

PATHWAYS TO MISSION



The South Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church

2015/2016

David Surret

Chair of S.C. Council on Finance and Administration



Why do we give? It seems foreign to the self-centered age in which we live. Grab! Get! Take! Those are the actions in which we are encouraged to participate by advertisements and commercials.

What makes us be generous people, to give with or without reason? It could be the reward we receive or the emotion we feel when we give. The response from the recipient could encourage us to become generous, giving people. Yet these are inadequate reasons.

As disciples of Christ Jesus, we give solely because He first gave to us. In the life, sacrifice and resurrection of our blessed Savior, each of us was given our very life and our eternal hopes. It is from the grace and love of Jesus that we are prompted, promoted and impulsively required to return that first great gift. This is the truest reason for Christian giving.

In the United Methodist tradition, we have a system of organized and disciplined financial giving called apportionments. Far too often, our people see apportionments as taxes. This is a narrow, limited view of what apportionment giving does. Apportionments allow every United Methodist in the most remote location to support significant ministry in an equally far place. They provide support and structure for the work of one of the most progressive and forward-thinking groups of faith believers anywhere.

Within South Carolina there are a multitude of ministry needs: college students who may be examining the possibility of entering ordained ministry, seniors requiring support in our retirement centers, youth and adults wanting to serve others in poverty through Salkehatchie Summer Service and the large number of new residents moving into the state. Your gifts through apportionment giving seek to respond to these needs and challenges. They bring both hope and help to many, many persons!

I encourage you and your local congregation to discover new and creative ways to reach more and more persons with the Gospel, encouragement and hope of Christ. Reflect on the graciousness of God and you will find vital places and people who will be deeply touched and renewed by your gifts, service and stewardship.



The South Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church

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Why Give?

As Christians, we have been taught to give a portion of what we have back to God, Christ and the Church. Deuteronomy 14:22 says, “Make an offering of ten percent, a tithe, of all the produce which grows in your fields year after year.”

So when you give your tithe to the church, whether as a pledge or loose plate offering, where does the money go?

Think of your giving as this directional sign.

More than 84% of what we give stays in the local church. A majority of these local funds are used for expenses such as buildings, administration, salaries and other costs. The remainder helps fund ministries such as community outreach programs, education, worship and other things associated with making disciples for Christ.



The remaining portion of our giving, about 16%, goes to what we call apportionments.

Apportionments serve as our financial partnership with all other United Methodists. Together we reach out to our communities and the entire world in sharing God's love. Whether a small, medium or large-membership church, we can do more for Christ through apportionments than we can do alone.

So what does that 16% of apportionments really do? Most of the money – 12.4% – stays at the state and regional levels, while 3.3% supports the work of our global United Methodist boards and agencies that reach out across the country and around the world.

Our apportionments provide for missionaries all around the world, resources for existing church and funds to start new churches here in South Carolina. They provide for retired clergy, and they supplement pastors' salaries in transitional church settings.

Apportionments also help to personify our connection through people like our district superintendents and congregational specialists, who help equip local churches for disciple-making ministries. They provide for our bishops who shepherd and lead us in our ministries around the globe.

Some of our money goes to scholarships for United Methodist students at Wofford College, Columbia College, Claflin University and Spartanburg Methodist College. Our money also helps provide for ministries on other college campuses across the state. We support the 11 traditionally black United Methodist colleges and universities, including Claflin, and through our apportionments, we help to build and maintain Africa University, the only United Methodist university in Africa.

A portion of our giving helps seniors afford to live in one of our three South Carolina retirement homes. It also funds a camp and a retreat center called Asbury Hills, available for Methodists of all ages, and ensures our continued fellowship with Christians of other denominations.

Apportionments allow us to do more together than we could ever do individually. As John Wesley said, “Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.” Together we do our best for Christ.

New Church Start: South Main Chapel and Mercy Center



The South Main Chapel and Mercy Center is one of many United Methodist new church starts. The church is located in what was once the Orrville UMC, 2408 South Main Street, in the Anderson district. The idea for the church grew out of a vision first cast by Anderson District Superintendent Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray. After a visit made by Leonard-Ray, Rev. Kurt Stutler and Carol Burdette (president of the United Way of Anderson County) to Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, plans began to formulate around establishing a church and ministry in this location, one that like Triune would work with and alongside those dealing with homelessness and poverty.

The project was selected as a recipient of new church start support from the SC Annual Conference, and Stutler was appointed in June 2014 as the founding pastor. Sunday morning worship comprising a diverse congregation is averaging 85 in

attendance, proving that it is possible for God's people to become one family across social, economic and racial boundaries. A fellowship dinner supported by several area churches, nonprofits and businesses is held every Sunday after worship.

Other ministries and services started since opening June 29, 2014, include:

- A weekly community meal supported by Concord Baptist Church
- Weekly Bible study and a weekly prayer service
- A weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
- Alston Wilkes Society Anderson County has moved into the building
- Partnerships formed with Anderson Oconee Pickens Mental Health Center and South Carolina
- Vocational Rehabilitation to provide counselors who have weekly office hours at the facility
- A faith community nurse on-site to offer health education and connect persons with medical services
- An art room is open weekly
- A community garden has been established
- Working in collaboration with other local agencies, persons coming to the church who are dealing with chronic homelessness have become housed
- Individuals have been assisted with accessing drug and alcohol rehab programs, transportation, hygiene products, small food packs, blankets, tents and bicycles.

