

SECTION VII
REPORTS OF COUNCILS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES,
AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference

Each and every disciple of Christ is called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank all United Methodists in South Carolina for their generosity of many gifts in 2016. We achieved a 92% collection rate on apportionments. This is a record high for apportioned giving in our Annual Conference. The Council commends all congregations for their continued and sacrificial support of their extended ministry through the South Carolina Annual Conference. We want to recognize the Walterboro district for collecting the highest percentage at 98.38%. We also recognize the Spartanburg District which had the largest increase in funds collected, an increase of \$55,326 over the prior year and the Hartsville District and Spartanburg District having tied with the largest percentage point increase at 5.0.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference in the calendar/conference year 2018. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and most faithful reflection. The overall budget again meets our continuing target of at or around 15% of total Conference average net funds. The assistance of all agencies, boards and commissions in this effort is critical.

Again, CF&A will staff an information table at Annual Conference. This table will provide resources on stewardship, financial administration, and the Annual Conference budget. Please stop by during our time of conferencing this year in Greenville.

Additionally, we will have a dinner and presentation on apportionments at Annual Conference. It is scheduled for Monday, June 5th at 6:00 pm at the TD Convention Center. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required.

We appreciate the service of Mrs. Elizabeth (Beth) Westbury, as well as her faithful staff, as our Annual Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services. I am also constantly grateful for the devoted work of every lay and clergy member of the Council on Finance and Administration. They attend, interact, debate and support the work of the Council in a most faithful and dependable manner.

May God continue to bless and guide all the ministries of our beloved SC Annual Conference!

The Reverend Mitch Houston, President, Council on Finance and Admin.

Report No. 1

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2018 will be set at \$101,500. (DS compensation for 2016 was \$98,000 and for 2017 is \$99,500)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% (\$15,225) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2018 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance ("utility exclusion"), not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
 - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
 - 2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
 - 3) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$170,000 for the total of all districts, which includes \$8,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$13,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$162,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is expected to be approximately \$322,000 (\$26,833 per district), and continuing education will be set at the amount recommended by the Commission of Equitable Compensation (currently at \$750 per superintendent).

- 4) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.
- 5) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$2,800 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 18,000. These funds are not guaranteed and are contingent upon the apportionment receipts and other requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2018 will be as follows:

District	2016 Membership	Amount
Anderson	13,786	\$2,800
Charleston	23,656	\$3,400
Columbia	34,430	\$4,400
Florence	17,017	\$2,800
Greenville	21,542	\$3,200
Greenwood	15,578	\$2,800
Hartsville	17,527	\$2,800
Marion	20,867	\$3,100
Orangeburg	16,951	\$2,800
Rock Hill	16,277	\$2,800
Spartanburg	14,754	\$2,800
Walterboro	13,935	\$2,800
Totals	226,270	\$36,500

- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.
- E. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund:

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	15,000	37,000	52,000	.007168
Charleston	25,000	40,000	65,000	.005945
Columbia	25,000	45,000	70,000	.003917
Florence	25,000	45,000	70,000	.009430
Greenville	30,000	30,000	60,000	.005119
Greenwood	45,000	35,000	80,000	.010848
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	.006279
Marion	10,000	35,000	45,000	.004218
Orangeburg	25,000	30,000	55,000	.008256
Rock Hill	15,000	35,000	50,000	.006584
Spartanburg	35,000	25,000	60,000	.007995
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.013035
Total	292,000	429,000	721,000	

Report No. 2

- A. We recommend that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church and that appropriate free-will offerings be received.
 - Human Relations Day – January 14, 2018
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 4, 2018
 - UMCOR(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – March 11, 2018
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 15, 2018
 - Peace with Justice Sunday – May 20, 2018
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 13, 2018

Work Day – September 9, 2018
Church school offering first Sunday each month
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 12, 2018
Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 16, 2018 (youth offering)
World Communion Sunday – October 7, 2018
Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 4, 2018
United Methodist Student Day – November 25, 2018

B. We offer the following:

- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.). Payments in excess of \$1,000 should be approved by the Conference Treasurer in advance.
- 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage and compliance with payroll tax laws.
- 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$7.00 for breakfast, \$13.00 for lunch and \$20.00 for the evening meal.
- 4) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 5) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 6) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2018 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2016 and 2015. Newly organized churches will be phased in over four years, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero. Churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage may exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister's compensation.
- 7) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 48 through 57 (inclusive) of Table 2.
- 8) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2 reports for use in future year calculations.
- 9) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 12, Report No. 9) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 9, Report No. 9) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin University; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 7, Report No. 9) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.
- 10) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts from the Conference Contingency Fund or Permanent Reserve to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 11) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of Conference Connectional Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of

budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

- 12) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the budgets of the District Superintendent Salaries, Director of Administrative Services, the Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 14) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2018, exclusive of a designated housing allowance, as allocated for utilities and maintenance ("utilities exclusion"), not including maid service. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- 15) That local churches of the conference incorporate. An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at www.umcsc.org. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

Report No. 3

As noted in our report to the 2009 Annual Conference, economic uncertainties led to the reduction in apportioned budgets for the Senior Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund. The trend of reducing the budgets for these significant ministries continued for several years. In an effort to increase the funds available for these ministries without adding to the apportionment budget, the voluntary asking Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes is recommended to increase from \$600,284 for 2017 to \$625,000 for 2018. We ask churches with sufficient resources to continue to support the Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

Report No. 4

[Reserved for future use.]

Report No. 5

In accordance with the Disciplinary requirement to publish the conference investment policy at least once a quadrennium, CF&A's investment policy is to invest Conference Funds in accordance with the 2016 *Discipline* paragraph 613.5 and under the additional guidelines:

- A) Forms of investment authorized:
 - 1) short-term United States treasury bills or bonds and bonds of U.S. government agencies,
 - 2) savings or money market accounts that are Federally Insured,
 - 3) certificates of deposit in any Federally Insured savings and loan association, commercial bank, credit union
 - 4) term notes or demand deposits of The United Methodist Development Fund.
 - 5) funds managed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)
 - 6) endowments with The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
- B) Limitations:
 - 1) no stocks (common or preferred stocks) or real estate may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
 - 2) no corporate or municipal bonds may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc. or The United Methodist Church Foundation
 - 3) no loans may be made except where authorized by action of the Annual Conference, or as part of an investment of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)
 - 4) no investments may be made with maturities longer than 36 months, with the exception of term notes with The United Methodist Development Fund

- 5) no investment may exceed the then-current limit on FDIC or FSLIC insurance without approval of CF&A, with the exceptions of: the primary checking account(s); collateralized certificates; or funds on deposit with The United Methodist Development Fund, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
- C) Income on invested funds will be credited to the Permanent Reserve Fund of the Conference unless the funds are for the Annual Conference Trustees, Equitable Compensation, pension or health benefits, or are invested under a trust or as an endowment.

Report No. 6

Following is a listing of the 2016 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2018 apportionments.

District	2016	District	2016
Anderson	7,254,226	Hartsville	7,804,302
Charleston	10,934,181	Marion	10,667,727
Columbia	17,870,058	Orangeburg	6,661,594
Florence	7,423,442	Rock Hill	7,594,073
Greenville	11,720,640	Spartanburg	7,505,129
Greenwood	7,374,395	Walterboro	4,986,574
TOTAL			107,796,341

Report No. 7

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 6, Report No. 9) shall be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2017	Requested for 2018	Recommended for 2018	% Change
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	17,500	17,500	17,500	0.0%
3 Ministers Book	0	0	0	
4 Director of Administrative Services Office	792,150	792,150	792,150	0.0%
5 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
6 Conference Expense Fund	240,000	240,000	240,000	0.0%
7 Administrative Committees	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	49,000	49,000	49,000	0.0%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	26,000	36,000	36,000	38.5%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	246,000	260,000	260,000	5.7%
11 General Conference Delegates	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
TOTALS	\$ 1,561,650	\$ 1,585,650	\$ 1,585,650	1.5%

Report No. 8

The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 1, Report No. 1) will be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2017	Requested for 2018	Recommended for 2018	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries				
1. Conference Advance Specials				
Ministry Programs	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	\$ 175,500	\$ 175,500	\$ 175,500	0.0%
2. Board/Agency Programs				
District Councils	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	0.0%
The Board of Church and Society	13,000	12,000	12,000	-7.7%
The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concern:	550	500	500	-9.1%
The Committee on ELCC	44,750	50,000	46,100	3.0%
The Committee on Native American Ministry	3,500	3,000	3,000	-14.3%
The Commission on The Status & Role of Women	100	500	300	200.0%
The Commission on Religion & Race	500	500	500	0.0%
Advocacy Subtotal	62,400	66,500	62,400	
The Board of Education	8,000	8,000	8,000	0.0%
Division on Young People	37,000	37,000	37,000	0.0%
The Board of Evangelism	750	750	750	0.0%
The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	27,000	27,000	27,000	0.0%
The Commission on Worship	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
Discipleship Curriculum	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
The Commission on Archives and History	750	750	750	0.0%
Discipleship Subtotal	82,500	82,500	82,500	
The Board of Laity	10,000	12,000	10,000	0.0%
Lay Leadership Subtotal	10,000	12,000	10,000	

	Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%
	The Board of Global Ministries	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
	The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
	Disaster Response	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
	Outreach Subtotal	46,400	46,400	46,400	46,400	
	Total Board and Agency Programs (2)	\$ 279,300	\$ 285,400	\$ 279,300	\$ 279,300	0.0%
3.	Board/Agency Administration	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	0.0%
4.	Operations (100% guaranteed)	\$ 1,462,184	\$ 1,469,712	\$ 1,462,184	\$ 1,462,184	0.0%
5.	Communications					
	Electronics	\$ 45,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	22.2%
	Resource Center	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
	Public & Media Relations	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
	Sub-totals (5)	\$ 89,000	\$ 99,000	\$ 99,000	\$ 99,000	11.2%
		\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	0.0%
6.	Advocate	\$ 2,165,984	\$ 2,189,612	\$ 2,175,984	\$ 2,175,984	0.5%
	Sub-totals (A)					
	B. Other Conference Agencies					
1.	Cabinet Emergency Fund	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	0.0%
2.	Bishop's Contingency Fund	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	0.0%
3.	Episcopal Office	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4.	Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,500	0.0%
5.	Episcopal Residence	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	0.0%
6.	Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract	25,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	4.0%
7.	Ordained Ministry					
	a) Operations	67,000	72,400	67,000	67,000	0.0%
	b) Career Planning Programs	20,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
	Sub-totals (B)	\$ 193,000	\$ 209,900	\$ 194,000	\$ 194,000	0.5%
	Total Conference Benevolences	\$ 2,358,984	\$ 2,399,512	\$ 2,369,984	\$ 2,369,984	0.5%

Report No. 9

We recommend that the following funds be apportioned to churches on the basis of percentages of average net funds.

FUND	Approved for 2017	Requested for 2018	Recommended for 2018	% Change
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,358,984	2,399,512	2,369,984	0.5%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,194,000	1,218,000	1,218,000	2.0%
4 Equitable Compensation	550,000	550,000	550,000	0.0%
5 District Administration	840,000	840,000	840,000	0.0%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,561,650	1,585,650	1,585,650	1.5%
7 Camps & Retreat Ministries	328,000	328,000	328,000	0.0%
8 Congregational Development	960,000	960,000	960,000	0.0%
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,100,000	1,188,000	1,100,000	0.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	634,838	850,000	634,838	0.0%
11 Campus Ministry	650,000	704,000	650,000	0.0%
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	540,228	540,228	540,228	0.0%
Sub-total	12,717,700	13,163,390	12,776,700	0.5%
13 World Service **	2,071,556	2,128,257	2,128,257	2.7%
14 Episcopal Fund **	613,472	630,264	630,264	2.7%
15 General Conference Administration **	245,980	252,713	252,713	2.7%
16 Ministerial Education **	699,676	718,827	718,827	2.7%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	54,720	56,217	56,217	2.7%
18 Black College **	279,094	286,733	286,733	2.7%
19 Africa University **	62,460	64,170	64,170	2.7%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	32,554	32,554	32,554	0.0%
Sub-total	\$ 4,059,512	\$ 4,169,735	\$ 4,169,735	2.7%
TOTALS	\$ 16,777,212	\$ 17,333,125	\$ 16,946,435	1.0%
Average Net Funds for Apportionments	\$107,961,829	\$107,796,341	\$107,796,341	
Budget as percentage of Average Net Funds	15.5%	16.1%	15.7%	
Asking (reference Report No. 3)	600,284	625,000	625,000	

** Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds. These amounts reflect the budget passed at General Conference 2016.

Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Mitch Houston, President
 Smith Patterson, Vice-President
 James Bennett, Secretary
 Elizabeth G. Westbury, Treasurer

THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. – Psalm 34:1-3

Participating in the continued ministry of Jesus Christ is a blessing. Following the footprints of Jesus does not only award a disciple the privilege to overhear the message of Jesus, she becomes a participant in his ministry of fulfillment. The Conference Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference (CCM) seeks to encourage disciples by equipping and empowering their local churches to participate in the continued ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.

Each new quadrennium arrives with an accompaniment of excitement and uncertainty. Representatives from our districts gather at the beginning of the cycle excited by the possibility and the promise of serving God by serving others. Some of these representatives, however, arrive slightly uncertain of what that service may entail.

When finding the proper words to fit any given situation, the Psalmist has a way of supplying just the right prayer. What does it mean to be a member of the CCM? How does CCM serve God by serving others? Why does CCM strive to equip and empower the local church? Finding the right words to these questions may not be easy, but the Psalmist lends his voice: "*O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.*" (Psalm 34:3)

And, so, our new CCM gathered this past year with one true thing before us: to offer ourselves as one people for the magnification of the Lord and to unite in exalting the true name of the Lord.

The initial aim of CCM for the past year was to clarify our vision, which was prayerfully discerned in previous years. Namely, CCM began to organize around the initiative of equipping and empowering local churches for relevant, vital and effective ministry. The conveners of each of CCM's four ministry areas – Advocacy, Discipleship, Lay Leadership and Outreach – were encouraged to clarify their roles and their abilities in equipping and empowering local churches by building their ministerial mindset around the same question: "What is the one needful thing our ministry area can do in the coming year?"

Ministry areas have shared conversations prompted by the above question, and they have begun to formulate their work in response to their individual discussions.

The work of the CCM is a response to the needs of the local church. Sometimes these needs are realized by a process of discernment; other times these needs are the unfortunate results of natural disasters. In October 2015, many areas of South Carolina were affected by flood waters, which resulted from the heavy rains and compromised flood control structures. CCM responded to the disaster relief needs stemming from this unforeseen natural disaster. CCM disaster relief efforts did not retreat with the waters; rather, CCM has continued serving the needs of those most affected.

Just a year removed from the October 2015 flooding, many communities in our annual conference encountered an equally devastating natural disaster. Hurricane Matthew was not anticipated by CCM, but the need it left was undeniable. In the midst of fulfilling our calling to serve those affected by the previous year's flood, the disaster relief teams extended themselves to those areas and to the individuals affected by the hurricane and subsequent flooding.

Looking to the future, CCM will strive to live into the uncertainty and the excitement that surrounds our ministry. Our ministry areas will continue to build themselves around the one needful thing, and our collective body will seek to serve others in service to God by equipping and empowering our local churches to participate in the continued ministry of Jesus Christ.

The following report highlights some of the initial CCM work of the quadrennium.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. E. Rossiter Chellis
Convener, Connectional Ministries

ADVOCACY

As directed by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the Advocacy Ministry Area is charged with assessing the needs and interests that will help congregations look beyond themselves to societal needs. We seek to advocate for those who are oppressed by self-imposed factors or community and world factors. The work of Advocacy is divided into the following ministries: Church and Society, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Native American, and Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC). As the new quadrennial period commenced in September 2016, all ministry areas began a process of organizing their work:

- COSROW began its work on planning a workshop on violence in relationships.

- The Native American Ministries hosted a mission trip to North Dakota to be in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline; it also created a record 406 elder baskets to be used for Hurricane Matthew relief and given as Christmas gifts.
- ELCC was active in funding and supporting small ethnic local churches with training and the development of new ministries through grants and scholarships.
- Other ministry areas have been very active in planning their work for the next 4 years.

Each CCM ministry area was asked to identify the one needful thing that it would focus on during the next year. The Advocacy Ministry Area used the Sankofa approach as a means to discern its one needful thing. Sankofa in the Twi language of Ghana translates as "go back and get it." Another way of expressing Sankofa is "looking back in order to see forward."

Through a process of story-telling, the Advocacy Ministry Area discerned the need to deal with the "deafening silence" in our churches on the issues of racism, sexism, classism, and the gulf in relationship between police (law enforcement) and the community (especially communities of color). Advocacy set as a goal to have activities take place in all 12 districts of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The first event took place Jan. 8, 2017, with a Vital Conversations on Race Workshop in the Charleston District. More than 100 clergy and laity took part in this event. The March 9, 2017, Clergy Orders Gathering focused on the divisions of race within the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Clergy was inspired by the theme of "A Balm in Gilead." At the writing of this report, racial healing events are scheduled for April in the Columbia and Anderson districts. Additional events are scheduled for the Marion and Walterboro districts.

We are thankful to God for the servant leaders committing their gifts, time and talents to the Advocacy Ministry Area. The South Carolina Annual Conference is blessed with so many servants who are willing to pursue "A More Excellent Way."

Submitted in peace and love,

Bernie Mazyck
Co-convener, Advocacy

DISCIPLESHIP

Higher Education & Campus Ministry

Just a few years into the reorganizing of the Conference Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry (BHECM), we are both encouraged by the progress we've seen to date in collegiate ministry, and motivated by the remainder of what lies before us. We are consistently humbled by the enormous and diverse scope of work that each Conference BHECM is charged with, including: a hands-on role in the oversight and evaluation of Campus Ministries, resourcing all forms of United Methodist ministry among South Carolina's college-aged students, and coordinating these efforts from the local church to the Annual Conference and beyond.

Last year, to address this reality, we initially expanded board membership to include more members from Connectional Ministries, as well as representatives from the many branches of collegiate ministry. This year, we've worked together to clarify how our board membership can function together among its different tasks.

We began by dedicating ourselves to bringing every board member up to speed on the current state of collegiate ministry in South Carolina; we've heard the stories of our faith and educational institutions, their successes and the unmet needs in their mission fields. We also committed to holding our regular meetings on campus beginning with the four Wesley Foundations that feature conference-owned property and buildings.

Most significantly, in May 2016 the BHECM embarked on a season of study with four task groups charged with rebuilding our structure and methods in the following areas: financial resources, accountability, training, and communication.

Through their work and this time together, we are very nearly finished establishing the new standing committees and conference guidelines that will carry us forward for years to come. We are far more apprised of the blessings as well as the challenges that accompany ministry to college students.

We are also gradually rebuilding our sense of connection and cohesion across collegiate ministry, with efforts like reviving an annual statewide Fall Retreat, featuring several hundred students from across the conference, joint strategic retreat time for campus ministers and chaplains, and a thrust toward increasing conference awareness of financial needs.

In other words, with what appears to be sometimes an overwhelming task, our board feels like the ball is indeed rolling, and rolling well, but our mission is wide and critical enough that we have only just begun.

The fact remains that, in a denomination in which making new disciples, making younger

disciples, and making more diverse disciples is at the forefront of our concern, there is no more appropriate place for all of us to invest than in collegiate ministry.

We are so absolutely appreciative of the ways that South Carolina funds our campus ministries and senior college scholarships through apportionments and other gifts above and beyond. Thank you, and please keep up the generous work.

We also covet your prayers for our Wesley Foundations, for our United Methodist institutions of higher learning, for our campus ministers and chaplains, college presidents and faculty and staff, and for every single young adult each of them will impact in the coming year. May God lead us in this work for the sake of God's kingdom.

*Rev. Josh McClendon
Minister of discipleship, Shandon UMC*

South Carolina Ministries with Young People

SCMYP strives to strengthen ministry with young people throughout the South Carolina Conference by equipping local churches with tools and training to maximize their impact and by offering conference events and ministry opportunities that help local congregations build young disciples of Jesus Christ.

We accomplish this vision on two levels.

First, we offer events for all youth regardless of where they find themselves in their spiritual journey:

- **Revolution** – Held each winter and designed with non-Christians in mind. It is evangelistic in nature and offers youth an opportunity to respond to an invitation to Christian discipleship and begin their faith journey. This year, 2,000 youth attended, with more than 250 young people beginning their faith journey or rededicating their lives to Christ. Revolution also offers youth an opportunity to begin exploring a call to vocational ministry. All youth who respond to this call are sent a follow-up letter along with an invitation to Quest, an event held in the fall for youth to explore their call to ministry. Revolution 2018 will be at the Township Auditorium Jan. 26-28. Churches may register to be a sponsoring church beginning at Annual Conference 2017. For more information, go to scmyp.org/revolution.
- **Immerse** – Held each summer and designed as a discipleship event. Immerse seeks to live into its tagline, encouraging and equipping students to “go deeper in their faith.” The four-day event offers students an opportunity to be inspired by collective worship and teaching. It also – through breakout sessions and family groups – creates intimate settings in which to think about and discuss how their faith walk is impacting their daily lives. Immerse 2017 is being held July 27-30 at Lake Junaluska Assembly. For more info, go to scmyp.org/immerse.
- **Quest** – Held in the fall and designed for youth to explore and consider a call to vocational ministry. Quest was begun in 2015, with funding from a Young Clergy Initiative grant. The weekend at Asbury Hills Camp and Retreat Center offers young people an opportunity to learn about and discern their call to ministry. Youth are able to interact with elders, deacons and lay persons from a wide spectrum of ministries in order to consider various opportunities. The dates for Quest 2017 will be announced soon. For more information, go to scmyp.org/quest.
- **Youth Basketball Tournament** – This year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the S.C. UMC Youth Basketball Tournament in Greenville. The purpose of the tournament is to promote Christian fellowship among youth across our conference and supply outreach opportunities for local churches through basketball. The sport has proven to be an effective tool to bring youth together and to connect them with a local church where their faith journey can begin or be continued.
- **Honduras Mission Experience** – In the summer of 2017, SCMYP will join forces with Honduras Outreach International and the Kentucky Conference UMC for a third year for a mission opportunity for young people ages 16-22 to Honduras. The 2017 Honduras Mission Experience is scheduled for June 24-July 12. We are excited about what God will do to make this trip a powerful experience for young people in our conference.

The second level of emphasis is on training volunteer, part-time and full-time youth leaders. SCMYP has partnered again this year with the Youth Cartel for the Youth Ministry Coaching Program to host a year-long coaching cohort for youth workers. In addition to the cohort, we sponsor or co-sponsor day-long training events at various times and locations throughout the year. Our District Youth Worker Networks are communities of youth workers from all walks of life and all types of churches regularly meet to pray together, share resources, develop strategies and build relationships. For more information, go to scmyp.org/youth-workers.

Moving forward, SCMPY plans to offer further training for youth workers, as well as student leadership development opportunities. Keep up with everything at scmyp.org.

Chris Lynch
Congregational specialist for youth ministries

LAY LEADERSHIP

Once again, the laity and clergy of the South Carolina Conference were treated to Saturday visits from Bishop Holston during the Bishop's Forward Focus Tour. Starting with early fall and ending in late spring, more than 2,500 laity and clergy from more than 600 churches attended these sessions. We give thanks to Felecia Holston as she continues to support these events.

The laity in the S.C. Conference work to enrich the lives of so many. United Methodist Women, under the leadership of Marlene Spencer; United Methodist Men, led by Herman Lightsey; our Lay Servant Ministries conference program, led by Jackie Jenkins; Ministries with Young People, led by Chris Lynch; our children, our young adults and our older adults – all work toward a common goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Lay Leadership Executive Team remains a steady group that works on projects such as the Mission Fair and Annual Conference laity events. The team comprises Donald Love, associate conference lay leader; Jenny Rawlings, secretary; and members Lisa Livingston, Sheila Shanklin, David Salter, Suzy Speas, Dennis Sullen and Betty Void.

We continue to be led by our 12 district lay leaders. We welcomed three new district leaders this year: Jeff Fogle in Anderson, Athaniel Badger in Orangeburg and Rick Hammett in Spartanburg. We are also grateful for the support of our representatives on the Bishop's Cabinet: the Revs. Paul Harmon and Thomas Pearson.

