches and districts to develop plans for the inevitable—the disaster that is not a question of “if it will happen” but, rather, “when it will happen.” Thank you, Lee.

Consistent with the focus on the local church, UMCOR, at a national training event in November, rolled out a new set of training tools to enhance our ability to both help raise the consciousness level of local church leadership to the importance of preparing in advance for a disaster, through planning and training, and to in fact assist with the conduct of the planning and training processes. Over the coming year, a concentrated effort will be made by the Committee and through the District Disaster Coordinators to offer these tools to all of the churches in the Annual Conference.

As reported last year, a new Conference Disaster Plan is being prepared. However, we have taken some extra time to benefit from the experiences of several conferences that have recently experienced major disasters. We are also incorporating new learnings from our UMCOR consultants. At the same time, the new Chair has been busily getting up to speed by attending UMCOR and SEJ sponsored training events and developing strong connections to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SCVOAD). In February, he was selected to be a member of the Executive Committee.

While we have been fortunate in that no major disasters have struck in South Carolina in the recent past, we did experience severe tornadoes in March 2008 in the Allendale/Bamberg area. Through the leadership of Billy Robinson, Early Response Coordinator for the SC Annual Conference, an early response team was on site in less than twenty-four hours, and team members from around the state continued for several days to fulfill their mission to make homes damaged by the tornado safe, sanitary, and secure. The system for notification, activation, and deployment worked!

The Conference year 2009-2010 promises to be a busy one for the Disaster Response Committee. We invoke your prayers and participation to make it a successful one as we work to bring all local churches and ministries of the Conference up to the necessary level of preparedness. We also pray that you will continue to volunteer your time and skill to filling our need for UMCOR Response Teams and UMCOR Recovery Teams, for possible deployment in South Carolina and to respond to needs in Conferences around the country and to disaster sites around the world.

Finally, we want to thank the congregations around the state that responded to the call last summer for flood buckets. More than 1,000 flood buckets were assembled and provided to the Sager-Brown UMCOR Distribution Center for use in relief of floods around the country. Thank you members of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and thank you Tony Rowell, UMCOR Coordinator, for personally collecting many of the buckets and getting them delivered!

George Olive, Chairman

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Throughout my tenure as President of Spartanburg Methodist College, we have made many concerted efforts to claim and proclaim our relationship with The United Methodist Church. In addition to being accredited by the Commission on Colleges (COC) of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the College is accredited by the United Methodist Senate. For many consecutive years, the College has hosted the Spirit Singers (the South Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist Student Choir), the Youth Annual Conference, and the annual meeting of the School of Christian Ministry of the United Methodist Women in the South Carolina Annual Conference. We are proud to partner with the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in these important ways.

The College expresses its church-relatedness in many other ways. We have a full-time Chaplain of the College, the Rev. Candice Sloan. Chaplain Sloan also serves as our Director of Church relations. Our religious life program includes weekly worship services on campus, Bible studies, and a host of service projects in the community. Our Chaplain has also been assigned as the coordinator for the annual Freshman Day of Service project, held on the first full-day when freshmen students are on campus. Over 400 students, faculty, staff, and volunteers from the community are organized into teams of 20-25 and sent to

over 20 locations in the greater Spartanburg area for the Day of Service. After returning to the campus for lunch together, the FDOS teams engage in conversations about the meaning of service and how it will become a hallmark of their experience as students at Spartanburg Methodist College. As the need arises, Chaplain Sloan teaches a course in religion.

The College has assigned specific duties to a member of our Institutional Advancement staff to coordinate the fundraising work of the College with the United Methodist Church. The Rev. Michael Bowers, Director of Gift Planning and Church Solicitation, has strengthened the relationship with the Annual Conference, The General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry by securing grants and gifts to support the work of the College. Mr. Bowers, a graduate of Spartanburg Junior College, has contributed to the advancement of the College not only by his professional work and through personal gifts to and leadership within the College community.

Chaplain Sloan, Mr. Bowers, and I participate in local United Methodist churches across the Conference each year. Whether it is through preaching the sermon, participating in the liturgy, assisting in the sacrament of Holy Communion, teaching in the churches' educational program, speaking at United Methodist Men and/or United Methodist Women events or arranging for the SMC Choir and/or the Troubadour Choir to perform, the College community is involved in various ministries in local churches throughout year. Furthermore, the College hosts numerous local church activities and District Meetings on campus. As President, I have spoken at many District Ministers' Meetings throughout the Annual Conference. In 2008, I was given the distinct privilege of being the keynote speaker at the annual "Presidents Luncheon," an event that is held each year during Annual Conference to recognize and underscore the unique relationship that exists between The United Methodist Church and the four United Methodist colleges in the Conference.

The College makes concerted efforts to recruit United Methodist students each year. Through the Discovery Days programs, special visits to local churches by Admissions Counselors, the President, the Chaplain and the Director of Church Solicitation, and the dedication of specific scholarship resources restricted to United Methodist students, the College continues to serve United Methodist youth. Each year, the College participates in the special scholarship program begun by the General Board of Higher Education in Nashville, Tennessee, to gather as much scholarship and grant resources as possible to support the enrollment of United Methodist students at our institution. For many years, the College has asked United Methodist ministers to recommend a student in good standing in their respective churches to receive an annual \$1,000 United Methodist scholarship. The College also annually awards \$1,500 scholarships to the children of United Methodist ministers who enroll at SMC. These specially designated scholarships are not based on academic ability or unique talents but have been established to assist United Methodist students reach their academic goals at Spartanburg Methodist College.

I am proud to report that the 2008-2009 academic year was a successful year in many ways. Our enrollment remained steady, our fundraising totals were strong, and our projections for the future of the College remain optimistic. At the time of the writing of this report, our enrollment for the spring semester 2009 is very good, and the projected enrollment of new students for the 2009 fall semester is ahead of the pace at the same time in the previous year.

The economic crisis in 2008-2009 has and will continue to impact the College in several ways. Our endowment resources have declined as the Stock Market has declined. This loss results in fewer dollars that can be used to operate the College. However, we are optimistic that this trend will be restored in future years as our Executive Committee considers and makes wise decisions in regards to the investment of these resources. Already we have learned that some parents of our students have lost their jobs and others have been forced to use the investments originally dedicated for their students' college education to meet more immediate family needs. As the nation works its way through the economic crisis, we continue to closely monitor enrollment, retention, and our investments. We are most grateful for the assistance provided by the United Methodist Church, and we pledge to you again our commitment to use these resources appropriately and wisely.

The relationship that the College has with the South Carolina Annual Conference is strong. I ask the leaders in the Annual Conference to join with College officials to further strengthen this partnership in higher education. The College needs a strong relationship with the Church to maintain its moral character, and the Church needs the College to maintain its emphasis on the importance of education in the mission of our faith.

One of the exciting things we are doing this year is the establishment of a President's Advisory Council. This Council will be composed of leaders in the Upstate and will assist the President to keep a finger on the pulse of community issues that may impact the College and, at the same time, position the College to respond to community needs.

This is a year of transitions at the College. After 11 years at SMC, our Dean of Students, Dr. Art Hartzog, is retiring on July 1, 2009. Dr. Hartzog has been a wonderful colleague, a trusted advisor, and a genuine friend to faculty and students alike. He developed an outstanding Student Development program at the College, including the creation of the curriculum for the SMC 101, 102, and 103 courses. These courses have become a model that other institutions have used to improve their work in Student Development. A search is underway to fill his position.

Mrs. Ann Wenz, Professor of Art, will retire from the College following the May 9th Commencement Service. The College will miss her great teaching talents and the many ways she contributes to the life and work of the College outside the classroom.

On July 1, 2009, I will retire as President of the College. It has been a wonderful and exciting 12-year experience to lead this wonderful academic community, and we have accomplished many things during my tenure at SMC. Many persons have expressed to me their appreciation for what I have accomplished at SMC. While I am grateful for their gracious compliments, we should remember that our excellent Board of Trustees and my wonderful team of colleagues on the faculty and staff also deserve recognition. I am grateful for the many friendships I have made and the wonderful colleagues with whom I have worked during the last twelve years. A search committee is at work to find the new leader for SMC. I will do everything I can to ensure a transparent and smooth transition for the College and my successor.

Allow me close this report by sharing a few personal reflections on the value of United Methodist higher education. I was born and raised in Asheville, NC and had a great formative experience in my home church, Trinity United Methodist Church. I earned four academic degrees from three United Methodist institutions: Associate in Arts at Brevard College, Bachelor of Arts at High Point College, and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry at Emory University. In each of these great United Methodist institutions, I found myself in a wonderful community of scholars whose central mission was to educate and train persons to become responsible citizens and educated leaders in the church and in society. I found many role models as I studied with great churchmen and educators. Upon graduation from Emory University with the Master of Divinity degree, I served a one-year appointment as minister to Avery's Creek United Methodist Church in the Asheville District. However, in a short time I discovered that my ministry could best be carried out in the setting of Christian higher education.

For 37-years, I have served in various positions in three extremely strong United Methodist colleges: twelve years at High Point College, thirteen years at Brevard College, and twelve years at Spartanburg Methodist College. In each setting, I enjoyed many professional relationships that continue to be formative in my life. Any degree of success that I may have enjoyed in these institutions has its roots in United Methodism. My life and ministry have been shaped by persons in The United Methodist Church and especially through my varied experiences in Christian higher education.

The roots of my faith, the education I received, and my professional experiences I had at two other United Methodist colleges profoundly influenced my leadership as President of Spartanburg Methodist College. Building upon the imperative in our faith to serve others, I have endeavored to give shape and direction to Spartanburg Methodist to ensure that students, faculty, staff, Trustees and friends of the College are exposed to Christian values that influenced my life and made my journey so very interesting. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity that the Board of Trustees gave me to serve as President of this excellent institution. I retire knowing that whoever is chosen to follow me as President of the College will be God's instrument of leadership in this wonderful College community.

Deus Providet, God Provides, is the motto of Spartanburg Methodist College. With great confidence, I know that God will continue to provide spiritual guidance and direction for those who study, teach and lead at Spartanburg Methodist College. This is as it should be. Amen!

Blessings and Peace,

Charles P. Teague, President

THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Board of Health and Welfare continues to work to uphold the ministry of Christ and the tradition of John Wesley in the United Methodist Church, with the ministry of health and wholeness. This year, we focused on the mandate from the Annual Conference to make the work of Board and Agencies relevant to local congregations in accordance with the Conference Vision: **To make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping it's local churches for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God.**

In our current economic environment, it is imperative that we all work together to love and serve God and our neighbors in innovative and tangible ways as we seek to improve health and welfare in our communities. We continue to look for ways to share and celebrate the health and welfare ministries that are already part of so many of our local congregations. We encourage local churches to serve as resources for health and welfare-related ministries so that we can utilize our unique connectional relationship to improve holistic health in our communities across this annual conference.

In addition to seeking low-cost health and welfare interventions, we continue to oversee the funds provided through the annual Golden Cross offering and grant monies awarded for the purpose of eliminating barriers to worship. Through your generosity and commitment to the Golden Cross Offering, we were able to award \$1552.89 for home maintenance, \$3600 to assist three persons with their medical bills, and four \$1000 scholarships for persons enrolled in healthcare and nursing programs. In addition to the local church offering, we received \$907.48 from the Williams-Walker Trust Fund into the Golden Cross account. We continue to encourage every local church to observe Golden Cross Sunday on the first Sunday in February, each year.

The Programs sub-committee approved a request for \$1000 for large-print Bibles to assist those with visual difficulties from Mount Zion UMC in Kingstree. They also approved a request for \$1500 to co-sponsor the *Dare to Dream* workshop through Family Connections of SC for the purpose of providing education for churches on enhancing worship opportunities for families with children with special needs.

We continue to solicit and review nominations for the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, Wesley Commons, the Methodist Oaks, the Manor of the Pee Dee, and the Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. These nominees are presented to the Conference Committee on Nominations and to the Annual Conference. The Board of Health and Welfare liaisons attend meeting of the Boards of the homes, and representatives from each of the homes gives a report to our Board during our bi-annual meetings. It is critical to maintain relationship with each of the homes and we remain pleased with the ministries offered by our homes and communities in these difficult economic times.

There are presently nine housing units allotted for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, three of which are occupied and one vacant; one at the Manor of the Pee Dee which is occupied; and four at Wesley Commons, which are occupied. The interest from the Elma Hill Endowment Fund helps maintain these retired clergy units. As of December 31, 2008 there was a balance of \$90,071.75 in this endowment and \$3511.33 was allocated in 2008 for maintenance. The current distribution of funds based on the formula is as follows: The Methodist Oaks (37%), Wesley Commons (42%) and the Methodist Manor (21%).

We remain thankful for the support and cooperation across this Annual Conference for the work of the Board of Health and Welfare, and covet your prayers and your ideas as we continue to live into the Conference Vision. May we be ever mindful that the need for health and welfare ministries becomes even more critical in tough economic times, and that we can make a difference in our communities and in our conference as we seek to live as disciples of the Christ.

Blessings,

Sandra Smith King, Chair

THE ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

The mission of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is to develop and provide homes and services that will enable adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible in a communal setting that ensures security, dignity, and a stable environment of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Aldersgate moved closer to the realization of this mission with the completion and opening of two homes over the past year.

The year has presented many challenges for the ASNM Board of Trustees, which along with meeting the many requirements for licensing of the homes, also included a change in our consultant and management organizations, and being certified by the state as a Qualified Licensed Provider of services. Many Board members gave considerable time to address these challenges, and were assisted by dedicated parents of our approved residents, as well as many friends of Aldersgate. Our accomplishments

would not have occurred without the direct help of the Rev. James McGee (The Oaks), Mr. Ron Lofts (Orangeburg County Special Needs and Disabilities Board), Mr. Harris Davis (Housing Help Inc. of Orangeburg), and Mr. Scott Middleton (Agape Senior Services).

One major step in our progress was the hiring of our first Project Coordinator, Mrs. Edwina Jackson. Mrs. Jackson has guided us through regulatory requirements, hired and trained staff for the Columbia home, and will provide direct oversight of the Columbia Home. Mrs. Jackson established an office for ASNM at 731 Sims Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205.

A ribbon cutting was held on December 15, 2008, for the Builder's Care Home in Columbia, on a lot leased from the Epworth Children's Home. The construction of this home was a gift of the Home Builder's Association of Greater Columbia. Six female residents moved into the home in March of 2009.

The Aldersgate at the Oaks Home, located on the campus of The Oaks, a United Methodist Retirement Center in Orangeburg, was constructed through a grant received from HUD. Several individuals and churches in the Orangeburg area assisted with the furnishing of the home. This home for male residents will be managed by Mr. Ron Lofts. A ribbon cutting was held March 12, 2009 with the first residents moving in shortly thereafter.

The Aldersgate Ministry depends on the support of individuals and churches in order to provide quality services for adults with disabilities. Churches are asked to receive a special offering for Aldersgate on the second Sunday of August. New offering brochures, provided through a grant from the Central Carolina Foundation, are available to highlight the ministry of Aldersgate. The Board also gratefully acknowledges grants from the Ray Tanner Foundation, The Arkwright Foundation, and the SC State Housing and Development Authority.

Interest continues to develop concerning future sites for Aldersgate homes in Columbia, Greenville, Rock Hill and Florence, SC. With increased awareness of our unique ministry, continued support from many individuals and churches and definitely with the blessings of God, we will work to ensure that God's children with disabilities may "rest securely in safe dwellings."

Rev. Stephen P. Taylor, Chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 113 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina who cannot remain in their own homes.

The primary goal of this annual conference mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, faith centered residential environment, where children who are not able to remain in their homes receive the best possible care, and are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued to implement the CARE (Children and Residential Experience: creating conditions for change) model developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principles that form good residential group care. The Cornell University Residential Care team continues to train, and observe our staff members at regular intervals.
- II. Joined Cohort IV which is a group of 12 child care agencies in North and South Carolina. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in cooperation with the Duke Endowment, has implemented a program of outcomes research in residential treatment settings for children and youth. Through this outcomes based research we will be better able to determine what the most advantageous options are as we care for our residents.
- III. Averaged 79 children per day in the residential population plus four college students who live off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program averaged 18 children per week in a preschool program. This program serves children who are developmentally delayed. The EEIC program also served 46 families on a regular basis through its home based component.
- IV. Moved into year two of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of moving the current giving level of \$4.74 per church member to \$6.00 per member. In the calendar year 2008 church giving increased by \$58,000. That is an increase of .26 per member. Three-hundred and five churches representing 40,723 members failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals.
- V. Closed the elementary and middle school on campus and opened the after-school tutoring and enrichment center. All Epworth children now attend public schools in Richland District One.
- VI. Adopted a budget of \$4,082,181 for the fiscal year 10-1-08 through 9-30-09. This is a reduction of \$448,475 from the previous year's budget.
- VII. Established an Early Intervention Funds Committee that is charged with raising the amount of money each year that will enable the EEIC to operate at its current capacity.

The Epworth Board of Trustees after careful study reaffirmed the policy of reducing the amount received from the endowment fund each year by \$200,000 until the maximum draw is 5%. The difference in the endowment funds revenue and operating costs is to be covered in increased donations and other revenues.

Revised mission, purpose and vision statements were adopted by the Board of Trustees. They are as follows:

Mission: The mission of Epworth Children's Home is to serve children, youth and families through a caring, accepting and safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

Vision: The vision of Epworth Children's Home is to provide superior services for the greatest number of individuals through competent, caring adults who are trained in the most effective, research based methods of child and family care.

Purpose: The purpose of Epworth Children's Home is to honor God and neighbor by breaking the destructive familial cycle of neglect, abuse and shame, and replacing it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self respect, responsibility and productivity.

Only 10% of Epworth's income is generated from a combination of state and federal money, and fees for service payments. This is far lower than most other homes. It is largely through the generosity of South Carolina United Methodist that once again Epworth has been able to provide over four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families in South Carolina.

John E. Holler, Jr., President

THE METHODIST OAKS

The past conference year 2008-2009, has been a challenging year as we join with the rest of the world in reacting to the economic difficulties of our nation. At The Oaks initiatives have been put into place reducing costs and creating new revenue streams for the future.

- **PACE** – Our PACE program, started in March of 2008 is proceeding well serving over 30 participants. The Program for the All-inclusive Care for the Elderly is a federal program that uses both Medicare and Medicaid to care for the most frail and poorest of seniors who are still living in their own homes. Qualified seniors receive free transportation to and from a day-care site that provides nourishing meals, medical care, physical and occupational therapy, and socialization and community.
- **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry** – The Oaks is one of the sites for this wonderful new ministry of the South Carolina Conference, having set aside four home locations on our campus. We expect the home to have residents in place by the time Annual Conference is held. The home will house up to six adult males. One of the first residents moved into Aldersgate and his mother moved into The Oaks. They will be close by and can visit often.
- **Wellness at The Oaks** - The Oaks Wellness program is extremely strong on campus with over 60% of our independent residents participating actively in the program. The heated, enclosed, pool and spacious cardio/strength and exercise rooms are improving the quality of life for many residents and staff. Our new **Passport to The Oaks** program allows seniors in the Orangeburg community to participate in our Wellness and Campus Life programs for a nominal fee each month. We have a waiting list waiting to join.
- **Interpretive Nature Trail** – In April of this year, The Oaks Interpretive Nature Trail was featured in *South Carolina Wildlife Magazine* as a site to visit. The Nature Trail is open to the public by appointment and is used by schools, scouts and others. Claflin University uses the trail as a training site for its Cross Country Team and as an Ecology Lab for the Ecology courses.
- **The Oaks Home Services** – In March of 2008, The Oaks initiated Home Services which serves residents on our campus and a five county area surrounding Orangeburg. Providing multiple non medical care needs allows people to stay in their homes and apartments as long as possible. Part of the Home Services offering is the use of **passive monitoring** technology to provide a level of comfort and social connection with family and friends. We have installed the system on our campus and provide non intrusive monitoring for a number of families.
- **Elderhostel** – The Oaks is working with Claflin University to establish an Elderhostel program using housing available on our campus. The program is in the formative stages at this point, but both The Oaks and Claflin are excited about the possibilities for the program in providing interesting educational programs for seniors throughout the nation.
- **The Board of Trustees** appreciates the support of the South Carolina Conference through apportionments, gifts and prayers. All are important in allowing us to maintain our ministry to the aging population.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Coleman, Chair, Board of Trustees

THE UNITED METHODIST MANOR OF THE PEE DEE

In the wake of a faltering economy, The Methodist Manor was able to maintain a balance between resource demands and financial accountability that is required to continue its mission of providing quality housing and healthcare services to the elderly. This was accomplished in large part due to the solid foundation that was laid at the Manor's inception, a foundation that was built upon a commitment to quality care for those being served and good stewardship of the resources provided by those being served.

During the past year, the down turn in the real estate market created a halt to new construction and expansion in Asbury Village, the patio home community at the Manor. The number of patio homes at Asbury Village has grown and now consists of 36 homes. The capital to construct these homes is paid into the Manor by their occupants. The program to finance these homes provides that when an occupant vacates a home a portion of the capital contribution can be refunded from a capital payment made by the next occupant.

The Manor is undergoing a remodeling of its independent living apartments to upgrade them to the quality expected today by people seeking retirement housing. Refinements and improvements to service of residents have also been made to include a person-centered model for services that are delivered to residents. This new model for service delivery redirects the times and types of services being provided so that resident choices and convenience are incorporated. Management is infusing a new spirit of caring to enhance the quality of life of those who call the Manor their home.

The Manor is serving about 230 residents with an operating budget of approximately \$6 million. The operating budget is funded primarily by service fees paid by the residents. The service fees are based on the level of service received by the residents. The Manor has a bonded indebtedness of \$11.9 million as of December 31, 2008. Debt service payments on the bonded indebtedness are included in the annual operating budget of the Manor.

In the last year the South Carolina Methodist Conference contributed \$84,396.00 to the residence assistance fund at the Manor. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. There are currently four residents receiving assistance from this fund. The Manor also received \$1,791.71 last year as its portion of the distribution from the South Carolina Methodist Conference Foundation and received \$473.02 from the restricted endowment fund of the South Carolina Methodist Foundation which is held exclusively for the benefit of the Manor.