Stutler says, "We have come here to be a family of faith across boundaries that often divide Christians and, through the connection of our lives, address the challenges of poverty and other life struggles."



\$5.7 million goes to providing leadership

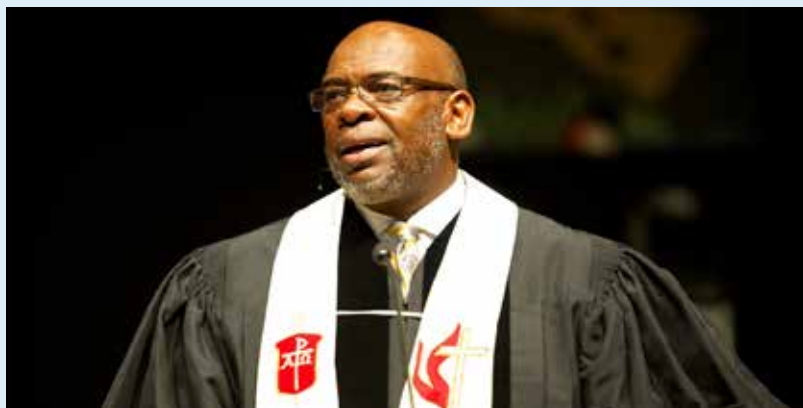
As South Carolina continues to experience a dynamic population boom, The United Methodist Church stands poised to serve new and existing disciples of Christ. By investing in our churches and their leadership, the conference can grow as the state grows.

Congregational development is a key priority for the conference, working to strengthen and advance existing churches, as well as launch new churches and outreach areas.

Another major aspect of nurturing our churches involves clergy support, both through the Ministerial Education Fund and the Equitable Compensation Fund. Some of these funds support compensation for pastors who serve churches in transitional communities, including new church starts.

The conference continues to nurture our aging clergy through the three Methodist Retirement Homes, and supports retired pastors and their spouses through the Retiree Health and Transitions Fund, helping with insurance premiums, grants for clergy in transition because of health and disability issues, and more.

Finally, oversight of the conference through the vital leadership of our bishop and 12 districts ensures the connectionalism of the UMC through a healthy relationship among the local church, district, conference and beyond.



Impact areas:

Congregational Development
Equitable Compensation
Ministerial Education Fund
Methodist Homes
Retiree Health
Episcopal Fund
District Administration



Charting

the Course



The Ripple Effect of Asbury Hills

Rev. Karen Radcliffe was standing on the deck of the Lakeside Chapel at Asbury Hills tossing pebbles into the lake. After a few moments, she turned to the group of youth she brought from St. John's UMC and said, "Just keep watching the ripples in the water." She continued tossing pebbles in for a few more moments before turning and continuing our tour of Asbury Hills. Later, the group stopped for lunch at the Mountain Chapel, and Karen shared her story.

I served as the Waterfront Director [at Asbury Hills] in the 70's. I was in charge of organizing the pool and lake activities - swimming, canoeing, games. I also assisted in setting up for the weekly evening worship at the lake chapel. Back then, we lit luminaries around the trail leading to the chapel. And by the time worship was over, it was so dark, the only thing you could see was the flickering light from those luminaries glowing around the lake. It was on one of those nights, after worship had concluded and campers were following the candlelight back towards their cabins, that I very clearly heard God calling me into ministry.

She continued on, and asked her group to remember the pebbles she tossed in the lake earlier that day.

I believe that's how God works at Asbury Hills.

Your continued support allows Camps & Retreats to make the life-changing experience of summer camp more accessible for all. The true cost of a week of summer camp is close to \$750. Because of your support through apportionments, we are able to offer a week of summer camp at Asbury Hills starting around \$450.

Asbury Hills is dedicated to serving all people through Christian birth, growth, and renewal. We desire for all who step onto our property - whether a retreat guest, summer camper, or hiker - to be able to encounter the living God, grow in their relationship with Christ, and be renewed to be able to better take on the world again. We are gratefully able to live out our mission with over 1100 summer campers, 60 college-aged summer staff, and 4000 retreat guests each year because of your support.

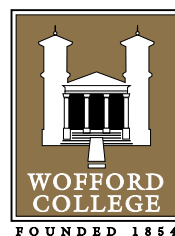


He is able to toss pebbles into our lives by calling us to transform into someone greater. And maybe that is volunteering as a Sunday school teacher or serving as a nurse or maybe God will one day call you into ministry. It is amazing to me to see how the pebbles God tosses at camp can cause ripples that spread much farther than we could ever imagine.





Bishop Holston and Cynthia Williams present the Africa University Banner to the 2015 Annual Conference for paying 100% of the AU Apportionment Fund in 2014.



\$3 million goes to *higher education and camps*

Supporting Higher Education:

Through your giving, you help equip our future leaders locally by providing support for Spartanburg Methodist College and providing scholarships to Clafin University, Columbia College and Wofford College. You also contribute to the campus ministries at eight colleges and universities around the state.

Your impact, however, reaches much farther than just South Carolina. You help support the 11 historically black United Methodist colleges across the United States, including Clafin University in Orangeburg.

Globally, your offerings help to give a quality education to students at Africa University in Zimbabwe, Africa's first and only United Methodist university.



Camps and Retreats:

Your continued support of Camps and Retreats helps provide for the development, operations and maintenance of Asbury Hills. Your contributions also provide camp scholarships for children who otherwise could not afford to enjoy the camp experience.

