

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