Lead by a Board of Trustees committed to the needs of older adults, the Manor will meet the challenges of an uncertain economic future and will continue to assess how its facilities and programs can be improved to meet the needs of its residents.

*D. Laurence McIntosh, Chairman, Trustees
Wm. Frazier Jackson, Executive Director*

WESLEY COMMONS

Wesley Commons continues to be a blessed organization and we remain grateful for our Mission success and growth during this economic downturn. Currently, Wesley Commons is home to over 420 residents that are served by over 260 employees. The impact of this family of 690 individuals is not only evident on our campus, but across the greater community of Greenwood. Members of Wesley Commons can be found supporting organizations such as Lander University, Piedmont Technical College, Chamber of Commerce, Humane Society of Greenwood, and HospiceCare of the Piedmont to name a few. We are also working to better serve local youth through programs such as BEST, a mentoring program in our local elementary schools. Our campus is an impressive collection of caring and compassionate individuals who add great value to our local community.

Our waiting list for many of our neighborhoods remained steady throughout 2008. We continue to attract individuals from far and wide. With more than 80% of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from all areas of the Southeast, we have re-engineered our services and amenities to accommodate this *booming* population. Close involvement with our Resident Committees allows us to continuously fine tune the scope of our operations.

While 2008 showed a continued fine tuning of our operations, we remained proactive in our attempts to navigate through the beginnings of the current economic downturn. Our advancements have not come easy and are especially taxed by the current state of our economy. This year has been laden with many challenges which have tested our resolve. Yet, through determination, ingenuity, and keeping our focus on our core Mission, we have stayed the course. The negative indicators of our economy in both the financial and housing markets have had an impact on our future residents. In some cases individuals had to pass up their available position on our waiting list to move into Wesley Commons as a result of such issues. To assist our future residents and to enable better protection from the pain of this turn down, we continue to design and implement new options to enable them to make the right choice.

We remain humbled and honored to be reminded of our most important asset and blessing: our employees. God is good and has provided Wesley Commons with a wonderful team of dedicated and Mission oriented individuals, who pleasantly and compassionately serve our residents day in and day out. Currently, we have begun an awesome task of preparing our employees for our next major advancement in our Mission. It is our desire to retool and rethink how we deliver exceptional services to our current and future customers. We envision a campus which is based upon delivering much more individually focused service and support in a residential setting, as opposed to the current institutional standard prevalent in our country. Noting a shift in consumer demand for various services, we have embarked on a mission not only to redesign certain accommodations in our neighborhoods, but we are redesigning our entire delivery of Health Services.

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our elders continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. Wesley Commons' current level of support is extremely taxing on our resources; our ongoing Ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. As our economy has been negatively impacted by this downturn, our requests for support have increased, while our donor funds have decreased. Our ability to continue to provide over \$1 million of subsidized services to our residents each year is being tested and strained. With the Methodist Conference providing just over \$192,177 of support in 2008, Wesley Commons' Operational funds made up the difference of that subsidy to those unable to pay for their care.

The support of organizations and individuals such as yourself will help us to continue to provide exceptional services to many through the Mission of Wesley Commons. We thank you for your continued financial support of Wesley Commons.

In His Way,

*Rev. John T. Miller, Chairman
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO*

THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The lengthy paragraph 634 of the 2008 Book of Discipline outlines the work of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries (BHECM). With those Disciplinary requirements, the board fulfills its role with the South Carolina Annual Conference, the United Methodist related colleges and universities of this state, the various local Wesley Foundation Boards and Campus Ministers, as well as college students and local churches. Effective ministry with so many various constituencies demands a clear understanding of our current mission and role as a board and a common vision of our future work with our ministry partners. As this quadrennium begins, the BHECM is composed of many new members and we are seeking that clearer understanding and working toward a common vision.

In our work with campus ministry, we need to understand the board's role regarding Wesley Foundation programming and property issues. Here are some of our questions we hope to resolve: Who owns the Wesley Foundation property, and what oversight route should be taken for new buildings and improvements? What is the annual conference's future role in maintaining aging buildings that house Wesley Foundation ministries? What role does the local Wesley Foundation board play in fund raising and oversight and how can the BHECM equip local boards for effective ministry? Currently, the Annual Conference offers approximately 15% of its 2009 budget to higher education and campus ministry in South Carolina. How will the growing campus ministry program be funded adequately in the years to come?

Our work with higher education is just as challenging. As our United Methodist related colleges and universities seek quality students from across the nation, what can the colleges learn from the church and what can the church learn from the colleges? How can the United Methodist "brand" be part of the ethos of these institutions as they train and educate citizens for the future? Vibrant partnerships rooted in our common heritage are needed as we develop the college/church connection for the coming decades.

Your BHECM will be working on these questions and issues along with many more during this quadrennium. We ask for your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph James, Chairperson

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Having built upon the significant progress and achievements of the 2007-2008 academic year, Claflin University is pleased to provide an account of the 2008-2009 academic year in which the institution saw many notable firsts.

The University's student population remains steady with approximately 1,800 students enrolled. They come from 42 South Carolina counties and 24 states. Fifteen countries are represented through our international students. The 2008-2009 academic year marked the largest freshman class (462) in the institution's history, an 18.5% increase selected from our largest applicant pool (4,225) which is up 38.2%. The class also included 71 Honors College Scholars, up 16.4%.

In the inaugural list of "America's Best Colleges and Universities" by *Forbes.com*, Claflin University was the nation's Highest Ranking Historically Black College or University (HBCU), and ranked in the top four percent of all U.S. undergraduate institutions.

In addition to being included for the 11th consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report*, as one of "America's Best Colleges," ranked number 13 in the Top Tier among Baccalaureate Colleges in the South, we were also ranked number seven for a second consecutive year in the publication's list of "America's Best Black Colleges."

A significant institutional achievement was the successful visit from the Commission on Black Colleges of the University Senate of The United Methodist Church in November. The University was recommended and approved for continued participation in the Black College Fund and affiliation with The United Methodist Church.

Resident Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor delivered the 2009 Founders' Day keynote address and gave a stimulating and informative speech on the early life of Lee Claflin; Claflin University is named for the philanthropist and his son, Massachusetts Governor William Claflin.

The 16th Annual Granville Hicks Academy for Laity and Clergy was held in February. Dr. Lee H. Butler of Chicago Theological Seminary and Dr. Reginald Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, Va., served as the faculty for the academy. Religious Emphasis Week also was observed in February and Melody Cooper, a Claflin graduate, was among the presenters.

With our strong and committed tradition of building character and instilling humanitarian values in each of our students, we take great pride in the outstanding community service achievements of our entire student body. For the 2008 Fall Semester, our students completed more than 15,000 hours of community service. For a third consecutive year, students were awarded first place by the national Kidney Foundation for sponsoring the most walkers in the annual Kidney Walk. As a result of the outstanding community service achievement and hours rendered to the community, Claflin University students were named for a second consecutive year to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Inclusion in the Honor Roll is bestowed in recognition of innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. In addition, Claflin University students were recognized for having the largest number of donors among all HBCUs on the National Marrow Donor Registry.

This academic year also marked the launch of a new strategic marketing initiative, set to further position Claflin University as one of America's premier liberal arts institutions. The initiative was launched on Matriculation Day with a new brand and tagline – "The World Needs Visionaries" – leading the charge.

Our recognition for academic excellence has been in tandem with our enhanced global visibility. Our first Fulbright Scholar, Aundrea Conner Farris, a 2008 religion and philosophy graduate, traveled to Turkey this past fall to teach English and African American studies. In addition, members of the Claflin University Concert Choir traveled to China last summer as part of a three-city choral tribute to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, and, based on its HBCU-best record, the men's basketball team was invited to participate in the inaugural Trinidad and Tobago Hoops Classic.

This year, Claflin University Panther Athletics began its first season of NCAA Division II competitive play, and its first as a full member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). The men's basketball team completed a 25-3 inaugural NCAA season, capturing the SIAC regular season crown, and Coach Ron Woodard was named SIAC Coach of the Year. Ranked Number Ten nationally among NCAA D-2 teams, the Panthers also competed in their first NCAA tournament and made it to the semifinal round. In addition, Claflin University kicked off the new era of athletic accomplishments by recognizing past athletic trailblazers as 21 were enshrined in the first class of the Athletics Hall of Fame.

We at Claflin University are encouraged and motivated by one of our very best years in making strides in academic achievements, faculty and student achievements and for being able to re-invest ourselves in sustaining and upholding our mission and goals by preparing our students for visionary leadership and service in a global and technological society.

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

This is certainly a challenging economic climate for private colleges as we daily digest the news about student loan markets, endowment losses, reduced tuition grants, and the difficult fundraising environment. The distressing news is softened by the knowledge that we are blessed to be doing God's work as we remain committed to guiding the development of students empowered to work for social justice and to dedicate themselves to making the world better for the generations to come.

We began the year with the largest first-year class in thirty years and with the largest evening program in our history. However, the economy had an impact on our retention and enrollment was slightly down in spite of the large number of new students. For our opening Convocation on September 3, the new pastor of College Place, Tiffany Knowlin, was our speaker. Of course, we are especially proud of her since she is a 2003 graduate of Columbia College! That was soon followed by the annual Columbia College Day at College Place United Methodist Church on September 14. I spoke on Jesus' example of putting the needs of others before our own.

A very meaningful activity throughout the fall semester was sponsored by our Diversity Committee. A large group of faculty and staff members formed a discussion group. We met on several occasions during the semester to discuss *Understanding White Privilege: Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race* by Frances Kendall.

In preparation for our upcoming (February 2011) accreditation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the entire campus community, including students, faculty, staff, alumnae, trustees, and community leaders, have been engaged in development of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The board effort has narrowed our choices to five commitments: globalization, experiential learning, second-year experience, student engagement, and personal and social responsibility. The final selection of a topic for further development will be announced this spring.

The Alliance for Women at Columbia College continues to work in partnership with the Commission on Women to address issues of poverty, educational access, health, and low political representation by women. We have sponsored numerous workshops, conferences, and residential camps. In addition, we are pursuing funding to establish a micro-lending program statewide.

Our annual Medallion Dinner recognized two women who embody the 4Cs of Columbia College leadership. Senator Linda Short and Judge Karen Williams exhibit courage, commitment, confidence, and competence in their lives and accomplishments.

Columbia College Chaplain Valerie Mireb directed a week-long celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. On January 19 students and faculty joined the march to the Statehouse. The campus held a luncheon and panel discussion with guests who were present for Dr. King's historic "I have a dream" speech. An honored guest at the luncheon was the student winner of the annual MLK Day poetry contest. On Tuesday, the campus celebrated the inauguration of President Barak Obama with a group viewing in the student union and a discussion, moderated by communication professor Jason Munsell, following the President's speech. In Wednesday's chapel the Reverend Tiffany Knowlin spoke on the principles evident in Dr. King's life. On Thursday Dr. Mary Stepling discussed regional and race-specific dialects and our responses to them. On Friday, the campus completed the week of activities with a volunteer project with Harvest Hope food bank.

An important activity at the college this spring is what we are calling the "Re-visioning of Columbia College." The vision statement that guides the process follows:

The re-envisioning of Columbia College is designed to assure that the college is as relevant to women's education for the next 150 years as it has been throughout its history. We must focus and transform our message to resonate with a new generation; we must adapt to national and global changes and to increasing opportunities for women; we must provide a community and an academic program that is strong, exciting, and accessible to prospective students and potential donors. In re-envisioning Columbia College we must inspire students through a strong liberal arts curriculum, a deep grounding in United Methodist values, and commitment to developing women leaders. We must respond energetically to economic challenges that could endanger our future.

To achieve this vision, we must ensure that our human, physical, and financial resources are effectively allocated. Specifically, we must enhance the funding for salaries, facilities, and growth opportunities.

To thrive as a college we must:

- Budget efficiently in order to be selective in enrollment and control costs to students
- Position the college to attract a wide base of students and donors
- Analyze and respond to evolving academic and professional markets
- Provide competitive salaries for faculty and staff
- Develop desirable academic and residential facilities

Six committees and a steering committee worked many hours and sought wide campus input to present recommendations this spring to achieve this vision.

While we look to the college's future, we continue to celebrate our heritage. On February 11, Dr. Wright Spears, beloved president emeritus of Columbia College was honored at our annual Founder's Day celebration.

We continue to find blessings in sharing the values of our United Methodist faith and in shaping the power of young women to change the world.

Caroline Whitson, President

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Achini Bandara, a Wofford pre-med student from Columbia, S.C., spent the summer of 2007 working in an Anglican-sponsored hospital operated by the Christian Health Association of Malawi. In the remote and desperately poor village of Chamama, the clinic was a difference-maker, particularly for young mothers and their babies. However, disturbed by the incomplete hospital building, Bandara returned to Wofford determined to make things better. Little by little, she personally raised more than \$12,000. She also met with Dr. Ron Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion. They developed a January Interim project that allowed her to travel to Malawi during the dry season. When she arrived with her funds, construction was in progress, but substantial work remained. Bandara purchased supplies, arranged warehouse space, and dealt with the government to ensure tax exemption for key materials. After her graduation, she plans to return to Malawi, and eventually, she hopes to practice medicine in the developing world.

The work of Achini Bandara demonstrates why Wofford was placed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Of the 635 colleges and universities on the honor roll, Wofford was one of only 83 to earn its place "with distinction." It was a confirmation that "Wofford's commitment to sustained civic engagement and social justice is strong and thriving," says the Rev. Lyn Pace, associate chaplain and director of service learning.

To sustain this momentum, Wofford has organized a College-Church Council that meets three times annually. Chaired by Trustee C. Michael Smith of Greenville, the council includes trustees, administration, staff, students, clergy and laity. Though it has carefully reviewed the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's study of branding of United Methodist colleges, it has focused on various aspects of the college's connection with the local church, such as the congregational internship program that now involves eight students and the Emerging Leaders Initiative (ELI) that supports 20 participants. The College-Church Council also is promoting Wofford's annual United Methodist Student Gameday, which is scheduled for October 17, 2009. Finally, the council seeks to lower barriers to Wofford's full participation in activities such as the annual Methodist Campus Ministry service trip, which usually falls during the mid-May exam period.

Of course, the struggling economy is on the minds of everyone charged with responsibility for the college operation, and major steps are being taken to conserve, reduce, cut back, and economize. Losses to the endowment value (approximately 30 percent) will have a negative impact on the college's ability to fund scholarships and other programs in the next few years, making even more crucial the efforts of local churches to sustain and grow the Senior College Scholarship Fund within their apportionment items. Wofford seeks your prayers, guidance and support in continuing a tradition of church-related educational excellence.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin B. Dunlap, President

CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation continues to grow in grace and gifts. We publish our first newsletter this summer with a great response. We were invited to participate in Trident Technical College's student activities fair which we attended.

Our prayers remain with all of the troops in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan but especially our alumni, Jonathon Lance, Anthony Reynolds, Christopher Waldrop, Jeff Throckmorton and Bill Houpt. Come safely home to us!

We are so proud of our two alumni in the ministry, Aaron Meadows and Mallory Forte. Aaron is a provisional elder in this fine conference and a proud new parent of a beautiful baby girl. Congratulations, Christy and Aaron! Mallory Forte is in her third and final year as a Candler student. Thank you for the wonderful job you did as the retreat leader of the 2009 SCUMSM Spring retreat in February. "Mama Lisa" was very proud! SCUMSM leadership team - you were both innovative and efficient.

Our four groups continue to grow in wisdom and numbers. Bethel UMC - Charleston continues to be the home of our College of Charleston programming. Thank you for loving the college student as much as we do. Thank you, John Wesley UMC for your monthly financial support. We do so appreciate it and you. The CSU group is growing in numbers and diversity. God is so faithful. Wesley UMC - Ladson, you are such a warm and welcoming church to many of those students. God bless you. The group at Medical University of South Carolina continues to attract students, staff and faculty of various faith traditions. Our discussions can be quite lively and inspiring. Rev. Joe Cate of Point Hope UMC and Mary Ann Gilkeson of Bethel UMC, your time, gifts and love to this ministry - TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) - will always be its driving force. The Citadel group is losing some of its strong leadership through graduation this spring. Chase, Jade, Bryant, Craig, Karen - C of C, and Adrian - C of C, you will be missed. Please know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you will visit often. Special thanks to the Station 15 of John Wesley UMC who gave of their talents and time to give an awe-inspiring concert at the Wesley interdenominational gathering at the Citadel. You rocked the house and our souls! Thanks to the youth adult group of Grace UMC who provided the pizza for a crowd of approximately 90 students.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had another successful year. We sponsored two adolescents in the Halos angel tree event. Our annual Mission Weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at the United Methodist Relief Center was a time of Christian action, reflection and fellowship for all.

To the beloved churches of the Charleston District thank you for your unwavering support in gifts of food, time and finances. Trinity UMC- Charleston, you continue to be the backbone of this ministry in your selfless giving of physical space and office support. Our grateful hearts seem so inadequate but please know that we are deeply appreciative of your continuing Christian action. The ministry of Charleston Wesley Foundation would not be flourishing and innovative without the guidance, prayers and support of the dedicated Charleston Wesley Foundation Board of Directors. We are so grateful to all of the prayerful, generous churches of the Charleston District and of the South Carolina conference for your unceasing prayers and unwavering support. May God bless each of you.

Lisa C. Hawkins, Campus Minister

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

While in seminary I was introduced to Howard Snyder's book *The Radical Wesley and Patterns for Church Renewal*. Part theological and part historical, Snyder's book left an impression on me that continues to shape my approach toward campus ministry in Clemson. Snyder, more than another Wesley historian that I have read, focuses his text on the ways in which the otherwise "prim and proper" John Wesley was willing to think or work "outside the box" of his day - a stuffy, lifeless, overly Reformed-leaning Church of England.

As someone who seeks to bridge the gap between the 50+ somethings and the Gen X, Y and even Z generations, I have found Snyder's short yet pithy text helpful. I have come to believe that a reclaiming of the "radical" Wesley is one of the keys to our older Methodists appreciating our younger ones, and vice versa.

But who is this "radical" Wesley that Snyder reveals? In summary, this "radical" Wesley is one who was willing to innovate and try new approaches to accomplish the primary goal of sharing the Gospel and "Scriptural holiness" with all God's children, everywhere. Wesley's willingness to be flexible on the "opinions" while staying true to the "essentials" manifested itself in many startling and controversial ways for his day, including:

- leaving the "sacred" space of the church to share the Gospel with the poor and disenfranchised in the fields, mines, factories, and street corners;
- making use of the popular secular tunes of the day (often the ones sung in saloons) through new hymns designed to teach the tenets of the faith;
- commissioning uneducated yet gifted laity to preach the Gospel to the masses;
- empowering women to play significant leadership roles in the life of the movement;
- organizing believers into classes, bands and societies to ensure that everyone who joined the movement was both encouraged and held accountable in the living out of their faith;
- emphasizing that there was no personal holiness without social holiness, and that works of piety had to be intertwined with works of mercy directed to the poor, the hungry and the imprisoned;
- advocating against slavery, greed, and the other destructive social ills of his day; and
- establishing plain, unadorned preaching houses to ensure that the Gospel might be conveyed clearly and plainly to all people, no matter their social status.

Wesley's radical approach led him to being banned from many Church of England pulpits, even though he remained an ordained Anglican priest until the day he died. And the fruits of his controversial work? Well, you and I along with the 75 million other Methodists/Wesleyans around the world owe him a debt of gratitude.

At Clemson Wesley and Clemson UMC, we strive to keep our eyes firmly on the "essentials" of the faith while always being open to new possibilities, approaches and even innovations to reach today's younger generations. For example, we believe that there is no one right way or style to worship God, so long as our worship is centered on loving God with our heart, soul, mind and strength and calling us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We believe that each and every person's voice and gifts are essential to the whole, no matter their gender, race or social status. We believe that our time together within the four walls of sanctuary

should empower us to lives lived for God outside the sanctuary. In summary, we believe that our methodology is consistent with the “radical” Wesley that we all claim as our forefather in the faith, and we are grateful to God for the fruit that these efforts have yielded in Clemson over the years.

In closing, I believe that it is essential for us all to remember that the Methodist movement started on a college campus. As in the era of John and Charles Wesley, college students today are equally as “ripe” for the Gospel as they were then. On the primary campus which I serve, there are a variety of campus ministers and ministries seeking to serve the faculty, staff and students. Some of these organizations are doing good work, while others are seeking to proclaim a Gospel that strongly differs from what we as Methodists hold dear. Sadly, the financial resources being expended by some of these groups are five to ten times what Clemson Wesley and Clemson UMC are able to fund. On other campuses the primary “competition” is not a distorted and potentially dangerous Gospel but no Gospel at all, where atheism, secular humanism and hedonism lead in the number of conversions.

To address these developments, I would challenge all Annual Conference delegates to inquire about how their local churches might be involved in hands-on ministry with and to the college students and campuses in their community. Here in Clemson, we are blessed to receive financial and other forms of tangible support from many of our sister UM churches in the greater Clemson area. It is a partnership model that works well and bears much fruit, and one that can easily be duplicated in other communities. I believe it is a model that would make the “radical” Wesley very pleased.

This is a glimpse of the approach that we seek to use with the nearly 800 students that call CW and/or CUMC home each year. We give God thanks for the thousands of graduates over the years who continue to serve God and the Church through full-time, ordained, and lay ministry. To all the individuals, pastors, youth ministers, Sunday School classes, women’s and men’s groups and local churches who support this ministry through your apportionments or other special gifts – may God bless you all in your desire to reach today’s generation of young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The harvest continues to be ripe, but more laborers and more folks willing to step “outside the box” are desperately needed.

*Rev. C. Lane Glaze, Director, Clemson Wesley Foundation
Campus Minister, Clemson UMC*

THE COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION

While it is true that college students are the future of the church, it is equally true that they are also its present. As such, they have their own set of gifts and unique perspectives and experiences to give shape to the mission and ministry of the church in this day and culture. They are students and yet also our teachers when it comes to building the church and welcoming the reign of God. The Wesley Foundation at USC (also known as the Methodist Student Network) is a place and a community where young adults take their faith and discipleship seriously, affirm the great traditions of Christianity and challenge the *status quo* of business as usual. The Methodist Student Network is a diverse and international community representing the global church. Students of various cultures, religious backgrounds, races and nationalities make for a vibrant and rich faith community. Much is to be celebrated in reflecting on its mission and ministry and its growth since it became a stand-alone ministry four years ago. Some highlights of this year are noted.