Impact areas:

- Camps and Retreats
- Senior College Scholarships
- Spartanburg Methodist College
- Campus Ministry
- Black College Fund
- Africa University Fund



Doing Ministry Being the Church

\$4.7 million allows us to do ministry

Our connectionalism is how The United Methodist Church can do so much ministry around the globe. When you give at your local church, you are supporting the worldwide church through the UMC's General Boards and Agencies in the United States and around the world. Your offerings also provide for General and Jurisdictional conferences, which meet every four years.

You are also supporting the work of the South Carolina Conference through Connectional Ministries, congregational specialists, the *Advocate* newspaper and the Board of Ordained Ministry. These funds provide for programs like Salkehatchie Summer Service and Advance Special Ministries, including United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Killingsworth Home and Rural Mission.

In short, your giving goes far beyond just your local church. It touches the lives of people across the state and around the world. It's how we do ministry and be the church.



Salkehatchie

South Carolina
United Methodist Advocate
CONNECTING METHODISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 1837

Impact areas:

- Conference Benevolences
- World Service
- General Conference Administration
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry



For more detailed information, visit
<http://www.umcsc.org> under the Ministries tab.

The mission of the South Carolina Conference Advance Special Ministries Network is to see, cultivate and share a wide range of United Methodist Resources to support and strengthen our ministries.

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|---|--|
| ➔ Alston Wilkes Society
www.alstonwilkessociety.org | ➔ Killingsworth
www.killingsworthhome.org/ |
| ➔ Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry
bcacm@bellsouth.net | ➔ Path (People Attempting To Help), Inc.
pathministriesofyorksc.org |
| ➔ Bethlehem Community Center (Columbia)
http://bethlehemcenter.org | ➔ Rural Mission, Inc.
www.ruralmission.org |
| ➔ Bethlehem Center (Spartanburg)
www.bethlehemctr.org | ➔ Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.
marylouumd@yahoo.com |
| ➔ Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center
www.coastalsamaritan.org | ➔ United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
www.UMVIM-SC.org |
| ➔ Jubilee Academy
jubileeacademysc.org | ➔ United Ministries
www.united-ministries.org/ |
| ➔ Interfaith Community Services of South Carolina
www.interfaithcommunityserices.org | ➔ Wallace Family Life Center
wallace@bellsouth.net |

Older Adult Ministries

“Never stop growing and serving” is a common theme heard at the S.C. Conference Older Adult Retreat held each February in Myrtle Beach. Speakers such as the Rev. John Ed Mathison, Dr. Richard Gentzler, Rev. Rodney Powell and Dr. Connie Shelton have each noted that our service to Christ and His church and the world does not stop when our hair turns gray and/or loose. Nor does the need to continue our spiritual growth and education cease after one leaves the work force.

Yet in May, USA Today reported that “about two-thirds of retired baby boomers say they had challenges adapting to this change in their lives. Among the toughest parts: Missing the day-to-day social connections with colleagues, getting used to a new and

different routine and finding ways to give meaning and purpose in their days.”

The Older Adult Ministries team strives to assist individuals in the areas of growing spiritually and serving faithfully through two outstanding programs that occur each year: The Older Adult Retreat offered in February and the Older Adult Mission Project offered in April.





2015

Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference

Connectional Ministries serves as the starting place for the majority of events and ministry programs of The South Carolina Annual Conference. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Connectional Ministries works to equip local churches for this mission and to connect them in ministries beyond themselves.

These efforts begin at the district level with District Connectional Ministries. Districts send representatives to the Conference Connectional Ministries. In addition, the Connectional Ministries staff includes six congregational specialists who work directly with local congregations to connect them with the training and resourcing they need to be more effective in nurturing disciples and engaging their communities.



Campus ministry, camps and retreats, Advanced Special Ministries, Salkehatchie Summer Service, youth events and the Older Adult Retreat, as well as many other programs are connected to the Annual Conference through Connectional Ministries. With so many opportunities for ministry, sometimes it is hard to know how to get involved and where to plug in.

If you would like to be more involved in United Methodist ministry outside your local church, reach out! Contact your congregational specialist, your district superintendent or a ministry area chairperson, and they will help you get connected to make a difference!





2015

Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference

Advocacy - Rev. Amiri Hooker - abhooke@umcsc.org

Church and Society

Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns (CUIC)

Commission on Statue and Role of Women (COSROW)

Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC)

Native American Ministries

Peace with Justice

Religion and Race

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Discipleship - Rev. Ross Chellis - erchellis@umcsc.org

Archives and History

Camps and Retreats

Campus Ministries and Higher Education

Education

Evangelism

Ministries with Young People (SCMYP)

Older Adult Ministries

Students in Mission (SIM)

Worship

United Methodist Men (UMM)

Lay Leadership - Barbara Ware - conferencelayleader@umcsc.org

Leadership Development

Lay Servant Ministries

Spiritual Formation

Stewardship

Outreach - Rev. George Olive - golive@sc.rr.com

Advance Special Ministries

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry

Disaster Response

Global Ministries

Health and Welfare

Hunger Ministries

Salkehatchie

Mission Interns

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

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Rev. Millie Nelson Smith (Florence / Marion)

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Rev. Genova McFadden (Walterboro / Charleston)

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Chris Lynch (Spartanburg / Rock Hill)

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Congregational Specialists Engage, Equip and Empower

ENGAGE

- 1 Connect with congregations with their presence by listening and building relationships and establishing trust.
- 2 Challenge congregations to be more than they think they can be.
- 3 Help congregations grow in their relationship with God and in understanding and doing God's will.