The following are snapshots (space does not allow for all projects to be highlighted) of the good work going on in the districts as reported by each district lay leader:

- **Anderson District** – We hosted the Bishop's Forward Focus Tour on Jan. 21 at Clemson UMC. We had a great day of fellowship, reflection and planning for the future viability of our churches. Our district United Methodist Men, after years of little activity, has reconvened and is going strong under the leadership of Chuck Blowers and the Rev. Dick Waldrep. Regular meetings are occurring and plans for mission and connection are ongoing. Our District Connectional Ministries (DCM) team has been busy planning a racial reconciliation event. A worship service, dialogue and meal was held March 30, 2017. – *Jeff Fogle, district lay leader*
- **Charleston District** – Ten-year commitment to support the young growing Methodist Church in Ecuador. Cherokee Place UMC has partnered with Tri-County Family Ministries to create a missional center in North Charleston to help lift those in need from crisis to self-sustainability. Racial reconciliation focus with multiple events. What is now Trinity UMC in downtown Charleston was founded in 1786 and was a multi-ethnic congregation. They experienced a schism due to the racial tension of the mid-1800s, resulting in the formation of what is now Centenary UMC. Centenary is predominantly an African-American congregation. The laity of Trinity have offered a formal resolution of apology to Centenary and the two churches are experiencing a new season of celebration and cooperation in ministry. Planning a "What does it mean to be a Methodist?" workshop for fall 2017. The annual Job Function Workshop attracted 211 attendees and was enthusiastically received by participants. A workshop session focusing on "Church Communication in the Digital Age" was sponsored by the Charleston and Orangeburg Districts. – *David Braddon, district lay leader*
- **Columbia District** – The district has blessed a ministry team to discuss and address race relations in our local churches. The Race to the Table Conversations Advancing the Interracial Relations team will host two workshops to discuss how God is calling us to peacefully confront forms of racism. New efforts are needed in the church, the community and by each of us to thaw and melt the racial barriers between people in the world, in America, in cyberspace, in South Carolina and especially here in Columbia. – *Betty Void, district lay leader*
- **Greenwood District** – We hosted two Lay Servant Leader Schools, which included a work area training for local lay leaders. In March, district lay leaders will begin meeting with "cluster lay leaders" to explore the possibility of getting some of our smaller and medium-sized churches to work together on programs and events. United Methodist Men held a districtwide fall meeting St. Mark UMC to encourage men's ministry. Estimated more than 125 men were in attendance. – *Tony Watson, district lay leader*

- **Greenville District** – The district has embraced the mission initiatives of the Annual Conference. Churches began delivering bicycles for the Bikes For The World initiative in December. Four churches in the district have committed money for each to build a house as part of the Homeless Initiative as we strive to change our community and make an impact on homelessness. – *Michael Cheatham, district lay leader*
- **Florence District** – Participated in multiple meetings with the District United Methodist Men to aid with coordination of the annual UMM Retreat at Myrtle Beach in February 2017. Co-facilitated prayer line training with Migdiel Perez, manager of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center. The Bishop's Forward Focus event at Central UMC in Florence on Dec. 10, 2016, had an attendance of more than 250 laity and clergy. District lay leader assisted with recruitment of churches to participate in the training process for Forward Focus. Florence District held its annual jobs functions workshop in January 2017 at Highland Park UMC in Florence. Between 300 and 325 participants attended the trainings, which were conducted by clergy and lay presenters. – *Dennis Sullen, district lay leader*
- **Hartsville District** – Hartsville Connectional Ministries hosted a youth listening session at St. Mark's UMC in Sumter on Feb. 11. About 30 youth were in attendance. Our district is putting a focus on making disciples of youth. In addition to our CM-sponsored youth council, we are including a youth basic class at our lay servant school. We have 15 youth registered so far. These youths will provide a hand of outreach for their peers. The youth formed a steering committee to plan future district events, including mission events, trips and gatherings. – *Anna Feagin, district lay leader*
- **Marion District** – The district has trained Forward Focus leaders and assigned them to churches with which they will be working. We have completed our initial meeting with the pastors and are moving forward with the process. We have several churches on the waiting list and are looking forward to seeing growth in reaching the unchurched. – *Becky Green, district lay leader*
- **Orangeburg District** – These churches held events in their area to raise money to meet the goal for the Ghana Technology Project: St. John's UMC, Aiken; St. Paul UMC, St. Matthews; Canaan UMC, Cope; Edisto Fork UMC, Orangeburg; and Beulah UMC, Sandy Run. All churches in the area participated in the Edisto Fork event, including St. Andrew's UMC, Cedar Grove UMC, Forest Chapel UMC, St. Mark UMC, St. Stephen UMC, and Trinity UMC. The churches raised a total of \$96,000, plus furnishing worth an estimated \$20,000. The Rev. Jim Arant and his installation team traveled to Ghana March 27, 2017, to install computers, and another group joined them a week later for the dedication of the Ghana Technology Project. A Bishop's Forward Focus workshop was held Oct. 22, 2016, at Beulah UMC, Gaston. Church leader training was held on the campus of Claflin University for all church officers, lay servants and committee chairs. – *Athaniel Badger, district lay leader*
- **Rock Hill District** – The district is concentrating its attention on the Bishop's Forward Focus process. Nearly every church in the district participated in the Feb. 11 convocation at Mount Holly UMC and 63 responded to the call for a decision. We are now supporting the process as Forward Leaders for the churches that will begin the Forward Focus process immediately. Lay Servant Ministries continues to offer two schools a year, one in fall and one in spring. District Connectional Ministries has several programs in the planning stage for presentation later in 2017. – *Bill Click, district lay leader*
- **Spartanburg District** – More than 125 people attended the district's Bishop's Forward Focus meeting at Lyman UMC on Jan. 14, 2017. The Spartanburg District Minister's Wives Choir provided lovely music, and Lyman church members were gracious hosts. On Jan 29, 2017, a joint worship service was held at Lyman UMC. Churches participating were Duncan UMC, Loree UMC, Startex UMC, Immanuel UMC, Florence Chapel UMC, Reidville Road UMC and Lyman UMC. A combined choir of about 40 met early to prepare for the worship service, and about 75 people attended. This was the first of hopefully many joint evening services to come. The message was brought by District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Paul Harmon. – *Rick Hammett, district lay leader*
- **Walterboro District** – The district had a very successful lay leadership training session on Jan. 22, 2017, during which 232 attendees were excited as some started new positions within their local churches. Clergy/lay leader partnership and working together in shared ministry were among the new classes. Hurricane Matthew

caused the district's Bishop's Forward Focus event to be postponed to a later date. – *Pamela Goodwine-Glover, district lay leader*

The positive comments continued to flow in as the third annual Mission Fair was held on June 6, 2016, the second day of Annual Conference in Florence. The event featured more than 30 exhibits from churches across the conference. The Mission Fair aims to recognize and celebrate the importance of mission and ministry in the local church. Churches from every district across our state set up exhibits that displayed pictures, posters and PowerPoint presentations about ministries happening in our communities. Local church members talked with folks walking through the aisles as they enjoyed the creative and beautiful exhibits.

We are appreciative of those who traveled from far and near to be a part of the 2016 Mission Fair. We intend to continue this project and look forward to presenting opportunities for churches to participate and learn of the many wonderful ministries happening through the S.C. Conference at our 2017 Mission Fair in Greenville. – *Donald Love, associate conference lay leader, member of the Mission Fair Planning Team*

It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside the above mentioned committed folks within Lay Leadership.

*Barbara Ware
Conference lay leader*

Lay Servant Ministries

- Annual Instructors Academy, with prayer, worship, fellowship and instructional leadership training.
- Training annually at Instructors Academy on several courses, focusing more attention on seasoned courses.
- Lay servants were instrumental in assisting the conference increase apportionment giving, celebrating 92 percent.
- Lay Servant Academy continues to maintain a high caliber of qualified, well-trained instructors who are ready to do the work of the ministry for the building of God's kingdom.
- Lay servant directors are busy planning, organizing, coordinating and providing training for 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 of God. Lay Servant Ministries provides educational opportunity that will enhance our spiritual gifts.
- As a result of Spiritual Formation through our schools, many have gained biblical knowledge and wisdom and have been made disciples for Jesus Christ.
- Lay servants have mastered the rigorous course, preparation and committee requirement and are now "certified lay speakers." Subsequently, our next level is Certified Lay Ministry (CLM).
- Lay servants lead, care and communicate through prayer missions, Bible studies, food pantries, pulpit supplies, leading meetings, worship services, fostering care-giving ministries, teaching and administering Sunday schools. They serve through home, hospital and senior center visits; assisting with Holy Communion; giving; training, studying and discussing the Word of God. Lay servants hold many leadership roles in our churches and communities
- Involved with district and Conference Connectional Ministries teams.
- District directors are enhancing the involvement of youth in Lay Servant Ministries.
- District directors continue to submit monthly reviews of their Lay Servant Ministries to The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate. Our conference director is a regular contributor.
- Lay Servant Ministries continues to emphasize and recognize "Lay Servant Emeritus."
- Lay servants promote the United Methodist Men's Retreat.
- Lay servants promote the United Methodist Women on the local, district and conference levels.
- District directors supported the conference's "Imagine No Malaria" effort.
- District directors reported their efforts on volunteering for and financial giving to disaster relief efforts.
- Engaged with Bishop's Forward Focus Tour to help church leaders take a fresh approach and look beyond themselves, and be in ministry with their local communities.
- Lay servants are the hands and feet of God within and throughout their communities.

*Jackie G. Jenkins
Conference director, Lay Servant Ministries*

OUTREACH

Conference Board of Global Ministries

During 2016, the Conference Board of Global Ministries identified a continuing need to get the word out to local churches about the funding available for existing and new ministry opportunities under the auspices of our board. The CBGM has made this one of our top priorities, and we will continue to connect resources to the needs of local congregations.

Just as last year, we received more requests than we had funding available. We rejoiced in having to deal with this opportunity because it reflected the successful communication we pursued and continue to pursue. We rejoiced in the fact that the CBGM continues to make a difference in the lives and ministries of the Annual Conference and the local churches. Members of the CBGM have reviewed and made recommendations for the approval for this year's grant cycles. We believe that those who received grants met the criteria expressed by the intent of the Belin Board of Trust and the Annual Conference.

The CBGM has either direct or indirect oversight of several areas, and this report will briefly cover them. Several have their own reports given in other areas:

- **Spartanburg Methodist College** – SMC is not only a highly regarded educational institution, it is also an outreach ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference. SMC provides opportunities and growth and learning for many students who would not otherwise have them. The CBGM nominates the Board of Trustees (in conjunction with the president of the college) and recommends the line item in the Annual Conference budget for SMC. The CBGM encourages all members of the Annual Conference to support SMC by paying all conference apportionments. The CBGM approved SMC's request to receive \$850,000 from the Annual Conference for 2016.
- **Communities of Shalom** – We are in the process of defining how the Annual Conference connects with the Communities of Shalom – community organizing ministries, helping each community look at issues and problems within the community and how to best address those issues using resources available. Although the Annual Conference, through the CBGM, has supported the Communities of Shalom since its inception, that relationship has not been defined. Although the original intent of the support from the Annual Conference was to be temporary, it continues. The congregational specialists continue to work with the Communities of Shalom and will report to the CBGM and the Annual Conference when this relationship is more fully defined. The CBGM provided the Communities of Shalom \$10,000 in support in 2016.
- **Hunger Ministries** – The Hunger Ministries program is an extension of the CBGM designed to encourage churches and individuals to donate each year to help churches that work with hunger issues and to directly feed hungry people through such ministries as soup kitchens, food pantries, etc. In its March meeting, the CBGM voted to provide \$5,000 to two hunger applications received during the year of 2016.
- **Church Extension Partnership** – Originally a program to help smaller membership churches (100 members or less) with physical repairs, this program has been expanded to include physical repairs or equipping churches wishing to extend their outreach into the local community. Three "calls" are 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. This program is currently suspended due to lack of funds. It is hoped that it can be reinstituted in 2017.
- **James M. Belin Trust Grants** – This trust fund supports new missions and ministries located within the South Carolina Annual Conference. The Board of Trustees is nominated by the CBGM and elected by the Annual Conference. The Belin Trust provides grants to be distributed by the CBGM each year. 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. Funding can be obtained as a ministry connected with a local church or an agency sponsored by the United Methodist Church. The CBGM distributed \$168,000 in support of 11 ministries in 2016.
- **Advance Special Ministries** – These are missional organizations within the South Carolina Annual Conference that have been recommended by the CBGM and approved by the Annual Conference. These are independently controlled and run organizations with a connection to the Annual Conference either through history

or mission. These organizations must apply for certification every quadrennium for approval by the Annual Conference and apply for funding every year. These organizations have their own board of directors which must have United Methodist representation to be eligible as an Advance Special Ministry. The Annual Conference supports these organizations in several ways. The primary way is through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. In addition, 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 CBGM 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. These organizations also are supported by a line item in the Connectional Ministries budget. The CBGM would encourage each church within the Annual Conference to pay 100 percent of their appointment giving to increase the amount these ministries receive. This amount was \$130,200 in 2016. And finally, ASMs are supported by an offering taken through Advance Special Sunday each year.

In addition to these ministries, the CBGM provided support to resupply the Emergency Response Trailers with a grant of \$10,000. The CBGM also used \$4,400 from its contingency fund to make a grant to Elijah UMC in the Florence District.

The CBGM looks forward to all the great ministry that will be done as a result of the efforts of the board. A special thank you to all those who served faithfully and diligently as a part of the Conference Board of Global Ministries in 2016.

*Stephen D. Gaither
Convener, CBGM*

Disaster Response

On Oct. 7, 2016, Hurricane Matthew swept up the coastal areas of South Carolina, causing widespread destruction and devastating flooding.

Coastal areas primarily suffered large tree damage caused by strong winds. Early Response Teams immediately began working. Much of their work was in the Orangeburg, Charleston and Marion areas. To date, ERTs have touched more than 120 homes with chainsaw and tarp work from Hurricane Matthew alone.

In addition to downed trees, many areas of the Marion District, specifically in the towns of Nichols and Sellers, were flooded after dams and levees broke.

With such a massive and concentrated amount of damage the conference disaster response team decided to try a new tactic for relief. We created three volunteer "blitz" work weekends – two in Nichols and one in Sellers. More than 300 volunteers show up to do muck-out work on more than forty homes. It was the largest organized disaster relief effort South Carolina has ever done.

*Matt Brodie
Conference disaster response coordinator*

Conference Communications

The year 2016 brought with it a new structure in the Communications Office of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. We created a new communications coordinator position and hired Dan O'Mara to fill it. Longtime communications director Matt Brodie is now the production coordinator for the conference, in addition to his new role as disaster response coordinator.

Along with the new structure comes a new way of looking at who does what:

- Dan handles external media relations, internal communications, crisis communications, social media/email management and news releases.
Reach Dan at domara@umcsc.org or 803-786-9486, Ext. 260.
- Matt handles photography, videography, multi-media/graphics, audio/visual support and acts as printing services liaison.
Reach Matt at mbrodie@umcsc.org or 803-786-9486, Ext. 265.

The Communications Team also stands ready as a resource for ministries – on the conference level, through the districts and to local churches. Whatever assistance you need from a communications standpoint, they can help. If you're not sure whom to call, contact Dan or Matt, and we'll make sure you get to whoever can best serve your needs.

*Dan O'Mara
Conference communications coordinator*

SPECIAL DAYS/MONTHS FOR 2018

Mandated by General Conference

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR) – Jan. 14
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC) – Jan. 21
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC) – Jan. 18-25
Black History Month – February
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM) – Feb. 11
Women's History Month – March
World Day of Prayer – March 2
Girl Scouts Sunday / alternate Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM) – March 11
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM) – March 11
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM) – April 15
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – May
Christian Home Month (GBOD) – May
Older Adult Recognition Day (any day of the month) – May
National Day of Prayer – May 3
Christian Family Week – May 7-13
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History) – May 20
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS) – May 27
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM) – Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR) – Oct. 7
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance – Oct. 14
Laity Sunday (GBOD) – Oct. 21
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM) – Nov. 11
National Bible Week – Nov. 18-25
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM) – Nov. 25
World AIDS Day – Dec. 1

Designated by S.C. Annual Conference

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday – March 11
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home – May 13
Advocate Awareness Sunday – May 20
United Methodist Men's Day – June 10
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday (with offering) – Aug. 12
Call to Ministry Sunday – Aug. 19
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home – Sept. 9
Youth Service Fund Sunday (with offering) – Sept. 16
Advance Special Ministries Sunday (with offering) – Nov. 4

S.C. Conference Advance Special Ministries

The mission of the Advance Special Ministries Network is to see, cultivate and share a wide range of United Methodist resources to support and strengthen our ministries:

Alston Wilkes Society

The Alston Wilkes Society is a non-profit statewide organization founded in 1962. Our mission statement is: Rebuilding Lives for a Safer Community. We provide offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at risk youth, veterans and their families the tools they need to become productive citizen and have a positive impact on crime reduction and prevention. The Alston Wilkes Society provides several services within the state:

- Community Services, providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders, former offenders family members and homeless individuals to rebuild their lives.
- Residential Re-entry Centers, providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Veterans Home, providing housing for homeless veterans.
- Group Care Intensive Services, a youth housing program serving young males ages 11-21 who have emotional and behavioral problems.
- Treatment Foster Care, training and licensing families to accommodate emotionally trouble youth.
- Clinical Day Program, an alternative school program for middle and high school students who cannot attend public schools due to behavioral issues.

Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry

The Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry (BCACM) is a specialized ministry of the South Carolina Conference established in 1966 to help facilitate the needs of persons living in Marlboro and Chesterfield counties of South Carolina in a shared ministry and vision. The churches that are affiliated with this ministry are Aaron Temple UMC, Bethel UMC, Ebenezer UMC, Level Green UMC, Mount Zion UMC, Shiloh UMC, Smyrna UMC,

Saint Michael UMC, and Trinity UMC. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership of less than 2,500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

The overall mission of the BCACM is to respond to the increasing call in our communities to continue to light the flame of hope by striving to build and sustain communities of character with youth, young adults, adults and older adults who have high morality, integrity and commitment to be leaders for the sake of the present and future generations. The BCACM seeks to minister to the family by educating and nurturing the whole person – physically, spiritually, mentally, morally and ethically.

BCACM aims to be a beacon of light in a dismal world. We seek to spread hope for families in search of healing. The opportunities we provide by the grace of God are to strengthen, educate, guide and enhance the whole family – an individual, a couple or a family.

The BCACM embraces the tenets of the United Methodist Church – making disciples for the transformation of the world – by coordinating and developing workshops and seminars to empower our laity and clergy. The ministry continues to fulfill its mission by strengthening these churches in the areas of discipleship, outreach, lay leadership and advocacy.

In addition to the aforementioned, our programs and ministries focus on meeting the holistic needs of families. We strive to meet these needs via weekly Bible study, prayer, workshops and seminars, school enrichment by partnering with Blenheim Elementary & Middle School, Clio Elementary & Middle School, and Bennettsville Middle School. We sponsor the Sacred Saturday (focusing on children and youth ages 5-11) and Tea Time with Teens (focusing on abstinence with 10-18-year-old girls), VBS Picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership trainings, health screenings, soup kitchen, food distribution, summer day camps and flood buckets.

The BCACM also partners with the Communities of Shalom to address inadequate home improvements, medical emergency, hunger and other social needs.

Bethlehem Community Center-Columbia

The Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is an historic multi-service agency serving residents of the Riverview Terrace and Broad River Terrace communities in Columbia.

- Vision statement: We envision that the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center will be the premiere community center for children and families in the Midlands.
- Mission statement: To educate and enrich the lives of individuals and families in the Midlands to help them achieve their own success.
- Programs: Afterschool partnership program with Riverside Apartment Community (Lucius Road) Fall/Spring 2012; Kids for a Better Community Summer Camp 2012; Introduction to mini-film production for children (summer 2012 and spring 2013).

Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg

The Bethlehem Center is a multi-service agency for residents of Spartanburg City and Spartanburg County in South Carolina.

- Vision statement: We envision a future where all individuals will reach their full potential.
- Mission statement: To strengthen individuals physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, educationally and intellectually.
- Programs: Afterschool (serving youth ages 5 and up in a year-round literacy and enrichment based after-school program); Youth Sports (Baseball and basketball clinics and leagues, in partnership with Upward Sports and the Youth Sports Bureau); Outreach (community events and programs, food assistance three days/week; Senior Wellness Programs (Active Living, Sewing to Sow & Feed Your Spirit); Support groups: Weekly NA meetings (Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays); Highland Neighbor Association meetings (monthly)

Christian Assistance Bridge

Christian Assistance Bridge is a service agency in Blythewood, SC that is blessed with significant support from a generous community! The mission of Christian Assistance Bridge is to provide hope and support to those in need by offering basic necessities. CAB offers emergency assistance, such as utilities, rent, food, medication, transportation and traveler's aid, to residents in Blythewood and surrounding communities. The agency, located at 126 Blythewood Road, is a collaborative effort of area churches, individuals and support organizations and currently serves residents of zip codes 29016 (Blythewood), 29229 (Northeast Columbia) and 29130 (Ridgeway).

The Christian Assistance Bridge exists to provide hope and support to those in need in our community through a collaborative effort of local churches, individuals and support organizations.

By joining efforts, we will strengthen our mission and our faith, as well as the faith of those we serve. The Christian Assistance Bridge reaches out to the community by offering basic necessities and hands-up assistance during crisis situations. By representing Christian values, we will grow discipleship through service and obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Church and Community Workers Field Share

A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries – Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center

The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center's mission is to assist people on their journey toward healing and wholeness. The center ministers to individuals, couples and families in crisis through affordable pastoral counseling, education and consultation.

The center also promotes and maintains close associations with various churches, faith communities and clergy in the Grand Strand area. Assisting area business, non-profit and ministry leaders, the center offers relevant educational and consultative services to help create, strengthen and sustain a culture of excellence that is needed in today's post-modern world.

While the center's main office is in the heart of Myrtle Beach at First United Methodist Church, the center offers eight convenient satellite locations around the Grand Strand. Beyond these local connections, the center is affiliated with a national network of faith-based counseling centers called The Samaritan Institute. The Samaritan Institute accredits counseling centers that have a theological purpose, offer basic counseling services, utilize a holistic perspective, and require staff to have professional credentials. The institute's mission is to help affiliated centers provide team-oriented, cost-efficient counseling, education, and consultation, which emphasize the interrelatedness of mind, body, spirit and community.

Interfaith Community Services Inc.

Interfaith Community Services works with faith and community partners to meet the needs of struggling families. We were founded 42 years ago by six downtown Columbia churches to be Columbia's first urban service center. Interfaith has been an Advance Special Ministry for four decades. Our offices are at St. Mark UMC in the Earlewood neighborhood of Columbia. We are partnering with St. Mark to work toward improving the lives of Section 8 residents in the nearby Riverside Apartments. Our mission is to convene, educate and coordinate faith and other community partners to build strong families and strong communities. Our Vision is a united faith community improving the quality of life in South Carolina by working together to build strong families and healthy, thriving children.

Our guiding principles: The faith traditions at the heart of Interfaith Community Services call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This calls us to share the gifts and resources of this life justly, to work in partnership for the common good, and to provide an environment that promotes the development of everyone's strengths and skills. We practice honesty and integrity in everything we do. We provide service in the spirit of unity and sincerity. These principles guide our work and inspire our mission.

Jubilee Academy

Jubilee Academy is a faith-based organization, working to turn the hearts and lives of inner-city children, youth and families toward Christ and academic excellence. Vision: At Jubilee Academy, we envision educated, productive citizens who have exchanged the bondage of welfare and poverty for freedom in Christ, in the hopes that these individuals will be the firm foundation for future generations, according to God's word.

There is nothing more critical to a community's long-term sustainability than a well-educated and well-adjusted child, for they are our future. Ensuring that all of the children of the Midlands receive the support they need to become well-adjusted, educated, productive members of the community will guarantee a bright future for both these children and the community at large. Jubilee is committed to changing lives forever and breaking the cycle of generational poverty, which keeps these children from reaching their full potentials.

Killingsworth Inc.

As a ministry of the United Methodist Church, Killingsworth provides transitional housing to adult women who are going through significant life changes. In 1947, Corrie Killingsworth's vision of a safe, supportive, Christian home for young women leaving home for the first time became a reality. In 1972, our focus shifted to women who had experienced significant life crises and were preparing to transition back into the community as more stable, responsible citizens.

Residents are referred from across South Carolina when they leave addiction treatment facilities, in-patient and outpatient mental health facilities, the prison system, shelters

for victims of violence, and from individual helping professionals and local church pastors. Residents are expected to work or go to school and be able to pay a nominal fee for residency. Residents are provided not only a safe supportive community, but also life skills, Bible study and spiritual development, work support, educational assessment, parenting skills and personal counseling as they prepare to return to their homes or create new ones.

People Attempting To Help

Our mission at PATH is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and give financial aid to those in crisis. We serve York School District #1, which covers York, Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna and McConnells. We have a food pantry to supply a week's groceries to qualifying households once a month. We give financial aid for basic needs up to every four months (maximum three times a year) for rent, electricity, natural gas, water, prescription medications and other small qualifying needs. The York Lions Club takes referrals through us for optometric care, and two dentists here provide emergency care to our clients. We have our own thrift store to provide clothing and household needs every two months to each client who needs it.

Rural Mission Inc.

Rural Mission is in its 41st year of serving the needs of low-income families, children, the elderly and migrants in the rural Sea Islands area near Charleston. The Mission provides faith, a hand up and a chance to overcome poverty, hardship and crisis.

The mission, its staff and volunteers serve through the operation of the Migrant Headstart Program for migrant children and their families in Charleston and Colleton Counties. Low-income, substandard homes are repaired, rehabbed and replaced through the Housing Workcamp Program. Hardship assistance is provided in many forms for daily basic needs. The mission's prayer ministry serves the faith needs of all in need of comfort, encouragement and spiritual growth. There is a place and a calling for all who wish to serve and volunteer, regardless of age or skills.

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction For Tomorrow) has a mission to feed the bodies, minds and spirits of children. We do this by providing a free summer day camp-type experience, including free breakfast and free lunch and activities, when school is not in session.

In the summer of 2013 we served an average of 225 breakfasts a day and 322 lunches a day to children in Abbeville County and in the city of Anderson. In Abbeville more than 60 percent of the public school children get free or reduced-priced meals at school; in our Anderson area, it's more than 94 percent.

For some of the children, their first knowledge of God is the grace said at meals in our program and the care of our site workers. Our motto is, "We do it for the children." Our prayer is to serve Christ by serving God's children.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

Volunteers in Mission began as a vision that ordinary people could make an extraordinary difference in the world. South Carolina is proudly the home of these visionaries and the beginning of this amazing ministry that is now worldwide and supported by many conferences across the United States. It also has served as the model for other denominations as they have followed the lead to create hands-on ministries through the years.

Today VIM is men and women who are adventurous in their faith. They yearn to not only serve Christ, but to serve him in new and exciting ways. They want to broaden their horizons of faith as well as the height and breadth of their lives. They want to go where the need is greatest and meet that need with faith, hope and love.

Volunteers in Mission is a fellowship of believers, lay and clergy, men and women, adults and youth, who have stepped out in faith to serve the needs of communities around the world.

South Carolina UMVIM consists of people just like you, who have felt and followed the call of Christ in their lives to go out into the world to share this vision and spread the Gospel of Christ through actively working to ease the burdens of others through construction, medical clinics, evangelism, VBS and many other means.

Acting as the hands and feet of Christ, UMVIM missionaries help others at home and throughout the world through construction, medical and various other activities. Whether it is building a chapel in the Philippines or building and staffing an eye clinic in Haiti, the men and women of UMVIM-SC strive to put shoe leather on their faith. There are multiple opportunities for short- or long-term service, and opportunities year round in many places.

United Ministries of Greenville

United Ministries was founded as Greenville Urban Ministries in June 1970 by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was chartered as an inter-denominational non-profit organization in 1974 and became known as United Ministries in 1982. Our mission is to provide life-changing opportunities and advocacy for people in our

community who lack education or employment skills, who are in financial crisis, who are homeless, and those who can help.

A direct-service agency intently focused on solutions to poverty and homelessness, we offer financial assistance with rent and utility bills, heating and cooling assistance, medication for life-threatening illnesses, food, day shelter services, case management, job training, job placement, a free GED program, and advocacy.

Wallace Family Life Center

The Wallace Family Life Center is a family-oriented facility. Our mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people who live in the Wallace/Bennettsville communities.