- Eight times a week students go into the community to serve at a soup kitchen, an after school mentoring program, Habitat-for-Humanity, and an EOSL program for Latino women in the West Columbia area which MSN students founded.
- Methodist Student Network has been to New Orleans and Dulac, LA on two occasions to be in service to and solidarity with its battered residents. MSN has been there 11 times since Katrina. We also served in mission for a week in Harlem, NYC.
- We took a team of 25 to Guatemala to be in ministry with people and Methodist Church in Santa Cruz del Quiche. There we ran a VBS for local children, helped to build classrooms for a church/school, held meetings and worship with the youth and provided a health clinic for the town and several outlying villages seeing over 400 patients.
- On campus we provided many opportunities for study and worship and support. Through various small groups (Covenant Discipleship, Freshman, Women, Men, Bible Study Plus, Grads), a program evening tackling tough issues of faith and life (such as sexuality, war, homosexuality, relationships and economic justice) and Quiet-time, students can be spiritually grounded and transformed.
- Sunday evening worship is a reconciling and unifying adventure as students of various nationalities, cultures, races and faith traditions discover a oneness in Christ that is real. Traditions and songs of the global church are incorporated.
- The faith community and Center provide hospitality and a place where life long friendships are formed and life/faith issues can be explored.
- Three recent graduates are in seminary. Three present students are preparing to enter.

Thanks to all the students who live out their faith and lead in ministry at MSN. Thanks to faithful friends and supporters who believe in the mission of the Wesley Foundation. Thanks to all those churches, UMWs, Circles and Sunday School classes who have given money and food to sustain students on their faith journey. What a blessing it is to accompany these students.

Tom Wall, Director – Campus Minister

FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

This has been an exciting year to be part of the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation. Many of the FMU Wesley students graduated last spring, so we for the most part were starting from scratch with programs and students. The Fall started off with a bang with a cookout attended by over 300 students. The fruits of that fellowship time together are about 20 students that now call Wesley family. Some of our new projects include:

- A worship scholar – We instituted a scholarship program for one student who is interested in ministry to learn to design worship under the campus minister’s guidance and lead the music. This scholar has given new life to the worship of the group
- A Food Drive – Wesley planned and implemented a campus wide food drive that had two competing groups. All Greek organizations competed against one another and the residence halls competed against themselves to see who could raise

the most food donations. This project was encouraged by a Wesley student who saw a news story telling of the shortage of food at the local pantry. The project was a booming success with the raising of 660lbs of food.

- New Bible Study – we have a group currently studying together “Christian Believer”. The students are excited and committed to the work with such an involved study.
- We have plans for campus wide events this spring including hosting an outdoor drive-in movie.

We continue to be thankful for the support of local churches in supporting campus ministries all over the state.

Jo Anna Fallaw, Campus Minister

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

In one of our weekly Bible Study lessons, we were focusing on the parable of the sower in which Jesus is discussing the different places that the seed will fall. One of the things I glean from this passage is the fruitful soil and the growth that occurs in these places. I have been blessed to be in ministry with this wonderful group of young adults and see the growth that has occurred in their lives – I have been blessed to reap what others have sown.

This year our theme has been “Stories” – our personal stories of our lives and faith, as well as the stories from our scriptures. In this manner we have not only learned much about one another [it’s interesting how little we REALLY know about one another], but also gained an appreciation for how the biblical stories are really our stories. When we read these familiar stories of our past, we see once again just how similar we [and all of God’s children] really are.

In addition to our weekly Tuesday night meetings [Wesley Night], in which we share a snack, worship/program, prayers, and announcements, this year we also have:

- Weekly Freshmen Small Group Meetings
- Weekly Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark
- Weekly Lunch in the Dining Hall
- Bi-Weekly Morning Prayer Meetings
- Retreats – i.e., Mountain Getaway, Fall Retreat, Spring Retreat
- Missional Outreach – i.e., Fall Spring Break Mission, Spring Break Mission Trip to Mississippi, Little Red Store [Thrift Store in connection with Monaghan UMC], Relay for Life
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Progressive Dinner, Movie Nights, Senior Luau

It is our belief that as students get more involved in their classes and other campus events, their time becomes precious; as a result, it is our desire to provide the students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship, and service. In this way, they can easily plug into our group [maybe not everything, though that would be ideal] and continue to grow in their faith and life.

Furman, Greenville, and the UMC are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young leaders who are passionate about their faith and living out that faith in their everyday life. We are truly blessed, and thankful, for all of the love, support, and prayers that we have been afforded by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, Campus Minister

THE UNITED METHODIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AT LANDER UNIVERSITY AND PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Spring semester is in full swing at Lander University and Piedmont Technical College. Our student base continues to grow and “Greenwood Wesley” is becoming more well-known on both campuses. Our e-mail contact list has grown to around 125 students, and many have been “plugging in” at different times.

We continue to enjoy Friday Lunch and Devotion at Lander, and Monday Bible Study at Piedmont Tech. All of our “eating meetings” begin with a devotion and prayer, and great discussion of a Bible lesson. A new program addition this year was a Wednesday evening worship service on the Lander campus called Balancing Act. The format has changed a little this semester to include a different discussion topic each week, led by students.

I continue to encourage students to participate in service projects. In December, GWF partnered with Piedmont Tech’s Christian Student Union for a “toiletries drive” for MEG’S HOUSE, a shelter for abused women. We also continue to partner with Main Street UMC in a “Good News Club” at Woodfields Elementary School. This semester we are planning a fund raiser for AIDS Research. We will be taking 4 students to the SCUMSM Spring Retreat at Springmaid Beach in February.

In December, Greenwood Wesley Fellowship was awarded a \$2,500.00 grant for women’s ministry. Board member Mary Lynn Polk procured the grant, and will help implement a women’s speaker series this fall on the Lander campus.

Our student center continues to be a “home away from home” for the students, with a TV lounge, computer room, washer and dryer, and prayer chapel. We are so thankful to Main Street United Methodist Church for providing this facility free of charge.

This has been a most rewarding year for me. I have enjoyed watching God work in the lives of these students. Greenwood Wesley is gaining recognition on campus as evidenced by increased participation and enthusiasm. Through our obedience God will continue to call disciples from the college campus, and grow His Kingdom!

Glenn Williams, Director/Chaplain

THE ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation continues to provide ministry to the students, faculty, and staff at Claflin University and South Carolina State University. The Wesley Foundation also provides a ministry of outreach and witness to the areas surrounding the Wesley Foundation and the two campuses. The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation is more than a facility or a concept, it is a vital ministry to the United Methodist Students and Ecumenical and Inter-Faith communities on both campuses and the larger community.

Here are a few of the activities the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation participated in the past year:

- The Granville Hicks Lecture Series at Claflin University.
- The 41st Anniversary Celebration of the Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University and the 1st Ecumenical Sunrise Prayer Service during the Orangeburg Massacre.
- Several Group Sessions on Domestic Violence
- Weekly Bible Studies
- A ministry to the Children and families at Trinity U.M.C. Child Care Development Center
- Spring Student Day at Trinity U.M.C.
- Student and Faculty Discussion Group
- Participated in a Campus Ministry Mission Travel trip and a Mission trip to Rural Mission
- UMSM Retreat, Spring Maid Beach
- Campus Melt Down
- Partnership with Public Health Task Force at Claflin University
- M.L.K. Second Annual Run at South Carolina State University sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Observance sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- Religious Emphasis Week
- Religious Life Committees (both campuses)
- Counseling Services

Finally, I wish to thank the members and staff of Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg Wesley Foundation Board, S.C. Annual Conference Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and the Orangeburg District Superintendent during this period of transition. The ministries of the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation are alive and well.

Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, Interim Minister

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Over 1400 plastic bottle caps collected in two weeks. At the Winthrop Wesley Super Bowl Party, a student shared an announcement from a local church asking for plastic bottle caps. "Caps for Chemo" provided 3 minutes of free chemo treatment for every bottle cap collected for the son of a nurse who had lost her job. Word spread around the campus, students dug through recycling bins, boxes were placed in residence halls and people from around campus donated. These days it seems that people are hungry to give in any way they can.

"We walk because they walk" is the theme of CROPWALK. Winthrop Wesley coordinates the York County CROP and even in the midst of these hard economic times, over \$37,500 was raised – more than ever before! Solidarity, taking seriously the call to lend a helping hand, and taking stock of our lives of abundance and blessings and sharing that with others are themes clear in the minds of students. Even though some of their parents are facing job loss and many are looking for part-time jobs to cover tuition and food, these students continue to look outward and continue to try to embody the hands and feet of Christ.

This past year we've gone on retreats to Chestnut Ridge and Springmaid, we've had tons of fellowship playing laser tag, whitewater rafting, and hosting a District Youth Day, we've gotten to know ourselves and each other better in small groups reading books like *Mere Christianity*, *Irresistible Revolution* and *Traveling Mercies*, we've worshiped together and broken bread in communion weekly, and we've shared home-cooked meals provided by the amazing churches of the Rock Hill district while lifting our voices in song and gathering for programs ranging from our United Methodist Social Principles and Aids Awareness to Scripture Studies and Game Nights.

The heart of who we are though seems to be service and outreach. You see their passion and commitment for justice not just in working at the Relief Center in Charleston, volunteering with Interfaith Hospitality, counting people during the bi-annual Homeless Count, providing worship services at Agape Senior, or working on the houses of needy families on Saturdays with the students of The Wesley House, but in the goals and the lives these students are trying to create. They don't want a faith that is merely words or hollow sayings, but they want to bring the Gospel to the world in concrete, meaningful, and life-giving ways. It's a pleasure to witness their commitment. It's also a challenge that these young adults offer to each of us to put our time and energy and money where our mouths are or at least where they should be.

We're gearing up for a May trip to New York City with our fellow campus ministries in South Carolina and an August trip to Managua, Nicaragua. Several of our students will be doing mission work around the state this summer at Camp Providence, the Relief Center, Rural Mission, and Salkehatchie and one of our graduates will be leaving for Ghana, Africa for his Peace Corps assignment. Yes, these are hard times, but God provides, and these young people aren't letting anything stand in the way of the work God has called them to do!

Looking forward to the continued journey!
Grace and Peace,

Rev. Narcie M. Jeter, Winthrop Wesley Foundation

THE BOARD OF LAITY

The Conference **Board of Laity** welcomed seven new District Lay Leaders to its membership and thanked the seven outgoing District Lay Leaders during the Laity Luncheon at the 2008 South Carolina Annual Conference. The new District Lay Leaders are Freda Brock (Anderson), June Willson (Charleston), Brenda Hook (Columbia), Barbara Ware (Greenville), David Salter (Greenwood), Robert Barrett (Orangeburg) and Earline Powell (Spartanburg). The Board held its first of four meetings during Laity Convocation at Lake Junaluska in July 2008. A *Day of Training* to ensure the District Lay Leaders were prepared for their work was held in August 2008. A Day of Visioning (November 2008) was held in order to strategically plan for the new quadrennium. Rev. James Arant led that day of visioning. As a result of the process the board reaffirmed its core beliefs and will

continue to offer support, training and direction for laity in the conference. As a result of the visioning process one new Task Group was added – Task Group on Communication/Networking - and we added Heritage to the Task Group on Leadership Development (Leadership Development and Heritage). We celebrate the work of our District Lay Leaders who have spent time within the districts working closely with the District Superintendents.

During the year the Conference Lay Leader was active in representing the Board as the newly elected President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. Meeting with the Extended Cabinet provided many opportunities to keep the Cabinet abreast of the workings of the laity in the conference. Continuing our efforts of partnership between clergy and lay, the District Lay Leaders attended Clergy Set-Up meetings, some Charge Conferences and were actively involved in the training of Lay Delegates to Annual Conference. The Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Lay Leader (Kathryn Scarborough) and the Columbia District Lay Leader (Brenda Hook) serve as members of the Lake Junaluska Assembly Board of Directors.

Task Group leaders continued their work in areas of (1) Laity Convocation, (2) Lay Speaking (3) Leadership Development, (4) Spiritual Formation, and (5) Stewardship. A summary of their activities follows:

Laity Convocation (Lisa Livingston) - is promoted as “A Weekend of Personal Spiritual Growth and Practical Ideas for Your Church” and offers workshops and speakers covering a variety of topics including but not limited to leadership development, spiritual formation, health and wellness, prayer, natural church development, aging gracefully, stewardship and fundraising and safe sanctuaries. This three day weekend is held at Lake Junaluska and all laity and clergy in the South Carolina Annual Conference are invited and encouraged to attend.

In 2008, Rev. Tony Campolo was our worship leader and in 2009 we welcome Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton from Galloway UMC in Jackson, MS as our worship leader. We are delighted to have Bishop Woodie White joining us as a workshop presenter and also as Lake Junaluska’s guest minister for Sunday morning worship. We are hopeful that the Hope for Africa Children’s Choir will perform as well.

The Laity Convocation Task Force is committed to making significant changes to the weekend schedule and constantly reviewing the workshops in order to provide information on the most appropriate topics to meet the needs of the greatest number of attendees. Through conversations about and evaluations from the 2008 event, we have identified ways to strengthen Laity Convocation in 2009. One such change is adding an opportunity for districts to meet together with their congregational specialists and other Conference Center staff. In addition, Bishop Taylor and Dr. Heyward will again dialog on the laity/clergy partnership. Offering a variety of workshops covering topics that are relevant to everyone is crucial to the success of this weekend.

Please mark your calendars now for Laity Convocation 2009, July 10-12, and July 11-13, 2010. Feedback is encouraged and should be directed to Lisa Livingston at llivingston@columbiasc.edu or 803.960.3675.

Lay Speaking Ministries (Mike Cheatham) - The mission of Lay Speaking Ministries is to provide training for the laity of the South Carolina Conference to create effective leadership in local churches. Local church leaders have taken courses to improve their leadership and communications skills. Local church and certified lay speakers are active in our local churches, in the districts and at the conference level. Lay Speaking Ministries classes are available in every district. Several districts offer multiple schools each year. Lay Speaking Ministries offers courses in leadership, communications, and caring.

Lay Speaking Ministries also equips the laity to be involved in ministry serving their local church in every area of leadership, mission, and ministry. Lay Speakers are developing many ministries across the conference. Lay Speakers are active in prayer groups, prison ministries, Bible studies, homeless ministries through local soup kitchens and food banks, ministries for women, and many more. Frances Gilliam, a certified lay speaker and author of our Instructor Training program was invited by the California-Nevada Conference to teach a weekend session for instructor training. Our conference director, Michael Cheatham, continues to serve as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries.

*Lay Speaking Ministries – Equipping United Methodist Laity for Ministry
It’s not just filling empty pulpits.*

Leadership Development (John Mason Allgood) - The Task Group on Leadership Development has designed a multi-faceted curriculum for emerging local church leaders—LeadershipNext. LeadershipNext is a 36-hour modular curriculum that consists of one-day-a-month seminars over a six-month period. Because of its modular design, LeadershipNext can be delivered at the district level across the Conference, making it possible to train 240-300 local church leaders per year. In a three-year period, this training could be delivered to nearly 1,000 leaders. There are 24 modules in the curriculum covering such topics as who we are in Christ, spiritual gifts and gift-based ministry, our connectional system and local church mission and ministries, evangelism, Natural Church Development, stewardship, discipleship, building teams for ministry, spiritual disciplines, teaching skills, and leadership skills. From January to May, 2009, the Task Force is conducting a pilot project of LeadershipNext in the Walterboro District. Our goal is to have LeadershipNext ready for conference-wide use in 2009-2010. A training event for instructors is planned for the fall of 2009.

The Task Force is continuing to sponsor leadership and clergy-lay partnership workshops at the Laity Convocation in Lake Junaluska. Two workshops were very successful in 2008 and we plan to hold two or three workshops in 2009. The Task Force is continuing its work on the development of an electronic leadership manual for local church lay leaders.

Spiritual Formation (Kathryn Scarborough) - The Spiritual Formation Task Group sponsored two breakout sessions at the **2008 Laity Convocation**. Rev. Dr. Tom Albin led a session on “Becoming a Praying Church: Appetizer or Main Course?”, and Mary Lou Redding led a session on “Finding a Way Everyday: Rebuilding Devotional Foundations”. Four breakout sessions will be offered at the 2009 Laity Convocation to include a session designed to introduce persons to the Five-Day Academy. The second Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation is planned for 2010.

Funding was provided for workshops led by Rev. Larry Hayes, “**A New Nominations Process: Prayer Focused, Spirit Led**”. These workshops were hosted by the Orangeburg/Greenwood Districts and the Greenville/Spartanburg Districts. **A Two-Day Prayer Conference** will be held **October 16-17, 2009** (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon) at Lexington UMC in Lexington, SC. The theme is: “**Prayer Changes...Each Person, Family and Church**”. Keynote speakers will be Rev. Dr. Tom Albin and Rev. Jeff Kersey. Participants will also choose two of the seven workshops offered on Saturday.

Members of the Spiritual Formation Task Force: Rev. Nellie Cloninger, Earline Powell, Rev. Ellis White, Jr., Dr. Robert Barrett, Clayton Easter, Suzy Speas, Linda DuRant, Betty Kay Hudson, Faye Love, Kathryn Scarborough, Rev. Tiffany Knowlin, Rev. Miyoung Paik and Jim Arant. We continue to seek God’s will in all that we do to resource the needs of the Local Church in the area of Spiritual Formation.

Stewardship (Donald Love) - Since our last conference report progress has been made in some areas of the five primary goals previously adopted by the Stewardship Task Group. Although we are pleased with the progress made, we realize that there is much work needed in this area of ministry. A brief summary of progress and plans are listed below:

1. The Stewardship page on the Board of Laity website has been up since June 2008. It provides a resource of information on stewardship resources and links to other related sites. Additional information with updates is planned. The Stewardship Manual, "Gifted to Give: Stewardship Alive" has been loaded on the Stewardship Web Page for use on line or download.
2. Stewardship Courses have been offered during District Lay Leadership Training Events, and Lay Speaking Schools. We encourage the use of these schools for promoting the importance of stewardship. Stewardship was also offered in the Conference 2008 Lay Speakers Instructor's School.
3. In July of 2008 a Stewardship Workshop "How to Create a New Spirit of Giving" was offered and led by Pat Luna. The workshop was well attended and provided attendees with valuable information and practical ideas to enhance giving in the local churches.

As March 28, 2009 Stewardship Training Workshop for members of the Stewardship Task Group, District Lay Leaders and other interested persons is complete. This workshop was led by Pat Luna. Session I covered **The Theology of Stewardship, Why People Give** and **Year-Round Stewardship**. Session II was a meeting of the Stewardship Task Group with Pat Luna to discuss plans to develop a Conference Stewardship Ministry that will be used in assisting our churches in the South Carolina Conference.

Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

As we enter a new quadrennium, the S.C. Annual Conference owes a great debt of gratitude to the Rev. Patricia J. Parrish, and the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry 2004-2008. As we transition, their work made it possible for this board to begin the new quadrennium on sure footing. We are mindful that to whom much has been given, much is required. With deep reverence and profound gratitude, this newly elected board accepts the mantle entrusted to us and vows to remain open to the fresh winds of Spirit blowing in the midst.

Additionally, a word of appreciation is due Bishop Taylor for the meticulous attention given to selecting a new board. Arguably, this board represents among the youngest and most diverse boards in the recent history of this annual conference. The new board, under the leadership of Bishop Taylor, met in August of 2008 to elect officers. The complete listing of officers, members, and committee assignments of the board may be found on the conference website at www.umcsc.org under the Office of Clergy Services.

The primary purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry continues to be the recruitment, examination, and credentialing of candidates for ordained ministry. Additionally, this board often deals with confidential and agonizing responsibilities that can not be discussed publicly. In every case, this board has sought to be just, consistent, and faithful to the *United Methodist Discipline*, the Board of Ordained Ministry Handbook, and the Policy Guidelines of the S.C. Annual Conference. Furthermore, the Board has also tried to decide in grace and humility the best interest of clergy and congregations of this annual conference.

As the quadrennium unfolds, key priorities and opportunities that Board seeks to address include:

- Strengthening both the annual and long term offerings of continuing education for clergy with an end goal of moving all clergy towards excellence in ministry.
- Working with the Bishop and Cabinet in addressing the question of "how do we exit pastors who are ineffective within an ecclesiastical system that guarantees appointments?"
- Increasing our emphasis on recruitment and retention of young clergy.
- Strengthening the relationships between the Board of Ordained Ministry and persons/ candidates from this annual conference who are attending seminary.
- Assisting candidates fund the cost of their theological education.

As this new board begins its work, it has chosen to adopt a covenant that gives shape and definition to our life and work together. This covenant serves as reminder of the sacred, confidential, and servant nature of the ministry with which we have been entrusted. The Board has sought to refine its interview process by adding a composite review of each candidate by a joint subcommittee after the interviews with our four primary subcommittees. There have also been some minor internal changes in guidelines of the four primary subcommittees which will be shared with candidates at the annual orientation held each June for persons seeking a change of status at the next session of the Annual Conference.

Each year, the Board reviews the policy guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry and offers to the Annual Conference recommendations for review, action, and adoption. This year, most of the changes are editorial, such as changing paragraph numbers to match the *2008 Book of Discipline*, changing the wording from "probationary" to "provisional," changing the three-year provisional period to a two-year period, and the deletion of 1992 Disciplinary matters. At the start of this new quadrennium and after meticulous revision and editing, the board has chosen to print the entire document for review, action, and adoption. Pending its adoption by the annual conference, the new guidelines will be posted on the conference website on the Clergy Services page.

Perhaps the most significant policy change this quadrennium is the change in number of years required as a part of the provisional period. In concurrence with the *2008 Book of Discipline*, the S.C. Board of Ordained Ministry has elected to change provisional period **from three to two years with candidates having up to eight years to complete the requirements for full membership**. Those commissioned at the 2008 session of the S.C. Annual Conference would be the first class eligible for ordination at the 2010 session of the Annual Conference.