EQUIP

- 4 Lead congregations through a process and give them the flexibility to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.
- 5 Provide congregations with leadership and training based on their particular needs.
- 6 Utilize years of experience by constantly learning and sharing what they've learned.

What We Do

Congregational Specialists

Engage, Equip and Empower congregations to fulfill their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



OBJECTIVES

Partnership

There is no one who knows more about your community and your congregation than you. Congregational specialists come alongside you and together you discern the plans that God has for the life and ministry of your congregation.

The most effective leaders don't provide the answers, they simply raise powerful questions that allow you to see more clearly the pathway that God has for you!

EMPOWER

- 7 Inform congregations so as congregations grow in faith, they grow in competence and confidence.
- 8 Celebrate with congregations as they move toward God's preferred future.
- 9 Step aside so congregations can be released to do God's calling.
- 10 On call so that when a congregation needs help again, a specialist will be there to help.

Make A Difference

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Ministries with Youth

Connecting with youth is a major priority for the conference. South Carolina Ministries with Young People reaches out in a variety of ways: missions such as Salkehatchie Summer Service or the annual Honduras trip; youth spiritual retreat weekends Revolution and Immerse; an annual basketball tournament; leadership initiatives like Quest for youth feeling God's call to ministry; youth worker trainings and district networking; and more.

Revolution: One youth's perspective

"Huge events such as Revolution can ultimately make you step back and re-evaluate your whole spiritual journey. Revolution has done this to me every year since my first time attending the event back in 2013, my freshman year of high school.

"From the worship services to the people and the sermons, each in a different way positioned me to step back and think about my personal faith.

"The worship service you attend at Revolution is like no other. The music can go from upbeat dance to slower more contemporary songs that pull at your heart.

"When you meet different people and they tell you of their personal faith journey with God and how he has been working in their lives, it's truly amazing. I remember how one girl I met at Revolution told me how she never had any faith in God and didn't even want to know him till attending Revolution. Her mind and soul was changed. Being around hundreds upon hundreds of believers can do that to you. You can't help but want to be a part of that movement.

"And the way the speakers articulate their words with so much love and faith in God just makes you stand back in awe. Who wouldn't want faith such as that? I long for faith I can speak in front of thousands of people and just be able to quote Scripture with ease and change lives. To be able to speak the good news God has instilled in you is truly amazing! If I would have never been asked to attend this life-changing event with so many other teenagers my own age, I do not know where I'd be."

—Thomaseena Thomas

Immerse: One youth group's experience

Annah Hiers, youth director, St. John's UMC, Lugoff, said taking a break from their normal lives and surrounding themselves with fellow believers has made a huge impact on the growth of her high school youth group. One student, Phillip, said the retreat is a chance for him to get closer to God and his youth group. "Every year, my faith has grown stronger. It has changed my life." Heath said Immerse is like home to him. "The people there make me feel accepted and loved."



Skylar said "Immerse made me realize I can have fun by doing the right things and surrounding myself with good, positive people." Braxton said Immerse "refocuses my heart to follow God with my entire being."

"As a youth director, it is a humbling experience to watch young people grow so much each summer," Hiers said. "At weekly youth group gatherings, the stresses of everyday life tend to distract us from giving God our all. However, when we can get away from this drama and surround ourselves with fellow believers, I can literally see the Holy Spirit's powerful works in progress."



Connectional Giving

World Service and Conference Benevolences

2016 / 2015

1. WORLD SERVICE (#585)\$2,022,012/\$2,045,912
This is the lifeline of our connectionalism. It makes possible the programs, resources and materials of the General Boards and Agencies at home and around the world.

2. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES (#500).....\$2,337,701/\$2,310,144
This is the nurture and outreach arm of our Annual Conference. The largest portion goes to support the congregational specialists who provide resources and support for local church initiatives. It also supports the administration and program of Connectional Ministries, as well as the Board of Ordained Ministry, Archives and History, the Cabinet emergency fund, the Advocate and the Episcopal residence.

Ministerial Support

3. EPISCOPAL FUND (#210)\$651,818/\$613,614
Funds our share of support for all active and retired bishops, including salary, housing, travel, pensions and office expenses.

4. RETIREE HEALTH/ TRANSITION/CONTINGENCY (#255)\$2,027,536/\$1,952,536
Provides a significant subsidy (up to 80%) for health insurance premiums for retired clergy. It also provides grant funds for those in significant transitions, such as disability.

5. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS' COMPENSATION (#220)\$1,176,000/\$1,153,216
Provides an annual salary of \$98,000 for each of the 12 superintendents, plus worker's compensation insurance coverage.

6. EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FUND (#240).....\$550,000/\$550,000
Provides salary support for pastors serving churches not able to meet the minimum standards set by the Annual Conference, as well as providing primary support for new church start pastors.

Administration

7. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION (#100)\$830,000/\$830,000
Provides for district office operations, secretary's salary, the District Connectional Ministries, the institutional share of the superintendent's pension and insurance, continuing education and travel.

8. CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION (#550)\$1,564,605/\$1,599,947
Covers the expenses of the Annual Conference session, the Journal, liability insurance, conference secretary, treasurer's office, coordinator of clergy services and other administrative expenses.

9. JURISDICTION MISSION/MINISTRY (#575).....\$85,093/\$85,093
Covers expenses of Jurisdictional Conference and missions, programs and administration of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

10. GENERAL CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION* (#590).....\$244,127/\$246,952
Covers expenses of the General Conference, the Judicial Council and other administrative agencies of the General Church.