We offer the following programs: Adult Education (for those desiring to complete their high school education); Arts & Crafts (classes for adults to engage in various projects); Homemakers' Club (to explore and discuss relevant issues such as power of attorney, offered through a partnership with the local Clemson Extension Office); After-School Program Tutoring and Enrichment (operating Monday-Friday for 25 scholars); Summer Reading Program/Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools (program for 25-30 scholars during the summer months, provides learning in a safe and fun environment); Youth Council (for youths ages 12-18, to help them to become a more active citizen in the community); Vacation Bible School (one week at the end of the Summer Reading Program).

Other ministries and programs include Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts (retired leaders and volunteers are welcome to join and help out); Food Pantry (all donations are welcomed, community food drive every year at the center and BI-LO in Bennettsville); Clothes Closet (accepting items year-round, gently used clothing/towels for those in need); Operation Christmas Child (call for details, share with needy children and their families during the Christmas season).

ALDRSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

*"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest." (Is.32:18)*

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry celebrates the start of its fourteenth year of caring at this 2017 Annual Conference.

Just at the turn of the century, as we entered a new millennium, a number of families with members who have developmental disabilities approached what was then the Council on Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. They were requesting help in starting a ministry with those persons. The proposal was presented at the 2003 Annual Conference. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry was born. It was authorized at the last minute by oral resolution, but it was underway. A year later at the 2004 Annual Conference it was fully organized, and the second Sunday in August was designated by the AC as Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday. ASNM was to receive an offering from South Carolina UM Churches each year. With no direct funding as a Mission Special or from Apportionments, it became the second South Carolina Annual Conference ministry of caring supported entirely by gifts of local churches and individuals, the first being Epworth Children's Home. With its goal to provide homes for developmentally disabled adults, to enable them to live in a Christian environment, with a trained professional staff dedicated to providing a loving home that encourages independence, ASNM set sail.

Six years later in March, 2009, ASNM welcomed the first of the six women who would call the Columbia Aldersgate residence their home. Later in that year the first men moved into the six bedroom house at Aldersgate at The Oaks in Orangeburg. Seven years later on March 7, 2016, the first of four men arrived at "Rick's House" in Florence with three others moving in by July 13. All the homes are presently serving at full capacity.

The first resident at "Rick's House" was Franz Hicks, whose father, the Reverend Granville Hicks, and mother, Cynthia, who have each reached their 80th birthday, are well known to South Carolina Methodists. Granville was one of the original Board members of ASNM. Franz now sometimes attends Cumberland UMC in Florence where he was a member in his younger years while Granville was the pastor there.

The six residents of the Columbia Aldersgate Home, having survived the October 4, 2015 flood and having spent eight months in the Presidents House on the Epworth Campus while their home was being repaired, are now comfortably back in the home. The home now has a wall around it that is attractive and also holds back water so they need have no fear of future flooding.

At "Rick's House" in an October 2016 storm a tree blew over onto the house. The good news was there were lots of trees down in the area and there were clean-up crews close by.

Two days later a crew with a crane came and lifted the tree off the house. They put a tarp over the roof until another crew could come and do the repairs. No one was hurt and life is back to normal.

In the fall of 2016 the Licensed Administrator of the Columbia home tendered her resignation to take a job elsewhere. In early January 2017, ASNM hired Max Pierce to become the new Licensed Administrator.

ASNM thanks those churches and individuals who contributed on Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday. ASNM is grateful to those churches who volunteered with clean up and assistance as well as dollars. Your continued support will make it possible to care for our homes and will enable us to reach out to other areas around our conference where there are growing needs. Families and groups in a number of communities have requested that ASNM consider homes in their areas. ASNM will continue to respond as sites and funding are available, and approved by DHEC and DDSN.

We have made a small dent in the need. It is a good start. Please give your church the opportunity to participate in **Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday, August 13, 2017** by receiving an offering to support this ministry. An alternate Sunday may be chosen.

Please continue to pray for Aldersgate. God has richly blessed us and we are thankful.

Brochures, envelopes and information are available at the ASNM display on the concourse

For more information or materials contact:

Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson

E-mail: mmcguirt@sc.rr.com Telephone: 843-237-8040

Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 121 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina who cannot remain in their own homes.

The primary goal of this annual conference mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, faith centered residential environment, where children who are not able to remain in their homes receive the best possible care, and are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued to create a culture of success which is reflected in the following statistics: For the fourth year in row Epworth's high school students graduated at a 100% rate; 97% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals at school; 86% of students had a "C" average or better each quarter; and 33% of students earned academic honor roll each quarter.
- II. Received the coveted 4-STAR rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management, and commitment to accountability and transparency for the fifth year in a row. Fewer than 14% of all charities in the country receive the 4-star rating three or more years in a row. The 4-star rating is the highest rating awarded.
- III. Averaged 71 children per day in the residential population plus supported 18 higher education students who lived off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program served a total of 20 children in a preschool program. This program serves children who experience developmental delays. The EEIC program also served 53 children and their families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 144 children served at any given time.
- IV. Entered year two as a nationally accredited organization through the Council on Accreditation (COA) for Epworth's outstanding children's resident group home program and services. COA accreditation offers a unique distinction and attests that an agency has met the highest possible national standards for quality management and service delivery. The Council on Accreditation is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization founded by the Child Welfare League of America and The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.
- V. The Board of Trustees adopted a budget of \$7,383,839 for the fiscal year 1-1-17 through 12-31-17. This is an increase of \$1,013,614 over the 2016 budget.
- VI. Began year ten of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of increasing per church member giving to a minimum of \$6.00 per member. The per member giving average for 2016 was \$7.79. This is an increase of .13 cents per member from 2015. Church giving increased by \$109,541.59 in 2012; by \$22,000 in 2013; by \$204,000 in 2014; by \$92,000 in 2015; and by \$12,111 in 2016. Total giving increased in 2013 by \$102,887; by \$313,000 in 2014; by \$220,000 in 2015; and by \$201,500 in 2016. The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children increased from 211 to 231. There

were 384 churches that met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average. A complete report can be located at www.epworthchildrenshome.org. Eight hundred twenty-three of 1,007 congregations ordered materials for at least one of the two Epworth Sundays.

- VII. Completed the third full year of operation of the Performance and Quality Improvement Department that will keep Epworth on the cutting edge of providing quality childcare to residents and their families. The Duke Endowment awarded Epworth a three year grant of \$190,000 to launch the PQI initiative. The PQI department is designed to promote evidence based practices and measure all outcomes by objective standards.
- VIII. At the time this report was written the firm of The Brittingham Group was conducting the annual independent audit, thus no audit information was available. An unqualified or "clean" audit is anticipated again this year. By the time this report is published the audit information should be available at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.
- IX. The nineteen (19) acre campus and the fourteen (14) buildings that comprise Carolina Children's Home in Columbia were purchased on January 11, 2016. This acquisition gives Epworth a second campus from which to operate. The new campus joins the property of Trenholm Road UMC. Building renovations and program location has begun.
- X. The new Foster Family Engagement Center has opened on the Trenholm Road campus. Three foster families are currently being licensed and another 14 are currently being recruited. Our churches are serving as the principal recruiting sites for foster parents.
- XI. The Peanut Butter Ice Cream Project is in the test marketing stage. Through volunteer efforts of The Friends of Epworth, Riggs Partners CreateAthon, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm, The Darla Moore School of Business, and others, the first commercial batch of Epworth's famous peanut butter ice cream was received and market tested at the United Methodist Women's Legislative Advocacy Day in February.
- XII. Epworth has employed the firm of Sinclair, Townes and Associates as financial campaign consultants. This firm has completed a feasibility study and a funds development gap analysis in order to determine the readiness, and resources needed for Epworth to conduct a financial campaign.
- XIII. Because of the foresight and continued generosity of United Methodist and others Epworth continues the tradition of never turning a child away because of an inability for a child's family or a child's ward to pay for a place to live, and to call home. Epworth has been able to provide almost four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families again this year.

John E. Holler, Jr., President, CEO

THE METHODIST MANOR

Methodist Manor mission is to provide an extraordinary Continuing Care Community offering exceptional selection of living option and personalized services. We recognize that aging is a normal process which people experience in different ways. We want to provide a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person, wherever he or she may be in that process. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination.

Methodist Manor opened its doors December 1991 guided by traditional values, strong commitment to service, hospitality, community, friendship and care. Residents enjoy a lifestyle that embraces spiritual, social, emotional and physical well-being. The Community Campus is located in Florence, South Carolina. The Manor offers Independent Living in the form of Patio Homes and spacious one or two bedroom apartments, Assisted Living suites for those looking a supportive environment, Magnolia Terrace for dementia, memory support and Alzheimer Care, and the Healthcare Center which provides skilled Nursing Care. Home Health services as well as additional programs designed to provide personal assistance to residents and enable them to retain their independence longer, in the comfort and privacy of their independent home or apartment.

Methodist Manor is a 501 (c) (3) Corporation, a not for profit Senior Living Community. The Manor currently serves about 230 residents. It is guided and directed by Methodist Manor Board of Trustees, elected through the SC Annual Conference who works closely with the Management Company, Executive Director and staff to ensure support and continually strategic planning for the growth of current and future resident's needs of Methodist Manor.

December 2016 brought the completion of the Phase I portion of our \$ 17 million expansion that included a new Assisted Living Facility with additional apartments (Wesleyan Suites), activity spaces and amenities. An additional 19 apartments of Alzheimer's/Dementia Care, a new dining venue in the form of a Bistro and a wonderful Auditorium that will be used for a variety of activities, entertainment and speaking engagements. We are well under way with Phase II of the construction, which consists of complete refurbishment of our Health Care Facility, remodeling and refurbishment of the Main lobby, Activity and Dining spaces within the Independent Living sections of Methodist Manor, additions of a new Solarium, Conservatory, Physicians Clinic and a new Therapy Suite that will house Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy, the completion date will be mid-summer. The Manor has been open 27 years and undertaking this complete renovation to our existing Community and the addition of new Construction allows us to maintain the level of quality expected by people seeking retirement housing in Florence, S.C.

We feel the number of services; activities and programs enhance the resident's quality of life. The Manor embraces a customer focused model for service delivery that redirects the variety of services and amenities being provided so that resident's choices and conveniences are incorporated. Methodist Manor regularly offers enriching cultural programs and entertainment, along with organized programs such as shopping and sightseeing excursions, intergenerational programs, a variety of fitness and wellness programs. A superior Dining service offering a Culinary trained Chef and professional staff who deliver an elegant dining experience to our residents. The Manor provides numerous offerings, multiple dining options, expansive service hours and special events and catering services.

We are appreciative of the United Methodist Conference of South Carolina for their annual donation to assist in the support of our Residents Financial Assistance Fund. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. We are also beginning to see our Senior population as a whole live longer than previous generations and tend to need the full continuum of Care; Independent, Assisted Living and Health Care that's offered at Methodist Manor.

With continued leadership from Methodist Manor Board of Trustee, Management and staff we are committed to providing a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination for our current population and future older adults.

John Orr, Chairman, Trustees
Teressa L. Tabor, Executive Director Methodist Manor

THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE METHODIST OAKS

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide superior retirement living Continuing Care and a working environment that nourishes the human spirit and preserves personal dignity by addressing the whole person in an atmosphere which witnesses Christian Values and love.

The Methodist Oaks was established in 1953 and opened with the first ten residents in 1954 at its main campus just south of Orangeburg, SC. Today, The Methodist Oaks serves approximately 500 residents and clients on its main campus, at its PACE facility in Orangeburg and in the greater Orangeburg community. On the main campus, The Methodist Oaks, "The Oaks", provides several active Independent Living options, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care as well as Rehabilitative Services. As the retirement environment has changed, The Oaks has expanded its services and where and how it provides them. As the continuum of care has expanded to include those with Alzheimer's and dementia, The Oaks is planning for a Memory Care Assisted Living unit.

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides holistic medical and health-related care to poor, frail, elderly clients in the greater Orangeburg community and is operated in a specifically designed facility located at 153 Founders Court, Orangeburg, SC. PACE currently serves up to 145 participants.

On campus, The Oaks offers many activities that nourish residents and clients physically, mentally and spiritually. The Oaks has a fully staffed Campus Life, Wellness and Chaplain's Offices offering a myriad of programs, activities and support for residents. These activities are available to the community through the Passport to the Oaks, which allows these clients (age 55 and older) who do not live on our Campus to participate in activities and use facilities such as the swimming pool and fitness center. Senior Solutions home care is also available on campus and in the community, allowing residents to stay in Independent Living, Assisted Living or their off campus

home longer. Additionally, a physician's office is located on our campus along with an audiologist, podiatrist, optician, and pharmacy services, providing convenient health care services for our residents.

As part of The Oaks broader Christian mission, space and support have been provided for the first Aldersgate Home in South Carolina. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is a ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church that provides residence and support for adults with developmental disabilities. The Oaks site provides for 6 male residents. The Oaks is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which is a not for profit charitable and religious organization. It is directed by The Oaks Board of Trustees which is a twenty-one member board consisting primarily of South Carolina United Methodist clergy and laity. Each board member is qualified before being asked to serve, resulting in each member bringing particular skills to benefit The Oaks. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of The Oaks and works closely with Chief Executive Officer Andy Cox and his staff to look strategically at The Oaks future. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee meet at least quarterly to monitor the status and review the direction of The Oaks.

The Oaks is appreciative of the connection with the SC Conference of The United Methodist Church and the conference's support of The Residents Assistance Fund through apportionments. With this support, The Oaks is able to accept Medicaid in our nursing facility and is able to assist other residents in staying at The Oaks when they have, through no fault of their own, exhausted their own resources.

As the retirement environment and the needs of those individuals who are served continue to change, the Oaks will remain committed to its ministry and mission and provide new and innovative services to do so. If you are not already familiar with the Oaks, we invite you to contact us and visit our facilities individually or with your church group. You can also find out more about our The Oaks at theoakssc.com.

The Reverend Ron Pettit, Chairperson of Board of Trustees

WESLEY COMMONS

Grateful and Blessed; two words that summarize Wesley Commons after several milestone accomplishments during 2016!

Fiscal Year 2016 marked another year of continued progress of our programs and services. We are very pleased to see our campus occupancy in a very strong position as we continue to see a steady migration of retirees from across the Country. With more than 85% of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from more than 100 miles away, we have continued to enhance our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Our success in attracting people from all over the country can be attributed to our never-ending efforts to provide exceptional offerings of value. The results of our efforts continue to bear fruit, as we continue to grow our campus serving active and engaged retirees.

To continue and maintain our growth and lifestyle offerings, we are opening several expanded and unique dining venue enhancements on our campus. Our already active outdoor recreation areas have been expanded, with the addition of our new nature trail that now complements our over three miles of sidewalks and trails on campus. Our new pickle ball complex and putting green areas are slated to open early summer and will complement our new regulation shuffle board courts.

At the time of this writing, our enhanced Assisted Living and Special Care expansion is close to being fully reserved before it opens this spring. Also, our new medical/wellness campus designed to house a new, exceptionally unique post-acute rehabilitation facility and a long term skilled nursing home is well underway and is scheduled to open in late 2017. Our challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, was to design these exceptional programs to be affordable and viable for a diverse population.

More specifically, our new medical facility will continue to serve a Medicaid and a lower income population that represent half of the population served in the complex. We believed that if we could achieve this goal, it would be a model for others. We are very proud to report that while our skilled nursing home will look and operate like none others, we are most excited that every resident and patient served will have a private bedroom, regardless of one's pay source. That is a truly remarkable accomplishment in these days of tremendous health care change and challenge.

As we have shared previously, Wesley Commons received a mandate by the State to reduce the number of low income (Medicaid) patients being served by a significant factor. While we support the State's vision to become fiscally responsible stewards of taxpayer resources, our board and staff stayed true to our heritage of care and refused to turn our backs on those that called Wesley Commons' home.

To that end, the State imposed a significant fine on Wesley Commons for not turning our backs on those most in need. While this is a setback in our ability to continue our mission of

care to an economically diverse population, we have a renewed passion to seek new and better ways to serve those in need, regardless of the changing headwinds.

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our older brothers and sisters continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. In 2016, Wesley Commons provided over \$91,666 of subsidized care. We are grateful for the support of the Methodist Conference, in its support of just over \$186,486 towards supporting those in need. The support of the Conference and other private supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide support for many in need.

On behalf of our residents, customers, employees and board members, we want to thank the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for its continued support of our mission. Wesley Commons' current level of support is extremely taxing on our resources. Our ongoing Ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. We thank you for your continued financial support of those who built our great nation and deserve our fullest attention.

In His Interest,

*The Reverend Robert E Stillwell, Chairman
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO*

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

Claflin University has achieved unparalleled national and global recognition as a leading 21st Century Institution of higher education under the visionary leadership of President Henry N. Tisdale. The University's overarching commitments to student success, global engagement, and diversity and inclusion have paved the way for its upward trajectory as a nationally-ranked liberal arts institution.

When Claflin University opened its doors in 1869, it became the first institution in South Carolina to offer quality higher education for men and women "regardless of race, complexion, or religious opinion." More than 148 years later, Claflin University remains true to its Christian values as an affiliate of The United Methodist Church, while continuing to embrace the fundamental ideologies and principles for which it was founded.

The University's nurturing environment fosters intellectual curiosity and spiritual introspection to a diverse, multicultural student population. And its world-class faculty inspires vigorous inquiry and compels students to become critical and imaginative thinkers who are prepared to make meaningful contributions to the nation and the world.

Claflin's annual Matriculation Day celebrated recent accomplishments including the launch of the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program, the only program of its kind at a historically black college/university in South Carolina. The event was also an official welcome to approximately 2,000 students who enter Claflin for the 2016 fall semester. Included were more than 500 freshmen – the largest class in University history. The class features students from 44 of the 46 counties in South Carolina and from every region of the United States as well as from a number of other countries throughout the world. Thirty percent of the Class of 2020 are pursuing degrees in the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines. The convocation was also an opportunity for President Tisdale to outline the University's new strategic plan – Claflin LEADS – which was approved by the university's Board of Trustees. LEADS is an acronym for Leadership Development, Experiential Learning, Academic Programs, Diversity and Student Success.

The venerable Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy, which celebrated its 25th anniversary, was held February 2-3, in the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. The Academy was established in 1922 and named for Hicks, a Class of '57 graduate of Claflin. He also received an honorary doctorate from Claflin and he is a trustee emeritus.

The theme for this year's event was *The State of the Church: Courageous Conversations in Remembering Our History and Seeking a Hopeful Future*. Heading the list of distinguished speakers for the conference were Bishop James Swanson, Resident Bishop of the Mississippi Conference; Bishop Woodie White, Bishop in Residence at Candler School of Theology; Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society; Dr. William "Bobby" McClain; professor emeritus at Wesley Theological Seminary; and Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop of the South Carolina. Ecumenical panel discussions, lectures and worship services were also part of this year's program.

Through a \$100,000 grant from The United Methodist Church's Young Clergy Initiative Fund, Claflin's Young Clergy Initiative continues to provide support for identifying, recruiting and developing a promising pool of young individuals for pastoral leadership in The United Methodist Church. The initiative was officially launched at the 2012 Leadership Academy. The grant also established a year-long ministry-discerning program for 50 rising high school juniors and seniors from South Carolina and the Southeast.

Claflin's annual Religious Emphasis Week was highlighted this year by presentations from interfaith leaders from throughout the Orangeburg community. Participants were introduced to the diverse religious and non-religious identities at Claflin and in the community. Activities also included lectures and worship services featuring a host of respected scholars and theologians.

The Lina H. McCord Summer Intern Program continues to provide Claflin students opportunities to serve as interns and ambassadors and travel to UMC conferences and activities around the globe. The United Methodist Church Black College Fund sponsors the program and students must be recommended by their chaplain and college or university's president to participate. They are required to meet strict standards for character and academic excellence and they must also attend or be graduates of one of the 11 UMC colleges/universities. The internship program promotes the mission of the Black College Fund to United Methodist nationally and abroad.

The James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel is regarded as the faith hub of the campus and it remains a place where residents of the campus community and visitors can seek refuge, meditation and spiritual growth. The chapel is host to Sunday services and a mid-week "Power Hour" service on Wednesday evenings featuring speakers from the campus and the community.

Claflin students are participants and supporters of Sunday worship services as guest speakers and musicians at United Methodist Churches throughout Orangeburg County and beyond. The University's widely-acclaimed Concert Choir and Gospel Choir frequently perform at religious events and churches throughout the region.

Several seminal milestones in Claflin's proud history have been achieved since the start of the 2016-17 school year. Among the first was the announcement that Claflin exceeded its fundraising goal and raised more than \$105 million during its "Imagine The Possibilities capital campaign that concluded in October 2016. The priorities of the campaign were: (1) strengthening academic programs, (2) enhancing facilities and (3) building the endowment. The success of the campaign has enhanced Claflin's growing reputation in higher education. The University has been ranked among the nation's leading liberal arts colleges in numerous prestigious digital and print publications. Washington Monthly and U.S. News and World Report have consistently ranked Claflin among the top liberal arts colleges/universities for the past 17 years and Claflin was named 2015 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest.

Claflin University launched its redesigned website in January which strengthens the University's brand and expands its digital footprint. The site includes modern designs, a focus on the Claflin student experience, as well as user-friendly functionality. The website aligns with Claflin's new strategic plan, Claflin LEADS: A Shared Vision for the 21st Century. The site was designed by Systems Alliance Inc.

Claflin demonstrated its commitment to global engagement when former Haiti President Michel Martelly and his wife Sophia visited the campus and Columbia in February. Martelly's trip was part of Claflin's Visionary Leader-in-Residence Program, which invites global leaders to engage with students and faculty and to build academic relationships with countries abroad. The program was established in 2012.

Claflin's focus on student success was the stimulus for the university's successful bid for the Career Pathway Initiative (CPI) grant from UNCF/Lilly Endowment. The Carolina Cluster Pathway Program (C2P2), which comprises Claflin, Benedict College and Voorhees College, was awarded a \$6 million grant to design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for graduates. The grant allocated \$3.3 million to Claflin University; \$1.5 million to Benedict College and \$1.2 million to Voorhees College. A portion of the Claflin University grant (\$1.8 million) will operate the State Coordinating Office which will monitor all of the activities of the awarded institutions.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as a 2016 Best Value College, by *Washington Monthly* as a 2016 Best Bang for the Buck College, and ranked among the best regional universities in the south, Columbia College is a dynamic learning and living community, where students, faculty and staff work together to build leaders our communities need most.

Since our founding 163 years ago by the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, Columbia College has supported and encouraged young women in their pursuit of a quality education and a fulfilling life. The College is known for its emphasis on leadership as evidenced by our 4 C's of leadership: Courage, Commitment, Confidence, and Competence, which are interwoven in the entire student experience.

Young women arrive at Columbia College from many backgrounds and interests, yet they share one common trait: they are serious about making a change for the better—in their own lives and in their communities. Service to others and a commitment to social justice are values that are part of our campus culture and we proudly share with the United Methodist Church.

We serve the people of South Carolina. 90% of our students are from the state and 30% are the first generation in their families to attend college. We are a diverse campus with 46% of our students representing racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Our Institute for Leadership and Professional Excellence assures that every student has a personalized plan to transition from college to career. Beginning in the first year, each student has a personal board of directors comprised of an academic advisor, a career coach, and a community mentor. This mentoring is combined with a progressive plan of professional development, applied learning, and real-world experience through internships. As a result of this personalized approach, **93%** of our 2016 women's college graduates were placed in jobs or graduate school.

In 2015 we opened The McNair Center for Entrepreneurism at Columbia College to encourage entrepreneurship and give our students, high school students, and adults throughout South Carolina, the training, tools, and networks they need to be successful entrepreneurs.

More than 30% of our students are scholar/athletes participating in ten conference sports. Columbia College has been named an NAIA National Champions of Character College for the values and character our scholar/athletes and coaches display both on and off the field.

For the academic year 2017, Columbia College reduced tuition almost \$10,000 to make a Columbia College education even more affordable for young women and their families. Programs and majors are focused on areas that students want and need for their careers and delivery options are expanding to include day, evening and online classes.

Columbia College's educational ministry extends to serve women and men completing their degrees through our campus evening program, at one of our community college partner locations throughout South Carolina, or virtually through online learning. Graduate programs are offered weekends on campus for working professionals and online for those who serve our communities 24/7 or who need more flexibility.

Faith is an important part of Columbia College and forms the values and principles by which every member of the college community lives and works each day. As part of our educational ministry, we hold weekly chapel services for students, faculty and staff, with a variety of speakers, including members of our campus community and leaders in the United Methodist Church and from other faiths.

We deeply value our connection to the United Methodist Church. To further nurture that relationship, we work with the pastors to have Columbia College Day in United Methodist churches across the state. Incorporated into regular Sunday services, these days emphasize the connections between the ministries of the churches and the colleges. I thank the congregations for their apportionments to the four UMC colleges of South Carolina, our chaplain gives the sermon, and the Hi C's sing songs of worship.

The funds received from the South Carolina Annual Conference are used by Columbia College for student scholarships. Every young woman student receives a scholarship, so every student at Columbia College benefits from the generosity of the United Methodist Church.

Columbia College prepares students personally and professionally for success through liberal arts and professional programs emphasizing service, social justice, and leadership development. Focusing on majors and programs students want and need for their careers and delivering the education in ways that work for their lives, Columbia College is enabling more people to have the benefit of a strong private college education. We are continuing Columbia College's longstanding commitment to community engagement, social justice, and learning through service to others, as we educate our students to be confident leaders who will positively change their own lives and the lives of others.

June 30, 2017 I will retire from Columbia College after proudly serving as president for five years. I will always love Columbia College, its students, faculty, staff and alums and will always support Columbia College, its mission and its values. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president of a college founded 163 years ago by the visionary leaders of the Methodist Church and I will always be proud of our affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

Thank you to the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for your support and prayers for our beloved Columbia College.

Elizabeth A. Dinndorf, President

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

At SMC, education is what we do – but it's not all we do. Our relationship with the United Methodist Church ensures that we offer much more than education to our students. While all institutions of higher education seek to create a better life for graduates, we serve a higher purpose: developing individuals who seek to make a better world. We are honored to partner with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in pursuing this mission.

SMC currently serves 737 students as they strive to gain knowledge, improve their lives and prepare to make their mark on the world. Of those students, 45.5% are minorities, 37% are

first generation college students and 51% are PELL eligible. We are proud that 94% of our students come from South Carolina. Among our student body are 56 students from United Methodist churches who, because of their grounding in faith, are already finding ways to make a difference in our community.