Although this Board has been together for a short season in time, the bonds of servant ministry and covenantal affection for one another grow deep. The commitment to work to which we have been called is apparent. I rejoice in the faithfulness of those who share in this work who accept without hesitation the hard and often times difficult choices that must be made. By God's grace, much has been achieved and there is reason to rejoice in hope!

We are pleased to recommend 14 candidates for provisional membership and commissioning, 1 candidate for associate membership, and 20 candidates for full membership and ordination. These persons have been nurtured through the candidacy process and have shown themselves ready and effective for a life of licensed, ordained, and servant ministry.

We rejoice that to date, 225 persons have received the training needed for service as mentors to candidates and clergy navigating the candidacy, licensing, and ordination process. We are deeply indebted to these persons who serve in this capacity who give sacrificially of their time and energy.

While the cost of theological education continues to rise and is perhaps outpacing our current revenue streams, we give thanks to God that during the course of the fall and the winter semester of 2008/9, we have been able to assist no fewer than 31 persons at 12 different university senate approved seminaries with the cost of funding their theological education in the amount \$119,800! We further rejoice that the recipients of these resources are persons called to licensed or ordained ministry. We have been able to offer these resources through the Ministerial Education Fund. Thus, I remind our clergy and lay delegates of the importance of supporting our General Conference apportioned funds. The future leadership of your church may be dependent upon it! We also have been able to assist a significant number of other students through six additional scholarships offered through the board.

Also, the work of this Board would be impossible without the outstanding support that we receive from the Rev. Tim Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Mrs. Bonnie Speas, the administrative assistant to that office. These persons go above and beyond the call of duty in making effective the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and deserve our gratitude. We do rejoice in hope and look forward to the day when every congregation is served by a pastor who is equipped for effective servant ministry. Our promise is to work toward building that future in hope. May God prosper the work of our hands for the sake of God's great kingdom!

Blessings for the journey,

Kenneth L. Nelson, Chair

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

PENSION SECTION Report Number One

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **\$663** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made that will give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), \$5,914,820.00 for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- C. **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the South Carolina Annual Conference**

The South Carolina Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2009 and 2010 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

D. For 2010, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to **\$535** per month for Full Time Equivalent for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2010, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister under appointment is current.

- (1) For the purposes of this section, the Bishop and the Cabinet have established the following for guidelines as to the full or part time status of an appointment to determine FTE status by working quarters:
 - a. Full time appointments are assumed to be full time in service. Defined Plan Compensation cannot be less than the 2010 CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$36,259. There is no classification for a three quarter (3/4) time local pastor; it is either full time or part time.
 - b. Three Quarter time (3/4) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (the CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$36,259). Service time is no less than 35 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to three weeks annually.
 - c. One half time (1/2) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 40% (\$24,173) of the DAC, service time of no less than 28 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to two weeks annually.
 - d. One quarter (1/4) time for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 20% of the DAC (\$12,086). Service time of no less than 15 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to one week annually.
 - e. Part-time local pastor (1/2) means Plan Compensation is no less than 30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation (\$20,188). Half time local pastor means service can be no less than 20 hours per week with two weeks paid vacation.
 - f. Part-time local pastor (1/4) means Plan Compensation is less than \$20,188 (30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation). Service time can be less than 20 hours per week with one week paid vacation.

E. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

F. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time grant within 90 days of first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

* To be apportioned

**The Bishops have asked that Jurisdictional Conference Publishing House Distributions be directed to Central Conferences to fund pension programs.

**Report Two
2010 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

Requirement	2009 Budgeted	2010 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	3,716,778.00	3,893,346.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,257,668.00	1,261,704.00
CRSP CPP (3%)	1,137,487.00	1,146,528.00
Clergy Transition*	99,072.00	145,560.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	
Total Estimated Requirement	\$6,241,005.00	\$6,447,138.00
Estimated Income		
**UM Publishing House	0	0
Investment Income-Permanent Funds	396,752.00	0
Institutional Payments	376,653.00	386,758.00

Apportionment*	129,072.00	145,560.00
Direct Bill Payments	5,415,181.00	5,914,820.00
Total Estimated Income	\$6,241,005.00	\$6,447,138.00
*Amount to be apportioned		
Clergy Transition*	99,072.00	115,560.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	\$129,072.00	\$145,560.00

Report Three
South Carolina Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan
As of January 1, 2007, for 2009

The 2009 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$650, or .99% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). We expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of about 2% per year.

As of January 1, 2007 for 2009, assuming 2% annual Past Service Rate increases, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows more assets than benefit obligations. The funding plan is summarized below:

Current Plan Funding	\$99,604,800
Supplement One Liability	<u>(70,322,752)</u>
A PSR Increase of 6.0%	
Funding Surplus as of December 31, 2008	\$29,272,048
Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table	

Edward L. McWilliams, Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

GROUP INSURANCE SECTION
Report Number One

The insurance program of the South Carolina Conference is designed to provide its eligible employees (as defined herein), and their eligible dependents, with a comprehensive plan for major medical benefits and a Medicare supplement. The following are eligible for coverage under the program:

1. Those fully employed and funded by a local church either as Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Probationary Elders, Probationary Deacons, Probationary Deacons/1992, Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Students appointed as full time local pastors appointed to and funded by a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference and actively at work.
5. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
6. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
7. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
8. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses.
9. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

10. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the Annual Conference on the current advanced premium.
11. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and shall be based on the following schedule:

10 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	0%
11 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	10%
12 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	20%
13 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	30%
14 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	40%
15 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	50%
16 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	60%
17 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	70%
18 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	80%
19 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	90%
20 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	100%.

The categories of eligibility 1 – 11 listed above are categories of access to the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Funding of persons, other than those appointed as pastors or with pension funding responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, is the responsibility of the salary-paying unit.

Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in Health Flex, the managed health care plan of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church.

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected HealthFlex BlueCross/BlueShield – Option B750 HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan FX2 as the Health Care Plan. The yearly health plan deductible is \$750 individual and \$1,500 for family.

The lifetime maximum coverage for each eligible insured and eligible dependent shall be limited to \$3,000,000.

The Pharmacy plan (FX2) will be changed for 2010. The summary is delineated below:

Annual Deductible (Retail Only)	\$50 Individual
	\$100 Family
Annual Out of Pocket Limit (co payments only)	\$2,000 Individual
	\$4,000 Family
Retail (30 days supply)	
Generic	\$10
Formulary Brand Name	\$20
Non-formulary brand name	\$35
Mail Order (90 day supply)	
Generic	\$20
Formulary Brand Name	\$50
Non-formulary Brand Name	\$88

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2009. Details of this plan are available on the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits website under the Heathflex tab which describes the current incentive program. A participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$300 under this plan.

Additional information on the major medical expense plan is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Post Office Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230.

Report Number Three Medicare Benefits

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected HealthFlex Medicare Plan 2 and HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan FX2 (As delineated in Report 2 above) as the Medicare Supplement Plan Option.

The deductible and out of pocket maximum for medical has changed for 2010. The annual deductible for 2010 will be \$500 per individual. The annual out of pocket maximum will be \$1,500 per individual. The co-insurance rate will remain 80% after Medicare has paid.

Eligible retired participants and their eligible dependents as well as active participants and their eligible dependents that have attained age 65 shall have benefits calculated by the Medicare Companion approach. This assumes eligible participants and dependents shall be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B immediately prior to reaching the age and status for Medicare eligibility.

A handbook explaining the provisions of Medicare is available from any district office of the Social Security Administration.

**Report Number Four
Administrative Procedures**

Enrollment in HealthFlex, the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, must be made within the first thirty days of eligibility or the first day actively at work. Late enrollment or enrollment for January 1st of any year must be completed with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits prior to November 30th of the preceding year

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Health Care Division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church, 1201 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201.

Billing: At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send premium statements to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and to participants with Flexible Spending Accounts. Payments for group health premiums and Flexible Spending Accounts premiums shall be made on a monthly basis. At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send direct billing for the salary paying units share of premiums relating to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program. These payments should be made on a monthly basis.

Cancellation of Coverage: It is imperative that each participant in the Conference Insurance Program keeps his/her premium payments current. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has instructed the benefits administrator to cancel the insurance coverage or the Flexible Spending Account of any participant who does not pay his/her premium by the end of the month for which he/she has been billed.

Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries: It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the "institutional share" of the insured's premium. This provision shall apply to the District Superintendents, Conference Staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the quarterly "Statement of Account". Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, P.O. Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230. The change enrollment form must be completed and in the hands of the benefits administrator within 30 days from the date of eligibility. If not, the applicant will be ineligible until the next following enrollment period.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits is charged with oversight of the group insurance program of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the benefits of which program are outlined in the reports of the Board submitted to the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference approves the group insurance budget of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board is authorized to negotiate and contract with carriers or the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Administrator to maintain the level of benefits for the eligible participants, as defined by the Annual Conference.

The group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference (Conference Plan) shall be the plan of first refusal for covering dependents of clergy appointed to local churches in the Conference. Where covered clergy wish to cover their dependents, the local church will seek to cover such dependents through the Conference Plan, rather than purchasing outside health insurance. Local churches may be excused from this requirement in cases where such dependents may be covered through the employer of a covered clergyperson's spouse, or through a governmental plan, such as an SCHIP, and in cases of demonstrable financial hardship.

**Report Number Five
Group Health Insurance Operating Budget**

Requirements	2009 Budgeted	2010 Estimated
Active Group		
Participant Only	2,331,566.00	2,357,760.00
Participant + Spouse	1,489,320.00	1,839,264.00
Participant + Child	147,340.00	144,480.00
Participant + Children	164,260.00	7,008.00
Participant + Family	2,989,992.00	2,889,600.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,122,478.00	7,238,112.00
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Participant	1,006,980.00	1,047,096.00
Participant +1	1,545,480.00	1,678,440.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	10,016.00	11,015.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,562,476.00	2,736,551.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	9,684,954.00	9,974,663.00
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	206,219.00	233,240.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	225,992.00	265,248.00
Total Estimated Other	412,211.00	498,488.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$10,097,165.00	\$10,473,151.00

Estimated Income

Billing to salary Paying Units	5,262,986.00	5,064,360.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,793,733.00	1,602,799.00
From Insured	2,042,114.00	2,171,434.00
From Medicare Participants	768,743.00	1,333,752.00
From Institutional Payments	273,460.00	300,806.00
Total Estimated Income	\$10,097,165.00	10,473,151.00

Amount to be Apportioned

Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	206,219.00	233,240.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,793,733.00	1,602,799.00
LESS: Investment Income	(250,000.00)	0
Total	\$1,749,952.00	\$1,836,039.00

* Apportioned to churches, see Note 2 below.

Report Number Six 2010 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2008 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,080,364 be billed to the local church charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,981,559.00:
 - a. \$ 145,520.00 for Transitional Pension Funding
 - b. \$ 233,240.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - c. \$1,602,799.00 for retiree Group Medicare Supplement.
3. That participant premium payments be set as follows:
 - a. Personal group insurance premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
 1. Effective January 1, 2010, the participant only premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$185.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$429.00 per month.
 2. Effective January 1, 2010, the participant plus spouse premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$387.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$901.00 per month.
 3. Effective January 1, 2010, the participant plus child premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$258.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$602.00 per month.
 4. Effective January 1, 2010, the participant plus children premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$350.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$818.00 per month.
 2. Effective January 1, 2010, the participant plus family premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30 % is expected to be \$516.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$1,204.00 per month.
 - b. Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$122.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2010. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$284.00 per month per individual.
4. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One, item 11.
5. Active participants attained age 65, serving salary paying units that would otherwise qualify for a Small Employer Medicare Secondary Payer Exemption, and their eligible dependents, shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premium limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule in Report One, item 11.
6. The estimated 2010 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full time Diaconal Ministers and full time Lay Employees of local churches, are expected to be: \$614.00 monthly (\$7,368.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,288.00 monthly (\$15,456.00 yearly for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$860.00 monthly (\$10,320.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,168.00 monthly (\$14,016.00 yearly) for participant plus children coverage, and \$1,720.00 monthly (\$20,640.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1 2010.

*Edward L. McWilliams, Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

**BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
INSURANCE SECTION**

**SPECIAL REPORT
Mail Order Pharmacy**

At the request of a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) presents this report dealing with the issues concerning the pharmacy program that is currently part of the Healthflex Insurance program which is the denominational health plan that is currently sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. The pharmacy options offered by the General Board do not offer a pharmacy program which does not include mandatory mail order maintenance prescription coverage. This type of program is becoming more and more the industry standard in the health benefits field, especially with pharmacy being the fastest rising portion of our health care costs.

Financial Implications:

There is a definite financial benefit to using the Medco mail order program. The current contract provides significantly higher discounts at mail versus retail. This translates into huge savings for the plan, and thus its participants, in the form of lower premiums. In addition, Medco pays rebates, which effectively increases the discount back to the plan at a much higher level for mail order prescriptions than retail prescriptions.

Finally, if we did not offer a mail order benefit, Medco's retail discount would not be as lucrative as it is today, further increasing costs to the plan. Without mail order pharmacy, the General Board states that HealthFlex would not be affordable to participants and plan sponsors.

South Carolina Annual Conference
Mail vs. Retail

Current Effective Discount for Maintenance Drugs with Mandatory Mail in Place				Remove Mandatory Mail; Shifting All Mail Maintenance Claims to Retail					
Mail		Retail		Total Spend		Plan Cost		Member Copay	
Effective Discount (\$)	% off of AWP	Effective Discount (\$)	% off of AWP	Estimated Increase	% Change	Estimated Increase	% Change	Estimated Increase	% Change
\$577,169	32.5%	\$109,026	24.9%	\$318,728	10.0%	\$159,993	5.7%	\$158,735	37.1%

*Analysis for South Carolina (locator code: 11113653) is annualized and based on utilization data from 1/1/08 - 10/31/08, and does not take into account changes in behavior or impact on re
 *Savings are provided for directional purposes and are not a guarantee of savings.
 *Financial results have not been audited.
 *Excludes Mandatory Mail claims at retail that are hitting the penalty, Compounds, Powders, Adjustments, External and U&C Claims.

It should be noted that the above figures are based on shifting all mail maintenance claims to retail. It would be impossible to calculate the actual percentage of participants that would continue to utilize mail order for maintenance prescriptions. This is a calculation of the maximum cost shift.

Additionally, there is a concern that as utilization would shift from mail to retail, it would cause deeper shifts in realized discounts. For example, many would shift from brand drugs at mail (25% discount today) to brand at retail (15.8% discount based on optional mail order). Thus the plan and the annual cost would lose 9.2 percentage points (a 38.6% drop) in discount. Likewise, on the generic side, the plan and therefore the Annual Conference would lose 6 points in discount (from 63% to 57%). In addition, the plan would lose much of the rebate dollars it receives today. Rebates currently save the plan \$9.00 per member per month in cost. Finally, participants would be out even more money by shifting to retail, as the co pays are higher at retail. The current dispensing fee \$1.75 per prescription, in implementing optional mail order it would increase to \$1.85.

It should be noted that a real comparison could only be accomplished if the Board were to request proposals from several vendors for providing the entire health benefits program for the South Carolina Annual Conference. The last time that was attempted was in 2006. At that time, all submitted proposals included mandatory mail order maintenance.

Safety Issues:

Patient safety continues to be at the forefront of the healthcare debate. Often times we hear the story of a surgeon operating on the wrong leg or prescribing an inappropriate dosage of medication. Pharmacies, whether retail or mail order, have made errors in dispensing. However, Medco has several systems in place to prevent dispensing errors. While their mail order facilities fill millions of prescriptions every year, the automation in place in those facilities allows Medco to enjoy a much higher rate of accuracy than retail pharmacies. In addition, Medco has systems in place to identify dangerous interactions or inappropriate dosing. Medco can also see prescriptions that patients obtain from multiple pharmacies, which a local pharmacist cannot do. This allows Medco access to more accurate and meaningful data when looking out for patient safety.

Substitution Issues:

Medco works on our behalf to ensure participants receive high quality therapies at reasonable prices. To achieve this goal, Medco looks for opportunities to switch prescriptions for our participants to less costly therapeutic equivalents. Over the long run, this practice helps to maintain the viability of the program without sacrificing quality. In the unique event that a participant can not tolerate a therapeutic equivalent, Medco is instructed to allow that patient to switch back to the originally requested medication. Also, keep in mind that Medco will not switch a participant's prescription without the authorization from the treating physician's office.

Customer Service Issues:

In recent conversations with Medco, they have told us of their high customer service standards, accuracy and satisfaction rates. It seems that they are very good at completing routine transactions. When things get complicated or different from the norm, customers find it quite frustrating to deal with Medco. Most complaints center around Medco’s inability to resolve the participant’s problem situations. Medco has acknowledged this problem and committed to working toward simplified resolution processes.

Conference staff through the General Board staff works continually with Medco in customer satisfaction. The Board and General Board staff will continue to work proactively with Medco to improve their customer service interactions with our participants.

Packaging Issues:

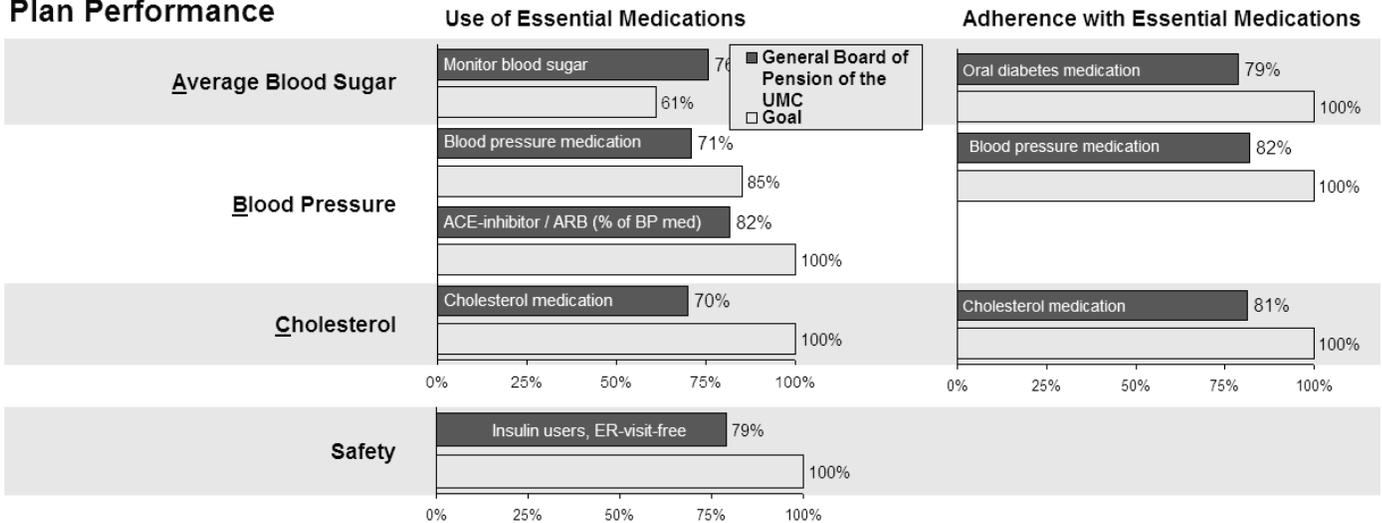
The requestor took issue with the fact that all pill form medication comes in the same white bottle, most of which are the same size. This is true and the standardization does provide a savings. However, most retail pharmacies package their medicine in a similar bottle according to the size of the prescribed medication. It should be noted that both at the retail and at the mail order level the bottles are clearly identified with the name and dosage of the medication. It should also be noted that everything Medco sends to participants is in recyclable packaging. This includes the bottles, plastic envelopes, and even the cold pack supplies.

Performance Issues:

In addition to the cost and other issues above, the case management performance of Medco and the Pharmacy program helps to insure our participants get the maximum value out of every prescription claim dollar spent. The Medco Contract does allow for case management follow up on the adherence to drug therapy through email and telephonic contact to remind participants that their drugs are to be refilled, and educational component to help the participant be a more active, cost conscious partner with their physician in their respective treatment plan.

The chart below is provided to show a comparison with our population with other groups.

Plan Performance



Key Metrics

	Performance		Performance by Channel		Medco BOB Performance at Medco TRC	Medco BOB Performance at Retail
	Goal	Overall 2,353	Mail 2,025	Retail 328		
Average Blood Sugar , lower to prevent amputation, blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage, heart attack, stroke						
Assess Average Blood Sugar (A1C)	100%	79.2%	82.8%	61.2%	68.4%	62.9%
A1C assessments per tested member (#)	2.8	2.2	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.0
Self-monitor blood sugar	61%	75.6%	76.6%	68.4%	43.1%	39.8%
Adherence - oral diabetes medication	100%	78.8%	81.3%	58.2%	77.6%	56.8%
Prevent ER visits for low blood sugar	100%	79.0%	78.2%	85.0%	80.7%	77.8%
Blood Pressure , lower to prevent heart attack, stroke and kidney failure #						
Use blood pressure (BP) medication	85%	70.9%	73.7%	49.5%	87.0%	73.7%
Use ACE-inhibitor/ARB (% BP med users)	100%	81.8%	82.6%	76.7%	83.7%	81.5%
Adherence - any BP medication	100%	81.8%	83.9%	56.5%	82.5%	65.4%
Cholesterol , lower to prevent heart attack and stroke #						
Assess LDL-Cholesterol	100%	73.5%	76.2%	60.3%	64.0%	57.8%
Use cholesterol medication	100%	69.9%	75.5%	34.6%	75.8%	58.0%
Adherence - cholesterol medication	100%	81.3%	82.6%	57.1%	80.5%	63.5%

Again, the South Carolina Annual Conference uses the denominational health plan (Healthflex), administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as its health benefits provider. The General Board does not offer any pharmacy plan that

provides for an option for unlimited retail reimbursement for maintenance medication. The General Board is currently under contract with Medco for the current mail order arrangement at least through 2010. Additionally, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits does not allow for a carve-out of the pharmacy benefits within its rate structure for such an option. If the South Carolina Annual Conference chooses to pursue an optional retail for maintenance prescriptions there would have to be a break from the denominational health benefits plan.

Conclusion:

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits realize that no Benefit plan will satisfy all the needs of all participants. The Board remains committed to providing the most benefits for the participant within the current economic and funding environment. The staff and Board will continue reviewing the entire Health Benefits plan during 2010, and present a plan that is the best value for our participants and our churches.