Mission/Outreach

2016 / 2015

11. SENIOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS (#310).....\$1,100,00/\$1,167,161
Helps provide quality education in a Christian setting for students at Claflin, Columbia and Wofford colleges. One-third of total receipts goes to each institution.

12. SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE (#325).....\$634,838/\$634,838
Support fund for our two-year college, providing programs of academic excellence, work-study opportunities and programs for those with special academic needs.

13. CAMPUS MINISTRY (#330)\$650,00/\$637,801
Goes to the support of full-time campus ministers at USC, Clemson, South Carolina State, Claflin, Winthrop and Charleston colleges, as well as to part-time ministers at Francis Marion and Lander.

14. METHODIST HOMES RESIDENTS' ASSISTANCE (#350)\$540,228/\$540,228
Goes to the support of Orangeburg, Greenwood and Pee Dee retirement communities and nursing homes and is divided 50% to Methodist Oaks, 35% to Wesley Commons and 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee.

15. CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES (#375) ...\$328,000/\$328,000
Provides for the development, operations and maintenance of Asbury Hills in the mountains and Sewee Coastal Retreat near Charleston.

16. CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (#385) ...\$960,000/\$960,000
Assists in the purchase of land for new church sites, helps newly organized churches and assists in revitalization programs for existing churches.

17. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION (#600)\$694,197/\$702,384
Three-fourths of receipts goes for support of our United Methodist seminaries and one-fourth remains in our conference for scholarships, grants and loans to South Carolina seminary students.

18. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND (#670)\$54,318/\$54,958
Supports church activities in mission with other Christian communions, including the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union.

19. BLACK COLLEGE FUND (#710)\$276,922/\$280,188
Our share of support for 10 historically black United Methodist colleges and one medical school in the United States. Claflin University in Orangeburg is one of these institutions.

20. AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND (#715)\$61,991/\$62,695
Continues development of the first United Methodist university on the continent of Africa. Offers post-secondary education through schools of agriculture, theology and management and business.



Connectionalism

How apportionments are calculated

Apportionments are calculated from Statistical Table 2 for each church in the Conference. These amounts are collected in January. We refer to the total of the selected lines as "Net Funds."

- Total amount paid in base compensation to the pastor
- Total amount paid in base compensation to all associate pastors assigned by the bishop
- Total amount paid to/for pastor and associate(s) for housing and utilities and/or related allowances
- Total amount paid to pastor and associate(s) for accountable reimbursements
- Total amount paid to pastor and associate(s) for any other cash allowances (non accountable)
- Total amount paid in salary and benefits for deacons
- Total amount paid in salary and benefits for diaconal ministers
- Total amount paid in salary and benefits for all other church staff
- Total amount spent for local church program expenses
- Total amount spent for other local church operating expenses

Once these are added for each church we allocate the apportionments based on a weighted average based on a two year average. So the 2016 apportionment calculation will be calculated with an average based on the amounts reported in 2013 and 2014.

$$\frac{\text{My Church's Net Funds}}{\text{All Churches' Net Funds}} \times \text{Conference Apportionment} = \text{My Church's Apportionment}$$

A few important points

- The placing of ACTUAL expenses on Table 2 is very important
- An expense should only be reported once on Table 2
- Items such as what a church spends on capital additions/improvements, debt repayments, direct billing and missions does not factor into the apportionment calculation if reported on the correct lines (i.e. not on lines above)
- Membership is not considered when calculating apportionments
- ONCE APPORTIONMENTS ARE SET THEY CANNOT BE CHANGED



The 1 Million Hours of Service initiative takes last year's Million Book Effort service project a step further. While the Million Book Effort focused on collecting and then donating books to children in need, the 1 Million Hours of Service initiative focuses on working with the children themselves, whether directly or indirectly.

United Methodists – whether tutoring, on a school board, serving as a reading partner and more are being asked to log their hours on a new website launched by the conference and overseen by the Children in Poverty Task Force. The hours can be past, present and future (from Annual Conference last June through now and beyond).

<http://millionhours.umcsc.org>



Resource Center

The Resource Center provides videotapes, DVDs and choral music to enhance the ministry of the churches in the S.C. Conference. Resources are available for borrowing on a wide range of topics, including Bible study, parenting, confirmation, church history, mission and ministry, leadership, spiritual growth, stewardship, United Methodists, world religions, worship, youth, children and more. The music library provides seasonal musicals, praise and worship collections and anthems.

www.umcsc.org/resourcecenter





MEN N MINISTRY

OUR MISSION

OUR METHOD, NOT MESSAGE, MUST CHANGE!

The only mission of the SC Men N Ministry is the Disciple of Men and Their Families.

God intended men to be leaders in church. To be effective, we must adapt to the times and meet men where they are, instead of appealing to the antiquated notion that men need an exclusive “club.”

DISCIPLESHIP

To promote this discipleship of men and their families, the men of S.C. in partnership with Bishop Jonathan Holston and a handful of key pastors from all over the SC Annual Conference are embarking on a new discipleship thrust of the UMM movement, hoping that if men go deeper for God, they will transform their families, churches and communities.

This group prayed for God’s will for SC Men, and are trying hard to discern His will.

“I believe that a more excellent way involves the active pursuit of men in order to connect them to God, His Word and other men for the purposes of winning, growing and training God’s men in Christ.” - Bishop Holston

This group of leaders realizes that this will require change — not in the message, but in the method and approach with which we do men’s ministry.

