

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*