*Edward L. McWilliams, Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

We are pleased to announce that we have had another successful year. I would personally like to thank the members of the commission for their assistance in all of the commission's endeavors.

SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held at Lake Junaluska, NC, June 29th- July 9th, 2009. **Contact Rev. Frank Buie, 209 Jabay Drive, Columbia, SC, 29229 or fbuie@sc.rr.com for more information.**

GRAVE MARKERS

The Commission is pleased to provide grave markers for deceased clergy. This is a gift of appreciation from the Annual Conference to all who served as itinerant pastors. They are capable to be attached to stone or metal markers. They are available in each district office.

CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

This year we are pleased to recognize these **Bicentennial Churches**:

Bethany, Bethany – Zoar Charge, Saluda, Greenwood District

The **Centennial** churches are:

Eutawville, Eutawville Charge (Station), Eutawville, Orangeburg District

McBee, McBee Charge, McBee, Hartsville District

Shandon, Shandon Charge (Station), Columbia, Columbia District

Toxaway, Toxaway –John Wesley Charge, Anderson, Anderson District

Hucks Awards

Time and space do not permit us to go into detail about the works of these devoted local church historians, so these represent only a small percentage of their work on behalf of our connectional ministry of memory this year. Many of these churches celebrated anniversaries, and we note especially that many of the churches that have worked hardest to celebrate their history are younger churches.

Mountain View, Taylors

Mountain View's historian, Mrs. Frieda Anne Liston, continues to lead the church in collecting and promoting the church's history. The church prepared a DVD of its 2008 activities, celebrated Heritage Sunday, and prepared scrapbooks of the year's activities.

Pisgah UMC, Aynor

Pisgah's historian, Mrs. Judy Floyd, has continued their tremendous efforts to preserve and promote their church's history. They continue to collect and preserve artifacts and have updated their church's history.

Dials, Gray Court

Historians Dianne Culbertson and Sara Jane Armstrong led the church through its 200th anniversary celebration this year. They prepared a 435-page history of the church and established a history room for the many artifacts they collected during their bicentennial year.

Duncan Acres, Union

The historian of Duncan Acres, Sara White, led the church's efforts to celebrate a Homecoming service, collected artifacts, and prepared an exhibit on the church's history. She encouraged the church to convert video tapes of some historic events in the life of the church to DVD.

Lee Road, Taylors

Church historian Jane McGahee led the church in celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the year. The church is collecting materials that document its history and continues to prepare space to protect these artifacts.

Livingston

The church celebrated its centennial and used the opportunity to collect and assemble documents and artifacts. The church celebrated its history with special occasions during the year.

Main Street, Greenwood

Led by historian Miriam Alewine, Main Street celebrated its sesquicentennial during 2008 with several special occasions. Harriet Mays updated the church's history. The history committee collected documents, made scrapbooks, and promoted the church's history on numerous occasions.

Trinity, Conway

Led by historian Jacquelyn Cannon, Trinity celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008 with a year of celebrations. The history team conducted interviews with charter members and former pastors, which have been preserved on DVD. The church also published an attractive fifty-year history of the church that relied heavily on archival photographs.

Walnut Grove, Roebuck

Historian Jackie McAbee and the heritage team planned a series of events to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. The church held Heritage Sunday events each month, collected reminiscences and added new materials to the Heritage Room that the committee maintains.

Westminster

Westminster's historian collected many documents and artifacts this year and kept a very thorough chronicle of life at the church. She also compiled membership information and documented several special events in the life of the church.

Windsor

Windsor's historian, the Rev. Franklin Buie, and the church celebration committee planned events around the church's 40th anniversary. Members collected oral history from members of the church, organized files and artifacts, and celebrated their anniversary at several events throughout the year.

First, Winnsboro

In 2008, the church celebrated both its 200th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of its current sanctuary. Historian Betty Bynum led a three-year process that collected materials, planned celebrations, made presentations, and interviewed members. All of the materials collected have become part of the church archives.

Publication Award – Dr. Katherine Davis Cann, for *Common Ties: A History of Textile Industrial Institute, Spartanburg Junior College, and Spartanburg Methodist College*, published in 2007 by Hub City Writers Project. Dr. Cann's book tells the story of the founding, growth, and development of Spartanburg Methodist College. This book contributes to our understanding not only of this college, but of how administrators, faculty, and students at the college interacted with South Carolina Methodists.

Individual Award - Ann Andrus of Bethel UMC, Charleston. Ann has served diligently on the commission in the past. She is an excellent church historian as well as historian of Methodism in Charleston. Her current projects include getting a plaque at site of the Cumberland Street meeting house and working tirelessly on the Bethel sanctuary restoration project.

2010 Award Application and Criteria

2010 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2010 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2010 Conference Session. If your church qualifies or if you know of someone who has furthered the interpretation and preservation of United Methodist Heritage in South Carolina, please send the name with answers to the questions below. Please include your name, the name of the church and how to contact the pastor by name. Mail your application to: **Frieda Ann Liston, 620 Gum Springs Road, Taylors, SC 29687**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS February 1, 2010

Local Church Qualifications

As many churches as have fulfilled the qualifications during the past year will be recognized. Churches may qualify any number of times in a period of years. The purpose of this award is to encourage ongoing efforts to maintain awareness of the heritage celebrated in all churches of the Conference and to create research materials for the future.

1. Describe how the church historian has been active in the local church: projects, publications, collection and preservation of objects/data.
2. What steps have been taken to organize and preserve records or artifacts or what additions have been made to the church's archives in the last year? What is the overall quality of the current collection?
3. In what ways has Methodist heritage, conference or local church history been interpreted for people in the local church in the past year as part of the Sunday school or confirmation class curriculum; UMW, UMM or UMYF program; worship experience; or general interest display?
4. Has Heritage Sunday been celebrated in some form in the past year?
5. Has a record been made on paper or video/audio tape in the past year of recollections of members who witnessed aspects of the church's story?
6. Have copies of published documents been sent to the Archives at Wofford College and/or Claflin University? (May be included with this application.)
7. Please include appropriate documentation for responses to questions above.

Individual Qualifications

Nominees for this singular recognition should be someone who during his or her life, or in some special way recently, has contributed significantly to the preservation or interpretation of United Methodist history/heritage **beyond the local church**. Please describe in a few paragraphs the contributions made by this person. One individual recognition may be awarded annually; re-nominations are welcome any time.

Deadline: February 1, 2010 The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions on February 15, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa C. Hawkins, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) is committed to encouraging local churches to participate in open dialogue with communities of different Faiths and denominations. CUIC continues to support and seek inquiries from LARCUM. CUIC is creating a South Carolina Conference brochure to aid churches in breaking barriers which negate the center piece of Jesus' ministry, "loving one another." Currently, The United Methodist Church is in dialogue with Catholics, Lutherans, and Episcopalians to bridge the gaps of our beliefs and discuss the oneness we truly have in Christ. We hope the local church will be encouraged to join these discussions, recognize our similarities, and emphasize the effectiveness of coming together as one in Christ.

Michelline Cooper, Chair

THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission on Communications has been grappling with ways to increase the effectiveness of communication to the laity about conference events, ministries, and services and to assist congregations with their communication needs. The Commission recognizes that for communication to be effective, it must be done through multiple media and in multiple exposures. Both clergy and lay people have varied communications behaviors. Some will read e-mail, others the *Advocate* and newsletters, others brochures mailed to them, and others will seek out Web sites. E-mailing Web links or HTML documents to people who have requested them is one way to keep them informed about their UMC interests, such as lay speaking, UMW, UMM, youth activities or Disciple Bible study.

A communication audit to be performed by UMCOM was canceled as a result of the downturn in the economy. The audit would have provided useful information to the commission to shape new initiatives and improvements in conference communication. The commission will attempt to develop alternative sources of data to inform its actions to enhance conference communications.

The transition away from staff-driven communications to requiring boards and committees to do their own has raised some problems, and the commission and conference communications staff are attempting to provide information and advice to assist these groups.

Significant improvements have been made to the conference Web site, and moving some publications from printed products to the Web effects significant savings, though costs still are incurred in designing pages for the Web as they were for printed publications.

Greater use of e-mail newsletters about conference ministries and services is under consideration. Making it possible for lay members to register to receive information by e-mail about activities such as the Lay Convocation, Older Adult Spiritual Life Retreat, lay speaking retreat and camps and retreats would supplement the Web presence and reach persons who respond to e-mail but do not actively seek information by searching the Web.

The commission is cooperating with *The Advocate* and supports its efforts to inform conference clergy and laity of important activities and issues.

The commission plans to increase attention to the public relations and promotional needs of congregations and bodies within the conference and plans to explore ways to provide communications training in the districts to equip churches for ministry through communication.

Respectfully submitted,

J. William Click, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

A. The Mission and Changing Focus of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of fulltime clergy and students serving as pastors in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the Commission has been guided by the United Methodist Book of Discipline; the latest version states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations." (*The Book of Discipline, 2008*, Paragraph 625.2) The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

B. Total Compensation for Clergy

1. The commission on equitable compensation reminds churches and charges that salary is only one portion of total compensation. Churches and charges are urged to consider dispersing compensation in ways that will assist clergy and their families to retain as great a portion of their income as is legally possible. Churches and charges are reminded to consider total compensation and not just think of salary when thinking of clergy family needs. Likewise, clergy are reminded that they are supported in a variety of ways, and total compensation most often exceeds salary.
2. Churches and pastors are urged to keep informed of their income tax responsibilities and rights. Pastors are advised to seek qualified assistance in making decisions that will affect their income tax liabilities.

Report Number 2

A.1. Budget Request for 2010

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$670,000** be made to fund the estimated **\$622,000** Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2010. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/ or provided under these recommendations.

A.2. Schedule of Total Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving in the South Carolina Annual Conference

In accord with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2010, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

FOR FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS AS CLERGY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH:

Category	Amount
a. Clergy in full connection	\$39,850
b. Probationary, Commissioned and Associate Members	\$35,750
c. Local Pastors	\$33,500

*The recommendations are for an across the board increase of \$600 over the 2009 conference schedule for total minimum compensation.

[Please note that the Commission on Equitable Compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expense through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "O" and "P" below, entitled "Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses" and "Reimbursement as Administrative Cost"]

B. For Student Appointments

Each person serving a local church student appointment as pastor shall receive the compensation for his or her category, proportional to the percentage of time serving in a pastoral charge. (i.e., one-half time service would receive one-half the Equitable Compensation support for that person's category.) The percentage of time serving the charge shall be determined by the Cabinet.

C. For Deacons in Full Connection

Those persons who have responded to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments and are full-time ordained deacons in accordance with Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2008*, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the annual conference in accordance with Paragraph 331.14(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2008*. Deacons who are employed by the congregation, charge, or cooperative parish less than full time shall be compensated proportional to the percentage of time being served. (Half time would receive not less than half the minimum salary.) Deacons not employed by a congregation, charge, cooperative ministry, or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.14(c) are not affected.

D. Experience Merit

A clergy person, who has served for 5 or more year's full time service or the equivalent thereof in the South Carolina Annual Conference, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service.

Example:

Year 6	Equitable compensation base plus	\$875.00
Year 7	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1050.00
Year 8	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1225.00
Year 9	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1400.00
Year 10	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1575.00
Year 11+	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1750.00

E. Housing Allowances

The Commission recommends that all money given to the pastor for housing by the charge he/she serves be considered income if the pastor is not a resident in the charge which he/she serves.

F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance

The District Superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the District Superintendent indicating income from all sources.

G. Cross Racial Appointments

If the Bishop and Cabinet, in making a cross-racial appointment, find it necessary to request an equitable compensation supplement, special consideration will be given on an individual basis. Guidelines listed under Report 3 will apply.

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

Directors or coordinators of cooperative parish ministries which have been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the commission by January 1 preceding the appointment in June of the same year may be eligible for funds not to exceed \$7,000.00. No pastor shall be eligible to receive funds unless the charge he/she serves agrees in writing to release him/her for these added duties. Assistance will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period and will decrease by 25% each year after the first year and a half.

I. Disbursement of Supplements

All compensation supplements from the Commission shall be disbursed monthly, and shall be paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergy person. In the case of new mission situations or churches, monies will be

dispersed directly to the pastor until there is a church treasurer. Equitable compensation funds will not be used for moving expenses, businesses expenses, or church administration.

J. Utilities Allowance

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service.

K. Investment of Reserve Fund

The commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account.

L. Interpretation

The commission recommends that an interpretation of its task and policy procedures be given as a part of the District Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee Workshops. It is further recommended that this interpretation be done by a member of the commission upon invitation by the District Superintendent.

M. Compensation Guidance

The Commission recommends that District Superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work load packages in accordance with Paragraph 423.3 of *The Book of Discipline 2008*.

N. Ineligibility

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support:

1. Retired supply pastors
2. Part-time local pastors
3. Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99
4. Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of the United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1. a, b, c of *The Book of Discipline 2008*.
5. Deacons as defined in Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2008* (except as appointed under Report 3 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2008*).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties.

Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 55cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimburse for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the District Superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

The commission recommends that the reimbursement for travel and professional expenses be a part of the administrative cost of each local church and not considered or reported as part of the pastor's compensation.

Q. Vacation Policy

The Commission reminds churches and ministers that vacation time plus time for renewal and reflection are an expected part of compensation. Time away is necessary for personal, spiritual, and family health. It is recommended that all clergy and diaconal ministers be granted, as a minimum, annual vacation and days of renewal according to the following schedule:

- Total Years of Service/ Number of Weeks
- Less than 5 years a minimum of 2(including Sundays)
 - 5 years -10 years a minimum of 3 (including Sundays)
 - More than 10 years a minimum of 4 (including Sundays)

In addition to the above, it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week. "Years of Service" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

It is asked that the Lay Member of the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee and to the local church.

**Report Number 3
Mission Situations**

A. Definition

Mission situations are new churches and existing churches in transitional circumstances that are in areas that demand an effective ministry but are incapable of providing such ministry without equitable compensation assistance. Mission situations may also include intentional ministry to persons of low income.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for equitable compensation assistance in mission situations the following procedures must be followed;

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational

- Development for verification as a transitional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.
 4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person with at least 4 years experience and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.
 5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

Note 1. The local church's share of this base compensation schedule is interpreted to mean all sources of income from the local church or from any other source.

Note 2. In all cases where a mission situation is attached to an existing charge, these become charge figures.

Note 3. The District Superintendent may apply to the Commission for a compensation that is more in keeping with the amount received by this pastor in his or her previous appointment.

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

1. If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.
2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st.

D. Payment of Direct Billing Costs for Pensions and Health Benefits in Mission Situations Only

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay only the direct billing costs of persons in mission situations according to the compensation schedules listed below. The Commission will send its proportional share directly to the conference office of Pensions and Health Benefits.

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

Part 1.

Schedule for New Churches Initiated Prior to January 2008

Decreasing support: Equitable Compensation assistance for compensation and payment on the direct billing plan will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period decreasing 25% each year after the first year and a half as follows:

First Year and Half: As the sole salary paying unit, the Commission of Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's compensation and the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After One and Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by one fourth for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Two and Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another fourth for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Three and Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another fourth for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Four and Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct for pensions and health benefits.

New Church Travel: Upon request and appropriate documentation, the Commission on Equitable Compensation will provide travel allowance for new church pastors at the following rates:

First year and a half: up to \$4,000.00 annually

Second full year: up to \$ 3,000.00 annually

Third full year: up to \$2,000.00 annually

Fourth full year: up to \$1,000.00 annually

Part 2

Schedule for New Church Starts Begun in 2008 and Thereafter

Equitable Compensation for new church starts that were initiated after December 31, 2007 shall be as follows:

Year 1 and 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 3: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 67% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 4: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 33% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 5: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Part 3

Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income

Equitable Compensation assistance in ministries with persons of low income will be provided for a pastor or clergy person, when requested by the Cabinet, over a ten and a half year period decreasing as follows:

First Year and a Half: The amount of Equitable Compensation support will be according to the pastor's category. As the sole salary paying unit in this mission situation, the Commission of Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's direct bill for pensions and health benefits.

After One and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Two and Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Three and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Travel for persons in ministry with persons of low income will be provided by the Districts or Districts in which the ministry is located.

F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will operate in light of the Annual Conference's decision to make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority. Support for clergy working in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall be made in accordance with the Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income (Report Number 3e, Part 3). The Commission recognizes that adjustments may be necessary on a case by case basis. The District Superintendent, after consultation with the Cabinet and the Conference Hispanic Committee may request adjustments in the following areas:

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:
 - After Two and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Three and Half Years: Support from Equitable compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
 - After Eleven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.

Example:

- Year 6: \$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 7: \$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 8: \$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 9: \$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 10: \$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 11: \$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 12: \$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 13: \$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 14: \$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
- Year 15+: \$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit

All requests for adjustments shall be made in writing. Requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made.

Report Number 4

Category Summaries of Recent Disbursements

Your commission is pleased to report that as of December 31, 2008, we were providing support for 31 charges, of which 5 were new church starts. At their January 10th meeting the commissioners approved support for a total of 27 pastors, 5 of them Provisional Members of the Conference.

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec 2005		Dec 2006		Dec 2007		Dec 2008	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New Church	2	\$18,315	4	\$97,908	5	\$177,900	5	\$200,799
Minimum	9	\$64,408	14	\$61,364	13	\$89,869	16	\$96,222
Special	1	\$3,000	1	\$3,000	7	\$71,757	8	\$100,150
Cross-Racial	0		0		0		0	
Low Income	1	\$27,090	2	\$42,140	2	\$57,350	2	\$57,600
Direct billing costs		\$18,917		\$39,000		\$106,304		\$99,848
TOTALS	13	\$131,730	20	\$243,412	27	\$502,880	31	\$554,619

Categories of Clergy receiving support as of:

	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009
Effective Members	8	10	20	16
Provisional Members (Full Time)	3	1	3	5
Provisional Members (Not Full Time)	0	0	0	0
Associate Members	0	0	0	1
Local Pastors (Full Time)	2	4	6	3
Student Local Pastors	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	1	2
TOTALS	13	16	30	27

Professor Kenneth N. Mufuka PhD, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Your commission is comprised of a majority of new members who are willing to learn. We are connecting with the General Board of Religion and Race so we can share and learn from Commissions all over. We continue to recognize Barbara Boultinghouse and Bishop Joseph B. Bethea with an award to well deserved members each year. This year we hope to be able to give a report after each session about the monitoring of the conference. After sitting in a meeting as an ex-officio member there are some members of our conference feel they are being looked over and one of our churches was vandalized with racial slurs. This let's us know that there is still much work to be done.

Patricia Jackson, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) continues to develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women and prohibit the full participation of women in the life of the church. This years' goals were to continue to publish the annual newsletter, and to offer a one day workshop with the opportunity of receiving continuing education credits as resources for the conference.

Our newsletter previously known as *Women in the Pulpit* has been renamed *The Eve*. In the past few years, the newsletter has expanded its focus beyond just women in the pulpit to other areas of leadership and concerns for women in the church; therefore, we believe *The Eve* is a more accurate reflection of COSROW. Eve was the woman in the Bible who was created to be a companion of Adam; but throughout the Bible and today, the roll of the woman has continued to evolve into so much more. Women are not just leading in the pulpit, but in various areas of the church, positions that were once held only by men. *The Eve* celebrates women and their accomplishments in the life of the church. The theme for the Spring 2009 issue of *The Eve* was "Stepping Out on Faith and Celebrating Success." This issue continued to include worship resources for "Women in the Pulpit Sunday;" featured the success stories of women embarking on different leadership roles within the church; as well as new features, such as resources for health and law.

The one day workshop has been scheduled for August 15, 2009 with M. Garlinda Burton, who is General Secretary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the United Methodist Church, as our keynote speaker. This workshop and future events will hopefully address issues that will help churches in areas such as prepare/welcome their first female pastor; identify how to access at-risk women in the church; men talking to men about ways to successfully communicate and advocate for women, and more.

COSROW continues to strive for innovation in becoming a more visible and more effective ministry as we resource the South Carolina Conference on issues pertaining to the status and role of women.

Cathy D. Mitchell, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

In conversations taking place within a recent Commission on Worship meeting, it was noted that worship often becomes just 'one more' among the many programs of the life of the local congregations. Furthermore, it was also noted that worship runs on a sort of 'auto pilot' mechanism in many local congregations. Often the pastor sets up the order of service, while musicians may select hymns; and there may be a lay reader. This structure never varies and no one else is ever invited to participate in a significant way in the planning or implementation of the worship services. In many places, more care is given to planning a seniors' outing than the Sunday morning worship service.

Out of this understanding, the Commission has begun to commit itself to the task of helping local congregations affirm the centrality of worship in their lives - in deed and word. Worship is not just one more thing that the church does. It is the central thing, the 'tie that binds', the core of our lives as a faith community. Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.' (Matthew 22: 37b-38) He was talking about worship; it is the first and great commandment. It is the primary duty of Christians. Worship of God is that which makes the church more than just another civic organization. Its importance and centrality demands that it be handled with our best care and planning.

To that end the Commission has begun to focus its work around the idea of 'Best Practices'. We are working with the Clergy Orders officers to secure the services of a person from the general church to do instruction at a clergy gathering on the processes and procedures coming out of This Holy Mystery, a study of Holy Communion.

The Commission maintains a grant process to provide funds to congregations and organizations to assist in paying for worship related training events. We maintain a speakers bureau to provide a list of available speakers for training events. We maintain an inventory of all conference owned worship related items. We have begun work on Nuts and Bolts III, which will treat all things in worship that are musically related. We are completing work on a worship DVD that visually demonstrates the information in Nuts and Bolts I. And we are working with the Conference Board of Global Ministries to develop a shared five session training event that blends worship and missions. Further, we are promoting the use of an ecumenical Baptismal certificate and the development of a greater resource presence on our conference web site. All of this is to promote and foster better planning and implementation of worship in the variety of settings in the local church that we United Methodist have for worship.

In line with our promotion of the idea of 'Best Practices', we are promoting the use of all the denominational resources available to us to enhance our Worship services: The Book of Worship, the variety of hymnals, the general church web site (<http://www.gbod.org/worship>), and the newly re-worked guide book on worship. This last resource has gone through a major re-working for this new quadrennium. It moves from being a source for a worship committee to a resource for a planning team.