Our institution offers a unique experience for students because we are the only private, residential, church related campus that focuses on the foundational years of college. Our faculty, staff, administration and trustees are committed to enabling students to start and stay strong throughout their educational experience. Our curriculum and academic programs, as well as student activities and residence life programs, coalesce to provide a unique setting where learning occurs within and through community. On a two-year college campus, both freshman and sophomore students must assume leadership positions. This enables our graduates to gain important leadership experience before transitioning to the world of work or a senior college. Our challenging curriculum, academic support programs and leadership opportunities ensure greater success by SMC students when compared to other two year colleges. In fact, our student success rate is 84%, higher than any other two-year college in the state. By the time they graduate, our students have been exposed to new ideas, reinforced in their faith and strengthened in an awareness of their role as citizens within community.

Motivated by a common mission, invigorated by mutual interests and guided by a shared heritage, SMC and the UMC of SC are positively impacting the world by transforming lives. Together we are helping to realize the great Wesleyan hope to "unite the pair so long disjoined: knowledge and vital piety."

Your commitment to the apportionment line item for SMC provides a mandate that we continue working on your behalf to produce well educated, servant leaders. These citizens will re-join their congregations and communities with essential skills and knowledge necessary for building a better future. Your support affirms the value of our mission.

We continue to be grateful for your prayers, your gifts and especially the students you entrust to us. It is on behalf of those students that we say "Thank you!" for being a church that sees more to education than learning.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

From international scholarship recipients to a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Wofford College students and alumni enjoyed another remarkable year. Juniors Aleah Qureshi and Tim Lindsey were the college's first recipients of the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, to study abroad during the spring 2017 semester. Donovan Hicks, a 2015 graduate, was selected as the college's first George J. Mitchell Scholar by the US-Ireland Alliance. He will spend a year of post-graduate study in race, ethnicity and conflict at Trinity College in Dublin beginning September 2017. The college is also proud of James Scott, a 1997 graduate, who was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his highly acclaimed book "Target Tokyo," which tells the story of the Doolittle Raid, an incredible example of American heroism during World War II.

The college's relationship with the United Methodist Church remains an integral part of providing the transformative educational experiences that lead to this type of success and prepare students for lives of servant-leadership and lifelong learning. Along these lines, Wofford initiated an "unsung heroes" campaign asking alumni to nominate people within the Wofford community who are working behind the scenes to make their communities better places to live and work. Each issue of Wofford Today, the college's alumni magazine, shares these stories.

In February Wofford hosted a conference on South Carolina's last lynching, the subsequent trial, a courageous sermon and the continuing challenge of preaching to confront racism. The event featured the launch of the book "Who Lynched Willie Earle: Preaching to Confront Racism," written by Dr. Will Willimon, a 1968 Wofford graduate and retired United Methodist Bishop. The conference included lectures from Willimon and Dr. Will Gravely, a 1961 Wofford graduate and longtime scholar on the Willie Earle lynching and trial. The conference was well attended and moving, and another chapter in Wofford's tradition of activism and social justice, even when it's not the popular thing to do. Following the trial in 1947, a group of Wofford students protested the unjust acquittal of the murderers. Today – 70 years later – Wofford students, led by the college's Campus Union student government association, are reconnecting with the case and are planning to restore a monument to Willie Earle that was stolen.

Wofford students also recently participated on a taskforce charged with examining the college's relationship with the United Methodist Church. The taskforce surveyed the student body and presented their findings and recommendations to college leaders. According to the Rev. Ron Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, the data that the students gathered was excellent, and he's excited that they are using this as a catalyst to boost student interest. Survey data shows that 96 percent of respondents know that Wofford is

a United Methodist-affiliated college, and the majority of United Methodists students understand that the college's relationship with the church is a resource for them. Students also showed increased interest in additional on-campus worship opportunities and on reviving the college's pre-ministerial society.

Wofford College continues its commitment to access and affordability by keeping tuition increases to a minimum and offering a robust financial aid program. During the 2016-17 academic year, Wofford distributed more than \$53 million in merit and need-based scholarships, federal and state aid, as well as outside scholarships and loans. A third of Wofford's budget goes toward scholarships and financial assistance, and 93 percent of Wofford students receive some form of financial assistance. Specifically, 206 of the college's 234 United Methodist students shared in more than \$4 million in financial aid this year (100 percent of the South Carolina Annual Conference's contribution goes toward financial assistance for these deserving students). The college also has allocated \$300,000 in funding for scholarships for first-generation college students. Currently first-generation students make up almost 14 percent of Wofford's student body.

Recent rankings validate the college's vision and commitment to access and affordability. The Princeton Review included Wofford in its latest edition of "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools that Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck," and Forbes, U.S. News & World Report and Money magazine all recently ranked Wofford as a best value college.

The Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village was named and dedicated during the fall, and the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts opened during the spring. In addition, the college's basketball and volleyball teams will play their first games in the new Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium next fall. The college is making progress toward the implementation of the Milliken Sustainability Initiative at Wofford College, and three of the college's high-impact programs – the Center for Community-Based Learning, the Office of International Programs and The Space in the Mungo Center – have been consolidated under one roof in the Michael S. Brown Village Center. This will ensure that all Wofford students have easy access to opportunities to study abroad, engage in community partnership and service, and gain the professional development, internship and entrepreneurial support that will make them competitive in the workplace and graduate school.

Other highlights from the year:

- We welcomed Dr. Mike Sosulski as the new provost.

- We became a JED Campus as a way to improve student mental health.

- We launched a comprehensive assessment of diversity and inclusion.

- We received several major grants to strengthen the college's new Middle Eastern and North African program.

- We initiated the Trustee Matching Fund to encourage the establishment of endowed scholarships.

Again, we thank the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist church for your generous support and invite you to visit any time. Come see for yourself all of the good work we are doing together for the students at Wofford College.

Nayef H. Samhat, President

THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Charleston Wesley Foundation (CWF) is charged with providing United Methodist campus ministry to the campuses of The Citadel, College of Charleston (CofC), Charleston Southern University (CSU), Trident Technical College (TTC), and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). For CWF, the 2016-17 Conference/Academic year has been one of challenge coupled with continued numerical growth and exciting ministry!

We have continued to see numerical growth on all three campuses. What is even more important is to see how that participation has translated into students coming to faith in Christ and seeing the maturation of disciples as they grow into the men and women that God created them to be. We were able to celebrate the baptisms of six CWF students this year! Three of our graduates from last year are pursuing vocational calls to ministry, two of those as military chaplains. We currently have 10 students discerning vocational calls to ministry once they finish college.

As in previous years, CWF has continued with weekly worship gatherings at our three primary campuses (Citadel, CofC, and CSU) with students from MUSC and Trident Tech joining in. CWF has also continued to be very active in witness and missions. Our students have kept up the practice of writing letters of thanks and appreciation to other students, professors, school administrators, food staff workers, etc. as an expression of Christian thanksgiving and love. CWF participated mission weekends to serve local churches and families in need of home repairs. CWF will be leading another international mission trip to Ecuador with another

increase in the number of students joining the team. CWF students will also be participating in several Salkehatchie camps, three other international mission projects, Asbury Hills, and other expressions of mission engagement this summer.

With all of these blessings, there have also been significant challenges this year. These have come in the forms of being short staffed, dealing with school administrations, facilities, and funding.

With each campus comes different challenges. At the Citadel, the cadets are on a very strict training schedule and space on campus is very limited. In previous years the time allotted for the cadets to practice faith was established and protected by the administration and the chaplain to the corps. Under the current administration, we have seen ever increasing mandatory conflicts for the cadets and lack of support for faith-based groups. While we have maintained a solid number of students in our program, these conflicts have greatly affected our ability to minister to the cadets effectively. At CSU, we have had a very difficult time securing space and support from a college who is very active in Christian mission, but only from their official denominational perspective. In spite of the constant space issues and harassment from public safety and the administration, our CSU students have remained faithful and committed to growing in their faith as a part of CWF.

The tremendous numerical growth over the past few years has been a blessing in the way that God has brought new students to participate in the worshiping community of CWF, however, it has also provided logistical challenges. Caring for over 200 students over 5 campuses has led to the need for more pastoral care. To put this in perspective, the campus ministries serving groups of similar sizes to CWF have staffs 3 to 5 times larger than CWF. This allows them to run their programs more efficiently, and more importantly to be present on the campuses and provide the intentional one-on-one discipleship that our students need. To combat this challenge, the CWF Board of Directors has approved bringing Rev. Tasha James on Full time. To make this possible, CWF will need to fundraise \$85,000 annually over the director's salary that the conference provides through apportionment giving. This is a very large increase over the \$3,000 per year that CWF was raising three years ago and reflects the drastic change in resources needed as CWF has grown from an average of 25 to 175 students.

In response to this need, the CWF board, local churches in the Charleston area, and individuals who have shown a passion for the ministry to college students has been tremendous. The CWF board has evolved, and is continuing to evolve, into a board that can support the growing ministry of CWF. As we have increased our ministry scope, many of the local congregations have recognized the ministry that the Spirit is empowering and responded with providing meals for our students, helping add CWF to their annual budget, and helping with fundraisers. Additionally, individuals have become monthly ministry partners, helping to fund our ministry needs.

Yet, even with these struggles, maybe even more so because of these struggles, we can testify that the Kingdom of God is still advancing on our campuses. This leads me once again, in the spirit of faithfulness to Christ's calling upon us as a Church, to pray you will find ever increasing ways to support the Wesley Foundations and college ministry in your local area. The fields are ripe for the harvest if we as a Church are willing to give our prayer, presence, service, resources, gifts, and witness to these students in our midst.

In Christ,

*Aaron Meadows, Campus Pastor and Director
Tasha James, Associate Campus Pastor*

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

This is a great time to serve in campus ministry. As I wrap up my fourth year at Clemson Wesley (CW) there are many things to celebrate with you. CW and Clemson UMC (CUMC) continue to work closely in a covenant relationship to reach the students, faculty and staff at our local institutions. As in past years we have connected with over 600 students this school year. Several hundred students call CUMC home for Sunday morning worship, while hundreds more are active in CW.

Over the course of the last year we had over 95 students total participate in weeklong mission trips to New Orleans, Beaufort, SC and the Bahamas. In addition to these week long trips our students also engage in weekly outreach to the local community. These weekly service opportunities include working at an animal shelter, retirement home, talking with people in homelessness and volunteering at a soup kitchen. Students at CW also engage in over 10 different small group opportunities throughout the week. We have two worship services, Evening and Eventide, which average 85 and 45 in attendance, respectively. In all that we do CW continues to be a place that welcomes all students as they are, treats them like family, helps them grow in their faith and find ways to serve both God and neighbor.

One of the challenges and celebrations of campus ministry is that we must operate with an intense sense of urgency. In four years we've sent 8 groups of graduates into the world. Needless to say there is little time to spare when operating with a 4 year window, at best, to impact the lives of students.

On the flip side, this constant welcome and sending of students creates excitement. Our mission in the UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There are not many contexts like mine where I literally send 25% of my congregation into the world each year with the hopes of greater transformation. Each year we send graduates to seminary or into the candidacy process. This year two more CW alumni graduated from seminary while another five students are still pursuing their M.Div. degrees. Equally as important, each year we send dozens of teachers, nurses, engineers and business people into the world to live and serve others from a gospel perspective. As hard as it is to see these students leave, there is also a great sense of optimism knowing that they are today's new leaders. We are sending them into your communities and churches.

Investing in vital campus ministries that are bearing tangible fruit is an investment in the future of the UMC and the communities we live in. It is my hope that the S.C. Conference will continue to fund and even increase funding for campus ministries. Bishop Holston encourages us to dream God sized dreams and we desperately need God-sized vision for our campus ministries.

Many of you already understand the importance of this great ministry. All that we do at CW would not be possible without all of the Sunday school classes, men's and women's groups, youth pastors, clergy, individuals and congregations across the conference who faithfully support Clemson Wesley through apportionments and special gifts. It is an honor to partner with you as we reach out to our young adults on campus.

*Rev. Steve Simoneaux
Director, Clemson Wesley Foundation
Campus Minister, Clemson UMC*

COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION- METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

The reign of God is breaking in upon us, even now, Jesus proclaimed. As people are healed, the good news proclaimed, the captives set free and the blind made to see, the reality of God's healing, reconciling and transforming power is manifest in our midst. The reign of God is breaking into the lives of students at the University of South Carolina and into the campus ministry called the Methodist Student Network (Wesley Foundation) as we worship, serve each other and especially the "least of these", learn about the mysteries of faith, offer hospitality, work for justice and work for the full realization of God's rule. The Methodist Student Network is a Pentecost community of faith comprised of students from many faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds. It is a community striving to be hospitable to all regardless of background, language, sexual orientation or maturity of faith. We are young, imperfect but passionate about the spiritual life and are intentional about living it out in practical and faithful ways. These are some of the signs of the reign of God breaking in among us.

We serve on nine occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, offer words of encouragement and serve Holy Communion. We tutor and mentor three times a week after school at Bethel AME Church in an afterschool program. We work every week with immigrant refugees from Burma in a gardening project and teaching basic English. Additionally we serve on many other occasions and contexts such as Epworth's Children's' Home, the Tucker Center, Rural Mission, Agape and Harvest Hope.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year we took seven different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to Baton Rouge to do flood relief. We also traveled to the Sea Islands twice to aid in the work with Rural Mission and also to Hilton Head Island to help after the hurricane. We worked in Columbia over winter break for to continue the work necessitated by the flooding from over 2 years ago. Over spring Break we went on mission to Barahona Dominican Republic, where we did a variety service including offering a dental and optometry clinic. In May we traveled to Malawi to work with the AME church offering a health clinic, programs with children and building a model for future mission teams.

About 75 students gather in small groups throughout the week support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. We have two Freshman group, several coed groups, a graduate group and bible/theology study groups and a group geared to medical students. We also have a men's and a women's group. We have based these groups on a Covenant Discipleship model. This year we held four retreats involving some 200 students to allow concentrated time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God.

We **worship** Sunday evening in a lively and joyous manner utilizing the various gifts of students and a diversity of traditions from the global church. Afterwards we eat together a meal donated by a local United Methodist church of prepared by our students. We include elements of worship in other settings including the small groups.

The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and meet to talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries. We have a dinner group for internationals that meets bi weekly and continue to work with students and other religious organizations to build interfaith relations. The Table of Abraham was one of the projects we sponsored. We also host a daily NA group and the Lutheran campus Ministry at USC.

This year we have 5 very recent alums of MSN enrolled in seminary and a number of current students who are exploring the ordained ministry.

Sincere thanks to all the people and churches that support this connectional ministry. This ministry would not be possible without it. Thanks to the Board members, local churches, Sunday school classes, UM Men's and Women's groups. We are grateful that they are so helpful. And, of course, thanks to my students and staff. They are what make us as vital and dynamic as we are. Thanks be to God for all of you.

*Tom Wall, United Methodist Campus Minister
Columbia Wesley Foundation Director*

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

What a wonderful year for the group of students with Alive in Christ Student Ministries, The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University. Alive in Christ Student Ministries just completed their 24th year of ministry at the end of 2016. The year was full of opportunities to show the love of Jesus to others and opportunities to grow in their faith together.

The students have had the opportunity to gather each week for fellowship, food, guest speakers, bible study and worship. Other opportunities for outreach in the community were collecting food and money for needy school kids in Florence. This event was so well liked that they participated in it twice. We also enjoyed working in OMships warehouse helping to supply Christian books around the world. The students raised money on campus for the Pee Dee Coalition with their annual dunking both fundraiser.

Thanks to great support we were able to go on two spiritual life retreats in 2016. The students participated in the First Winter Wesley Retreat at Asbury Hills in February for college students from across South Carolina, sponsored by the South Carolina Conference. Students were challenged in small group discussions and also challenged by mountain hiking. In November Alive in Christ students were able to attend Next in Atlanta Georgia. Next was sponsored by The General Board of Higher Education, Collegiate Ministry Area. College students from all across the United States came together this spiritual event. Students participated in for worship, mission activities, discussion, fellowship, and had the opportunity to hear great spiritual speakers. Next was a life-changing event that will forever have an impact on those students who had the opportunity to attend. Both of these were inspiring spiritual events.

No year would be complete with out our spring kayaking trip, where we spend time outside in God's creation. To date no one has been "baptized" on the trip.

For a lot of our students this is the first time they have had to the opportunity to participate in kayaking.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a few words from one of our students who graduated this year.

"The group Alive in Christ, The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University, to me means unity. I love how the group accepts people from diverse backgrounds. AIC means family because we are always there to uplift those that may need prayer, an encouraging word or a simple hello. AIC has helped me become a better me. I've been able to examine my walk with Christ on a deeper level. I love how this group allows myself and others, to grow spiritually and became disciples for Christ. AIC is truly a blessing from God because this group has helped me through my rough times." -J Belinger

I would like to thank to all those who support our campus ministries in various ways. May God Bless.

Lou Jordan, Campus Director

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

We read in the Bible where Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. Often when we tell that story, or reflect on it, we focus on the Samaritan who stops to help the wounded man after others have passed by. However, there is another interesting moment in the story where

we read [about the lawyer asking Jesus the questions], “But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” It is a line that has gone almost unnoticed by me in the past, it has appeared as just the “setup line” for Jesus to tell this parable. This year, however, our Furman Wesley has explored what it means that we “try to JUSTIFY” ourselves when it comes to this question, “Who is my neighbor?” It is true, I think, that we wish to define neighbor in a way that is easy, comfortable, and convenient; we hope by this definition to justify ourselves and our actions. Unfortunately, it is not that easy, as this parable illustrates. The backdrop of this exploration came from the book, *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon.

On a college campus, there are many reasons NOT to reach out to others – time is of the essence, fear in reaching out to the other, not sure the best way initiate the conversation, or we aren’t comfortable in receiving from them. There are many ways we seek to “justify” ourselves. But, the call to “love your neighbor as yourself,” cuts down every excuse and calls us to a life of love, justice, and mercy. My hope is that through our conversations, my students, and of course myself, were challenged to take seriously Jesus’ command to the young lawyer, “Go and do likewise!”

We are brothers and sisters in Christ, called to a common purpose. On the college campus, that purpose is education, growth, and discovery. In our Christian walk that purpose is to love, to offer grace and mercy, and to transform the world. As we gather with our “family” at Furman Wesley, we hope always to use this time of education, growth, and discovery as opportunities to be transformed into disciples of our loving, grace-filled, and merciful Savior, Jesus Christ.

In addition to our weekly Tuesday night meetings [Wesley Gathering], in which we share a snack, singing, devotion/program, and prayers, this year we also had:

- Began the year with a gathering of 30+ students as we kicked off our new year.
- During the first month of classes, we visiting local UMC churches – designed to give students an introduction to local churches in the hopes that they may find a home of worship while at Furman.
- Freshmen Small Group Meetings – designed to help new students assimilate into college life. This year we returned to our model of meeting every week throughout the year.
- Monthly Sophomore & Junior Group Meetings – designed to help the students deal with issues of being a full-time student and the changes that happen in our lives as we get older and more involved in campus life.
- Monthly Senior Group Meetings – designed to provide graduating seniors a place to wrestle with issues of life after college.
- Weekly Lunch in the Dining Hall
- Weekly Office Hours for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Retreats – i.e., Mountain Getaway, Fall Retreat in the mountains, and Spring Retreat at Lake Hartwell.
- Missional Outreach – i.e., Work with Habitat Restore, Spring Break Missions in New York City, and Relay for Life
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Lake Day, Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Wesley Winter Day [skating, dinner, & hockey game], Movie Nights, Senior Luau

We know that as students get more involved in their classes and other campus events, their time becomes precious; as a result, it is our desire to provide the students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship, and service. We hope our Furman Wesley can be a “home” for our students and a “family” with which they can “Be, Belong, Connect, and Engage.”

Furman, Greenville, and the UMC are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young leaders who are passionate about their faith and living out that faith in their everyday life. We are truly blessed, and thankful, for all of the love, support, and prayers that we have been afforded by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, Campus Minister

ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

“If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you’re not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later.” (Sir Richard Charles Nicholas Branson)

What an amazing opportunity to serve as Director and Campus Minister for Orangeburg Wesley! It is with great joy and appreciation to offer this report. The ministry continues to flourish, and 2016 was a banner year. We experienced tremendous success in financial support, participation from students, and Board leadership.

Orangeburg Wesley celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2015. The production of an anniversary booklet that included the historical narrative, allowed us to continue the celebration until April of 2016. This is the month of the initial planning meetings for the development of a Wesley Foundation in Orangeburg. The program and reception were hosted by Trinity United Methodist

Church – the place where the ministry began in the basement and provided effective ministry for ten years. The facility at 171 Boulevard Street was built and dedicated in 1985. The Anniversary, to be held in April, has become the signature fundraising event and a time for churches in the district to receive a mission offering for Orange Wesley Foundation (OWF).

We continue to participate in the Annual Community Expo at Claflin University. At the Expo, potential student volunteers have an opportunity to learn about OWF and receive information to help them in their volunteer selection process. Additionally, we participated in Open House at South Carolina State University.

The Annual Welcome Back Cookout was held in September with more than one hundred students in attendance. This event is used to introduce students to OWF, secure contact information, and include them in GROUPE, a process designed to keep in contact and share information and events with students. At the cookout, the students enjoyed music, hotdogs, burgers, chips, drinks, and various other delicious items prepared and served by members of the Board.

C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) is another event that is used to welcome students to OWF. Some young adults wanted to engage in activities that stimulated their intellectual curiosity and spiritual questioning. During C.A.M.E.O., students are invited to share their challenges and joys, participate in engaging Bible study, experience challenging history trivia, exciting games, motivational speakers, fun exercise, and healthy meals.

Students participated in the first annual Clean Sweep for Orangeburg County. It provided quality time for students to openly communicate with others as they clean the streets and roads within the County. Various festive events were held to include graduation celebrations, serving Thanksgiving dinner for students who did not go home for the holidays, as well as a Christmas fellowship.

Several students attended the NEXT Conference in Atlanta, Georgia that was sponsored by the Board of Higher Education Collegiate Ministry. The event provided time for the students to hear motivating messages, participate in small group sharing, network, and attend workshops that occurred throughout the City. Our group walked from downtown Atlanta to the new Board of Global Ministries site. It was, perhaps, the most walking the students had done in their entire lives. It was a fun day that encompassed great exercise!

I am delighted to spend such quality time with the young adults. It has become two-way teaching and learning: I continue to learn from them, and conversely, I have teachable moments and share experiences and wisdom with them. Walking down the aisles of Walmart or eating lunch, oftentimes, are when some of the most profound faith sharing and counseling occurs. Moreover, in an effort to remain current with the rapid pace of technology, it is our goal to continue to reach students with an upgrade in our technology and website.

As Orangeburg Wesley continues to evolve and grow, the future looks exceptionally promising for this young ministry. Thanks be to God for this amazing opportunity!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Constance "Connie" Barnes, Director & Campus Ministry

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Relationships are key to successful ministry. As much as preaching, discipleship, service, missions, and everything else we do matters, fruitful ministry is most often the product of groups of people who genuinely care about and love each other. At the **Winthrop Wesley Foundation**, we experience that truth anew every fall when our returning students come back together after the summer break and we also welcome an influx of new students searching for a campus ministry home.

During this critical time of year we devote a significant amount of time and resources to building relationships because we know that our ability to impact individual students as well as our campus and community hinges upon whether or not our group members experience the love of Christ in and through each other. According to one of our new students, God continues to bless us with success: "I have grown so much closer to God and met some of the most amazing people [at Wesley] that are definitely my best friends for life." (Hunter Hill, *Freshman*) One of our returning students echoes the sentiment: "I have found some of my greatest friends in Wesley, all while getting the chance to worship together... The Wesley Foundation will always be one of my favorite experiences as a college student." (Rebecca Fisher, *Senior*)

Hunter, Rebecca, and numerous other young persons continue to experience the love of Christ, to grow in faith, and to live out that love and faith in meaningful ways as part of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation. Through weekly meals, worship services, bible studies, small groups, service projects, mission trips, retreats, and fun activities our ministry is constantly impacting college students in powerful and life-changing ways. They are learning to love God more deeply, to care for and serve those in need, and to apply what they believe to everything life throws at them, but all of it starts with- and is made possible by- the relationships that they form with each other.

As important as student relationships are to our ministry, though, our relationships with those whom support what we do are also a vital component of the success with which God has blessed us. In short, Winthrop Wesley continues to grow and thrive because of you - the churches, groups, individuals, and members of our conference who generously pour out your prayers, encouragement, gifts, and resources so that we might continue making young disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you for everything you do to enable our students to develop lifelong, life-changing relationships with God and with each other.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Ricky Howell, Campus Minister

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The work of the 2017-2020 Board of Ordained Ministry began many years before our first meeting of the new quadrennium. The vision and leadership of previous boards has contributed to the progress that we continue to make in the efforts to develop effective leadership for those persons called to a ministry vocation. As the BOM continues to carefully and conscientiously read and evaluate candidates' Theology and Doctrine and Call and Disciplined Life questions, Sermons, Contextual Projects, and Bible Studies we celebrate the gifted candidates who strive to give their best in serving the Church of Jesus Christ.

Seven members of the Board of Ordained Ministry (Rev. Fran Elrod, Rev. Morris Waymer, Rev. Mel Arant, Rev. Mary Johnson, Rev. Angela Marshall, Rev. Neal Woods, Rev. Terry Fleming) and Rev. Ken Nelson, Coordinator of Clergy Services attended the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Board of Ordained Ministry Quadrennial Training in Chicago in October 2016. At the November 2016 meeting of the BOM, these members presented educational information to the BOM to better equip the board to do their work more effectively and efficiently.

In a holy time of worship on June 5, 2017 we will celebrate the fruit of persons who have heard the call to ministry, successfully navigated the requirements for commissioning and ordination. These persons are valued as meeting the standards of "readiness" and "effectiveness" for ministry in the local church and other ministry settings. Sixteen persons will be ordained Elder, one will be ordained Deacon, eight will be commissioned Provisional Elder, and one will be commissioned Provisional Deacon. We give thanks for their hard work and ask God's blessing on their continued journey in ministry.