MEN ARE NEEDED

Men’s Spiritual Weekends are not an end in itself to disciple men and their families for Jesus; however if we cannot get men to attend the weekend, then we cannot expose them to the Word of God and send them back to their local churches to make a difference in their church and family. The attendance in three years has gone from 160 to over 800.

The proof that this ministry is making a difference is in the local churches.

- ✝ **Between March 2013 and October 2015, ten teaching churches in every corner of this Annual Conference have shared with over a thousand men on how to grow our churches through men and their families.**
- ✝ **Men are responding to God’s call to be “Men of God” in their local church and beyond.**
- ✝ **In April 2015, over 100 men attended the Bishop’s 100 Men Of Faith leadership training. Many of these men signed a “Leadership Contract” to become leaders in their churches, districts, conference, and beyond.**

Come and be part of this ministry, come and see what God is doing through men....

Join in our **CELEBRATION** with **1,500** other men to **MAKE YOUR MARK** as we continue to be blessed in our Journey to reach men **FOR JESUS CHRIST** and grow the local church.



2016 MEN’S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016
CHRIST CHURCH UMC
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
MEMNMINISTRY.ORG

PSALMS 90:12 | ROMANS 12 | JAMES 5:12

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
www.ummsc.org or www.mennministrysc.org



The Messenger

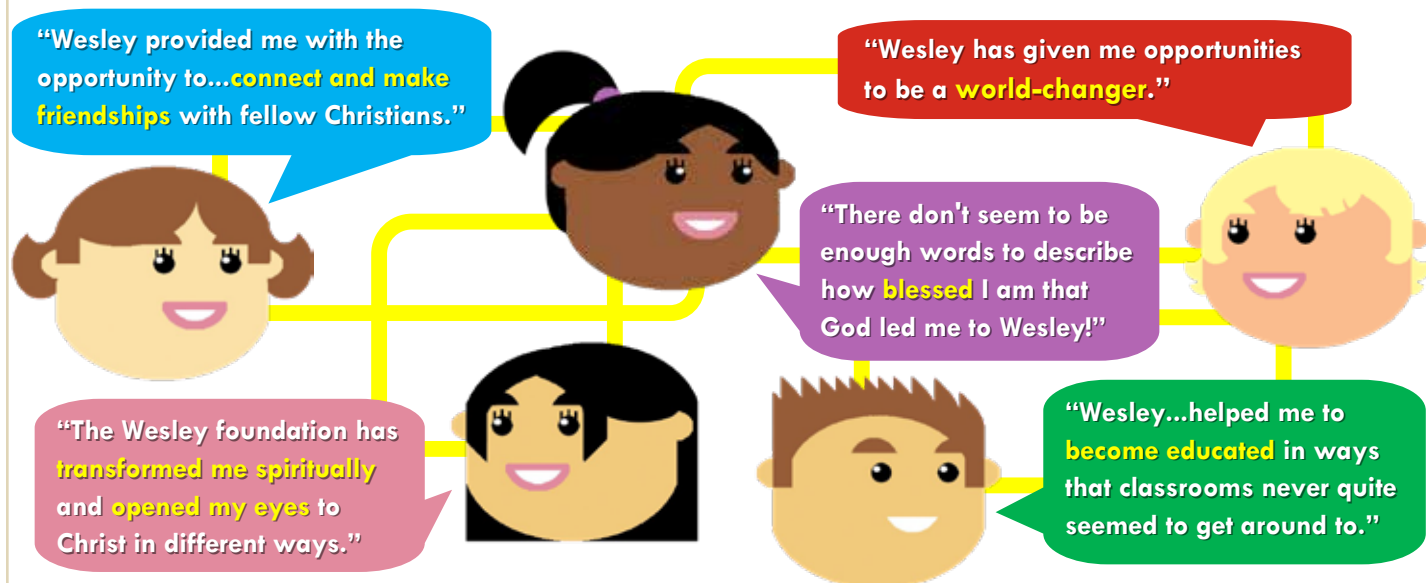
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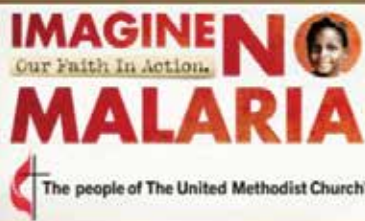
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**United Methodist collegiate ministries are making
disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of
the world- **one student at a time.****

For more information go to www.gbhem.org/education/collegiate-ministry and www.umcma.org.



**Join with us to raise \$1 million
to fight malaria and save lives!**

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA: A Comprehensive Approach
Prevention, Treatment, Education, Communication**

Imagine No Malaria is already accomplishing:

- Distributing 2.3+ million bed nets
- Reducing deaths from malaria in sub-Saharan Africa by half
- Improving and equipping 300+ medical clinics
- Training 11,600+ health workers
- Training 13 health boards to serve 16 countries
- Helping reach 4.6 million+ people by building new radio stations to get life-saving information about malaria out to the masses



Malaria Facts:

- Malaria is transmitted through the bite of the female anopheles mosquito.
- Malaria causes flu-like symptoms, including fever, vomiting, and severe joint pain. If left untreated, malaria causes convulsions, organ failure and death.
- Malaria is 100% preventable, treatable and beatable.
- Malaria kills 1 child every 60 seconds.
- 90% of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5.
- Malaria is the number-one reason for school absences worldwide.
- Malaria control is increasingly recognized as an important element of national poverty reduction.
- Malaria is estimated to cost Africa \$12 billion every year.
- Malaria kills 594,000 people a year in Africa (that is more than the combined population of Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Florence and Rock Hill!).