Lastly, we continue to work with the bishop and the designated liturgist(s) in the preparation and implementation of this conference's worship during annual conference. We are content in our roles as vergers and altar guild, working behind the scenes. Our prayer is that we help things run a bit more smoothly and less hectically for the bishop, our liturgists, and the worshippers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Gary D. Phillips, Chair

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, to evaluate the 2008 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2009 Annual Conference. The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2008 Annual Conference and the results of the 571 post-conference evaluations that were returned. The evaluation forms were made available in the registration packets. The committee was pleased to note that in every category, the ratings given to the various aspects of the conference were again rated between acceptable and excellent by those responding.

The committee considered the suggestions offered in the evaluations and focused on several that might improve future annual conferences. A discussion was held concerning the possibility of holding annual conference after school had been dismissed for summer, as well as the possibility of holding annual conference on different days of the week in order to use more of the weekend. Conversations also took place about the best ways to vote on Constitutional Amendments, provide information about the amendments, and allow for debate about those amendments at annual conference this year.

After the 2008 Conference, committee members could consider their own experience, since the Conference has now been held in Florence twice, and could also consider the responses from the evaluations. In light of the favorable experience in Florence and the favorable responses of participants, the Committee recommends that the 2010 Annual Conference be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence.

Another city submitted a proposal to host the annual conference in the future, and the Committee authorized a delegation to visit the site, evaluate the proposal, and report back to the full committee when it meets in the Fall. As other cities offer to host the annual conference, their proposals will continue to be evaluated to determine if the experience of annual conference could be improved by moving to another location within the state.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to Central United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2008 Session. Their gracious spirit in helping to host Annual Conference was highly instrumental in producing a successful Annual Conference.

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

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

It has been said, "Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable." Your Committee on the Conference Journal has been discussing ways to provide you with timely information while also being fiscally, socially, and ecologically responsible. Therefore, when we were asked by CF&A to accept a 66% reduction in our budget allocation for 2010, and when the company producing our last pictorial directory collapsed, we were ready to manage the changes.

The technological resources available as well as the skills and talents of the IT personnel at the Conference Center will allow us to make available online future Conference Journals and pictorial directories. Because we understand that some churches and pastors are in locations where internet reception is still difficult to obtain at best, we will also be making DVD's of these publications, (to be produced upon request), available for purchase.

In an effort to continue serving you and our God faithfully, we will also be in conversation with other Annual Conferences which have converted to digital format, and, as always, we welcome conversation with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Emily Allen, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee has the privilege to oversee the annual conference staff members concerning their role and work in carrying out their specific leadership responsibilities. The committee has met twice this year.

At its first meeting, the committee organized for the quadrennium and provided orientation for its new members. At the direction of the 2008 Annual Conference, the committee expanded the responsibilities of the Congregational Specialist of African American Ministries to a full time position. Beginning in January of 2009, the Reverend Ken Nelson relinquished his district assignments, so that he could devote more of his time to strengthening African American congregations across the state. This staffing change initiated some shifting in the district assignments for the other congregational specialists. The Reverend Sonya Ortigozo was given responsibility for the Columbia and Hartsville Districts. The committee discussed and approved a selection process to fill the vacancy in the Greenville and Anderson Districts.

In November, the Conference Staff Relations Committee unanimously supported the recommendation of the Personnel Committee that the Reverend Cathy Joens become the Congregational Specialist for the Greenville and Anderson Districts. The committee then individually met with each of the Congregational Specialists to hear reports of their ministry as to what is going well, what could be better, and what their future plans are. We continue to receive positive remarks from churches across the conference pertaining to the Specialists. They are giving helpful assistance and guidance to the churches, especially in the Natural Church Development process.

In addition, the work on the committee included meeting with other staff members including the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Director of Clergy Services/Conference Secretary, the Director of Congregational Development, the Director of Communications, and the Director of Internet Technology. These conversations enable the committee and staff to coordinate and multiply the ministry of the conference.

Furthermore, the committee began a review of the Personnel Manual for the Conference to determine if and how it might be improved. Staff compensation for 2009 was established within the approved budget parameters set by the annual conference. Throughout the process, the committee remained keenly aware of the economic conditions of the church and the conference.

We are blessed to serve with such a gifted and qualified staff in the conference. They are corporately and individually deeply committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The report of the Committee on Congregational Development represents the efforts of many people across our annual conference. Our new church starts, Grace Community in Fort Mill, Journey in Columbia, Point Hope in Mt. Pleasant, and Waters Edge in Beaufort, are showing signs of growth and vitality. Grace Point in Bluffton experienced a change in leadership and is working toward launching weekly worship services. Point Hope has leased a building in Park West and will begin worshipping there in the spring. This will be a major step for them as they have worshiped in an elementary school for over 6 years.

Bethany UMC in Summerville is helping birth a new congregation at the conclusion of annual conference in June. Bethany's commitment of both people and resources is a major step forward in how we should start new churches in our conference. When an established congregation births a new church the possibility of success is greatly enhanced. Any church that has interest in sponsoring a new faith community is urged to contact our office.

Esperanza UMC in Greenville is a Hispanic mission congregation that has the support of several churches in the district. The former Arrington Church on Old Buncombe Road is the site of this new church start, and it promises to be a significant ministry among the large Hispanic community in the Greenville area. A pastor will be appointed there at this annual conference.

Our ability to start new churches and strengthen existing congregations is affected by the resources we receive through our conference apportionments. We received \$16,600 less in 2008 than we did in 2007. As with all conference programs, the impact we are able to make is directly related to the support of our apportionments. This year we were able to make four grants to local churches for a total of \$112,922.

John Wesley in Lamar, and Edisto Fork in Orangeburg are two local churches we have worked with in developing new church campuses. The ministry opportunities for both churches are very exciting.

Many of our churches have a vision of the Kingdom of God that continues to grow. They are receiving new members by profession of their faith in Christ, and the possibilities are limitless. May all of our churches understand that the church exists for the sole purpose of helping people meet, know, serve, and share Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Taylor, Director

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The 2008-2012 Committee on Episcopacy was convened by the bishop and organized for the quadrennium on Tuesday, February 24.

At this meeting, the following officers were elected:

- Chairperson: Rev. Kristen R. Richardson-Frick
- Vice-Chairperson: Rev. Kenneth B. Timmerman
- Secretary: Rev. Barbara Lee Reid

The committee members expressed gratitude for the leadership of Bishop Taylor over the past quadrennium. The group also expressed joy for her re-appointment to serve and lead our conference in the coming four years.

In addition, members reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the committee as outlined in Paragraph 637 of the 2008 *Discipline*, and reiterated our commitment to supporting the work of our Bishop, Mary Virginia Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kristen Richardson-Frick, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

Diversity is God's gift to us. Our ethnic congregations are vital and visible. They are participating in the mission of the South Carolina Conference without losing their ethnic identity and faith experiences. They bring the gift of uniqueness in worship.

Resourcing is critical and necessary for the strengthening of our ethnic churches. We will be working toward providing the necessary resources for our ethnic churches to be revitalized.

A website for ELCC will be operational by May 1. This site will have links to each of ELCC's committees/task forces: African American Task Force, Korean American Task Force, Hispanic/Latino Committee, and the Native American Committee. ELCC's activities include the revision of our grant application form. We have created a brochure and a newsletter that will be available via the website. In addition to the awarding of grants and scholarships, ELCC plans to increase the number of visitations to ethnic churches.

Ethnic Committee Highlights:

African American Task Force – Appointment of Rev. Ken Nelson as Congregational Specialist for the African American Church

Korean American Task Force – Reactivated Dr. Kyoung Ro, Chairperson

Native American Committee – Working toward establishing two United Methodist Native American mission churches

Hispanic/Latino Committee – New church start, Greenville District

The reports for the African American Task Force, Korean American Task Force, Hispanic/Latino Committee and the Native American Committee follow.

Charlotte A. Grooms, Chairperson

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TASK FORCE

The African American Task Force is grateful to the South Carolina Annual Conference for the adoption of The Comprehensive Plan of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. This plan is the product of the needs and direction given from a series of four (4) Tri-District listening sessions held with African American clergy and laity across the state.

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is the national plan or initiative of the whole church supporting the continual inclusion of African and African Americans in its life. The Comprehensive Plan has ten (10) focus points:

- 1) Strengthening the relationship between the Bishop and Cabinet and the local church
- 2) Strengthening the Ministry of Ordained Clergy
- 3) Strengthening the Ministry of Laity
- 4) Strengthening the Ministry of Christian education and formation in the African American congregation
- 5) Revitalization of existing congregations and new church starts.
- 6) Ethnic Sensitivity and Training Events
- 7) Funding Resources
- 8) Communications with clergy, laity and congregations
- 9) Presence of African Americans on Conference and District Staffing Positions
- 10) Leadership Development for Clergy and Laity

The African American Task force will place emphasis on three of the ten focal points as a starting point.

- 1) Revitalization of existing congregations and new church starts. We will affirm the usage of Natural Church Development as a tool for revitalization in existing congregations and make recommendation of areas for new church starts for evangelizing African Americans.
- 2) Strengthening the Ministry of Clergy and Laity by affirming The Bishop's School of Ministry, the Granville Hicks Lecture Series and the development of The SC African American Church Convocation as vehicles to learning and equipping for ministry.
- 3) Communication with clergy, laity and congregations through the position of the African American Congregational Specialist, African-American Task Force and Black Methodist for Church Renewal to form a positive coalition to disseminate information to inform and educate the African-American congregations.

Reverend Ellis White, Jr., Chairperson

HISPANIC-LATINO COMMITTEE

This year has seen tremendous growth in the awareness of persons and churches of the need for us as an Annual Conference to provide ministry to, with, and by our Hispanic/Latino neighbors.

Our mission as a committee is to **connect** churches and Hispanic/Latino communities, to **equip** churches and districts to respond to the needs of Hispanic/Latino persons, to **develop** places for worship, fellowship, radical hospitality and extravagant generosity, and to provide opportunities to **grow** in discipleship as individuals and communities.

The most exciting accomplishment this year has been the establishment of *Iglesia Metodista Unida Esperanza*, an Hispanic mission located in the former Arrington UMC building. Under the leadership of District Superintendent Charles Johnson, with the assistance of a number of churches in the Greenville District and the Office of Congregational Development, this vision has become a reality.

This summer a student from South Carolina with a passion for Hispanic ministry who is currently attending Duke Divinity School will serve as an intern at Mt. Hebron UMC. She will be working to help this congregation in the Columbia District develop a plan for ministry in their community. She will also be working with our Conference Congregational Specialist and coordinator to the Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Sonia Brum Ortigoza. Funding for this internship comes through the Office of Connectional Ministries.

At the request of this committee, the Committee on Equitable Compensation has developed a formula for supporting those persons working in Hispanic/Latino congregations. This comes in recognition of the fact that such ministries are missional in nature, and may take longer than usual to become self-sustaining.

The Committee has developed an Emergency Response Fund out of its own budget to provide humanitarian assistance to Hispanic/Latino persons in South Carolina who are in crisis, to provide food, clothing, and shelter on a short-term basis. Requests for use of this fund should be made through the District Office where the crisis situation has occurred.

We are currently developing a series of Strategic Planning Sessions to be held across the Conference during the next year. These sessions will provide assistance for pastors and local congregations to set priorities and leave with a concrete plan for engaging in ministry with Hispanic/Latino persons in their communities.

As you can see, the work of ministry among our Hispanic/Latino neighbors involves many more people than those who serve on this committee. It involves the cooperation of the entire network of committees and personnel who serve this Annual Conference. It is dependent upon the pastors and congregations who feel called to this ministry, and who are willing to give freely of themselves to build bridges of friendship and love.

Thank you for your continued support in making this ministry a priority of our Annual Conference.

Reverend Mary V. Teasley, Chairperson

KOREAN AMERICAN TASK FORCE

"Our vision is that Wesleyan tradition and Korean spirituality will be integrated in a way that enables and encourages all persons to be involved in discipleship."

The Korean Task Force has been re-activated. We are organizing and planning. Our intent is to follow the National Plan for Korean Ministry. It is our intent to create, nurture and enable communities of faith to be disciple-making ministries. We hope to become bridge builders in cross-cultural and cross-generational ministries as well as agents of social justice.

Korean congregations are vital, visible and growing. As a task force we will strive to realize our vision by working to facilitate it. Our main focus will be "Small Group Ministry." We will focus on the development of three main areas:

- 1) Congregational Development, Nurture and Revitalization
- 2) Leadership Formation
- 3) Next Generation Ministries

Dr. Kyoung Ro, Chairperson

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMITTEE

What is the message in the Book of Micah? Micah 7:18-19 states, "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."

In February, Cathy Nelson (our vice chairperson), provided a summary of the *Giving Our Hearts Away* training. This course, targeting women, takes a look at the tragic history of the American Indian including the role the church played. We were made aware of concerns about presenting this training. We believe this training is vital and does not create division when presented in the proper manner.

The past is the past. None of us have the ability to change what happened. It is history, it is what it is. Yet, we have the opportunity to learn from our past ensuring we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. In order to accomplish this, we must learn the true facts of what happened and acknowledge what occurred.

I am often asked if I am angry about what happened to American Indians in the past and how they were and are treated. I believe the message of Micah answers this question. God provides forgiveness and he tells us not to keep our anger. He will tread our sins of the past underfoot and throw them into the depths of the sea. We must take the lessons of the past and use them to promote unity and harmony among all God's people. Anger serves no purpose. We are one people bounded by the blood of Christ. Indian people have long referred to ourselves as the human beings. What greater lesson than to acknowledge that we are all human (God's creations) regardless of race, color, gender or any other division of our own (man's) creation. This is the message that I wanted to provide for reflection as I write this annual report.

Building on 2007, 2008 has been one of the most productive years for our committee. Once again, we increased the number of churches having Native American Ministries Sunday. This is a great accomplishment; yet, we are still only reaching about one quarter of our conference. Although Native American Ministries Sunday is April 19th (the Sunday after Easter), our committee will arrange for this special Sunday anytime during the year. We provide speakers for this Sunday. **To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact the chair, Zan Tracy Pender, 803-905-5672.**

In February, we conducted a seventh Native American Representative Training. There were 88 people in attendance. Some of these representatives have attended before and we welcomed them back. We were also encouraged by the number of new faces and new representatives. Our committee has completed a DVD taping of the 2007 training which was sent to all District Superintendents. If a representative could not attend the training, he or she can view the training. As a reminder, *The Discipline* requires that every local church at charge conference designate by nomination and election a minimum of one person per charge (without regard to race or ethnic origin) as a Native American Representative for that church.

Our committee provides the training and the local church Native American Representative works with our committee in assisting with our projects and programs as well as establishing Native American Ministries Sunday in his or her church. This year, our committee developed its own offering envelope for this special Sunday. It has our logo and provides a summary of our mission and objectives. If your church needs offering envelopes, please contact Gail Corn at the conference office in Columbia.

We strive to continue to be good stewards of the monies provided through Native American Ministries Sunday. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our conference. I am pleased to inform the conference that we have developed a detailed operating budget which will help us monitor and use our funding appropriately. We have designated line items for special funding, such as donations for elder baskets.

This year, we spent \$2,064 in scholarships sending South Carolina American Indian families to the annual Native American Conference at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. We provided assistance to several tribes including repairs to tribal buildings, moving a tribal building, restoring traditional cultural dances, crafts and traditions, and even supporting a historically correct display about South Carolina Indian people in a local city museum.

We had a significant accomplishment at the Native American Conference in June. Beckee Garris was elected president of the Southeastern Native American Caucus (SERNAC). Charlotte Barker was elected secretary. This is a first in our conference. They will represent the Southeastern Jurisdiction to the national United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) and Native American International Caucus (NAIC). Our chair was also asked to revise the SERNAC by-laws.

We were disappointed that we did not have a Native American Salkehatchie Camp last year. However, I'm pleased to announce that we will have one this year. We will be working with the Wassamasaw tribe. We are seeking volunteers to help with building and home repairs as well as donations of repair materials and monetary support. The camp will be in the low country, probably in Berkley County. **If you are interested in participating contact Rev. Sistare at 803-787-3058.**

We continued our Christmas Elder Comfort Basket project. We thank the conference churches for both the donations of elder baskets and the monetary support of over \$1,000.00 to purchase supplies to balance the donations in all baskets and to cover transportation costs to move the baskets to South Carolina Indian people throughout the state. We provided 128 baskets this year. A hearty thank you is sent out to Keepers of the Word who continue to work with us in completing this project. They also provided drumming this year at our Native American Representative Training.

Once again, we will have our annual Christmas Elder Comfort Baskets. We will gather and make Elder Comfort Baskets throughout the year. We need small laundry baskets to be filled with non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish washing liquids, bath soaps, shampoos, hand/lotions, toothpaste and brushes, toilet paper, tissues, health care products for men and women, facial care products, nail clippers, and Christmas Candy. **If your church can assist please contact our vice chair, Cathy Nelson, at 843-835-8589.** Our committee also handles cash donations for this project to cover gas expenses for pick up and delivery of the baskets.

Sarah Sanchez continues to publish our newsletter. If you would like to receive a newsletter, please let me know and I will provide the information to Sarah. We are thankful to her for the job that she does.

We are seeking a volunteer to serve as our Native American Representative E-mail Group Manager. We want to improve our communications with our representatives. Our goal is to have an e-mail group where we can provide updates throughout the year. Yet, with the size of our committee, we need assistance. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

We have received two petitions from American Indian people in SC requesting that we establish United Methodist Native American churches within our conference. We are working with the conference in the hopes of establishing mission churches for at least two American Indian communities.

There is one area that we are requesting assistance from all churches. We need an accurate count of American Indian people in our churches. In many instances, there are American Indians attending our various congregations. However, they are not being identified in charge conference reports. Yes, it is easy just to guess or go by what has been sent in previously. However, we are asking churches to identify those Native American members of their congregations. Three of our committee members, who are American Indians, are not identified as Native Americans in their own churches. Thus, we have room for improvement.

One of John Wesley's major missions was outreach to the American Indians. Please continue your strong support and acknowledgment of our vital outreach mission which is a part of this conference and all of our churches. We have only just begun to "Make the Invisible – Visible." We walk a Good Red Road together led by our Creator and saved by the blood of Jesus. We walk, hand-in-hand, all races, in forgiveness and healing as the lesson of the Book of Micah teaches us. For that, thank you!

May the Spirit watch over you as long as the grass grows and the water flows. God bless.

Zan Tracy Pender, Chairperson

THE GLOBAL AIDS COMMITTEE

During a special worship service focusing on the Global AIDS pandemic at the 2007 Annual Conference, you gave offerings that resulted in slightly over \$5000 of Global AIDS Funds being returned to this Conference to be used locally. By a previous decision of this committee, funds returned for local use will be distributed in \$5000 increments to the districts based on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases. The Columbia district heads this list.

In conjunction with Rev. Tim McClendon, DS of the Columbia District, and Dr. Bambi Geddis, Director of the SC HIV/AIDS Council, your gifts will be supporting a Sexual Health and Domestic Violence Seminar for women and girls on June 15 and an intervention with girls 18-24 this summer or early fall.

In April of this year, I had the privilege of attending the Lighten The Burden II Conference at Fort Worth and distributing Global AIDS Fund information at General Conference. It was made clear that the task before us is immense, but that our God is great and able to meet the needs of many when we are willing to put our fish and loaves out for use. A couple of us have also participated in speaking engagements in various districts this year as you have gathered for planning. We applaud your efforts and look forward to ministry with you.

The Committee is also working with the SC HIV/AIDS Council to offer training and screening events in the Columbia, Hartsville, and Orangeburg Districts this year. Funds from a grant from the National Global AIDS Committee are making this possible, and thus so are you. In fact, every time you give \$1 to the Global AIDS Fund, \$.25 is returned to this Annual Conference and other grant funds are made available for ministry. Please remember to give to the Global AIDS Fund and to ask each member of your congregation to give at least \$1 so that each district can be funded. There is much ministry to be done.

Please visit our booth here at Annual Conference for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Emily Allen, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

HISTORY

The Conference Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling traces its beginnings to the 1967 Annual Conference when a standing committee was established. In the 1984 Conference Journal this committee's mandate centered around the need for healing and included the following responsibilities:

1. Communicating with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Office of Ministerial Affairs, and the Cabinet regarding clergy care systems.
2. Strategic planning regarding pastoral care and counseling needs in the conference.
3. Providing policy guidelines, connectional linkage, and evaluation of conference programs of pastoral care and counseling.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the vision Caring for the Caregiver, the Pastoral Care and Counseling Committee understands that clergy, diaconal ministers, and laity sometimes experience pain while attempting to be in ministry. On behalf of the SC Conference we wish to offer a healing presence by supplementing counseling fees for clergy, diaconal ministers, and their families in the widest geographical area possible and in strict confidentiality.

All Clergy/Diaconal Ministers and their families who are related to the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church are eligible recipients of supplementary fees. After reviewing the availability of funds and the increase in requests, the committee decided that the maximum is \$30 for individual/couple/family sessions and \$15 for group sessions. These maximums fluctuate with availability of funds. In the event a need for counseling is indicated one may call the Office of Connectional Ministries for a list of counseling centers or approved counselors. All approved counselors must register and submit copies of their credentials to the Committee of Pastoral Care and Counseling.

The Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling is striving to continue an ongoing support system for the clergy/diaconal ministers and their families. Much appreciation is expressed to the South Carolina Annual Conference for your resources and the members of the committee for your willingness to serve.

Cassandra Pasley Jackson, Chairperson

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services continues to be to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to clergy licensing, ordination and status.

Ms. Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, is known and loved by countless candidates. Her concern for each of our candidates and her apparently endless willingness to help guide them through the process are blessings both to the candidates and to our church. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports this office is responsible for. The work of this office literally would not happen without her. I continue to be grateful to the twelve district secretaries for their work and for their diligent oversight of so much information, vital to so many different people. And it is a pleasure to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to attempt to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervises the clergy of our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has organized for a new quadrennium, and continues to seek the most effective and faithful ways to fulfill its remarkably broad role in evaluating and approving clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. The importance of this work cannot be overstated, as the future health of our churches is, in many ways, directly related to the quality of leadership provided by our clergy. The Rev. Ken Nelson is completing his first year as chair of the Board. His commitment to ministry, attention to detail, and concern for both candidates and the church has been crucial as the Board seeks to be faithful to our Lord in service to the church. It has been a privilege to assist the Board.