Excellence in ministry continues to be the major focus for the BOM as we seek to strengthen and discover effective ways of developing good leadership in and for the church in an ever-changing culture. We are aware of the need to acknowledge creative and adaptive leadership while maintaining a Wesleyan tradition and spirit as we move forward in and with the culture. The BOM is actively listening to the needs of the clergy and laity of the SC Annual Conference so that through Covenant Groups, Bishop's School of Ministry, Clergy Gatherings, and greater involvement with each District Committee on Ordained Ministry we can offer relative and meaningful training and experiences that will enhance leadership development and the mission of the Church.

Since the Cabinet and BOM retreat in February 2016, there has been a concerted effort from both to create and maintain supportive and cooperative conversation that assists in providing excellence in leadership. We continue to be clear that the BOM's primary roles are leadership development and credentialing, while the Cabinet's primary roles are as missional strategists, supervisors, and appointment-making. Together we believe that the cooperative efforts have been fruitful with our intentional and ongoing dialogue.

As our conference continues to realize the increasing number of potential retirees in the next five to seven years, the BOM is working toward strengthening recruitment ministry candidates and retention of clergy in conference. We are soliciting the assistance of recent seminary graduates as recruitment connections with United Methodist seminaries, encouraging local churches, campus ministries, and other United Methodist ministries to prayerfully consider persons who are exhibiting gifts for ministry and engage them in conversation with clergy, as well as involve them in the numerous ministry settings of the United Methodist Church. Realizing we also have an increasing number of Local Pastors, the BOM seeks to strengthen the relationship among Local Pastors through group mentoring in each district as well as through the Fellowship of Local Pastors.

As always, we are grateful for the churches and the Annual Conference for ongoing support for the Ministerial Education Fund. Through the generosity of so many, the BOM has been able to provide assistance to students to reduce the cost of seminary and Course of Study. This past year \$99,750.00 was disbursed for seminarians and \$37,200.00 for the Course of Study totaling \$136,950.00. This year the BOM decided to increase the amount for each funding tier, and to add an additional funding tier to assist with the cost of the School of Pastoral Formation.

Also through the generosity of the churches in SC Annual Conference, the BOM is able to offer scholarships to assist persons called to ministry to achieve the necessary education to

equip them for ministry. This year we are delighted to announce the following scholarship recipients (report attached):

The T. Dennis Smith Scholarship:

Shirley P. Gordon \$2,500

The SC Conference Seminary Students Scholarship:

Rachel Whaley Carter \$1,500

Cynthia Wolfe Muncie \$1,500

Emma McClain Mathis \$1,500

Nona Margaret Woodle \$1,500

The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship:

Frances Hillary Taylor \$4,000

In addition, the BOM also provides summer internship funding for up to three seminary students to assist with further equipping for ministry while serving in a ministry setting that may benefit from additional summer staffing and ministry development.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry that are committed to meeting often with all candidates for ministry – exploring and certified candidates, all local pastors, and provisional members. The DCOM's faithfulness to this important ministry and their dedication to serving a most important role in leadership development is paramount as their prayerfully discern the fitness, readiness, and effectiveness of candidates who may one day be our pastor. The BOM is grateful for the hard work of every District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

The BOM would also like to recognize persons who reached a milestone in their preparation for effective ministry.

The following person(s) complete the five year Basic Course of Study in 2016: Anthony Alford, Kenneth C. Burr, Kenneth D. Freeman, Jr., Lewis Christopher King III, Merritt Robert Wentz.

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and personally, we are grateful for the faithful and consummate leadership of Rev. Ken Nelson, Coordinator Clergy Services, and Ms. Martha Long, Administrative Assistant. The work of the BOM could not be done as smoothly and effectively without the blessing of their guidance, leadership, knowledge and professionalism.

The BOM is also grateful for the leadership of Bishop Jonathan Holston as he engages us in all matters of nurture and accountability, and as we seek to be faithful in our mission to make and nurture disciples for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Fran M. Elrod, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

A CABINET RESPONSE TO INEFFECTIVE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Approved by Cabinet 12/9/16 and Approved by BOM 2/18/17

Approved by S.C. Annual Conference 6/5/17

I. A Process for Complying with Par. 334.3,4 2016 Book of Discipline

- a. Identify (Par. 334.3,4 – First Sentences) Use Par. 340 of the 2016 Book of Discipline
- b. Use Par. 334.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline
- c. Each Full Elder will be asked to read and sign a copy of this Effectiveness Policy document during their annual consultation with their District Superintendent. (This is to ensure that all Full Elders are aware of and informed of this process).

II. Pastoral Ineffectiveness

Definition of Ineffective Pastor: An ineffective pastor is characterized by one or more, but not limited to, the following characteristics:

- a. Unwillingness to focus on the work of the parish
- b. Poor relational skills
- c. Inability to work through conflict in a healthy, effective way
- d. Indolence – sloth – “laziness”
- e. Failure to fulfill the requirements of Par. 340 of the 2016 Book of Discipline

III. Potential Reasons for Alleging Ineffectiveness

- a. Service record – frequent moves (for example, three consecutive appointments lasting only one or two years)
- b. S.C. Clergy Assessment Documents from the local church SPRC
- c. Reports and reviews of District Superintendents
- d. History of church's effectiveness before and after the “ineffective” pastor
- e. Pattern of ineffectiveness as defined in Section II above

IV. Recommendations for Responding to the Ineffective Pastor

- a. Identify areas that need to be strengthened. The District Superintendent will also share a copy of the policy on pastoral ineffectiveness with the pastor and have him or her initial the copy after reading.

- b. Identify resources that offer the pastor opportunities to strengthen the areas, and develop a plan to strengthen ministerial skills.
- c. Review previous evaluations (five years of evaluations to be kept in pastor's file if possible) including personal notes of evaluation provided annually. These personal evaluations include supervisory notes updated annually such as phone conversations, meetings with pastor and communications from SPRC.
- d. Use pastor's profile (updated annually in pastor's file) to establish appointment record.
- e. Review local congregation's effectiveness in years prior and following pastor's tenure.
- f. Present name to Bishop and Cabinet. Gather information from other Superintendents for the file. The Cabinet votes to identify specific clergy person as one whose "effectiveness is in question."

V. Communicate & Intervene

- a. Bishop and Superintendent identify specific concerns. (334.3a, 2016 BOD)
- b. The District Superintendent, as an extension of the Bishop's office, shall work in consultation with the Bishop, to carry out the following supervisory process:
- c. Supervisory conversations with elder identifies the concerns, and designs collaboratively with the elder a corrective plan of action (334.3b 2016 BOD)

During this supervisory process, we plan to accomplish the following:

- 1. provide the pastor with a written statement of concerns
 - 2. provide an opportunity for pastor to respond to those concerns
 - 3. develop a corrective plan of action (334.3b 2016 BOD)
1. A corrective plan of action will ordinarily include appropriate activities that enhance the pastor's self-development and growth. This plan shall be approved by the District Superintendent, in consultation with the Cabinet and the SPRC. See Addendum for the list of resources available to clergy.
Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited, to the following:
 - a. Meeting regularly with one or more of the following: a trained clergy mentor, a certified coach, a professional counselor, a certified spiritual director.
 - b. Engaging in continuing education that addresses areas in need of improvement.
 - c. Continuing education and spiritual growth leave (P. 350.3 2016 BOD)
 - d. Participation in a clergy covenant learning/support group.
 - e. Assessments of emotional, mental, or physical health.
 2. Ongoing Supervision. Superintendents will monitor progress as follows:
 - a. Regularly scheduled meetings as agreed upon with District Superintendent and pastor
 - b. Review of SC Clergy Assessment Document, feedback from Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee, feedback from assigned coaches, counselor, mentor, etc., and observation of the pastor in leadership within the congregation.
 3. Request release of information authorization from coaches, counselor, mentors, or any professional assigned to guide pastor in corrective plan of action.
 4. These plan elements may be added to, deleted from, or altered as circumstances dictate.

VI. Evaluate and Conclude (334.3c 2016 BOD)

- a. If sufficient improvement occurs within twenty-four months, (or at any time prior to the end of twenty-four months) the Superintendent will resume normal supervisory activities and the corrective
- b. If at any time the plan is clearly not being followed by the pastor or there is not measureable improvement, (334.3c 2016 BOD) or if the conditions stated in (334.4 2016 BOD) are found to exist, the Bishop and Superintendents may invoke the provisions of P. 359.2, 2016 BOD.

**Addendum to Cabinet Response to Ineffectiveness Pastoral Leadership
Resources for Enhancing Pastoral Effectiveness**

1. Ministry Development Services – ministerial assessments, vocational counseling, coaching and counseling
<http://www.ministryds.org>
6100 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270
(704) 554-9222, mdvs@ministryds.org
2. Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders
Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, www.LMPeaceCenter.org
3. Mark Tidsworth – M.Div, Master of Education in Clinical Counseling, Ordained Cooperative Baptist Minister, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Trained Congregational Consultant, Certified Leadership Coach, Certified Life Coach,

- Certified Peoplemap Trainer, EQi Emotional Intelligence Inventory Provider
Pinnacle Leadership Associates, <http://www.pinnaclelead.com>
markt@pinnaclelead.com, (803) 673-3634
574 Foxstone Drive, Chapin, SC 29036
4. Rev. Regina Henderson Moore
Extension Ministry: The Riverside Group, NC Conference, UMC
Certified PIP Coach
102 Falling Leaf Lane, Elgin, SC 29045
919-616-4462, moore@nccumc.org
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/regina-henderson-moore-517759118/>
 5. Mrs. Toni Taylor – (wife of Rev. David Taylor)- trained, certified coach
tonitaylor@gmail.com, 864-420-4606
 6. WaterRock Institute, Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson - Certified Life Coach and Licensed Pastoral Counselor. Offices in Spartanburg and Asheville.
<http://waterrockinstitute.org>
heidi@waterrockinstitute.org
hcampbell-robinson@umcsc.org
828-393-4190
 7. Dr. Bonnie J. Montgomery
Consultant, Coach, and Licensed Clinical Psychologist
1528 Blanding Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-252-9444
bonnie@bonniejmontgomery.com
 8. Rev. Kathy Heustess – UMC Deacon; licensed professional counselor
Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center
<http://www.coastalsamaritan.org/>
(843)448-4820
ktheustess@umcsc.org
901 North Kings Highway
PO Box 2967, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 9. Mt. Hebron Counseling Services, Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church
<http://www.mthebroncounseling.com>
(803) 791-0495
3156 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169
 10. Gayle Hickman, LISW—AP & CP/S, Marriage and Family Therapist
125 Alpine Circle, Columbia, SC 29223
 11. The Intentional Growth Center
<http://www.lakejunaluska.com/igc>
959 North Lakeshore Drive
PO Box 546, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
1-800-482-1442, 828-454-6720
 12. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has been nurturing United Methodist clergy coaches with Certification from the International Coach Federation (ICF) since 2013 as a response to increasing demand for coaching for pastoral leadership. We have produced approximately 30 Associate Certified and Professional Certified United Methodist clergy coaches. These clergy coaches are committed to serving the church with their coaching skills. <https://www.umccybercampus.com/coaching/find-coach/> at the UMC Cyber Campus website, www.umccybercampus.com, and utilize UMC ICF certified coaches for clergy assessment, leadership development, the ordination process, and to nurture clergy effectiveness. To learn more about our Clergy Coach Training program, please go to <https://www.umccybercampus.com/coaching/>.
 13. Catherine Powell - Spiritual Director, The Anchorage
<http://www.theanchorage.org/spiritualdirection.htm>
PO Box 9091, Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 232-5683, cathie@theanchorage.org
 14. Seminaries offer leadership and continuing education, including but not limited to: Duke Divinity School, Candler School of Theology, ITC, Gammon, Lenoir Rhyne/Lutheran Theological Seminary, Wesley Seminary Center for Church Leadership
 15. S.C. Board of Ministry Continuing Education Covenant Groups

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

PENSION SECTION

Report Number One

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **\$781** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers under the Supplement One of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (otherwise known as Pre-82) for 2018. (This rate was \$765 for the year 2017.) This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$5,440,167** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

C. **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for
Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons
of the South Carolina Annual Conference**

The South Carolina Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergy-persons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the Wespath Benefits & Investments, during the years 2016, 2017, and 2018 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the Wespath Benefits/Investments and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

- D. For 2018, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health

Benefits an amount equal to \$497 per month for Full Time clergy for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for all full time clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. (This rate was \$492 per month for the year 2017.) An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 1% by the participating pastor in his/her United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Any surplus funds collected will be used for actuarial and collection smoothing. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2018, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with Wespeth Benefits & Investments, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister under appointment is current. Churches/charges participating in the ACH automated payment system may receive up to a \$10.00 per month discount on their pension payment.

- E. For 2018, each institution, organization or district to which a part time minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to Wespeth Benefits & Investments, an amount equal to twelve percent for participation in a defined contribution 403b pension program called the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). For all clergy who are under Episcopal appointment and considered part time (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference, the salary paying unit shall pay an amount equal to 9.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation for the matching portion of the defined contribution portion of the UMPIP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 3% by the participating pastor in their United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Each church with a less than full time clergy will be required to complete an adoption agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, prior to November 1, 2015. The pension cost, both the church's share and the participant's match, will be billed from Wespeth Benefits & Investments.
- F. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- G. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense reimbursement grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers, participants in the Voluntary Transition Program, or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

Report Two 2018 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

Requirement	2017 Budgeted	2018 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	\$2,774,019.00	\$2,670,400.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,508,000.00	1,544,192.00
CRSP Welfare Plan (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,196,851.00	1,225,575.00
Clergy Transition*	126,825.00	126,000.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$5,635,695.00	5,596,167.00
Estimated Income		
Institutional Payments	409,656.00	
Apportionment*	156,825.00	156,000.00
Direct Bill Payments	4,726,980.00	5,440,167.00
Total Estimated Income	\$5,293,461.00	5,425,239.00

***Amount to be apportioned**

Clergy Transition*	126,000.00	126,000.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	\$156,000.00	\$156,000.00

* To be apportioned

*Christopher M. Lollis , Chairperson
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

GROUP INSURANCE SECTION

Report Number One

The insurance program of the South Carolina Conference is designed to provide its eligible employees (as defined herein), and their eligible dependents, with a comprehensive plan for major medical benefits and a Medicare supplement. The following are eligible for coverage under the program:

1. Those employed and funded by a local church either as Full or Three-Quarter (3/4) time Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Provisional Elders, within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time or Three-Quarter Time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
5. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.
6. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.
7. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.
8. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under Episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

9. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, Deacons in Full Connection, Provisional Deacons, Provisional Deacons/1992, and Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the Annual Conference on the current advanced premium.
10. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference. Funding shall be \$200.00 per month for single participant and \$400.00 per month for Married participants and an additional \$200 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six. (This funding is expected to be \$100.00 per month for single participant and \$100.00 per month for Married participants and an additional \$100 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six for those retirees retiring after 2015). This funding will be paid through a Health Reimbursement Account. This funding cannot be allowed to purchase an employer group policy other than one sponsored or administered by the Annual Conference or its designee. Enrollment in the HRA must be done through the AmWins Benefits Coordinator.

Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits

During the year 2016-2017 the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, the Board recommends the following:

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected to participate in Health Flex Exchange, managed health care plan of Wespath Benefits & Investments for active participants and eligible dependents.

This Healthflex Exchange provides an array of plans to help meet the needs of our appointed clergy and eligible lay employees. These plans include the following:

1. B1000-P1 Plan—This plan is a preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan with a deductible of \$1,000 per individual or a \$2,000 Family Deductible. This plan has no Health Reimbursement or Health Savings Account included.
2. Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) CDHP C2000—This plan is a Consumer Drive Health Plan with a deductible of \$2,000 for an individual or \$4,000 for a family. This plan has a Health Reimbursement account associated with it of \$1,000 for Individual coverage or \$2,000 for Participant plus One Dependent or Participant plus Family.
3. Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) CDHP C3000—This plan is a Consumer Driven Health Plan with a deductible of \$3,000 for an individual or \$6,000 for a family. This plan has a Health Reimbursement account associated with it of \$250 for Individual coverage or \$500 for Participant plus One Dependent or Participant plus Family.
4. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H1500—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$1,500 for an individual or \$3,000 for a family. There is a Health Saving Account available of \$750 for the individual or \$1,500 for family. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.
5. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H2000—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$2,000 for an individual or \$4,000 for a family. There is a Health Saving Account available of \$500 for the individual or \$1,000 for family. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.
6. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H3000—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$3,000 for an individual or \$6,000 for a family. There is no Health Saving Account available under this plan. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.

In addition to one of the coverages above, there will be two optional benefits available: an expanded vision benefit and a dental plan. This will be in addition to a coverage selected from the ones above.

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2017 and 2018. Details of this plan are available on Wespath Benefits & Investments website under the Center for Health tab which describes the current incentive program. These wellness and incentive programs support and encourage participants and spouses to choose healthy behaviors that help positive health results. An active participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$400 under this plan.

The incentive plan for 2018 is expected to continue to emphasize Completion of the HealthQuotient™ during August to September, Blueprint for Wellness Screenings during the period April to July, and participation in wellness activities year round.

Additional information on the major medical expense plan is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Report Number Three Retiree Medicare Primary Benefits

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering their Post 65 retirees one group Medicare supplement option and an option to chose a Supplemental Plan through the Retiree Benefits Choice™ through AmWINS Group Benefits. One medical plan option will be similar to the current retiree plan and will be called the Standard plan. The additional option will be a hybrid Medicare Exchange by which a retiree can choose a plan from the Medicare Marketplace. There will be corresponding Rx options with the Standard Plan.

AmWINS Group Benefits will be the administrator for the retiree benefit plans. AmWINS Group Benefits specializes in retiree benefit programs for companies, municipalities and religious organizations. AGB has over 700 retiree benefit clients nationally.

AmWINS Group Benefits will provide the following services for the retirees of The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church:

- Retiree communications enrollment kit
- Group retiree meetings
- Retiree call center services
- Retiree website
- Billing and collecting of premiums
- Ongoing service and support for retirees

A handbook explaining the provisions of Medicare is available from any district office of the Social Security Administration.

Report Number Four Administrative Procedures

Enrollment in HealthFlex, the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, must be made within the first thirty days of eligibility or the first day actively at work. Late enrollment or enrollment for January 1st of any year must be completed with the Wespath Benefits & Investments during open enrollment which is prior to November 30th of the preceding year. It should be noted that any continuation, changes, or initiation of Flexible Spending Accounts (Medical Reimbursement or dependent care accounts) must be done during this time through the open enrollment process and not on the ministerial support form.

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Center for Health of Wespath Benefits & Investments, 1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 660025-1604.

Billing: At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send premium statements to the salary paying unit of the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and participants with Flexible Spending Accounts. Payments for group health premiums and Flexible Spending Accounts premiums shall be made on a monthly basis. At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send a statement to the salary paying units share of premiums relating to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program. These payments should be made on a monthly basis.

Cancellation of Coverage: It is imperative that each participant in the Conference Insurance Program keeps his/her premium payments current. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has instructed the benefits administrator to cancel the insurance coverage or the Flexible Spending Account of any participant who does not pay his/her premium by the end of the month for which he/she has been billed. Clergy who are 60 days in arrears will be subject to immediate cancellation. Once cancelled the participant's coverage cannot be reinstated until the next open enrollment period, and then only if the unpaid balance has been paid. Churches or salary paying units are responsible for withholding premiums and other Flexible Spending

Accounts from the compensation of participants and remitting payment to the Annual Conference when billed.

Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries: It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the "institutional share" of the insured's premium. This provision shall apply to the District Superintendents, Conference Staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the quarterly "Statement of Account". Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. The change enrollment form must be completed and in the hands of the benefits administrator within 30 days from the date of eligibility. If not, the applicant will be ineligible until the next following enrollment period.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits is charged with oversight of the group insurance program of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the benefits of which program are outlined in the reports of the Board submitted to the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference approves the group insurance budget of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board is authorized to negotiate and contract with carriers or the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Administrator to maintain the level of benefits for the eligible participants, as defined by the Annual Conference.

The group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference (Conference Plan) shall be the plan of first refusal for covering dependents of clergy appointed to local churches in the Conference. Where covered clergy wish to cover their dependents, the local church will seek to cover such dependents through the Conference Plan, rather than purchasing outside health insurance. Local churches may be excused from this requirement in cases where such dependents may be covered through the employer of a covered clergyperson's spouse, or through a governmental plan, such as an SCHIP, and in cases of demonstrable financial hardship.

Report Number Five Group Health Insurance Operating Budget

Requirements	2017 Budgeted	2018 Estimated
Active and Non-Medicare Retiree Group		
Participant Only	\$2,863,080.00	2,937,408.00
Participant + One	\$2,415,576.00	2,230,608.00
Participant + Family	2,981,772.00	3,284,280.00
Total Estimated Active Group	\$8,260,428.00	8,452,296.00
Requirements	2017 Budgeted	2018 Estimated
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Defined Contribution		\$1,161,935.00
Prior Service Amortization		327,161.00
Participant	720,400.00	
Participant +1 (Spouse)	418,295.00	
Participant less Part D Medicare	23,240.00	
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	\$1,161,935.00	1,489,096.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	\$9,423,363.00	9,941,392.00
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	167,000.00	167,000.00
Contribution to Post Retirement Medical Reserve	703,496.00	703,496.00
Supplement Insurance Defined Contributions	973,504.00	973,504.00
Total Estimated Other	868,016.00	1,844,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$10,291,379.00	\$11,785,392.00
Estimated Income		
Billing to salary Paying Units	6,000,708.00	5,969,880.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,844,000.00	1,844,000.00
From Insured	2,014,776.00	2,049,568.00
From Other	0.00	1,489,096.00
From Institutional Payments	289,847.00	432,848.00
Total Estimated Income	\$10,176,042.00	\$11,785,392.00

Amount to be Apportioned*

Incapacitated and Transitional Funding	167,000.00	167,000.00
Post Retirement Health Funding	1,703,000.00	1,677,000.00
Total	\$1,834,000.00	\$1,844,000.00

* Apportioned to churches.

**Report Number Six
2018 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2017 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,969,880 be billed to the local church/charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2018.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$2,000,000.00:
 - a. \$ 156,000.00 for Transitional Pension Funding.
 - b. \$ 167,000.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - c. \$1,677,000.00 for Post Retirement Health Funding.
3. Effective January 1, 2018 , premium payments be set as estimated below:
 - a. Active personal group insurance health premiums for eligible active clergy/ survivor/conference lay employee categories (Categories delineated in 1,2,3,4, and 8 of Report Number one) shall funded as shown below:
 - b. Churches/Charges who have an eligible appointed clergy will be billed a health benefit fee of \$966.00 per month or \$11,592.00 annually.
 - c. The Health Benefit Fee will be the basis of a Defined Contribution toward the Healthflex Exchange according to coverage tier as shown below:
 1. Defined contribution for Participant only coverage is expected to be \$611 per month (\$7,332 Annually).
 2. Defined contribution for Participant plus one dependent coverage is expected to be \$1,233 per month (\$14,796 Annually).
 3. Defined contribution for Participant plus family coverage is expected to be \$1,646 per month (\$19,752 Annually).
 - d. The total premiums for the 2018 Healthflex Exchange Plans are as follows:
 1. Preferred Provider Organization B1000P1 Plan will be \$915 per month (\$10,980 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,835 per month (\$22,020 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,511 per month (\$30,132 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 2. Consumer Drive Health Plan CDHP C2000P2 will be \$871 per month (\$10,452 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,830 per month (\$21,960 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,439 per month (\$29,268 annually) for Participant plus family coverage. If a participant fails to make an election during the open enrollment period, that participant and any covered dependents will be automatically enrolled in this plan. NOTE: THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MERELY A PLAN DEFAULT.
 3. Consumer Drive Health Plan CDHP C3000P2 will be \$750 per month (\$9,000 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,503 per month (\$18,036 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,056 per month (\$24,672 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 4. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP1500P3 will be \$863 per month (\$10,356 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,730 per month (\$20,760 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,367 per month (\$28,404 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 5. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP2000P4 will be \$790 per month (\$9,480 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,580 per month (\$18,960 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,163 per month (\$25,560 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 6. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP3000P5 will be \$682 per month (\$8,184 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,365 per month (\$16,380 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$1,868 per month (\$22,416 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
7. OPTIONAL COVERAGES:
 - A. Expanded Vision Care
 - (1) Exam Core (Included in Health Premium.)
 - (2) Full Service will be \$5.62 per month (\$67.44 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$9.06 per month (\$108.72 annually) for Participant plus

- one dependent coverage; and \$14.32 per month (\$171.84 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
- (3) Premier will be \$14.38 per month (\$172.56 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$23.32 per month (\$279.84 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$37.02 per month (\$444.24 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
- B. Dental Coverage
- (1) Dental Passive PPO2000 will be \$56 per month (\$672 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$113 per month (\$1,356 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$158 per month (\$1,896 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
- (2) Dental PPO will be \$46 per month (\$552 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$92 per month (\$1,104 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$129 per month (\$1,548 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
- (3) Dental Passive PPO1000 will be \$42 per month (\$504 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$83 per month (\$996 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$116 per month (\$1,392 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
8. Retiree (Retiree Spouse) Premiums Non Medicare Premiums
1. Premiums for under 65 retirees non Medicare would be the same as active participants reduced by the Defined contributions for retirees. For those retired before July 1, 2015, the Defined Contribution would be \$200 per single Participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be \$400 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph five. For those retiring July 1, 2015 and after, The Defined Contribution would be \$100 per single Participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be \$200 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph five.
2. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan.
3. The estimated 2018 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full time Diaconal Ministers and full time Lay Employees of local churches, premium for all the plans above and the church or plan sponsor will be billed the entire amount. The cost sharing between the participant and the church or plan sponsor will be determined by the church or plan sponsor. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2018.
4. It is recommended that the South Carolina Annual Conference delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits the authority to adjust rates and plan designs to meet the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Christopher M. Lollis, Chairperson
Thelma Hudson, Secretary

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

Benefit Obligations Summary

Plan Contributions for 2018

CRSP DB	\$2,670,400
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192
MPP	\$0
Pre-82	\$0
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$101,596
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389
Other DC Obligations	\$33,178
Other DB Obligations	\$200
Health--Active Participants	\$8,841,247
Health--Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$102,187
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$1,489,096
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$0

Ongoing Funding Contributions

Pre-82	\$0
PRM	\$472,211



Opinion on South Carolina Conference

2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025
04/10/2017

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

Accounts

Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2015	Market Value as of 12/31/2016
\$ DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$10,431,556	\$10,766,982
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM allocated amount	\$3,500,000	Target Allocation	Equity 48.62%
			Fixed 26.18%
			Short-term 25.20%
\$ H M E P ACCOUNT		\$12,189,902	\$12,078,153
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Intermediate-term
PRM allocated amount	\$4,000,000	Target Allocation	Equity 63.26%
			Fixed 34.06%
			Short-term 2.68%
\$ RETIREE HEALTH CARE		\$4,995,015	\$8,459,454
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Intermediate-term
PRM allocated amount	\$8,459,454	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA SUPERANNUATE		\$653,732	\$717,847
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%

Non-Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2015	Market Value as of 12/31/2016
\$ Health Insurance Conference Held		\$1,609,624	\$1,975,788
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM allocated amount	\$400,000	Target Allocation	Equity 0.00%
			Fixed 0.00%
			Short-term 100.00%
Pension Fund Conference Held		\$747,741	\$1,071,985
Pre-82 allocated amount	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM allocated amount	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 0.00%
	Fixed	0.00%	
	Short-term	100.00%	

\$ A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.

