

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