During the past year the single most notable work of this office has been to re-organize its web page into a more user-friendly format, and to continue to update the forms and information available there. This could not have been accomplished without the help of Matt Brodie. Additionally, this office helped organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisted in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; and provided support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. This office has continued the work to store more records in digital form in order to maximize the use of limited space available for storing

records. Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, I continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference, and have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas.

It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry, and I look forward to the coming year.

Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services

THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

The Ministry Advisory Team brings together the leadership of Connectional Ministries, the Council on Finance and Administration, Ordained Ministry, the Board of the Laity, and the Cabinet. During this past year the Ministry Advisory Team has met twice.

In cooperation with the Board of Trustees, the Ministry Advisory Team has concentrated on fulfilling the directive of the 2008 Annual Conference to establish the William Norman Bobo, Jr. Endowment. The gift in 2006 from the estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr. was \$539,347.65, which has produced \$43,330.43 in income. Of this amount, 25% or \$10,832.61 has been added to the endowment corpus and \$32,497.82 is available for the use in leadership development for laity and clergy in the annual conference.

These funds will assist us in our efforts to provide an ongoing systematic process for leadership development. A committee has been created to guide the work. The committee will consist of representatives from the Board of Laity, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the cabinet, the bishop and the director of connectional ministries. These agencies are currently responsible for the Annual Conference's three major training events: the Laity Convocation, Job Function Workshops and the Bishop's School of Ministry.

We are developing a unified leadership development plan built around these three events. The plan will have three modules. The first is a strengthened job function training process that would not only include District Job Function Workshops, but would also provide DVD and web-based training. These offerings would be for specific responsibilities in local churches and would be designed for various size congregations. The second module will be three, six, or nine month continuing education courses built in response to training needs identified by laity, clergy, the cabinet and the boards of laity and ordained ministry. It is our hope that some of the leaders for both the job function training and continuing education courses will come from the faculties of our colleges and seminaries. The third module will be a Leadership Development Academy. A well known leader would be the keynote speaker and a large number of workshops would be offered. There will be some workshops that will be offered each year; some on a rotating schedule and some designed for just that year's academy.

Our hope is that the entire process will result in stronger lay and clergy leadership in our local churches, districts and annual conference. We expect to report to the 2010 Annual Conference the first fruits of a more fully developed plan for ongoing, systematic leadership development.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Chairperson, Ministry Advisory Team*

REPORT OF THE EPWORTH STUDY COMMITTEE Authorized by Resolution of 2008 Annual Conference

Epworth Children's Home primary purpose is service to the children among us who are often overlooked. The long and fruitful partnership among South Carolina United Methodists and Epworth continues strong but the needs of the children are great and ever challenging. The 2008 Annual Conference asked Bishop Taylor to convene a study committee asking if the Annual Conference was supporting Epworth Children's Home in the most effective ways. The resolution included two resolved paragraphs, which are:

"Resolved, That the presiding bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference appoint a committee comprised of eight individuals; the purpose of which shall be to make recommendations to the 2009 Annual Conference:

1. Whether or not it is in the best interest of Epworth Children's Home and the South Carolina Annual Conference for Epworth Children's Home to become an apportioned item.
2. Ways in which the South Carolina Annual Conference and its leadership can be supportive of efforts to increase the level of financial support from the churches of this Annual Conference. And be it further

Resolved, That the committee shall consist of eight members and shall include: a representative from: CF&A, the cabinet, the president of Epworth Children's Home and two Epworth Local Church Representatives among its members."

The Study Committee was convened by Bishop Taylor with the president of Epworth Children's Home, John Holler; Lee Edens, Marie Leonard and Carolyn Hall, Local Church Representatives; CF&A representative, Jim Correll; Cabinet Representative, Sara White and Conference Secretary, Tim Rogers in attendance.

The Study Committee submits the following recommendations:

1. That Epworth continue to solicit support independently rather than becoming an apportioned item. This reflects comparison of monies contributed through current funding and monies anticipated from apportioned funds.
2. That the goal of a minimum of \$6.00 per member per year be encouraged, that district superintendents promote Epworth at charge conferences, and that Epworth develop resources (such as a DVD) to be widely distributed to local church representatives and pastors.
3. That local congregations and leadership hold themselves accountable to tell the story of Epworth's life changing ministries by using materials and resources that are available through Epworth Children's Home, selecting a Local Church Representative in each congregation who is equipped to tell the story and by working with mission committees to discover ways to share ministry with the children of Epworth.
4. That the Study Committee shall report to the 2010 Annual Conference on progress made in fulfilling the recommendations.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sara A. White for the Committee*

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Board of Trustees continues to work on the proper disposition of properties of discontinued and abandoned churches. It is extremely time consuming to research and act on these properties, but the efforts of the Board continue to show results.

The Board is working on the establishment of a cemetery endowment for the Asbury Clark Cemetery consistent with the resolution of the 1988 Annual Conference. The Board of Trustees is also considering the care of other cemeteries of discontinued and abandoned local churches.

The Board of Trustees took the action of transferring the responsibility for the administration of funds from the Estate of William N. Bobo, Jr. to the Annual Conference Ministry Advisory Team (See attached Resolution and letter to the Conference Treasurer and Bobo Fund Report.).

Attached to this report and incorporated by reference herein is an accounting of the funds of the Board of Trustees for this past year, along with a listing of all real property being overseen by the Board of Trustees, as required by ¶ 2512.6 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

Much work remains to be done. The Board of Trustees looks forward to its continued service on behalf of the Conference.

John Quackenbush, Chairman

**Detail Accounting for the Trustees of the Annual Conference
 December 31, 2008**

Main Account	
Beginning Balance	165,919.68
Income	
Sale of property (Asbury Clark)	487,600.00
Total Income	487,600.00
Expenses	
Property Insurance	
Spring Branch	197.55
Arrington Memorial	1,341.00
Legal Expenses	
Asbury Clark	6,856.61
Other	11,532.82
Miscellaneous	
Asbury Clark Cemetery Expenses	1,200.00
Other	850.00
Appraisal Expense (Arrington Memorial)	239.57
Funds for Proposed Cemetery Fund for Asbury Clark	100,000.00
Meeting Expense (Travel)	1,632.12
Total Expenses	123,849.67
Ending Balance	529,670.01
Portion of balance from sale of property (Should be reduced by legal and other expenses related to the sale)	
Previous	69,172.66
Asbury Clark	379,543.39
Available Balance	80,953.96
Asbury Clark Cemetery Fund	
Initial payment	100,000.00
Interest	1,582.65
Total	101,582.65

Real Properties Currently Being Overseen by the Board of Trustees:

- Asbury Clark UMC cemetery (Anderson District)
 - Spring Branch UMC property (Marion District)
 This property is for sale.
 - Sims Chapel UMC property proceeds (Spartanburg District)
 This property has been sold. The Trustees are holding the proceeds pending distribution.
 - Arrington Memorial UMC (Greenville District)
 Memorandum of Agreement to Greenville District Trustees for a Hispanic outreach ministry church.
 - Rocky Swamp Church Property (Orangeburg District)
- (As set forth previously in the report, the Board of Trustees has an ongoing effort to determine the status of a number of other properties throughout the various districts of the South Carolina Conference.)

September 29, 2008

The Reverend James H. Knowles-Tuell
Treasurer of the South Carolina Conference
4908 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203

RE: Funds from the Estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr.

Dear Jim:

On September 19, 2008, the Conference Board of Trustees (the "Board") held its annual meeting. One of the items considered by the Board was the resolution of the 2008 Annual Conference (the "Bobo Resolution") directing the establishment of an endowment from the proceeds received from the Estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr. ("Bobo Estate"). The Board interprets that resolution: as placing the responsibility for administering ("direction and oversight of the fund" as stated in the Bobo Resolution) the proceeds and the income derived therefrom in the Annual Conference Ministry Advisory Team ("MAT").

In that regard, the Board has adopted its own resolution tendering the proceeds received *from* the Bobo Estate (including interest income but less expenses) to you to hold as the Custodian for the MAT. The purpose of the Board's resolution is to clarify what it believes was the direction of the 2008 Annual Conference.

As you know, as the Conference Treasurer, you currently have custody of the funds for the Board pursuant to Standing Rule 33. Thus, the instructions of the Board, as set forth in its resolution, put you and the Annual Conference on notice of for whom you are now acting as the Custodian.

Although not expressly set forth in the Bobo Resolution of the 2008 Annual Conference, the Board understands that the MAT has responsibility for establishing the endowment directed by the 2008 Annual Conference and maintaining accountability of the funds from the Bobo Estate with **you** as the Custodian. By the action of the 2008 Annual Conference, the members of the MAT have in essence become the trustees (and thus the fiduciaries) of the funds from the Bobo Estate.

If you or the other recipients of this letter believe that the Board has incorrectly interpreted the direction of the 2008 Annual Conference, please let me know. If there is a disagreement about the interpretation of the Bobo Resolution, then it may be necessary for the Board to meet with the MAT to resolve the issues and perhaps to obtain a clarifying resolution from the 2009 Annual Conference.

In passing its own resolution, the Board was mindful of the desire of the Annual Conference to put the funds from the Bobo Estate to good use in ministry. The Board did not want to delay the establishment of an endowment for that purpose for another year in order to obtain a clarifying resolution when the Board believed that it understood the direction of the Annual Conference.

As part of winding up the responsibilities of the Board for the funds of the Bobo Estate, please provide me with a complete accounting for the proceeds, interest income, and expenses related to the collection and administration of the proceeds. I intend to include this accounting in my report to the 2009 Annual Conference. Please provide a copy of this accounting to Rev. Timothy J. Rogers and R. Jeffords Barham, Esquire, who act as liaisons to the Board of Trustees. I would appreciate your doing this not later than October 17, 2008.

Thank you for your assistance. The Board has appreciated your help with maintaining accountability of the funds and with investing them since the receipt of them by the Board.

Sincerely,
John H. Quackenbush Chairperson, Board of Trustees
South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Address: 435 Highway 417, Moore, SC 29369

cc: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Presiding Bishop
The Reverend Quay W. Adams, President of the Cabinet
The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary of the South Carolina Conference

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE PERTAINING TO THE TRANSFER OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS FROM
THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM NORMAN BOBO, JR. AS DIRECTED BY
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church tenders to the Conference Treasurer the entire proceeds received from the Estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr., including the interest income on the proceeds, less those expenses relating to the collection and administration of the proceeds, to hold as the Custodian for the Annual Conference Ministry Advisory Team (Standing Rule 46), pursuant to the resolution adopted by the South Carolina Conference on June 2, 2008, during its annual session, and reflected in the "Report of the Committee to Determine the Use of Funds from the Estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr.," a copy of which is attached to this Resolution as the "Enclosure."

Adopted September 19, 2008
at Columbia, South Carolina

John H. Quackenbush, Chairperson, Board of Trustees
South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE USE OF FUNDS FROM
THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM NORMAN BOBO, JR.**

The 2007 South Carolina Annual Conference created a committee to determine the use of funds from the estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr., and directed the committee to report to the 2008 Annual Conference. That committee was called by Bishop Taylor to meet on May 7, 2008. After discussion of the needs of the conference and the intent of the grantor as understood by the family representative, the committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That the funds received from the estate (valued at \$558,347.65 on December 31, 2007) be used to create an endowment for the purpose of funding clergy leadership and lay leadership within the conference;
 - 2) That 25% of the income each year be added to the principal amount of the endowment, with the remainder being available for leadership development;
 - 3) That 100% of the funds available from the endowment be used for programming rather than structure or bureaucracy;
 - 4) That the Ministry Advisory Team be given the direction and oversight of the fund.
- Respectfully submitted,

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson
Quay Adams *Sam Johnson*
Jane McGahee *John Quackenbush*
Willie Teague *Earline Ulmer*

Enclosure

**FINAL ACCOUNTING OF BOBO ESTATE FUNDS
BY THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

		2006
Income		
Distributions from estate		104,462.18
		434,885.47
Interest		2,578.83
		<u>927.45</u>
	Total Income	542,853.93
Expenses		
Legal		645.46
		3,473.75
		234.00
Other		<u>674.59</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>5,027.80</u>
Year-end Balance		537,826.13
		2007
Interest		<u>20,233.14</u>
Year-end Balance		558,059.27
		2008
Interest		13,865.88
		1,649.99
		<u>6,873.85</u>
	Total Income	22,389.72
Expenses		<u>76.80</u>
Current Balance		580,372.19
(as of 9/30/08)		

THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

This is a time of second birth for the ministry of Camps and Retreats – and what a year it has been! The board and staff continue the ministry of “Serving all People for Christian Birth, Growth and Renewal.” The Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries oversees the ministry of Asbury Hills Camp & Retreat Center in the mountains of South Carolina above Greenville and the ministry of Sewee Coastal Retreat Center on the Intracoastal Waterway just up the coast from Charleston. Both of these ministries are experiencing a time of renewal.

At Asbury Hills we have been in full construction since November 2008 to remodel most of our existing year round buildings and replace our youth cabins. Two lodges, Batson and Creekside, have been remodeled to host 30 adults in hotel-style bedrooms, each with private baths and beds for 1-3 people. The Dining Hall has been remodeled to update all finishes,

bathrooms and furnishings. Rice Lodge for youth has been remodeled to accommodate 60 youth in bunk beds, expanded bathrooms and an expanded meeting room. The transformation of these buildings is remarkable. These facilities opened in the spring of 2009.

The youth cabins that have served Asbury Hills since its founding have been replaced with new cabins that each sleep 16 people with bathrooms and showers in the cabin. We have added heat and air conditioning (for those really hot nights in the mountains) so these cabins are available for year round retreat use. Asbury Hills can now host youth groups up to 250 people. The cabins will be ready for summer 2009.

With all these new and renewed facilities we are expecting many more campers this summer and expanded retreat groups from local churches throughout the year. You will be very proud of what United Methodists have to offer at Asbury Hills!

The next steps at Asbury Hills include expanding the recreation areas, worship areas and meeting areas for larger gatherings. We are counting on the generosity of United Methodists across South Carolina to help us live into these next steps.

After pausing the operations at Sewee Coastal Retreat Center in December 2007, the board has been prayerfully working to seek the vision for this property. In the fall of 2008 the board completed a new master plan for the site to build a 50 room, full service adult retreat center for groups for the purpose of spiritual renewal. The natural beauty of the coast and the water serves as a call to reflection and renewal in our faith. The vision also includes every group having access via boat to the water and access to all the culture of the Charleston and coastal area. This plan includes new rooms for lodging, dining, meeting and worship located overlooking the waterway. The next step is a FEASIBILITY STUDY to determine if there is energy for this vision of the property. Will adult groups from churches wish to come for retreat? Can we operate a vital and viable retreat center at this location? Is capital funding for building this facility available? The board will spend 6-8 months (until fall 2009) in this feasibility study before determining the next steps. It is our great desire to see this vision fulfilled to serve the churches in South Carolina and the surrounding region!

In the fall of 2008, the ministry brought on a full time Director of Development to continue the improvement and addition of facilities and the strengthening of the viability of the ministry. Judy Outlaw, a long time South Carolina United Methodist with an extensive history of development efforts in not-for-profit work, has joined the staff. She will be leading the feasibility study, scholarship campaign efforts for summer camp, and many other development efforts on behalf of Asbury Hills and Sewee.

For more information, pictures of new facilities at Asbury Hills, and the master plan for Sewee, see our website www.sccampsandretreats.org. Thank-you for your support as we seek to continue to serve the ministry of United Methodist Churches in South Carolina!

*Joe Clark, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Jody Oates, Executive Director*

THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

The Belin Board of Trust continues its contribution and commitment to mission projects in South Carolina. The Board retains its position of management and administration of the Belin Trust property and assets. Each year income earned by the Trust is allocated to the Board of Global Ministries to be used for one-time mission projects and programs.

It remains the policy of the Belin Trust that funds are to be provided for start-up projects and programs and not for funding where re-occurring grants would be required. It is anticipated that grants would conform to the spirit of the will of the Reverend James L. Belin, that the funds be used for mission projects.

The Board of Trust engaged in the following activities since its report to the last Annual Conference:

1. Received and approved the final audit from the CPA firm of Webster Rogers LLP at the Board's February 13, 2009 meeting, per by-laws.
2. Continued using the financial management services of Smith Barney's Consulting Group (socially responsible investment management) and Webster Rogers LLP (CPA firm).
3. Made available to the Board of Global Ministries the sum of \$100,000 for mission grants for 2008.
4. Completed a review of the investment managers and also the asset allocation mix for the investment assets of the Trust. This review confirmed that the assets were properly invested to meet the Trust's investment goal of total return using a socially responsible approach.
5. Elected the following officers for 2009:
Chairperson: Shirley C. Robinson, Esquire
Vice-Chairperson: Rev. Joe N. Long, Jr.
Secretary: Rev. Leatha W. Brown
Treasurer: Rev. Maurice "Marty" Nason, Jr.

Shirley C. Robinson, Chairperson

THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

*"It has a great shelf life"...*were the words recently used by a reader to describe the Advocate. It has a great shelf life because the Advocate now has stories that our readers want to keep for referral, or as a keepsake of recognition of themselves, their church or activity, or district. There is excitement in the air over the new direction of the Advocate.

There is excitement because there is a lot to write about in our churches across the Conference. If your church is on the cutting edge, making a difference, or you have a significant story to tell, please get in touch with the Advocate and let them know. You may be the next feature. Coverage is not just about the churches but missions in South Carolina and around the world. There are also issues being addressed: issues that make us think, issues that stir our social conscience, issues that make us examine our theology. Front page stories since the 2008 Annual Conference have been about the Methodist Oaks, Payday lenders, Rural Mission, child abuse, Epworth's Early Intervention Center, General Conference, education, older adults, a human interest story, and our South Carolina United Methodist related Colleges. Inside stories have featured UVMIM, Salkehatchie, Safe Sanctuary,

small churches, youth basketball, prison ministries, soup kitchens, gun protests, after school programs, camps, and retreats to just name a few. When feasible the Advocate is covering clergy and laity events as they are happening. Health tips and resource center aids are featured monthly. The new advanced Web page for the Advocate is drawing more and more readers daily.

The staff continues to seek ways to make the Advocate a paper that is pleasant to the eye through the use of design. They are keeping up with technology available to newspapers today. Better editing is always a priority. They seek out training and participate in order to produce the best newspaper possible.

The board has updated its bylaws, produced a policy manual, and is in the process of updating the employee handbook. Business, finance, and management practices have been examined and improved. A new procedure manual also is in place.

If you are reading this, you are a church leader. If you are not taking the Advocate, you are missing out on the best opportunity to know what is going on across our conference so that you can become a more informed leader.

*Marilyn Murphy, Chairperson Board of Trustees
South Carolina United Methodist Advocate,
Connecting United Methodists in South Carolina Since 1837*

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during the year. Repairs were made to stop the leak around the elevator; all exterior window caulking was replaced and mortar joints resealed; downspouts were repositioned to carry the water away from the building when it rains; and vents were installed in the restrooms.

We are thankful to all of those churches that paid their UM Conference Center asking in full, and encourage those that did not to make your contributions during this fiscal year.

Franklin Garrett, Chairperson

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Ministry to men continues to be the genesis of another disciple made for Christ. The organization of United Methodist Men of the South Carolina Conference works to engage a single man who will grow to be a part of a small group of men that will lead a church to do its part in transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are currently in the process of presenting "Reaching Every Man", a 4 or 5 hour version of the 2 ½ day No Man Left Behind seminar by Man In the Mirror. Cost is only \$15 per man with an opportunity to buy Pat Morley's book for \$15.

Rock Hill – April 25, 2009
Charleston – May 16, 2009
Greenville – May 23, 2009
Columbia – June 6, 2009

The National Gathering of Men will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, July 10, 11, 12. We have asked each of our 12 Districts to get at least one bus load of men to go. We hope that some districts will have more. Our Conference goal is 200. There is still time to get a seat. Spouses are welcome.

Our spiritual well-being continues to be a top priority. We completed a successful Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach. Rev. David Beam of Cashiers UMC, Cashiers, North Carolina, was our keynote Retreat Speaker. Rev. Ken Nelson led our Sunrise Services. In addition, there were breakout sessions on a variety of subjects and training for local church UMM officers. It was a great weekend of men in ministry.

We continue to work with communications and relationships. It is through personal, spiritual interaction that we will strengthen the life of one man, then a small group of men, then a congregation of men, then the men of the United Methodist Church. We are using a variety of spiritual growth opportunities that will lead men to put Christ in the center of their lives.

Prayer, Strength for Service devotional books, Scouting, and Feeding the Hungry continue to be major focuses of the United Methodist Men of the SC Conference. We donated over \$4000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. The prayer line is routed to our UMM Spiritual Retreat held in February, the SC Annual Conference every June, and to the SC Laity Convocation each July, and calls are answered and prayers lifted up throughout all the meetings. Training for this important ministry is always available.

*Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President
803-730-8577 res@tds.net*

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The year has been an exciting and busy one for us as those seeking to fulfill the purpose of UMW in the South Carolina Conference. Our first celebration of women together was Legislative Day, March 3, at Ashland UMC in Columbia. We took the challenge to become active in contacting our representatives in Congress about Payday Lending, Public Education, Health and Human Services, and the Environment. No Child Left Behind was not changed and will have more time for constructive modifications. The Surface Water Permitting Act would require all major users of water (more than 3,000,000 gal. per year) to have a permit. Working together and letting our voices be heard, we are certain to accomplish much.

On April 3, we traveled by bus to the Southeastern Jurisdiction Meeting held in Hampton, Virginia. It was a great gathering of women called to worship, study and fellowship. Eleven new Women's Directors were elected for the next quadrennium. The theme was "Called By Name." A new format was used where the delegates interviewed each nominee. This method gave the delegates an opportunity to have one-on-one contact with the nominees.

The Spiritual Growth Retreat was another opportunity to be in community with sisters across the State. Seeing Dr. Fowler's dramatization of the lives of biblical sisters made their struggles come alive to us. We imaged their joys and disappointments and felt the connection. The attendance for the two sessions was 1050.