What your UMC dollars are able to buy:

- \$10 = 1 bed net
- \$50 = 25 rapid diagnostic kits
- \$75 = Treatment for 15 patients sick with malaria
- \$100 = An anti-malaria campaign in a school
- \$28/mo for 3 years = Protection from malaria for 100 children
- \$56/mo for 3 years = Train 160 community leaders in malaria prevention
- \$112/mo for 3 years = Supply a hospital with diagnostic kits for a whole year

UMCSC Imagine No Malaria Goals

1. \$1 million
2. 100% participation by EVERY UMC IN SC
3. Empower our children, youth and young adults to lead this campaign
4. Engage our communities

Call to Action:

- Educate and inform: www.ImagineNoMalaria.org
- Raise funds: UMC has pledged \$75 million to fight malaria
- Advocate for global health: Speak out against federal budget cuts to global health issues
- Engage your community: Imagine No Malaria is a huge opportunity for UMCs to invite communities to join this unprecedented effort to change the world

**Just \$1 a month per member
will save lives and bring hope!**



**Give today by visiting www.inm.umcsc.org
or text "MALARIA SC" to 27722 to donate \$10**

**One Year. One Million Dollars. One Church. One Dream.
One God who is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine.**



Together we can change lives, fight illiteracy, and share God's love



Following the Million Book EFFORT



Ministry Partnerships with Area Schools

McCormick United Methodist Church, McCormick, SC, is engaging in ministry with two local schools. The church's first partnership started in 2014, when the principal of McCormick Elementary School sought a facility to serve as a shelter in case of a campus-wide evacuation. MUMC's trustees gladly made an agreement with the school district.

Later that school year, more than 400 children in K through 5th grade marched into the church building and held their first practice evacuation drill.



Soon thereafter, McCormick UMC gave whole-hearted support to the Million Book Effort. MUMC gave a total of 1,900 books to the children at the elementary school. A portion are reserved and given to students on their birthday.



Inspired by the "Bags of Blessings" ministry at Grace UMC, Abbeville, McCormick UMC initiated an ecumenical partnership to start a Backpack Ministry as the 2015-2016 school year begins. Each week, volunteers representing various churches will pack bags of non-perishable food. Each Friday, schoolteachers will discreetly slip the food bags into the backpacks of children who may otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

The church has also begun a ministry partnership with another public school in McCormick County. The John de la Howe School was founded in 1797. It provides a safe haven for children to heal, grow and make lasting changes. Men and women in the congregation are teaching interested teens the game of golf and also giving them fishing lessons. The congregation hosted the entire student body and staff for worship in March 2015. The school's president, Dr. Danny Webb, preached, and the guests were served a hearty meal before returning to campus.



SC United Methodist Credit Union

The S.C. Methodist Conference Credit Union is where Tom Wall, director of the Methodist Student Network at the University of South Carolina, turned when he needed assistance in funding the Ecuador mission trip in March 2015. "Thanks to the S.C. Methodist Conference Credit Union for the loan which gave us the cash flow to make our mission trip to Ecuador a reality," Wall said. "The help made it possible for many students to experience the trip of a lifetime. Becoming the hands of Christ and experiencing the love of God through our Ecuadorian sisters and brothers was a transforming time in many ways." The S.C. Methodist Credit Union has special interest rates for anyone needing help with funding a mission trip.

Are you needing a student loan? The SC Methodist Conference Credit Union can now help with that! Sallie Mae Smart Options Student Loans are available through a partnership with First Carolina Corporate Credit Union. The Smart Option Student Loan Program is designed to help your members meet the rising cost of college while graduating with less debt. Designed to supplement a student's federal student loans and other financial aid, the Smart Option Student Loan can help students cover up to 100 percent of their education expenses. With the Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan, students save money by paying interest while in school. By paying interest while in school, a typical freshman can save 20 to 30 percent on finance charges over the life of the loan, plus a student can pay off the loan five to eight years faster when compared to a standard 15-year interest deferred private loan.



SCMCCU membership is open to:

- Anyone who is a member of a United Methodist church in South Carolina
 - Churches in The United Methodist Conference of South Carolina
 - Clergy and employees of United Methodist churches in South Carolina
 - Anyone employed by the United Methodist Conference of South Carolina
 - Employees of Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College
 - Employees of the United Methodist Homes of South Carolina
 - Family members of members*
- * Spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and siblings

www.scumcu.org
803-691-0037





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SC Conference Global Ministries

The Conference Board of Global Ministries other wise known as CBGM is making a difference in the lives and ministries of the Annual Conference and the local churches. When the conference board of global ministries considers requests for funding, we ask ourselves two questions: Does this request help the Annual Conference make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? And does this request make space for new people within our churches and/or connected ministries?