Incoming Money

Primary Sources	Estimated amount for 2018
Apportionments	\$1,840,000
Annual Apportionment	\$2,000,000
x Apportionment Percentage	100%
x Expected Collection Percentage	92%
Direct Billing	
Other Sources	
Prudential Refund	

Refer to the following "Allocate Funding Sources" pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Health Insurance Conference Held
Available Balance		\$1,575,788
Total Allocated		
Remaining Balance		
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	

Funding Sources		Pension Fund Conference Held
Available Balance		\$1,071,985
Total Allocated		
Remaining Balance		
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	

Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596
Health Additional	\$102,187
Ongoing Funding Contributions	
Pre-82	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211

	Funding Sources	Prudential Refund
	Available Balance	
	Total Allocated	\$448,000
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	\$15,000
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	\$209,506
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	\$223,494

	Funding Sources	Pre-82 Surplus
	Available Balance	\$21,546,412
	Total Allocated	
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	

	Funding Sources	Apportionments
	Available Balance	\$1,840,000
	Total Allocated	\$423,097
	Remaining Balance	\$1,416,903
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	\$18,178
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	\$54,015
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	\$102,187

Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	\$248,717
<hr/>		
	Funding Sources	Direct Billing
	Available Balance	
	Total Allocated	\$14,451,399
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	\$8,841,247
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	\$2,670,400
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	\$457,389
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	\$1,225,575
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	\$1,155,192
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	\$101,596
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	
<hr/>		
	Funding Sources	Prm In-Plan & Outside Assets
	Available Balance	\$16,359,454
	Total Allocated	
	Remaining Balance	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	
<hr/>		
	Funding Sources	Deposit Account
	Available Balance	\$7,266,982
	Total Allocated	\$200
	Remaining Balance	\$7,266,782
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	\$200
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	
<hr/>		

	Funding Sources	H M E P Account
	Available Balance	\$8,078,153
	Total Allocated	\$0
	Remaining Balance	\$8,078,153
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	

	Funding Sources	South Carolina Superannuate
	Available Balance	\$717,847
	Total Allocated	
Plan Contributions for 2018		
DB Special Grants	\$200	
CPP	\$0	
Health Active	\$8,841,247	
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	
Pre-82	\$0	
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	
MPP	\$0	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	
Health Additional	\$102,187	
Ongoing Funding Contributions		
Pre-82	\$0	
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	

Plan Contributions for 2018		2018 Funding Needed
CRSP DB	\$2,670,400	\$0
CRSP DC	\$1,155,192	\$0
MPP	\$0	\$0
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$101,596	\$0
UMPIP Clergy	\$457,389	\$0
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178	\$0
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000	\$0
DB Special Grants	\$200	\$0
Health Active	\$8,841,247	\$0
Health Additional	\$102,187	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,489,096	\$0
CPP	\$0	\$0
Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2018		2018 Funding Needed
Pre-82	\$0	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$472,211	\$0

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403 (b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan--provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church

- A defined contribution (DC) plan--provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

Elections and Estimates

Eligibility requirement	Final
Conference Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	100%+
CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)	484.00
Required contribution for 2018	\$2,670,400
CRSP Defined Benefit (DC)	
Expected average future annual increases	2.40%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$1,155,192

Rationale for each change

The DC Contribution for 2017 was overestimated.

CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2016

Total plan liability	\$(1,422,046,473)
Total plan assets	\$1,530,170,830
Total plan funded status	\$108,124,357
Total plan funded ratio	108%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.8269%

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations

Discount rate	%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	%
COLA increases for actives	%
Mortality	

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

Elections and Estimates

Required contributions for 2018	Final
	\$0

MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2016

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,122,459,580)
Total plan assets	\$3,508,946,228
Total plan funded status	\$177,299,252
Total plan funded ratio	105%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.6672%

Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2016

Total participant account balances	\$4,144,945,113
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$97,457,545

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

Discount rate	6.25 %
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	RP2014, generational projection using MP2014

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit--approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)--the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Past Service Rate (PSR)	\$781
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	2.00 %
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	75 %
Discount rate	6.6250 %
Minimum contribution for 2018	\$0
Advanced funding contribution for 2018 payable in 2017	\$0

Rationale for each change

An additional \$2,000,000 will be redirected to PRM December 31, 2017.

Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2016	\$(61,409,632)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$83,706,111
Funded status	\$22,296,479
Funded ratio	136 %
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2017	\$21,216,123
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2018	\$0

Funding strategy

NO Minimum Contribution Required. Plan on one more surplus redirection December 2017.

Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2016

Total plan liability	\$(2,319,842,242)
Total plan assets	\$2,510,501,904
Total plan funded status	\$(66,877,747)
Total plan funded ratio	97%

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2016.

Health--Active Participants

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Health plan offered to actives	Self Funded - HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2016	\$7,794,967
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2017	\$8,301,640
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2018	\$8,841,247
Expected average future annual increases	6.50%

Health--Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment.

Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

(X) Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)

(X) Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants

Coverage Obligations

Covered Category	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2015	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2016
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$303,480	\$293,328
Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants	\$14,400	\$157,140
Total	\$317,880	\$450,468

Annual cost calculation

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2016		\$450,468
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	5.0000
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2016	=	\$90,094
Expected average future annual increases	x	6.50%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2018	=	\$102,187

Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Willis Towers Watson as of 12/31/2016. Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 12/31/2018.

PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 12/31/2016	
Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$20,269,772
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$18,114,869
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$384,440
Annual plan benefit cost Intention regarding PRM	\$1,489,096
Retain current plan benefit	

Participant counts by category

Active participants	526
Active dependents	379
Retirees	279
Surviving spouses	43
Dependents of retired participants	115
Total participants	1,342

Key actuarial assumptions

Census date	01/01/2017
Discount rate	3.75%
Expected return on assets	0.00%
Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	6.50%
Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	5.00%
Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2023

Elections and Estimates

Description of Benefit
\$200/ month subsidy for those retirees and dependents retiring prior to 2016. Those retiring after 2015 would be a \$100 subsidy for each retiree and dependent.

Health plan benefit offered to retirees	Final Stipend
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Annual plan benefit cost as of 2018	\$1,489,096

Rationale for each change

The discount rate declined 10 basis points compared to the last year and the participation rate was updated to reflect actual experience, which resulted in a net periodic cost and improved the funded position.

Funding Plan Contribution

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Funded status		\$(1,755,415)
Number of annual payments	÷	20
Portion of funded status payable	=	\$87,771
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	+	\$384,440
Ongoing funding contribution for 2018	=	\$472,211

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the South Carolina contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Elections and Estimates

Expected average future annual increases	Final 2.40%
Estimated premium for 2018	\$0

Rationale for each change

CPP Holiday for Premium \$1,225,575. This will be used for Post Retirement Medical Reserve.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United

Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

UMPIP Lay

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.50 %
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$101,596

UMPIP Clergy

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.40 %
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$457,389

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$18,178
Description	
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	
	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.50%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$18,178

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$15,000
Description	
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	
	Final
Expected average future annual increases	-5.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$15,000

Rationale for each change

Received Funding for Death Benefits from Prudential. See Allocation Page for Incoming Money.
This will fully fund the benefit for future years. No additional funds will be needed after 2018.

Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations

Name	Estimated annual contribution
DB Special Grants	\$200
Description	
DB Special Grants	
	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2018	\$200
Discount rate	4.00 %
Estimated amount of liability	\$1,000
Total plan assets	\$0

Conference Benefit Officer, David Anderson, 04/10/2017
Conference Treasurer, Beth Westbury, 04/10/2017
Conference Board of Pension Chair, Chris Lollis, 04/10/2017

THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History preserves the records of the Annual Conference, collects the records of the present, and makes sure that these records are available for use in our future. The commission also helps the churches of the Annual Conference learn about their rich histories and works to connect South Carolina Methodists to each other and to their past.

The Commission relies on the archives at Wofford College and at Claflin University to help preserve the Conference's records. These records include everything from the minutes of Annual Conferences, bound and microfilm copies of the Advocate, records of some conference boards and commissions, records from the Florence, Greenwood, Marion, and Spartanburg districts, biographical directories of clergy, subject files on many churches, and records of some closed churches. We have some personal papers of several former clergy and the records of the United Methodist Women. We continue to accept personal papers of clergy who are interested in depositing their materials with us.

For the year 2016, we responded to 904 inquiries on the Conference collection, which is almost three times as many questions as we had in 2015. We hosted 12 visitors who came to do research in the Methodist collections. The staff copied well over 1,000 obituaries from the Advocate Obituary Index for researchers. In the fall of 2015, we discovered that Ancestry.com had incorporated our index of obituaries published in the Southern Christian Advocate into their resources, and as a result, we've had a major influx of requests for obituary copies. 851 inquiries came through Ancestry, 51 were other Methodist archives questions, and 2 were other genealogy questions. This has added quite a burden to our work, as we try to operate it without charge, though we did institute a charge for the Ancestry researchers at the start of the summer.

As he has since the fall of 2011, the Rev. Luther H. Rickenbaker has served as a volunteer in the archives at Wofford. He helps with research questions and with arranging the collections of the Rev. Eben Taylor and the Rev. J. Emerson Ford. His work continues to help relate the work of the conference to the ministry of memory. Wofford also provides two student assistants in the archives who assist in researching obituaries and other tasks.

The archives continues to work to make more of its records available online, and those who are interested may look at the archives website – <http://www.wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx> – to see what's available. Wofford also is hosting an online digital repository where we are trying to make more of the conference's rich resources available. It includes historical addresses, a few Methodist books, and the conference pictorial directories from 1901-1975. We also have the photographs from those directories available on the archives website, which churches may download and print for displays and publications. In the future, we anticipate finding a way to host digital versions of older Conference Journals in the repository.

The Claflin University Archives is also busily working on projects to support Methodist history. With assistance from work study students, obituaries and news articles have been separated and placed in binders. Their latest special collections of books have been properly shelved by call numbers and now all special collections items, to include United Methodist special collections items, are easier to locate.

The Commission presents the Herbert Hucks Award for Preservation and Interpretation of church history annually to churches and individuals who have made great strides in keeping and sharing our rich history. These awards are presented during the awards session at Annual Conference. Information on applying for the Hucks Award or nominating an individual or a publication for the award is available on the archives website. Materials for the 2018 awards will be due around February 1, 2018.

We urge the members of the Annual Conference to take history seriously. Each local church bears the responsibility for maintaining its own records. When churches close, the commission takes on that responsibility, though those records do not always make their way to the archives. Board and commission officers may always call on the conference archivist, Dr. Phillip Stone, to talk about the proper disposition of their board or commission or committee's records.

As we look forward to a number of milestones in the life of our church and conference, we hope to be involved in planning appropriate celebrations. In 2022, we'll commemorate the 50th anniversary of the merger of the 1866 and 1785 Conferences into a new South Carolina Annual Conference. The Annual Conference needs to be thinking of how we should recognize this significant anniversary.

We thank the conference for its continuing support and look forward to helping share our ministry of memory.

*Luther H. Rickenbaker III., chairperson
R. Phillip Stone II, PhD, conference archivist*

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Every renewal of the church, every great age in its history, has been grounded on a renewed reading of history." Justo L. González

In 1856, during the South Carolina Conference held at York, the South Carolina Conference Historical Society was organized. The founders had two objectives in mind: the collection and preservation of historical data and relics, and the formation of a library. Since that time 160 years ago, history has continued to evolve. The Society continues the traditions of preserving the richness that exists in the South Carolina Conference of the "People Called Methodist." As we are thankful to the many dedicated men and women that set forth the foundation of the Society and have worked tirelessly to instill the need and interest in preserving our rich history, we cannot and should not take this endeavor lightly. To understand that the Society is made up of volunteers that are willing to give up their time and share not only their talents but a passion to preserve, protect and educate our body of proud Methodist in which its history is what makes us who we are. Through the efforts of these volunteers and the Conference Commission on Archives and History, we continue to educate, discover sites, locate documents and preserve these treasures of our past.

In May, 2016 at the Conference Center a leadership meeting was held with President Rev. J. Robert Huggins, Vice- President Ms. Joyce Plyler and Secretary-Treasurer, the Rev. Roger Gambling present. Ideas and goals were discussed with plans to increase our relationship with the Commission on Achieves and History, engage more local churches in persevering their history, and increase both awareness and membership within the Historical Society. Discussion of a Resource and History Center to possibly be located at the Methodist Conference Center, along with the idea of working towards the development of gathering members of the Historical Society together during the Annual Conferences. We discussed the progress of the Burdine Lodge Restoration Project at the Hagood Mill site administered by Pickens County Cultural Commission. To date, with help from a special offering during the Annual Conference several years ago, and continued donations of gifts, the Society is holding funds of over \$24,000.00 towards this restoration project. The Pickens County Cultural Commission is in discussion to get this project underway in the near future.

The Historical Society sponsored a table at the 2016 Annual Conference where a variety of resources were available to help local churches understand the importance of their heritage and history with ways to engage their congregations in collecting and preserving documents, displaying and sharing their history. A tri-fold display was on hand with information in the format of a timeline on South Carolina Methodist History along with a collection of pictures and articles relating to and recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the "1866 Conference."

The Society held its Annual meeting jointly with the Commission of Achieves and History at the Hubert V. Manning Library at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC on November 12, 2016. The program was "The 1866 Conference and the History of Claflin University." The presenters were Reverend J. Robert Huggins, President of SC Conference Historical Society, Dr. R. Phillip Stone, Ph. D., Archivist, SC Conference and Wofford College, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President, Claflin University and Ms. Marilyn Gibbs Drayton, Library Director, Claflin University. Dr. Stone shared the events and history of the 1866 Conference and Dr. Tisdale spoke about the history of Claflin University, which from its founding has been thought of as "the institution" of the 1866 South Carolina Conference.

Dr. A.V. Huff, Conference Historian and editor of Historical Society's newsletter, *The Mark* and Rev. J. Robert Huggins, President serve as ex-officio on the Conference Commission on Achieves and History in supporting the efforts of the Commission in its ongoing work of record keeping and historical preservation, as required by the *Book of Discipline*.

The Historical Society continues to encourage and is always willing to assist both clergy, church historians and lay members of the South Carolina Conference in becoming more engaged and aware of the importance in the study of their history pertaining to the local church and their communities and in its preservation.

Rev. J. Robert Huggins, President

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

A. The Mission and Changing Focus of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of full-time clergy in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the Commission has been guided by the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*; the latest version states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference." (*The Book of Discipline, 2016, Paragraph 625.2 at pg. 442*) The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

B. Total Compensation for Clergy

1. The commission on equitable compensation reminds churches and charges that salary is only one portion of total compensation. Churches and charges are urged to consider dispersing compensation in ways that will assist clergy and their families to retain as great a portion of their income as is legally possible. Churches and charges are reminded to consider total compensation and not just think of salary when thinking of clergy family needs. Likewise, clergy are reminded that they are supported in a variety of ways, and total compensation most often exceeds salary.
2. Churches and pastors are urged to keep informed of their income tax responsibilities and rights. Pastors are advised to seek qualified assistance in making decisions that will affect their income tax liabilities.

Report Number 2

A. Budget Request for 2018

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$550,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2018. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.
2. The request for 2018 represents a \$0 increase over 2017.

B. Schedule of Total Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving in the South Carolina Annual Conference

In accordance with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2018, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

FOR FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS AS CLERGY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH:

Category	Amount
a. Full Time Clergy in full connection	\$43,871
b. Full Time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	\$ 39,880
c. Full Time Local Pastors	\$ 36,999

The recommendation represents a .5% increase over what was approved for 2017. This parallels with the .3% COI suggested by the Social Security Office.

[Please note that the Commission on Equitable Compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expense through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "O," "P," and "Q" below, entitled "O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses," "P. Continuing Education," and "Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost."]

Please be aware that total compensation for full-time clergy must equal 30% of the denominational average compensation so that full-time clergy may participate in CPP. For 2017, the DAC is \$69,574 and 60% of that is \$41,745. For 2018, the DAC is \$70,202 and 25% of that is \$17,551. Full-time provisional, commissioned, associate members, and full-time local pastors must be provided with a parsonage or with a housing allowance to bring them up to this level. (For pastors with a parsonage, "total compensation" is calculated at 125% of minimum base compensation.)

C. For Deacons in Full Connection

Those persons who have responded to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments and are full-time ordained deacons in accordance with Paragraph 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, beginning at pg. 254, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the annual conference. (See Paragraph 331.10(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, pg. 263.) Deacons who are employed by the congregation, charge, or cooperative parish less than full time shall be compensated proportional to the percentage of time being served. (Half time would receive not less than half the minimum salary.) Deacons not employed by a congregation, charge, cooperative ministry, or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.6 (d) are not affected.

D. Longevity Increases

A clergy person, who has completed 5 or more year's full time service or the equivalent thereof in the South Carolina Annual Conference, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service. (In practical terms, this increase would not be applied until the fiscal year following the completed annual conference year. In other words, the first increase would not be applied until the January after the Annual Conference at which the clergy person complete their fifth year.)

Example:

Year 6	Minimum base compensation plus	\$ 875.00
Year 7	Minimum base compensation plus	\$1050.00
Year 8	Minimum base compensation plus	\$1225.00
Year 9	Minimum base compensation plus	\$1400.00
Year 10	Minimum base compensation plus	\$1575.00
Year 11+	Minimum base compensation plus	\$1750.00

E. Housing Allowances

The Commission recommends that all money given to the pastor for housing by the charge he/she serves be considered income if the pastor is not a resident in the charge which he/she serves.

F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance

The District Superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the District Superintendent indicating income from all sources. Grants shall be made based on fiscal years (January to December), and unless otherwise designated, shall decrease 25% annually. For grants beginning in July, 100% of the approved amount will be provided for the first eighteen (18) months and will decrease 25% annually thereafter.

G. Cross Racial Appointments

If the Bishop and Cabinet, in making a cross-racial appointment, find it necessary to request an equitable compensation supplement, special consideration will be given on an individual basis.

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

The initial directors or coordinators of a cooperative parish ministry which has been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the commission by January 1 preceding the appointment in June of the same year may be eligible for funds not to exceed \$7,000.00. No pastor shall be eligible to receive funds unless the charge he/she serves agrees in writing to release him/her for these added duties. Assistance will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period and will decrease by 25% each year after the first year and a half.

I. Disbursement of Supplements

All compensation supplements from the Commission shall be paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergyperson, and shall be disbursed monthly. In the case of new mission situations or churches, monies will be dispersed directly to the pastor until there is a church treasurer. Equitable compensation funds will not be used for moving expenses, businesses expenses, or church administration.

For charges receiving CEC supplements, changes to the total compensation may be made for longevity (see D. Longevity Increases above), changes in clergy status, and to reflect changes in minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference. Charges are encouraged to increase their portion of total compensation as they are able and thereby reduce the amount of supplement paid by CEC. Such increases in the portion paid by the local charge above the scheduled amounts will result in a reduction of the CEC supplement by the amount of increase.

J. Utilities Allowance

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Under IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.

K. Investment of Reserve Fund

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account. In accordance with guidelines established with CF&A in 2013 and presented to the 2013 Annual Conference, the "floor" of the reserve is to be set at \$300,000 in order to meet general projection shortfalls, to allow for the unanticipated start of a new church or missional situation, or to deal with an unexpected disaster.

L. Interpretation

The commission recommends that an interpretation of its task and policy procedures be given as a part of the District Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee Workshops. It is further recommended that this interpretation be done by a member of the Commission upon invitation by the District Superintendent.

M. Compensation Guidance

The Commission recommends that District Superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work load packages in accordance with Paragraph 419.4 419.6 of The Book of Discipline 2016 (pg. 343-344)

N. Ineligibility

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support:

- Retired supply pastors
- Part-time local pastors

Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99
Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of the United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1 a, b, c of *The Book of Discipline 2016* (pg. 281-282).

Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2016* (pg. 254-255)(except as appointed with regard to Report 3, 4, and 5 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, pg. 443).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties. Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 53.5 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the District Superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Continuing Education

Each charge shall place in its budget an amount of \$750 or more per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund. If the full amount is not used in a given year, the unused portion may be carried forward from year to year during the tenure of a pastor, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's continuing education allowance inclusive of the current year's amount.

Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

The Commission recommends that the reimbursement for travel and professional expenses be a part of the administrative cost of each local church and not considered or reported as part of the pastor's compensation.

R. Vacation Policy

The Commission reminds churches and ministers that vacation time plus time for renewal and reflection are an expected part of compensation. Time away is necessary for personal, spiritual, and family health. It is recommended that all clergy and diaconal ministers be granted, as a minimum, annual vacation and days of renewal according to the following schedule:

Total Years of Service	Number of Weeks
Less than 5 years	a minimum of 2 (including Sundays)
5 years -10 years	a minimum of 3 (including Sundays)
More than 10 years	a minimum of 4 (including Sundays)

In addition to the above, it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week. "Years of Service" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

It is asked that the Lay Member of the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee and to the local church.

S. Application Procedure

CEC requests the following for initial grant consideration:

1. A Ministerial Support Form duly adopted by a charge conference that includes information about the nature of the grant, the reason for the grant request, percentages to be paid to the various churches involved, the email of the pastor, contact information of the church/charge treasurer (name, address, phone number, email) and other information as designated by the CEC Chairperson.
2. The above Ministerial Support Form is to be presented and approved in accordance with Cabinet policy and then forwarded to the CEC Chairperson by the appropriate District Superintendent.
3. At the discretion of the CEC Chairperson or request by a member of the CEC Executive Committee, further financial information may be required including, but

not limited to: church budgets, bank statements, audit forms, treasurer's reports, etc. Failure to produce the required documents would be cause for non-approval of the grant.

Rationale: This formalizes and brings clarity to current practice of the CEC.

T. Arrearages

An arrearage occurs when full payment of a regularly scheduled payroll, accountable reimbursement, or housing allowance installment is not made to the appropriate pastor. The current procedure for handling an arrearage is outlined in detail at the conclusion of the Commission on Equitable Compensation's report in the 2013 Journal. The Arrearage Policy is also available on the conference website, www.umcsc.org.

Report Number 3 – New Church Starts

Schedule for New Church Starts

Equitable Compensation for new church starts shall be as follows:

Year 1 and 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits. (New church starts that begin in July will receive 100% funding for the first two and a half years.)

Year 3: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 67% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 4: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 33% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 5: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

New Church Travel: Upon request and appropriate documentation, the Commission on Equitable Compensation will provide travel allowance for new church pastors at the following rates:

First year and a half:	up to \$4,000.00 annually
Second full year:	up to \$3,000.00 annually
Third full year:	up to \$2,000.00 annually
Fourth full year:	up to \$1,000.00 annually

Report Number 4 – Renewed Vitality Situations (RVS)

Renewed Vitality Situations are those places that the Conference Committee on Congregational Development has evaluated and determined that short term assistance would possibly greatly enhance the effective ministry taking place. RV grants would be for a maximum of 2 years and subject to the criteria proposed and adopted by the Conference Committee on Congregational Development. Failure to meet said criteria will result in termination of the grant.

Grants will consist of:

- a) Up to minimum compensation as described in Report 2. B. above.
- b) Up to one-half the appropriate Direct Billing.

Report Number 5 – Mission Situations

A. Definition

Mission situations are new churches and existing churches in transitional circumstances that are in areas that demand an effective ministry but are incapable of providing such ministry without equitable compensation assistance. Mission situations may also include intentional ministry to persons of low income.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for equitable compensation assistance in mission situations the following procedures must be followed:

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.

4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.
5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by December 15th preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

Note 1. The local church's share of this base compensation schedule is interpreted to mean all sources of income from the local church or from any other source.

Note 2. In all cases where a mission situation is attached to an existing charge, these become charge figures.

Note 3. The District Superintendent may apply to the Commission for a compensation that is more in keeping with the amount received by this pastor in his or her previous appointment.

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.

An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st.

D. Payment of Direct Billing Costs for Pensions and Health Benefits in Mission Situations Only

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay only the direct billing costs of persons in mission situations according to the compensation schedules listed below. The Commission will send its proportional share directly to the conference office of Pensions and Health Benefits.

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income

Equitable Compensation assistance in ministries with persons of low income will be provided for a pastor or clergy person, when requested by the Cabinet, over a ten and a half year period decreasing as follows:

First Year and a Half: The amount of Equitable Compensation support will be according to the pastor's category. As the sole salary paying unit in this mission situation, the Commission of Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's direct bill for pensions and health benefits.

After One and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Two and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Three and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Travel for persons in ministry with persons of low income will be provided by the Districts or Districts in which the ministry is located.

F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will operate in light of the Annual Conference's decision to make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority. Support for clergy working in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall be made in accordance with the Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income (Report Number 3e, Part 2). The Commission recognizes that adjustments may be necessary on a case by case basis. The District Superintendent, after consultation with the Cabinet and the Conference Hispanic Committee may request adjustments in the following areas:

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:
After Two and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Three and a Half Years: Support from Equitable compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
After Eleven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.

Example:

Year 6:	\$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 7:	\$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 8:	\$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 9:	\$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 10:	\$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 11:	\$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 12:	\$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 13:	\$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit

Year 14: \$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 15+: \$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and +experience merit

All requests for adjustments shall be made in writing. Requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made.