"Come Together, Be Together" was held at Lyttleton Street UMC. We had 166 persons in attendance. Opportunities to become informed about health, personal finances and wills were given with such workshops as: Finance, Healthy Eating, and Asking the Right Questions. There was also a fun part of the day where one could learn how to line dance. The combination of fun, fellowship, and education focused on what we needed as officers and local unit members to fulfill the purpose of UMW. Our speakers, Judge Pierce and Angela Ford Nelson, and the presenters did an excellent job.

"Living the Sacred" was the theme for the School of Christian Mission. We left the school with a deeper understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony with God and our sisters and brothers. 277 persons were in attendance. Of the 277, 13 were young ladies ages 13-18. Each evening, the plenary focused on one of the study themes for the year: "I Believe in Jesus" was highlighted on Thursday, "Israel/Palestine" on Friday and "Giving Your Heart Away: Native American Survival" on Saturday. Craft sales totaled \$1650.47. Our worship service culminated on Sunday with Rev. Candace Sloan delivering the message. Rev. Sloan stated that we must understand that God has given humanity the gift of life and relationship and we must deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony.

Not only do the women of the South Carolina Conference participate in opportunities locally but nationally. We give to our national mission projects through undesignated giving and designated giving. Some of our local mission projects have benefited from our giving to undesignated and designated giving. Locally, we provide school supplies, stock shelves at our mission projects, provide family meals during bereavement, mentor students, visit our sick and shut-ins, and give gift cards and postage stamps to our mission projects. We have just cause to celebrate. We celebrate members' participation in the Reading Program, Mission Today Units and the Charter for Racial Justice Diamond Units in all of the districts. We also celebrate the reorganized units in the Charleston, Florence, Anderson, Marion, and Waltherboro districts. You are the foundation upon which all of our hope lies. Thank you to those districts that exceeded your Pledge to Mission. South Carolina looked really good in the report given by Women's Division.

We must continue to fulfill our Purpose to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. We must follow his example of caring for the needs of others - especially women, children and youth. We must deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony. We must seek new ways of inviting younger women to the organization and keeping them. We must nurture others and ourselves. With over 11,200 women in the organization, we can make a difference.

Mary Johnson, President, SCCUMW

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY

Two thousand and eight (2008) has been filled with events that I believe have the possibility of being direction-changing for Lake Junaluska. Added to all the external and internal changes within the United Methodist Church and Lake Junaluska have been the financial challenges of a weakening economy.

The 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference set a new direction for the entire jurisdiction. It called for Lake Junaluska to be one of only three agencies and did away with the Administrative Council that had been Lake Junaluska's governing board. Along with looking at the new future of Lake Junaluska differently, it also set us in the direction of being more financially self-sufficient.

The new Board of Directors afforded Lake Junaluska the opportunity to have persons who have a deep abiding commitment to the ministry of Lake Junaluska as board members. As we moved away from the Administrative Council, which was a broad and representative board for the entire jurisdiction, we now can see a future with a smaller board which can take a well-defined vision and mission and build a stronger Lake Junaluska Assembly.

These changes offer, for the first time, the possibility of living and working as one organization. Lake Junaluska can be an agency that provides Christian hospitality with its campus, housing, services, etc., along with disciple-making and equipping ministries. This big change makes it possible to alleviate our age-old problems of competition between the conference center and ministry.

Building this new organization has required us to look closely at our ministry focus. Our focused ministry will be built around offering our events based on research that meets the identified needs of the church and individuals. To a larger degree, these ministry offerings will need to be self-supporting, thus requiring us to be more realistic in our financial charges to participants.

All of these changes and challenges have given us the opportunity to take an in-depth look at our financial needs and budgeting processes. As we have prepared to move toward 2013 and started to build a business plan, we focused on the 2009 budget process to inform us. We have looked closely at every area from ministry to housekeeping to determine a realistic understanding of our real costs.

In 2008 we celebrate an entire year of using the new Bethea Welcome Center. The building is being seen as a tipping point for the Lake Junaluska campus. It has inspired us to look closely at our hospitality needs, our facilities as its design has challenged us to have a more architecturally coordinated campus, as we plan for buildings in the future. The new golf course clubhouse that opened in the spring is a wonderful example of this new architectural influence.

There are many staff persons who make the ministry of Lake Junaluska possible. I am privileged to work with all of them and share a brief synopsis of the work of the executive staff.

The Conference and Retreat Center struggled in 2008 under the escalating price increases of petroleum, surcharges for products, and uncertain economic times. We were able to provide an air-conditioned Stuart Auditorium which not only pleased our guests but established the fact that we can successfully air condition Stuart as we build into the future. This year considerable progress has been made upgrading our facilities at the west end, Terrace Hotel, and Lambuth Inn. We have been challenged in providing enough staff to offer guests a quality experience because of budget constraints. Our exit evaluations from guests still remain high at 93 percent willing to return/willing to recommend.

We're implementing a new training program for our staff built around the "delivery of a quality Junaluska Experience to every guest". This program will be provided under the Workplace Discipleship Program. It will include orientation for all new staff and existing staff around providing Christian hospitality in every job on the Lake Junaluska campus.

The Ministry Event Development Department has made progress establishing a new direction and focus that totally

incorporates ministry into the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Working with the Marketing Department and the Business Office, the ministry area is using new marketing processes with the Lake Junaluska ministry events. We are proud of the partnership with Alban Institute and are pursuing partnerships and initiatives such as "Chautauqua Events" and establishing the Center for Racial Ethnic Ministries.

The Marketing and Communications Office has made significant progress this year. We have generated 180 stories on Lake Junaluska; had a significant increase in visits to our website; have begun on-line reservations for lodging rooms; and continued our e-newsletters. The conference coordinators and sales staff are giving concerted efforts to reaching as many persons as possible who will use the facilities and services of Lake Junaluska.

The Development Office continues its work with capital needs and the annual fund. We have developed a strategy that will move our annual fund to the next level with the Pacesetters of Lake Junaluska Program. The goal is to increase our donor giving to the operating budget. We continue to solicit gifts for the Jones Cafeteria improvements.

Residential Services has progressed in 2008. We have had many accomplishments and challenges since moving under the North Carolina Utility Commission, which now sets our water, sewer, and fire protection rates. We have moved to a new security firm. We are pleased with the support of Lake Junaluska residents to the ministry of Lake Junaluska and appreciate all their financial and volunteer support.

Yes, 2008 has been a good and challenging year! As God continues to bless us as we strive to offer our unique ministry to The Church we appreciate your prayers and support.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

With a new building, new faculty and staff, new curriculum, newly expanded financial aid initiatives – and even new art! – Candler School of Theology is moving with enthusiasm and grace through changes that enhance its ability to fulfill its mission: *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world.* To this end, Candler is constantly working to deepen its already vital relationship with The United Methodist Church.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate level, professional schools of United Methodist-related Emory University, Candler provides a context for learning and formation that engages the most complex and difficult issues of our day. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students the opportunity for practice in a highly diverse community, a global crossroads where church growth is expected, cultivated, and actually happening! There is no better place for preparation that resonates with and addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

On September 25, 2008, and with abundant joy, we dedicated Phase I of the new Candler School of Theology Building. A LEEDS silver certificate building, the "CST" includes offices and classrooms that provide the opportunity for technologically sophisticated work and community in an environmentally sound setting. Phase II, to be built in due time, will house the Pitts Theology Library, the Wesley Teaching Chapel, and additional offices and classrooms.

This year we welcomed the arrival of six new faculty and senior staff, five of whom are United Methodists. Forty two percent of the faculty and senior staff is United Methodist, and all but five are ordained. Two new staff positions were created, the Director of Lifelong Learning, filled by Dr. Bob Winstead, a member of the North Georgia Annual Conference, and the Associate Dean of Methodist Studies, filled by Dr. Anne Burkholder, a member of the Florida Annual Conference. Both of these new positions serve the larger church as they connect clergy with new opportunities for learning; connect conferences and students who are ultimately seeking ordination; engage with denominational organizations at a variety of levels; oversee denominational certifications and the Course of Study; advise students; and teach courses. In addition, Bishop Ruediger Minor is with us for two years as the inaugural holder of the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism and Bishop Walter Klaiber is with us as Bishop-in-Residence during the spring semester.

Candler is in the second year of its new curriculum, designed to assist students in aligning their course selection with their call to ministry and integrating the classroom with their contextual education settings. This emphasis is accomplished through the selection of a concentration, the opportunity for special certifications, and joint programs and initiatives with three other Emory graduate schools: Goizueta Business School, Emory Law School, and Rollins School of Public Health.

We are delighted to report that in spite of the difficult economic realities that have had a serious impact on us all, Candler School of Theology and Emory University are faring well, due to sound fiscal stewardship and excellent donor support. The Emory Capital Campaign has achieved \$881 million of its \$1.7 billion goal. Candler's goal of \$60 million will enable us to achieve strategic priorities regarding facilities, student support, lifelong learning, endowed professorships, programs and curriculum development, and international initiatives.

Candler has always been deeply committed to assisting students with generous financial aid, but in light of the current economic climate, we have deepened our commitment to significant student support in two very important ways. This academic year, 80 percent of eligible students received scholarships or grants, with an average award covering 79% percent of tuition. Through these awards, more than \$2.5 million was provided to 196 United Methodist students. In addition, we created "Leadership Candler," an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together distinguished prospective MDiv students from across the country and the world to explore the richness of life and study at Candler.

As a part of its contribution to the new building, Emory University provided Candler with a major grant for the purchase of new artwork. As a result, Candler is now home to the world's largest collection of original works by John August Swanson. Comprising both serigraphs and paintings, the collection focuses on biblical narratives and reflects the storytelling traditions of Swanson's Mexican-Swedish heritage as well as the influence of mosaics and stained glass from the Byzantine and medieval eras.

Candler's student body truly reflects the denominational emphasis on the importance of attracting younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 493, with 401 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 18 the Master of Theology, 13 the Doctor of Theology, and 11 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent are

enrolled full-time. The total student population is 24% US ethnic minority, 12% international, and 51% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 40 Annual Conferences, including Bulgaria, East Angola, Mozambique, and Korea. Other Methodist denominations include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of the Nazarene, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, and the Methodist Church of Korea. The average age of our students is 32, with 56% under thirty. The median age of our MDiv students is 27.

Candler is deeply committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the development of persons for Christian ministry, especially in the United Methodist Church. We are grateful for your support of Candler through the Methodist Education Fund, visits, prayers, nurture of our students, and direct donor support. Come and see us! We would love to welcome you on campus to share your interest, your concerns, and your ideas!

With thanks,

Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School prepares students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church, the academy and the world through its attention to spiritual formation and transforming ministry as well as to leadership and academic rigor. The school is committed to preparing ordained leaders in the United Methodist Church. It is also an integral part of Duke University, and divinity students enjoy and contribute to the university's intellectual, spiritual and social resources.

Programs:

Duke Divinity School made significant progress in 2008 on a variety of interrelated projects and programs that support clergy, other Christian leaders and congregations.

The Divinity School officially launched Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, an effort to combine in one initiative the school's non-degree programs and scholarship on leadership development, pastoral excellence, clergy health, rural ministry, Hispanic ministry, youth formation, reconciliation and end-of-life care.

Leadership Education's work, supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., builds on the strengths of the Divinity School and engages multiple disciplines, from business to the arts. Its offerings include an online magazine, Faith & Leadership; open-application programs; and custom educational experiences. The magazine and more information about this effort can be found at www.faihandleadership.com.

A previously established leadership program, the Episcopal Leadership Forum, continued its successful work in supporting United Methodist bishops. All eight United Methodist bishops elected in the United States in 2008 are participants in the program.

The Divinity School implemented the first year of its Clergy Health Initiative in North Carolina, a project focused on developing a resilient, well-informed cadre of United Methodist pastors as skilled in the care of themselves and their families as they are in the care of their congregations.

In 2008, the Clergy Health Initiative completed a statewide survey of all United Methodist clergy in North Carolina to measure physical, mental, spiritual, and vocational health. The initiative will provide clergy with support such as customizable wellness plans and access to trained, certified health coaches.

The Divinity School also strengthened its Thriving Rural Communities program, which supports rural clergy and congregations, and began developing a Hispanic Studies Program through new educational and programmatic outreach. These programs, along with the Clergy Health Initiative, all of which are supported by The Duke Endowment, have been combined into one effort known as Thriving Communities in the Carolinas.

Also in 2008, the Divinity School established Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, an effort to promote a vibrant interplay of Christian theology and the arts at Duke Divinity School and beyond through teaching, research and artistic engagement.

Students:

The Divinity School welcomed an impressive group of new students in the fall, and we experienced a 7 percent increase in applications over 2007, which was itself a strong year. Total enrollment in the fall was 550 students representing 35 states and 10 foreign countries. More than half of our Master of Divinity students are United Methodist, 13 percent are Baptist, and the others come from more than 35 different denominations in the Christian faith.

The median age of the entering Master of Divinity class continues to be low – in 2008 it was approximately 24. The overall entering class had an ethnic minority enrollment of approximately 25 percent, an increase from 21 percent in 2007. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.6.

The divinity school is now in the third year of its Doctor of Theology program, and applications increased substantially this year to almost 100. Twenty seven students are enrolled in the program overall, and the eight students in the inaugural Th.D. class have now finished their coursework and are preparing for their comprehensive preliminary exams.

Our field education program remains vibrant and critically important to the formation of our students for ministry. One hundred nineteen students served field education placements during the academic year, in addition to approximately 40 who serve as student pastors. Almost 200 of our students undertook summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 12 in our program of Partner Congregations, six in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, including two in India and one in Canada, and 15 other international placements in South Africa (three), Uganda (three), Guatemala and El Salvador (five), Brazil (two), Peru (one), and Macedonia (one).

Events and Activities:

The Divinity School's 2008 Convocation & Pastors' School, held in October, focused on the theme "For Such a Time as This: Christian Leadership in a Changing World." The three-day program featured presentations by Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of

the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., a panel of United Methodist bishops, and author Ronald Heifetz.

Also in the fall, the Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation hosted Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities, and Duke Divinity School theologian Stanley Hauerwas to co-teach the center's second annual Teaching Communities Week. Events included a joint keynote lecture, a day-long workshop for students and community members, and a sermon by Vanier at Duke Chapel. Teaching Communities Week also marked the launch of a new book by Hauerwas and Vanier, "Living Gently in a Violent World," the second volume in the Center for Reconciliation's Resources for Reconciliation series.

Five members of the Duke Divinity School faculty spoke at the United Methodist Southeast Jurisdictional Conference July 16-19 in Lake Junaluska, N.C. This was the first time faculty sessions were included as part of the conference. Professors Kenneth Carder, Edgardo Colon-Emeric, W. Stephen Gunter, Randy Maddox and Lacey Warner spoke on various aspects of living the United Methodist way.

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, newly elected archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, met with faculty, staff and students during a May visit to Duke Divinity School. A church leader of international standing, Archbishop Deng Bul has been instrumental in evangelizing and peacemaking within Sudan.

More than 600 participants gathered at Duke Divinity School in March for the third joint meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the Wesleyan Theological Society. The meeting brought together resources from both societies for theological reflection about creation and the world of sciences. The theme was "Sighs, Signs and Significance: Pentecostal and Wesleyan Explorations of Science and Creation."

At the end of March, the Divinity School hosted a conference on "Religion in the Public Square" that brought together Duke faculty, led by Professor David Steinmetz, with a cross section of journalists who cover religion across the nation. Faculty and journalists participated in four panels, and Professor of Christian History Grant Wacker presented a public lecture, "Billy Graham's America," from research for his forthcoming cultural biography on Graham.

Faculty:

The Divinity School strengthened its faculty significantly with the addition of six new colleagues: Paul Griffiths, William K. Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology; Ray Barfield, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Christian Philosophy in the Divinity School as well as Associate Professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology-Oncology in the Medical School; Sujin Pak, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity; Norman Wirzba, Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life; Jeremy Begbie, Thomas A. Langford Research Professor of Theology; and Charles "Chuck" Campbell, Professor of Homiletics.

Three key members of the faculty – J. Kameron Carter, Stephen Chapman, and Warren Smith – were granted tenure by Duke University.

Honors & Achievements:

Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe professor of theological ethics, was honored for his work in ethics by the Healthcare, Ethics and Law Institute of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. Professor Hauerwas received the Pellegrino Medal, which is presented annually to nationally recognized individuals for "contributions to American healthcare ethics and law in the selfless spirit of Edmund D. Pellegrino."

Professor Mark Chaves released a major research report on U.S. congregations, revealing growing informality in worship practices, graying of congregations and clergy, more ethnic diversity, and more use of technology. Chaves, professor of sociology, religion and divinity at Duke University, was the lead researcher on the "National Congregations Study, Wave II" project, which encompasses information from 1,506 congregations across the religious spectrum.

The end of the summer, 2008, brought the completion and installation of the new Goodson Chapel Organ. Supported by a generous gift from Duke alumni Aubrey and Katie McClendon, the 30-foot-high pipe organ is a Gothic and neo-Gothic instrument which contains 1,837 pipes. The organ was dedicated at Opening Convocation in August.

The school also published "With God In Mind: Sermons on the Art and Architecture of Duke Divinity School." This 150-page book celebrates the sermons, art, and architecture inspired by Duke Divinity School's 2005 addition, which includes Goodson Chapel.

We are thankful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted

Dean L. Gregory Jones

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of thirteen accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historically African American theological school related to the United Methodist Church.

Gammon is in its 126th year of operation. The Methodist Episcopal Church founded Gammon Theological Seminary in 1883. Bishop Gilbert Haven and the officers of the Freedmen's Aid Society had purchased nearly 500 acres of high land in the southern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon initially began as a Department of Theology at Clark University through the efforts of Bishop Henry White Warren and the gift of \$20,000 for endowment from the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, superannuated Methodist minister of the Rock River (Illinois) Conference. The enthusiasm of these two men led to the construction of Gammon Hall. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was elected dean, and Gammon School of Theology was officially opened on October 3, 1883.

April 1887, the official connection between Gammon and Clark was dissolved. The seminary was granted a charter on March 24, 1888, and the name was officially changed December 28 of that year to Gammon Theological School. The Rev. Thirkield served as the first president.

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools known across the world as The

Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. We offer a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and also offer a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service. Students prepare for administration and leadership, counseling, teaching and preaching and a range of other spiritual and secular roles, with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community.

The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry, merging theory with practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community Degree programs offered are Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Christian Education; Master of Arts in Church Music; Doctor of Ministry; Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty In Pastoral Counseling; and Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling. Dual Degrees are offered in Christian Education and Master of Divinity; Church Music and Master of Divinity; and Christian Education and Church Music.

Our range of innovative special programs provide research and learning opportunities for students and faculty, while serving society as a whole. Some of the programs are: (1) The Institute of Church Administration and Management (ICAM) supplement theological education with leadership training and administrative skills development, addressing topics such entrepreneurial concepts, time management, organizational development, and policy formulation. (2) Black Women in Church and Society Program establishes networks among African American church women locally and nationwide through an institute, a research and resource center and seminars. (3) The Religious Heritage of the African World initiative conducts research and advocacy activities, gathers data, and examines issues related to the religious heritage of people of African descent around the Globe. (4) Faith and The City is one module of a collaborative relationship among local Seminaries that addresses civic and community interest by engaging the public theologians, local church leadership and their congregations in active pursuit of a spirit of mutual community and shared responsibility with its specific emphases on environmental justice and wholistic health. (5) The Womanist Scholars Program recognizes and promotes the scholarly activities of academicians who Black Women, religion and spirituality. This program enables womanist scholars to pursue a research project of their own design. Scholars are engaged in teaching, lectureships, and consultation on issues affecting Black women and religion and Black women and spirituality. This program invites two Black female scholars annually to be in residence, teach a course in the scholar's research area and develop publishable contributions to womanist works. (6) The Youth Hope Builders Academy seeks to provide high school youth an opportunity to explore their present and future lives theologically and discover ways in which their lives can contribute to a hope bearing church and society. During the program an intensive four week summer residential academy is held. A second component of the Academy is year round forums, including the Annual Youth and Family Convocation, for young people and their families, and church and community leaders focus on current issues of youth and resources for problem solving. (7) The Urban Theological Institute is an exciting initiative designed to address the need to develop effective religious and public leaders for urban transformation. The vision is to become a major partner with local churches, neighborhoods, and faith based organizations in the war against urban blight. (8) The Student, Local Church and Agency Internship Program functions with an opportunity for partnerships with organizations, local churches, social action and advocacy agencies, which helps prepare students and fosters a vision of excellence in ministry in general, and pastoral ministry in particular. This program seeks to accomplish its nurturing and mentoring goals through the development and utilization of strategic partners. (9) The Conference on Ministry, which is held during the Spring of each year is an opportunity for persons who feel they have been called to ministry to come and visit our campus and explore their call to ministry as they visit classrooms, engage students who are currently matriculating at the seminary and dialogue with the Financial Aid/Scholarship officers as well as the President of the seminary. This three day program stimulates and helps prospective students to clarify their call to ministry and also helps them to consider the seminary that will best help them to achieve their goals for preparing for ministry. (10) The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series were established by alumni, family and friends for Bishop Wilbur P. Thirkield and Bishop Robert E. Jones. Each person had an individual lectureship, "Thirkield's Lectureship was on Preaching and Social Services, and Interracial Goodwill." Jones family, alumni and friends established the "Alumni Lectureship". The two lectureships were combined in 1947. The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series are held annually during Gammon's Founders' Day celebration in October.

Gammon has been known as "The School of the Prophets" and has trained many Bishops, District Superintendents, Annual Conference Staff Executives, General Agency Administrators, College Presidents, Preachers, Teachers, Christian Educators, Pastoral Counselors, Military, Hospital, and Children's Home Chaplains, Wesley Foundation Directors, Campus Ministers, Ministers of Music, Church Administrators, Religious Journalists and Authors, Biblical Scholars, and Social Activists the last 126 years. Our graduates hold the promise of hundreds of local church ministries around the world in Africa, Asia, and India and our gifts and graces will continue to honor our historic mission and embrace its promising future. To learn more about Gammon, please visit our website at www.gammonseminary.org.

*Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, President
Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni & Student Affairs Director*