Three of the main ways the conference board of global ministries is making an impact around South Carolina are:

1. Church Extension Partnership — This program is designed to assist smaller-membership churches with physical repairs or equipping churches wishing to extend their outreach into the local community. There are three “calls” given each year at Lent, Advent and Annual Conference in which individuals and local churches can contribute to the designated recipient of the call to help with their ministry.
2. James M. Belin Trust Grants — This trust fund supports new missions and ministries located within the boundaries of the South Carolina Annual Conference. To be considered for a grant, the organization applying for the funds must be considered either a new ministry or a new ministry within an existing program of the organization applying for the grant.
3. Advance Special Ministries — These are missional organizations within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference that have been recommended by the conference board of global ministries and approved by the Annual Conference. These organizations must apply for certification every quadrennial for approval by the Annual Conference and apply for funding each year. The Annual Conference supports these organizations through the connectional system of the UMC. By being sponsored by the Annual Conference, these organizations have the ability to solicit funding through the local churches in their surrounding area and statewide. The conference board of global ministries encourages local churches and districts to partner with an ASM in their vicinity and support them with not only financial help but in the many other ways in which help is needed.

More details including applications and deadlines can be found on the conference website at:

www.umcsc.org/home/resources/grants/

Feeding the homeless and hungry at Wesley UMC

Manna Station



Do you remember what you had for breakfast last Friday? Was it a cup of coffee, some granola, maybe a bowl of cereal or Mom's famous grits and eggs? What about lunch? Has it been too long to recall whether you had pizza or a sandwich or even the questionable leftovers from earlier in the week? If you are homeless and hungry, then you know exactly what you had last Friday for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Nothing!

But on the first Saturday of every month and each Tuesday, homeless and hungry men and women in Columbia have an opportunity to find the hope proclaimed through Jesus Christ, the help for wounded and hurting hearts, the prayer and encouragement to face another day, and the food or hot meal so desperately needed for empty, aching stomachs through the Manna Station.

Manna Station is Wesley UMC, Columbia's ministry to feed the homeless and hungry on the first Saturday of every month. They also have a Food Pantry, a ministry providing supplemental nonperishable goods weekly. These efforts continue to provide a good meal, prayer, the message of hope in Christ and fellowship to Columbia's community. Whether they are homeless or stranded like one weary weekend guest, hungry or in other need, Wesley helps the “least of these,” children of God when they need help the most.

As a beneficiary of monetary and nonmonetary donations and thanks in large part to the numerous and varied servants of Christ and local volunteers, the homeless and hungry have a place where they can go for hope, help and a hot meal. The donations to this ministry have been used to purchase food and supplies for the monthly dinner, provide toiletry kits, meet minor medical needs, help stranded travelers, stock the pantry with non-perishable food items, donate Bibles and in countless other ways continue making the Gospel tangible in ways that supplement Sunday service. In the months and years to come, Manna Station hopes to remain a place of refuge, respite, recovery, hope, compassion and fellowship. Donations are welcome and prayers are a necessity!



South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women's Mission Days, 2015

Rather than traveling outside our state to work at other mission sites this year our South Carolina United Methodist Women chose to work on projects within the state. Our main event was a three-day work camp experience at Rural Mission, John's Island, S.C., one of The South Carolina United Methodist's Advance specials that is supported in part by Global Ministries. Twelve women from around the state arrived at the mission on March 23 for a three-day event. We were greeted by the staff, given an overview of the work of the mission and then assigned tasks for our time there. We had several opportunities for group worship and were privileged to hear Linda Gadson tell the story of Rural Mission.



During the three days, some of us traveled to two different work sites in the area and helped with cleaning up construction debris around the sites. Some help with preparing registration packets for families who would be arriving in the area in a few weeks and would need services provided by the center. Others cleaned flower beds and did other yard maintenance chores.

One highlight of the trip was working side-by-side and sharing meals with a group of college students from Illinois who were there to volunteer during their spring break week. Another was the opportunity to worship and fellowship with a group of seniors who come to the center weekly for a meal and Bible study.

www.ruralmission.org



Did you know that Rural Mission is one of three national missions for the UMW located in South Carolina. The other two are Killingsworth and Spartanburg Bethlehem Center.

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Disaster Response Hotline: 1-800-390-4911

Special Days for 2015/2016

MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE

Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM) ————— September 15-Oct. 15, 2015
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR) ————— October 4, 2015
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance ————— October 11, 2015
Laity Sunday (GBOD) ————— October 18, 2015
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM) ————— November 8, 2015
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM) ————— November 29, 2015
World AIDS Day ————— December 1, 2015

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR) ————— January 17, 2016
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC) ————— January 24, 2016
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC) ————— January 18-25, 2016
Black History Month ————— February 2016
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM) ————— February 7, 2016
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday ————— February 14, 2016
Women's History Month ————— March 2016
World Day of Prayer ————— March 4, 2016
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM) ————— March 6, 2016
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday ————— March 13, 2016
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM) ————— April 10, 2016
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ————— May 2016
Christian Home Month (GBOD) ————— May, 2016
National Day of Prayer ————— May 5, 2016
Christian Family Week ————— May 2-8, 2016
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History) ————— May 22, 2016
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS) ————— May 22, 2016
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM) ————— September 15 - Oct. 15, 2016
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR) ————— October 2, 2016
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance ————— October 9, 2016
Laity Sunday (GBOD) ————— October 16, 2016
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM) ————— November 13, 2016
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM) ————— November 27, 2016
World AIDS Day ————— December 1, 2016

S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS

Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home ————— September 13, 2015
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering ————— September 20, 2015
S.C. United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday ————— November 1, 2015
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday ————— March 13, 2016
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home ————— May 8, 2016
Advocate Awareness Sunday ————— May 22, 2016
United Methodist Men's Day ————— June 12, 2016
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering ————— August 14, 2016
Call to Ministry Sunday ————— August 21, 2016

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