Report Number 6

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec. 2013		Dec. 2014		Dec. 2015		Dec. 2016	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	3	\$ 96,815	4	\$159,500	2	\$81,729	2	\$57,324
Minimum	11	\$88,654	12	\$91,710	10	\$91,710	10	\$65,695
Special	13	\$103,671	12	\$120,184	9	\$115,783	11	\$124,203
Low Income	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,260	1	\$10,260
Hispanic/Latino	1	\$30,735	1	\$30,735	1	\$27,737	1	\$27,737
Cooperative Parish	2	\$10,500	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mission			1	\$15,000	2	\$51,148	3	\$58,899
RVS	5	\$68,973						
Direct billing costs		\$86,839		\$86,839		\$86,779		\$107,108
TOTALS	31	\$428,014	31	\$428,014	28	\$490,945	33	\$520,199

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
Effective Members	17	17	13	13
Provisional Members	5	7	8	8
Associate Members	1	0	0	0
Local Pastors (Full Time)	6	6	6	7
Other	2	1	1	3
TOTALS	31	31	28	28

Sincerely,

The Commission on Equitable Compensation
 Skipper Brock, Chairperson
rlbrock@bellsouth.net or sbrock@smeinc.com
 Rev. Chris Lollis, Vice-Chairperson
 Lollie Haselden, Statistician
 Veronica Clinkscales, Secretary

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference is a team of persons tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and evaluating the annual conference. The team began meeting soon after annual conference to review and evaluate the 2016 annual conference and to start planning the 2017 gathering.

While the business of the annual conference is part and parcel to what we do, our goal is to provide each member of the annual conference with such an experience of excellence that he or she will want to reproduce that same standard of excellence in every ministry setting across this annual conference. Our annual conference will include inspiring worship, an opportunity for service, and robust Christian conferencing. In all that we do, our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

The pre-conference informational sessions will be held in April and May in each of our Districts. A DVD of information will be shared in each district with the pre-conference materials being published on line. This will enable greater access to this information.

The theme chosen for the 2017 Annual Conference is **"A More Excellent Way: We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight."** On Sunday evening at 7:30, we will gather for our opening worship service with Bishop Holston serving as the preacher. Our Bible Study leader will be the Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley, President and Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. On Monday night, we will celebrate with those who will be commissioned or ordained for the work of ordained ministry. Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, the Resident Bishop of the Louisiana Conference, will serve as the preacher for this service.

On Tuesday morning, we will recognize and celebrate the ministry of those who have served the church faithfully across the years and who now enter retirement. On Tuesday afternoon, we will remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have shared in the work of

Christ's holy church, and who have joined the church triumphant since we last gathered. The Rev. John Hipp, the Florence District Superintendent will serve as the preacher. We will conclude our day with an energetic worship service that affirms our commitment to missions. The evening's offering will be given in support of our ongoing commitment to the Imagine No Malaria Campaign.

¶603 of *Book of Discipline* provides that the Annual Conference sets the place of the meeting for the sessions of the annual conference, and the presiding bishop sets the date. The standing rules of the conference provide that the Committee on the Annual Conference recommend the site of the next annual conference.

As you will recall, in 2017, the Florence Civic Center will be undergoing significant renovations to expand out its current facilities. The renovated space will include 12,000 feet of sub-dividable meeting room space, a new kitchen space and possible renovations of existing areas. Kendall Wall, the General Manager for the Florence Civic Center has shared that once construction starts, it will take about a year to complete – giving an estimated finish period sometime during the late fall of 2017.

The Annual Conference voted that the host site for the 2017 SC Annual Conference would be the **TD Convention Center in Greenville**. The TD Convention Center which offers 60,000 square feet of meeting space, including our 30,000 square foot Ballroom, is the perfect complement to 280,000 square feet of exhibit space. The TD Convention Center offers free limit-less wireless internet connectivity throughout the exhibit halls, meeting rooms, ballroom, and lobbies. The future sites committee will offer the body a recommendation related to the host site for 2019 -2020.

Finally, the committee expresses its profound gratitude to the 2017 host team under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. George Howle, the Greenville District Superintendent for their spirit of radical hospitality. For better than a year, this team has been hard at work preparing for our arrival in Greenville. They have tried to care for every detail along the way. A special word of gratitude must be offered our host church, Buncombe Street United Methodist Church its team under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Robert Howell, Jr. and Mr. Chris Malaska. The Rev. Robert Cox and Ms. Valerie Brooks-Madden. We simply could not have done this without this team.

*L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson
Kenneth L. Nelson, Secretary*

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The Committee on the Conference Journal is tasked with assisting the Conference Secretary with the publication of pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal. We are continuing as a committee and a conference to transition from a printed copy of the Journal to a digital copy. Printed copies are still available for pre-order, but that number has declined to about 50 a year. As part of this transition we have been in touch with other conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, who are about our same size, to see how they are publishing their journals. We have learned that we are on par with these other conferences in the different formats that we offer our journal. Most conferences, including ours, are moving away from printed journals and offering them on disc or digitally online.

One area that the committee has spent some time on, and is continuing to do so, is how we format the journal and reports. The committee has created a sub-committee to consider ways that we can format reports that will allow for them to be more uniform and will allow the Conference Secretary to produce the pre-conference materials more effectively. The form that is being created can be utilized by committees when submitting their pre-conference reports.

The committee is also exploring using different software that may allow for a more efficient production of the Conference Journal. Currently the Journal is collected and edited in one format, then converted for printing, and then converted back for online publication. We are considering software options that may be able to eliminate some of the time and effort it takes to convert the Journal twice.

Our committee is mindful that all our work relies on others who are generous in the giving of their time. We want to thank all the individuals who have assisted with producing the pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal. We are especially grateful for J.C. Lane, Jeri Katherine Warden-Sipes, Mary Louise Johnson, and Angela Ford Nelson, the assistant secretaries for the South Carolina Annual Conference. We would like to thank all the boards and agencies of the SC Annual Conference for their work in submitting reports with integrity and in a timely manner. We are grateful for the work of the administrative assistants Mrs. Sylvia Hulbert and Mrs. Pat Mack. We would like to thank Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson, the Conference Secretary, for his tireless efforts to produce the Journal with sincerity and diligence. And, many thanks to our friends at Service Printing for publishing the Journal and materials.

Eugene A. Aiken

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee met throughout the year to provide oversight for staffing in the areas of disaster response and communications, for Conference staff annual salary adjustments, for the evaluation of staff, to review policy issues, and employment law compliance needs. The committee continues to support the Conference personnel in their efforts to provide the highest quality services to churches and clergy and retain quality staff for maximum efficiency of Conference operations. The disaster response continues to grow to provide assistance to victims of both the floods of October 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The committee has assisted with determining staffing needs brought about by these disasters and provided guidance when needed.

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the generosity of the churches in this conference. Your continued dedication and faithful missional giving towards Congregational Development make our work possible. It is nothing short of miraculous when God's people pool their resources to do amazing ministry. In 2016, your churches gave over \$878,000 dollars towards Congregational Development.

Did you know that 20% of that money has already been given back to the Districts? A major portion of what we as a Board, is to equip the people who are already on the ground to continue developing new ministries and deploying resources as they see fit. This happens through the 20% Fund; 20% of every dollar your church gives towards the Congregational Development line item comes directly back to your District Committees on Congregation Development. This year, that totaled over \$175,000! Friends, that is something to be celebrated and commended. Our District Committees are hard at work funding new ministries, equipping leaders, and supporting existing congregations. The more you can help us tell that story, the more resources we are able to funnel back into your communities and churches! So, help us tell that story and tell it well!

Another major portion of our work is through Existing Church Grants. This year we received grant applications totaling over \$373,000. This means people around the state are catching the vision and dreaming God-sized dreams. Our current funding structure provided a little over \$111,000 to be allocated for Existing Church Grants. Obviously this meant we would be unable to fund everything at 100%, but we were able to strategically fund some new and vital ministries around this conference. Some of this year's grant recipients include: a new multi-ethnic worship service in North Charleston that is the vision of two churches coming together; new staff positions to start new services, children's ministries, or discipleship ministries; and some brick & mortar investments so that feeding ministries and Christian Formation ministries can continue to be vital. In all, we have awarded grants to 8 local churches in 6 of our districts. As we continue to move forward in our work, the more you can help us tell these stories well to local congregations, the more people will be inclined to partner with us for future projects through our missional giving, which will in turn inspire more stories. It's really a beautiful cycle of generosity!

Of course, a major part of our work entails working with the Director of Congregational Development to identify possible new places for ministry in the coming years. We look forward to hearing about the 2017 projects as Bishop Holston and the Cabinet confirm future appointments (at the time of submitting this report, those appointments and decisions had not been officially made). Nevertheless, as we move forward with our work, we continue finding and equipping new leaders through a variety of coaching, continuing education, Leadership Academy opportunities, as well as Mission Insite as a tool available to all clergy and churches. If you have not had the opportunity to utilize that demographic tool, let me highly encourage you to do so, engaging your local District in the process if you require assistance in doing so.

Lastly, I would be remised if I did not thank our team for the work that they do. Our board is made of District Chair people, at large members (clergy and lay alike) from around the Conference, Cabinet members, representatives from Connectional Ministries, the Hispanic/Latin@ Ministry Task Force, as well as our Director for Congregational Development, Rev. Sara White, and our administrative assistant, Laura Hill. These people make our ministry possible and I am grateful to serve alongside them.

Rev. Richard Reams, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy (COE) meets quarterly with Bishop Holston to support the bishop in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church. One of our most important roles is to support the bishop by interpreting to the people in our conference the

magnitude of the bishop's job. The committee is to be available to the bishop for council, to assist in the determination of the Episcopal needs and make recommendations to appropriate bodies, to keep the bishop advised concerning conditions within the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference agencies, and to interpret to the people of the conference the nature and function of the Episcopal office.

The committee is also responsible to engage in annual consultation and appraisal of the balance of the bishop's relationship and responsibilities to the annual conference and thru our jurisdictional committee on episcopacy members to the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference. Our two SEJ COE members have already started this evaluation process for this quadrennium. Our Committee on Episcopacy also reports the Episcopal leadership needs to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy through our SEJ COE members.

The Committee on Episcopacy fully agrees that during the past four years Bishop Holston led this conference by example and provided insight, encouragement and motivation for our congregations to grow both spiritually and physically. We would like to express appreciation to our SEJ Conference delegation and especially to our two SEJ COE members Dr. Tim McClendon and Barbara Ware for facilitating Bishop Holston's re-appointment to the South Carolina Annual Conference. He was sought by many of the other conferences in our jurisdiction. The South Carolina Delegation had a reception for him at Lake Junaluska and the South Carolina COE presented Bishop Holston a personal crozier and Mrs. Holston a gift certificate on behalf of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference welcoming him back for another four years.

Bishop Holston has remained faithful to the leadership of the clergy and laity. During the past year Bishop Holston continued "The Bishop's Road Show" with the 2015 – 2016 Bar-B-Que Bashes (laity and clergy) and the 2016 – 2017 Bishop's Forward Focus Tours (providing tools for congregations to maximize their present and future ministries) as he continued to strengthen our congregations spiritually and physically and build relationships. Bishop Holston and his wife Felecia have traveled over 100,000 miles across this state over the past two years serving our conference and staying connected to the 12 districts. His concentration and focus included clarity, alignment, order, with a focus on "Grow the Church, Get Resources to Where They Are Needed and Communicate". The relationship between the bishop, the conference staff and conference organizations, the laity, and the clergy has greatly improved with large attendance and participation in all 12 of the district meetings. With the 2015 floods and 2016 Hurricane Matthew, Bishop Holston, our disaster relief groups and our churches reached out with food, supplies, and offerings. Over 150 flooded homes were repaired. Early response teams, the Sellers Blitz and Nichols Blitz and other relief groups responded to the Hurricane Matthew disaster. We are continuing our mission with the "Homeless Initiative" and "Bikes for the World" project for the 2017 Annual Conference. The success of why we give has worked as we reached over 92 % in apportionment payments. Attendance at our Youth Revolutions Weekend, the United Methodist Men Spiritual Weekend, and the UMW Conference have continued to grow and are nationally recognized. Bishop Holston's concern for inclusiveness in the church reveals a vast understanding of the multicultural nature of the South Carolina United Methodist Church. We are grateful for him!

The Bishop's involvement also includes.

- Serves on the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops Executive Committee
- Serves on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Global Ministries
- Mission trip to the Honduras each year with the youth of our conference
- Mission trips to Zimbabwe, the Holy Land, and Greece
- Presided over bishop election in the West Africa Central Conference
- Began a term on the Columbia College Board of Trustees
- Serving on nine+ boards and committees
- Attended all Council of Bishops meetings
- Coordinated a gathering/dialogue with Pan Methodist Bishops and COE Executive Committee in Charleston, including a visit to Mother Emanuel AME church for prayer

We also express appreciation to Mrs. Felecia Holston, who offers support to Bishop Holston and was co-chairperson of the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign and serves on the Epworth's Children Home Board and the Killingsworth Home Board.

The Committee on Episcopacy also would like to express appreciation to Bettye Rivers, Administrative Secretary to Bishop Holston, for all the assistance she has provided this committee over the last fourteen years and wish her many happy days in retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

*Holbrook Platts, Chairperson,
The Committee on Episcopacy*

THE OFFICE CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services is to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to all matters of clergy credentialing. The personnel files for all the clergy of the conference are maintained by this office. This position also serves as a member of the Ministry Advisory Team.

Ms. Martha Long, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to the district offices and candidates. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports for which this office is responsible. The work of this office would not happen without her and the twelve District administrative assistants. We owe them a profound measure of gratitude.

It is a pleasure to work with our Bishop, District Superintendents and their administrative assistants on many matters related to our clergy, and to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervise the clergy of our Conference.

In 2016, the office of clergy services scanned all existing personnel files to a digital format. Our 2017 goal is to have these files uploaded into e-Bridge by the end of the year. Additionally, we are reviewing and updating all of the applications and forms on the Clergy Services website. This is always a work in progress as we seek to streamline our process.

As we enter in the 2016-2019 quadrennial cycle, the Board has organized and elected its officers. The board continues to move forward under the excellent leadership of the Rev. Fran Elrod who was elected to serve as the chairperson. The depth of her experience, her commitment to excellence, her concern for both credentialing and leadership development ensures that together we will continue to move forward.

Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, I continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference. I have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas and have worked to update the training of our District Committees on Ministry. It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry and I look forward to the year ahead.

Kenneth L. Nelson, Coordinator of Clergy Services

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Camps and Retreats through the ministry of Asbury Hills was once again able to nurture persons in Christian living by providing HOPE; **Hospitality** – Reach out to all persons, **Opportunity** – Offer them Christ, **Purpose** – Nurture persons in Christian Living, and **Engagement** – Send persons out to live their faith. All of this at a place set apart from one's own creative work, a place of solitude, Asbury Hills.

Nestled between Table Rock and Caesars Head, Asbury Hills completed and celebrates **55 years** of camping! In 2016 we served more than 3000 guests and more than 1100 campers in this beautiful setting where creation formation leads to faith formation, building relationships with trust and confidence. The ministry's emphasis is to be more intentional about creating and practicing Christian Community. We continue to practice play and relationship building in a way that generates building blocks to leadership development. This past year, our very own Executive Director was asked to lead the national camping initiative on "Expanding Ethnic Community and Leadership in Camping".

As the ministry continues to grow strong from the inside out, the past year was filled with many experiences for which we are thankful. In April of 2016 Asbury Hills was named the "Coolest Camp" in South Carolina by GoBankingRates article <https://www.gobankingrates.com/personal-finance/coolest-summer-camp-state/1/>. In June of 2016 the Center for Faith and Service article listed Asbury Hills as a "Summer Camp That Changes the World" <http://www.faith3.org/2016-camps-that-change-the-world>. Also in June, Camps and Retreats added staff member Paige Railey, replacing Sarah Kelley as the new Director of Marketing and Communications.

Towards the end of the year, Camps and Retreat Ministries secured a \$40k grant through the Conservation Bank to protect the newly purchased Burgess property at Sky Ranch, and a new Master Plan for Asbury Hills was completed by DP3 Architects in Greenville.

As many continue to pray for God's discernment over the Sewee property, the contract for the sale of Sewee passed at Annual Conference last year fell through. The board is working diligently towards a new sale and or best use of this property.

Camps and Retreat Ministries is pleased to place under its wings Camp Providence. Many hours with community leaders have taken place, along with future programming ideas for the property.

Camps and Retreat Ministries would like to thank the entire Conference for their continued support of the ministry, as we look forward to all God has in store for 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur W. Spriggs, Executive Director
H. Jay Haar, Board Chair

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The primary work of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to oversee the maintenance and ultimate disposition of the property of closed churches. The Board also holds in trust property received by bequest or gift.

Substantial changes to the procedure for the closure of churches were made by the *2016 Book of Discipline*. Churches can now be closed by action of the Annual Conference or they can be closed under exigent circumstances on an ad interim basis. You will notice that the resolutions before you this year ask for your votes to close churches and do not use the prior language of discontinuation.

The changes also change the process for the management of closed church properties and have increased the involvement of the District Superintendents. The hope of these changes is to give closed church property a new opportunity to be used to make disciplines of Jesus Christ.

The Board receives no apportionment money. Under the *2016 Book of Discipline* the Trustees have voted and will request this body approve a resolution to allow them to retain 10% of the funds received from the sale of any closed church property which will provide a funding source for the operation of the Board. The Board is also charged with the responsibility to make recommendations and review the insurance protections of the Conference.

Attached to this report and incorporated by reference herein is an accounting of the funds of the Board of Trustees for this past year, along with a listing of all real property being overseen by the Board, as required by paragraph 2512.6 of the *Book of Discipline*:

Accounting By Property

District	Property	Designation	
Anderson	Asbury Clark	Undesignated	134,971.74
Anderson	Sharon/Liberty	Transferred to the CME Church	2,528.00
Greenville	Concord (GV Korean)	Undesignated	39,913.01
Greenville	Zion-Andrews	New Beginnings UMC	59,626.78
Greenville	Woodside	Urban Center	107,310.28
Anderson	Orville Parsonage	SOLD 2015	-
Anderson	Orville Church (South Main Chapel & Mercy Ctr)	Pending Resolution	2,165.16
		Pending Resolution	2,165.16
Walterboro	Broomfield	Pending Resolution	(37.36)
Greenwood	Laurens Property	Transferred to Bridging the Gap	(11,123.50)
	(Calvary(Bridging the Gap))	2016	
Greenville	Mckinney Chappel	Pending Resolution	(658.82)
Orangeburg	Cameron Property	Pending Resolution	(2,162.95)
Marion	Old Galilee	Pending Resolution	(99.61)
Anderson	St Johns	Pending Resolution	(2,320.00)
Charleston	St Johns	Sold 2016	513,902.08
Rock Hill	Kershaw First	Pending Resolution	(5,792.86)
Marion	Iona	Pending Resolution	(1,499.99)
Greenville	Grace-Woodruff		
	(Parsonage & Church)	SOLD 2016	57,023.71
Hartsville	Twitty (transferred to BOT of of Hartsville District)	Undesignated	(1,310.00)
Orangeburg	Charles-Wesley (Open Hearts)	Pending Resolution	(7,960.00)
Greenville	Arrington (Esperanza)	Sold 2016	27,055.98
Florence	Trinity (and cemetery)	Pending Resolution	1,301.67
Anderson	Bethel (Bleckley)	Pending Resolution	(17.41)
Marion	Floyds	SOLD 2017	(440.00)
Hartsville	Mt Tabor (Chesterfield)	Undesignated	(3,776.37)
Anderson	Smiths Chapel	Undesignated	(450.00)
Orangeburg	Rocky Swamp	Mission Church	(367.47)
Conference	Undesignated	Undesignated	19,667.79
Grand Total			927,449.86

*Pending Resolution properties held in trust with no current action on property.

Bryan Braddock, Chair
SC Conference Board of Trustees

THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

The Belin Board of Trust exists to manage, preserve, and continue the missional legacy of Reverend James L. Belin. Reverend Belin stated that it was “the long fixed and settled purpose of my life, to devote all that I possess to the promotion of the Glory of God, in advancement of the Missionary Cause.” Accordingly, during 2016, the Belin Board worked to protect the corpus of the trust and direct a percentage of the trust to benefit missions within the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The Belin Board works in partnership with the Conference Board of Global Ministries to fund new mission projects in South Carolina. Beginning in 2012, The Board began initiatives seeking to expand awareness of Belin Trust grant funding. The Board has continued the awareness project through 2015. The Board also continued an enhanced distribution process which allotted over \$160,000 for the Board of Global Ministries to allocate for worthy projects in 2016.

The Board utilizes the services of Debnam Wealth Management Group, Charleston, SC, to assist in the management of the Trust's \$5.5 million investment portfolio and to carry out the socially responsible investment policy as directed by The General Conference. The Board's Finance and Investment Committee works closely with our advisors to manage the portfolio to meet the objectives of the Trust while adhering to the Investment Policy Statement as updated in 2013.

The Board continues to engage Webster Rogers LLP to perform accounting services including preparation of quarterly and annual financial statements. DeLoach & Williamson, LLP perform agreed upon procedures engagement related to the financial accounting and related statements.

Officers elected for 2017 are as follows: Chairperson, Rev. F.J. (Eric) Shepard; Vice Chairperson, Kevin Smiley; Secretary, Rev. Mary Johnson, Treasurer, Frank Sanders.

On behalf of the Board, we express our thanks and sincere appreciation for the assistance of Rev. Steve Gaither and the Conference Board of Global Ministries in the work of expanding missions within the South Carolina Annual Conference. We also acknowledge the many congregations in the Conference that have helped continue the Legacy of Reverend Belin by applying for and utilizing grants funded by the Trust. The missions funded through these grants are “making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* celebrates 180 years of telling God's stories at work through United Methodist churches in South Carolina. Thank you, Annual Conference, for your readership and your support of our newspaper ministry. The *Advocate* has a special distinction of being the oldest continuously published newspaper in Methodism, which we believe is quite noteworthy. We are pleased to be able to carry on this Christian legacy with excellence, hard work and a passion for doing the Lord's will.

Across South Carolina, so many wonderful things are happening in our churches—increased local and international missions, significant poverty relief ministries, expanded youth advocacy, evangelism and outreach, and more. The award-winning *Advocate* is here to tell those stories and inspire Kingdom change. Every article, every photograph, every advertisement—every single thing that goes in the *Advocate* is designed to inform, engage, uplift and transform our readers, all for the glory of God.

This year continues a time of remarkable growth and development. Since 2010, we have won 84 writing, general excellence, photography and other journalism awards from the South Carolina Press Association, United Methodist Association of Communicators and Religion Communicators Council, including “best newspaper” in our division multiple times. We continue to contribute to the UMC's communications ministry on the conference, jurisdictional and global level. Last year was a quadrennial year, and in addition to traditional coverage in our monthly newspapers, we also featured strong coverage from a South Carolina perspective of the three major denominational gatherings: General Conference (May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon), Annual Conference (June 5-8 in Florence) and Jurisdictional Conference (July 13-15 in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina). We worked in tandem with the South Carolina Annual Conference to do in-depth on-the-scene web coverage, including daily wrap-ups and other articles that were featured prominently on the *Advocate's* website (AdvocateSC.org), the conference website (UMCSC.org) and the general church website (UMC.org). Many of these were also circulated via eNewsletter. We continue to work as partners with South Carolina Conference Connectional Ministries and its Communications Office, as well as the global United Methodist News Service, United Methodist Communications, the United Methodist Women's *Response* magazine, the United Methodist Men, the General Board of Church and Society and others.

We have been particularly excited about the ways the *Advocate* is fairly and safely helping people through often-divisive issues, such as human sexuality and race relations. Through our new South Carolina Stories of Racial Awakenings Project and through op-eds,

point-counterpoint pieces and balanced news stories on these and other issues, we are making a difference.

Other key highlights from 2016 and early 2017:

- The *Advocate* claimed 15 awards in 2016 and two more (as of this writing) in 2017.
- Our articles are consistently featured on UMC.org, in the UMNS daily or weekly digest and in other global and local UMC publications/websites.
- Website traffic continues to grow, and we post daily on Facebook and Twitter. (Like our *Advocate* page at www.facebook.com/advocatesc and follow us on Twitter @AdvocateSC.)
- We do all we can to spread the word about our newspaper ministry both by speaking at events and by getting the word out through *Advocate* Awareness Day, which started in 2015. This year's awareness day was May 21, 2017. We used speakers, bulletin inserts, videos and other resources to help people understand the importance of the *Advocate's* newspaper ministry and how it helps connect Christians and further God's work.
- We are again producing the *Daily Advocate* with the conference Communications Office. It is a four-page publication that started in 2014 and goes to every lay and clergy member each day of Annual Conference to help members be better aware of issues, business and legislation.
- We have featured strong disaster response coverage both of our state's historic 2015 flood and the 2016 devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew—and how the UMC responded in Christian love to those affected. The day the hurricane hit South Carolina, we wrote and published a "how to help after the storm" article on our website and in social media, plus released several more update articles in the days and months following; these have been shared by the conference and UMNS all over the state, nation and world.
- Ad sales and circulation are holding steady.
- We continue the *Advocate's* \$1,000 college scholarship, launched in 2014 as a way to help students with an interest in communications, journalism or business who are enrolled at one of the four United Methodist colleges in South Carolina: Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College or Wofford College.

Our goal is for every South Carolina United Methodist to read the *Advocate* in one format or another and be inspired by the transformative stories of God at work in South Carolina. In addition to the free content on our website, AdvocateSC.org, we offer:

- Subscriptions for individuals for \$15/year (or \$8/year online-only)
- Free subscriptions for clergy
- Free subscriptions to new church members for one year (churches: email new member names to advocate@umcsc.org)
- Clergy 5 for \$25 (clergy pay \$25 for five members of a church to receive the *Advocate* for \$5 apiece instead of \$15 apiece)
- Church-wide *Advocate* subscription plans: print plans for \$10/person per year and online plans for \$1/person per year

We are here to answer your questions: advocate@umcsc.org or 803-786-9486. Thank you for your support as we continue serving God through our newspaper ministry. And don't forget: send us your news. Deadlines are the 10th of every month for the following month's paper.

