***Our Annual Conference is fortunate to have committed District Directors & Co – Directors who are equipping saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ! This is what the Master requires of us. They are fulfilling the requirement prescribed in Colossians 3:23 “Whatsoever you do, do it whole heartedly as you are working for God, not for man”.***

***As I travel the Conference, I am proud to witness the quality of Lay Servants in the field eagerly being God’s hands and feet, doing God’s work and doing it joyously! These Lay Servants are providing missions and ministries in varying means and levels from prayer missions, to Bible Studies, food pantries, pulpit supplies, leading meetings, conducting worship services, fostering care-giving ministries, assisting with the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion whenever it is celebrated, and they take initiative in giving, training, study and discussions.***

***Our LSM tenant is “Leading, Caring and communicating” and we have a vested interest in sharing with laity the good news that we are to work in partnership “together” with clergy in telling and promoting fruitful congregations. LSM is very vital to keeping our Conference engaged in vital mission and ministry for the greater of the church.***

**The Mission of the Lay Servant Ministries is to equip God’s People to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.  -Ephesians 4:11-12**

**Lay Servant Ministries provide training for the laity to equip them to be leaders in mission and ministries in the local church and community. Each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit to be a servant in God’s kingdom. Lay Servant Ministries provide educational opportunity that will enhance our spiritual gift and build the needed skills to enable us to be more effective Christian leaders. Through our Lay Servant Ministries Schools, we gain Biblical knowledge and wisdom to help us make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

***We, LSM, are your trainers, instructors, and educators throughout the laity. We are the only “educational wings” of the United Methodist Church in all aspects. For this reason, efforts are underway to put “Certified Lay Ministers” under us to track their training and education. They will still fall under the Board of Ordained Ministry (should our Conference Board of Ordain Ministry “approve” CLM). This conveys our proficiency in training, tracking, instructing, and educating.***

**Let the Church Say Amen!**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Jackie G. Jenkins, SC LSM Conference Director**