

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