

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 affect 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