

REPORT OF THE EPWORTH STUDY COMMITTEE
Authorized by Resolution of 2008 Annual Conference

Epworth Children's Home primary purpose is service to the children among us who are often overlooked. The long and fruitful partnership among South Carolina United Methodists and Epworth continues strong but the needs of the children are great and ever challenging. The 2008 Annual Conference asked Bishop Taylor to convene a study committee asking if the Annual Conference was supporting Epworth Children's Home in the most effective ways. The resolution included two resolved paragraphs, which are:

"Resolved, That the presiding bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference appoint a committee comprised of eight individuals; the purpose of which shall be to make recommendations to the 2009 Annual Conference:

1. Whether or not it is in the best interest of Epworth Children's Home and the South Carolina Annual Conference for Epworth Children's Home to become an apportioned item.
2. Ways in which the South Carolina Annual Conference and its leadership can be supportive of efforts to increase the level of financial support from the churches of this Annual Conference. And be it further

Resolved, That the committee shall consist of eight members and shall include: a representative from: CF&A, the cabinet, the president of Epworth Children's Home and two Epworth Local Church Representatives among its members."

The Study Committee was convened by Bishop Taylor with the president of Epworth Children's Home, John Holler; Lee Edens, Marie Leonard and Carolyn Hall, Local Church Representatives; CF&A representative, Jim Correll; Cabinet Representative, Sara White and Conference Secretary, Tim Rogers in attendance.

The Study Committee submits the following recommendations:

1. That Epworth continue to solicit support independently rather than becoming an apportioned item. This reflects comparison of monies contributed through current funding and monies anticipated from apportioned funds.
2. That the goal of a minimum of \$6.00 per member per year be encouraged, that district superintendents promote Epworth at charge conferences, and that Epworth develop resources (such as a DVD) to be widely distributed to local church representatives and pastors.
3. That local congregations and leadership hold themselves accountable to tell the story of Epworth's life changing ministries by using materials and resources that are available through Epworth Children's Home, selecting a Local Church Representative in each congregation who is equipped to tell the story and by working with mission committees to discover ways to share ministry with the children of Epworth.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara A. White for the Committee