Dr. Bill Click, chairperson, and Jessica Brodie, editor

THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER

The Trustees of the United Methodist Center appreciate the continued support of the churches through the apportionment system. The Trustees continue being good stewards of the funds for ensuring the facilities are maintained at the highest level of maintenance repairs and capital improvements. The building continues to offer superb support for different ministries of the Annual Conference. The most recent activities include repairing the elevator shaft damage and repairing water leaks for different sources. Recently completed projects include determining the source of roof leaks at several locations in the building. All these good deeds could not be accomplished without the awesome work of Ms. Christine Dominick who provides daily guidance for ensuring our facility is maintained. The Board expresses gratitude to Rev. Paul Wood for numerous years of service as trustee and chair for over eight years. Paul on behalf of the trustee's we sincerely could not have accomplished so many things without your leadership and guidance. Thank you. We wish God's blessing as you retire. Just as one

departs another arrives to serve honorably and faithful, we humbly welcome Rev. Doris R. Bright from Easley Chapel and John Wesley to our team of trustees.

Ronald D. Friday, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND APPEALS

This year a total of nine resolutions were submitted to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals by the March 15 deadline. The committee met on April 10 to discuss and prayerfully consider each of the nine resolutions that were submitted. We look forward to the opportunity to present these to the body of the 2017 Annual Conference at the appropriate time.

The committee would like to thank everyone who submitted their resolutions on time. The March 15 deadline gives us ample time to consider each proposed resolution rather than being rushed by last minute submissions at Annual Conference. In the future we highly encourage everyone who plans to submit a resolution to do so by the March 15 deadline.

Finally I would ask everyone to be prayerful and grace filled as we prepare to discuss each of these resolutions at Annual Conference.

*Rev. Steve Simoneaux, Chairperson
Committee on Resolutions and Appeals*

THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

It is my privilege to serve this conference as Conference Chancellor, legal advisor to the Bishop and the Annual Conference. By standing rule 98, requests for my services are made through the Episcopal office.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Conference. I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue work with the dedicated clergy, staff and laypersons of the Conference.

The 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 2549 made substantial changes in the procedure for the closure of Churches. This new procedure allows for two types of closure and the language we used for many years of abandonment and discontinuation are no longer used. There are now two types of closure the first of these is Closure by Vote of Annual Conference. For this type of closure, the first step is a finding by the District Superintendent that the local church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized or incorporated or that it is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of the United Methodist Church. Either of these findings support closure. The District Superintendent then guides the church through ¶ 213 assessment, obtains a legal opinion about the property and develops a plan for the use of the property and a plan to transfer the membership. The closure is presented to the Cabinet and the Bishop and upon the majority vote of the district superintendents and the consent of the presiding Bishop the matter is then put to the vote of the Annual Conference.

The second type of closure is new and it is an ad interim procedure. It allows closure between sessions of annual conference. This can happen two ways. The first is allows a church to voluntarily transfer its property to the conference and close. The second occurs if the presiding Bishop, and the majority of the district superintendents and the appropriate district board of church location all consent, they may in their sole discretion declare that circumstances exist that require the immediate protection of the local church's property for the benefit of the denomination. In that case title immediately vests in the Conference Board of Trustees. Examples of circumstances where this type of immediate closure can occur include circumstances where the church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, or where the property is no longer used as a place of divine worship of the United Methodist Church. This closure takes place immediately but is then presented for ratification to the Annual Conference. These changes were supported by the Chancellors of the United Methodist Church and they are designed to allow action when needed to support and maintain the property of the church.

Kay G. Crowe, Conference Chancellor

THE REPORT OF THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

The Ministry Advisory Team is an advisory team composed of myself, the Conference Lay Leader, the dean of the Cabinet as well as conference staff members and board chairs of the programmatic, administrative, and personnel teams of the annual conference. The MAT exists to create excellence in ministry by advising the Bishop, the District Superintendents, and the programmatic, administrative, and personnel teams of the Annual Conference.

As we enter a new quadrennium, the president of the Council on Financial and Administration, the convener of Connectional Ministries and the chairpersons of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Congregational Development, and the Board of Pension and Insurance are

all new to the team. As we meet, we seek to develop authentic relationship that will foster a spirit of trust, collaboration, and engagement “across silos” that will serve to better inform the work of the annual conference as we seek to support the work of local churches engaged in ministry in their communities.

The Ministry Advisory met in November 2016 to form as a team with new members and to orient everyone to our purpose. We have met in January and April of this year. In our time together, our conversations included discussion related to the Forward Focus initiative, potential changes in conference insurance plan for 2018, the deployment of clergy across the state especially to multiple point charges and stations in rural areas, and finding creative ways to fund ministry. In the midst of denominational uncertainty, we are committed to work collaboratively and creatively to address the challenges facing our annual conference.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

It is no secret. For those of us who are followers of Christ and leaders in the church, we are aware that the world is changing rapidly and with great impact to the Church. Many of us came on the stage of history during the Modern Era. We were shaped by churches that had the support of the dominant culture, where being a good citizen meant going to church, supporting the local civic organizations like the Rotary Club, Garden Club, Music Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and the like. But many civic organizations, like many churches, have found their numbers on the decline. The media has much to say these days about the “Nones” – those with no faith affiliation, and the rising group that have created another category called the “Dones” – those who are leaving the institutional church out of frustration because it seems to them that often the ways of Jesus are not the ways of His Church.

But it is not the occasion to ring our hands in worry or fear. We have been here before. Not “here” as in 2017, but here, at a place in history where one era comes to an end and a new era begins. It’s Phyllis Tickle who says that this seismic shift happens about every 500 years. Think about it: Exactly 500 years ago, there was much upheaval in the Church. Does anyone remember what happened in 1517? It was the occasion when Martin Luther placed The 95 Theses on the door at Wittenberg Castle Church, prompting the Protestant Reformation. Five hundred years before that, around 1054, there was The Great Schism where a split happened in the Church between the East and West. Five hundred years before that, around 590, was the Fall of the Roman Empire. And 500 years before that, there was the birth of the Church. About every 500 years, the Church experiences a major shift that causes it to recalibrate for the new era.

Through the wide-angle lens of history, it is not surprising that we are in a period of upheaval and recalibration as the culture shifts from Modernity to Post Modernity. We’ve been here before.

We *feel* this as pastors: We are leading Modern Era institutions while living in this Post-modern context. We are trying to honor the values and practices of those who are in our churches and at the same time reach those who are not there in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them. And in light of this, pastoral leadership has never been more demanding than in these days.

Our Bishop is keenly aware of our present realities, and that’s why he guides the Cabinet and lay and clergy leadership across the annual conference to remember the story of Luke 5. Jesus, after using a boat as his makeshift pulpit and teaching the crowds, turns to Simon and says, “Push out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon is reluctant. After all, he is a fisherman, Jesus is not, and he’s been out fishing all night and caught nothing. Voicing his caution, Simon ends with saying, “But if you say so, I’ll let out the nets.”

Through this scriptural touchstone, the Cabinet is seeking to lead and encourage lay and clergy to push out into deeper water. This requires several things: knowing our ‘Why?’, growing trust, a willing to risk, and a resilience to know that even if we try and fail, there are things to learn from excellent mistakes!

For five years, under the leadership of Bishop Holston, we have been having intentional, consistent, conversations around trust and leadership and risk and pushing out into the deep water at Jesus’ calling. You’ll remember that in his first year with us, Bishop Holston went to every district to share a bit of his story and hear from lay and clergy in listening sessions. The following year, there was the Bishop’s Road Show where he gathered with the laity in each district. The next year was the Bishop’s BBQ Bash which brought together laity and clergy around issues of leadership. And this year, the Bishop has once again made his way around our Conference and twelve districts offering a way to “push out into the deep water” through the Bishop’s Forward Focus. Through intentional, consistent conversations that encourage us to know our ‘Why?’, grow trust, take risks, and show resilience when our best efforts do not lead to desired outcomes. These ongoing and unfolding conversations are the intentional work of mission alignment at the local, district and conference levels.

The Cabinet is excited to be engaging in these conversations around the Forward Focus process and believes much fruit will come from our willingness to discern, discover and chart a course forward. This Forward Focus process gives local churches tools to know themselves and their communities better, and moves our thinking from ideas to action.

The world is changing, no doubt. A seismic shift is underway in our lifetime. It only happens about every 500 years, and this new "re-formation" is happening on our watch. Though challenging, this time in history has the capacity to be exciting, exhilarating, meaningful, life-giving work. This is no time to sit at the edge of the water cleaning our nets, discouraged that we caught no fish. Jesus is with his Church and says, "Push out into the deep water and cast your nets there."

The pace of change in our society has perhaps never been more rapid than it is today. With all the changes that are happening in our nation, state, and communities as well as the many competing voices that speak about changes, it can be difficult to sort through all that is before us. As Christians in the midst of chaotic times, we are called to remember who we are and whose we are and to be witnesses to Jesus Christ for the world.

This year, our theme embraces that stated desire to seek a more excellent way as we walk by faith, not by sight. It is the recognition of our faith journey to keep our focus on making disciples while transforming the world. This is our calling and witness, even when it feels risky and frightening to do so. Therefore, our work as a Cabinet includes walking by faith and not sight, staying focused on our mission and purpose in the midst of uncertainty and helping laity and clergy live into God's preferred future.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Susan Leonard-Ray
Dean of the Cabinet*

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the South Carolina United Methodist Men are continuing to respond, lay and clergy, to Jesus Christ's command to go into all the world and make disciples. With the leadership of Bishop Holston, the lay and clergy in the South Carolina Annual Conference are seeking God's will to dream and accomplish "God Size Dreams" through the discipleship of men that God can use in their families, church, community and beyond.

South Carolina UMM dedicates this year's report to Harold Reid.

I would invite your reverence as South Carolina men celebrate the home going of our brother in Christ Harold Reid. Brother Reid was given the life time award a couple of years ago. He was a gentle giant of a man. He was a past president of his local church, past district treasury, and audited the books of the SC UMMEN until two years ago. Harold lived independent, drove, and was on no medication until the last month of his life. Harold passed away peacefully in November of this year at the age of 94. Harold listened more than he talked. He was a humble man, a Godly man. We nicknamed him "E.F. Hutton," because when he spoke the room got quite. He left a huge hole in the SC UMMEN family.

Below is a general overview of Ministry to Men in South Carolina:

The Changing Face of Men's Ministry; Changing the Method, not the Message:

How is South Carolina Conference UMM attracting men in record numbers to Men's Spiritual Weekends, Teaching Churches, Leadership Training, and returning them fired up and equipped to change, their families, churches, and the communities they live in?

So what did we do?

The first thing we had to be willing to quit doing things like we had always done them. We committed to pray first for God's will and then pray for guidance to follow that will. We realized that the message did not need to change... the message of discipleship of men that God can use to change their families, churches, and communities. However, the method had to change drastically.

In 2013 God sent the South Carolina Conference a Bishop, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, who challenged men to step up and be the men God intended them to be. He also led by example and was willing to give time because he realized that if we disciple men to be the men God intended them to be, His church will grow. We needed to disciple men to transform not only South Carolina, but the world.

Partnerships, Relationships, and Building Trust:

The Bishop not only challenged us to change, but he challenged us all to come out of our silos and partner with pastors and other ministries of the Church. As a result we have built strong working relations with the Bishop, his cabinet, and the conference staff. We coordinate and cooperate with the Conference Leaders of Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Women, Lay Leader, Lay Servants, and other ministries. We have agreed to

support each other since our only mission is making disciples. We no longer operate in silos, but cooperate to support each other in all we do.

Our attendance at our Spiritual Weekend has increased each year since 2013, (160 in 2013, 590 in 2014, and 860 in 2015). Our Bishop challenged us to have 1500 in February 19-21, 2016. Our key presenter was Rev. Zan Holmes who was one of the key people in the Disciple Bible Study Series. The Bishop continues to be a key part of this ministry. Check web site at www.mennministry.org or www.ummsc.org.

We fell short of our goal of 1500 in attendance at the Spiritual Retreat February 19-21, 2016.

We did have 1100, thank you Jesus. As we continue to say, it is not about the number of people that come to the event... it is about the number of men that return to their families and churches and communities to let God use them to change lives for Christ. The Bishop has taught us to "Dream God Size Dreams", to not set our goals so low that we trip over our Dreams, and to not limit God by our ability. He said it is ok to fall short of our MARK, as long as we do our best to follow God's Will. What is the Mark we as Men will leave on this world? Next year's goal is 1500 in attendance at the Spiritual Retreat which will be held February 17-19, 2017 at Christ Church, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Next year's Theme is "Rooted" Grow Deep, Live Strong. Psalm 1:3. We have asked the Bishop, District Superintendents, Pastors, and Laity to continue to partner with us in this God Size Dream. A Dream to Disciple Men that God can use in their Families, Church, Community, and beyond to change lives for Christ. Please Join Us!!!!

We are able to do this with no paid employees because of the support system and partnerships we have developed.

- We have developed relationships with, not only laity and clergy, but we have developed working relationships with the South Carolina Annual Conference Staff which supports us in many ways with our ministries.
- The Advocate, our Conference News Paper, promotes us through articles and advertisement. It also captures all men related articles from across SC and sends them to our web site and to Rich Peck.
- The Conference Treasury collects money and information for paper registration for our Spiritual Weekend and Teaching Church events.
- The Bishop continues to include Herman Lightsey, our Conference President, as part of his road staff. He and his road staff visit each district each year to train and encourage clergy and laity. At these events the Bishop promotes our Weekend and our Teaching events and this gives us face time with lay and clergy at district and local church levels.
- As a result of our relationship with the Bishop and his Cabinet, we have, for the first time in over twenty years, established ministry leadership teams in all twelve districts. Several of these teams have a lay and clergy as contact persons.
- Female pastors have embraced this move to get men involved in the local churches and communities. More and more female pastors are embracing the role as the spiritual leader of their men and that they are part of the United Methodist Men by the *Discipline*.
- Instead of talking about chartering men's units, we instead talk about discipleship of men and their families and how we want to be the conduit. We talk about connecting their ministry to men by chartering their churches, not clubs. The bishop has agreed to include the question of is your church chartered on the Charge Conference Form for 2017.
- As a result of us moving our Spiritual Retreat to Christ UMC in 2014, Pastor Jeff Dunn said the event had made such an impression on his men's group that they chartered in 2015 for the first time in the church's existence.
- Mt Horeb UMC, the 2nd largest church in the SC Conference chartered for the first time in 2016 because of their involvement as an anchor church.
- Covenant UMC in Greer is also one of our anchor churches and chartered in 2014 as a result of their involvement. Covenant is the 6th fastest growing church in the connection.
- This is our fourth year of participating with the Conference event for young people called "Revolution". This event draws about 2,000 high school and college youth. We are donating bibles, a youth worship book, and helping with the event.
- We continue to be involved with a group of black ministers and laity to see how young black men can be mentored to reduce the incarceration rate. They feel that this is a good fit with our ministry.

Teaching Churches: The next steps..

A major factor in reaching men in local churches is the Teaching Church events that are held in districts all over the South Carolina Conference. These are the "Next Steps" in the transformation of ministry to men, their families, and churches over the next quadrennial. Connectionalism is the "ACE" that other organized religions do not have. We firmly believe Godley men will change the face of the Methodist Church, one disciple at a time.

What are Teaching Churches?

Each Teaching Church event will be different, because churches will share their ideas that have helped them grow their churches through discipleship of men and their families. We encourage men, woman and pastors to attend a teaching these teaching church events in to gather ideas for growing their church.

This is our fourth year of using teaching churches. A total of twenty have been held since 2014 and over 2,800 participants (lay and clergy) have attended. It is important for pastors to preach to and encourage men from the pulpit. As you will see teaching churches have evolved beyond the wall of the church to communities and across denomination lines. Check web site at www.mennministry.org or www.ummsc.org.

Missions Support Money and Hands On:

South Carolina had two tragic events in 2015.

- The first event was the tragic shooting of nine people at Mother Emanuel AME Church as they were in bible study. This event was meant for evil, but God and the people of South Carolina used it for good.
- The second event was the flood that devastated the state. Again a tragic event of nature caused much damage, but again the people of South Carolina responded in love and compassion.

Again this year South Carolina was hit with a massive Hurricane, Matthew, which caused wide power outages, flooding, property damage, and loss of life.

As before, South Carolina United Methodist men were involved in raising money, filling and loading flood bucket, delivering furniture, cloths, food, etc., helping with UVMIM, and many other ways.

The South Carolina Conference of United Methodist Men contributed both time and money to many projects. Examples are the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, Africa University, Summit on the Black Church, Revolution, etc. Local men's groups throughout the state raise money in various ways to support homeless, to repair housing of less fortunate, support hunger programs, wheel chair ramps, and many more missions. SC men are involved in giving and in doing.

Leadership Training & Challenge:

We are continuing to have leadership training from conference to local churches. We are assisting with training and funding of these events.

Snapshot of SC UMMen's Progress in 2016

Charters:

- SEJ gold for conferences was 5% increase which was 13 for SC.
- SC exceeded its goal with an 8% growth or 21 additional charters.
- Since 2013, when we changed our method of reaching men, our charters have increased 15.4%.
- Bishop Holston sent a letter to encourage churches that had not renewed to do so and encourage new church to charter.

EMS:

- As with many conferences, we have loss EMS members because of men ageing out. We are encouraging our leaders to become EMS. We started this in 2016 at our September leadership training.
- Bishop Holston became an EMS in 2016 and challenged other leaders to do so in a letter to all leadership.
- All district leaders are EMS except three. Hope to be 100% in 2017.
- Our EMS members increased from 23 to 29 for a 26% increase.

Strength For Service Initiative January-June 2016:

- SC sold 70 of 148 cases for SEJ or 47.3%.
- SC sold over twice as many cases as the next highest conference.
- SC sold 70 of 282 cases for all UMC Conferences or 24.8%.
- Bishop Holston sent a letter to all clergy and laity encouraging them to support initiative of United Methodist Men.
- Several local men's groups honored public servants with SFS devotionals. One group presented over 600 copies.

Upper Room Prayer Ministries:

- SC Men were received an award from the Upper Room for the largest contribution of \$4,500.
- SC Men answer the upper room prayer line throughout the year in numerous local churches and at district gatherings.
- SC Conference Men sponsor a pray line at our Annual Conference.
- At our Spiritual Weekend we have a pray line and we designate one night of offerings to the Upper Room. Churches are also encouraged to bring offering from their churches.

- Upper Room Prayer Ministries is a central part of this ministry.
- We have added one district prayer advocate, with a goal of one per district.

National Gathering:

- The National Gathering has been redesigned to reflect the South Carolina Model using a large United Methodist Church for the event.
- Bishop Holston of the South Carolina Conference will be the keynote speaker. He has been an active advocate and partner in the success of ministry to men in SC.
- Our goal is to have 200 men attend.

Best Conference Unit of United Methodist Men in the United States:

- We are humbled that we were chosen for this award for the second time. We shared the award last year with Western North Carolina.
- Our only mission is to help disciple men that God can use in their families, churches, community, and beyond.
- Our Prayer that all conferences Men will benefit from our success.

Web site and communication:

- In July of 2016 South Carolina Men launched a new web site.
- In August of 2016 we expanded to social media to hopefully expand our exposure and in particular to the younger generation.
- In partnership with the SC Conference, we have combined our mailing list to reach monthly over 7,000 clergy and laity. We also reach over 1,000 churches. This has vastly increased our communications.
- United Methodist Advocate Newspaper covers and reports on men's ministry in SC. The editor is a huge supporter. She forwards copies of any articles on men to Rich Peck and to our web site. We have dozens of articles each year. (sample articles attached)
- In July of 2016 we also established our own on line registration system. This is utilized for teaching churches and our Spiritual Weekend Retreat.

Spiritual Weekend:

- This is the fourth year since we asked God for guidance.
- We have grown from 160 to over 1000.
- Our goal for 2017 is 1500.
- The purpose of the is to expose men and clergy to praise and worship of God, to instruct them in how to grow as men that God can use, and send them back equipped to make a difference in their families, churches, and communities.
- We firmly believe that Godly men will change the Church.
- Each year our theme and purpose is to get men to make a deeper commitment to God and grow in their faith. We are seeing signs of movement.

Teaching Churches:

- This year we had four teaching churches. As you will see these events have grown from just men in local churches to communities and cross denominational lines.
- Two of the four teaching church events reached out to other denominations. These two events were attended by over 400 men.
- As a result of one of these teaching churches, George Martin felt God nudge him to step up as district president of the Greenwood district. This district has had no organized men's organization in over twenty years.
- Mt Horeb has a published author and featured by Cokesbury. Rev Nick Cunningham published a book on groups called "ONE". He held a teaching church on his book, which was attended by clergy and laity.
- Over 800 men attended these events.

Disaster Relief:

- Men have stepped up all over SC to respond to a second year of natural disaster in our state.
- SC Conference Men have donated over 200 Strength For Service Books that were given out to EMS and other volunteers.

Leadership Training:

- We held leadership training September 16 and 17, 2016.
- We ask for men to attend, ONLY, if they would commit to the next two years in leadership positions. They signed a leadership contract.
- We paid all expenses for them to attend.
- Instructions were done by pastors with a strong love for men's ministry. Those who have been partnering with us. One of the facilitators was our new Cabinet representative. We did this to get fresh people and prospective. Men get tired of listening to same people.
- We set Conference goals and asked the districts to support and to set district goals
- We have followed up and have also set up four clusters of 3 districts each. We paired strong district with weaker districts. A conference leader is the cluster leader for advice, support, and communication.

- Pastors and laity said it is the best leader training they have been a part of.
- Over 40 men attended.

SEJ Young Men's Think Tank:

- SEJ commissioned a young man's think tank to get ideas from the next generation men.
- David Holcombe is South Carolina's Representative & our Conference Treasury.
- We have extended all members of the Think Tank to attend our Spiritual Weekend.

Our prayer is that this moves across the Church. Join us in disciplining men that God can use in changing families, churches, and communities ... the world. Will you put some personal "Skin in the Game"? Will you "Make Your Mark" for Christ; will you sink your "Roots" by the river that flows by the Tree of Life?

MEN CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD...BUT CHANGED MEN, THROUGH CHRIST, CAN !!!!!

The Harvest is plentiful, the labors few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the field. Luke 10:2

Men step up for Christ!!!!

I promise you, if we disciple men that God can use in the family, local church, local community, and beyond The Church Will Grow!

Join Us, Pray for this Ministry!

Respectfully Submitted
Herman Lightsey, President
SC Conference United Methodist Men

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As United Methodist Women, we are rooted in the faith expressed in traditions and witness of the United Methodist Church. South Carolina United Methodist Women is a statewide organization of women engaged in mission and advocacy. United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with over 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. Through Faith, Hope and Love in Action, United Methodist Women of South Carolina change the lives of women, children and youth in South Carolina and around the world.

Through our PURPOSE, we continue to be a supportive group of women...a community of sisters who nurture and encourage one another in our spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Conference leadership team has worked hard to plan programs and events that support our Purpose, undergird our Mission Projects, educate and involve our membership and expand the concepts of Mission through participation in the global Ministries of the church.

This past year has been a truly eventful year for South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. It was a time for us to discern God's call for each of us in the local units and at the district and conference level. In January, nine members of the conference team traveled to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina to attend the United Methodist Women's Leadership Development Days (LDD) sponsored by the UMW national organization. We were joined by over 200 other United Methodist Women from around the United States who were there to share and learn about leadership in our organization. The theme from the Old Testament story of Esther, "For Such a Time as This", provided us ammunition to go back into our communities and be servant leaders like Esther.

"For Such a Time as This" was also the theme for the 2016 Legislative Event held in February, which was a blessed and informative way to start our calendar year of events. We are truly excited about our organization as we continue to grow in our purpose by fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and being advocates for justice in such times as these. Dr. Michael Fanning, Executive Director of the Olde English Consortium was our keynote speaker. He reminded the 300 plus women in attendance of God's instructions on the importance of taking action in troubled times.

District Day Apart services were celebrated by all twelve districts during March and April. It was an honor to be the guest speaker for the Anderson District and Marion District and also the celebration speaker for the Seventieth Anniversary celebration of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center. Thanks for allowing me to come and be part of your special events.

The March 23 Day of Giving and the May 3rd Day of Giving were tremendous successes. On March 23rd, many United Methodist Women contributed to the 2nd Day of Giving for the Legacy Fund. The National Office provided matching funds. On May 3rd, United Methodist Women had the opportunity to financially support our South Carolina National Mission projects -- Spartanburg Bethlehem Center, Killingsworth, and Rural Missions. This was a wonderful

opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many women, children and youth here in South Carolina.

Rev. Angela Ford Nelson joined us as the guest speaker for Come Together, Be Together at Chapin UMC in May. Ballroom dancing, antiques fun, chair fitness, making corsages and boutonnieres were just some of the unique workshops enjoyed by the 345 ladies in attendance. Members wore silly hats and yellow to celebrate our theme, "Happiness in God's Word." Rev. Nelson led us in believing that we were created for happiness as evidenced in His word. The outpouring of love and the huge response to the mission collection call for snacks, juice, pudding cups, and personal hygiene items will greatly benefit our five mission projects. A *BIG SHOUT OUT* to the Limitless Team for helping to organize the collection efforts.

Lake Junaluska was once again the perfect setting for our 2016 Spiritual Growth Retreat. 560 women joined us at the Lake for Spiritual renewal for the two day retreat. We were blessed to have Deaconess Cameron Kempson as our Retreat Leader whose messages on planting, sowing and harvesting were uplifting. She reminded us that great things come from small beginnings and from small beginnings come great things. It's our responsibility as UMW to share what the Master Gardener has to offer. Rev. Amy Coles, Communion Celebrant, also left us with a beautiful message. She told us that we need to prune our lives to bear more fruit so that we can be all that God calls us to be. Dr. Elizabeth Nance-Coker, song leader and Rev. Ann Hoyt, organist/pianist provided beautiful music for our time away from home.

Probably the highlight of the year for South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women was the Eleventh Annual Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting held at the Embassy Suites in North Charleston. There was most definitely "A Fresh Wind Blowing" as 710 women and a few men gathered for the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMW Quadrennial Meeting that was held on June 3-5, 2016. I was honored and blessed as President of South Carolina Conference UMW to welcome attendees to our state and to participate in this spiritually uplifting and eye opening event. We want to especially thank Janice Eaddy, SEJ Treasurer for her commitment to SCCUMW. Janice's tireless efforts provided South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women the opportunity to host the meeting. It was the first time in history for South Carolina to host the SEJ meeting and we are just thankful to the planning committee and especially Janice for being able to bring the event right here in our back door and allowing SCCUMW to show their stuff! Many SCCUMW played an active role in the success of the meeting. A trip to Rural Missions by meeting attendees, workshops, great speakers, fellowship, the election of Directors to the national office, and communion were all part of the weekend's events. We are so very proud of three ladies from South Carolina. Deaconess Selena Ruth Smith was elected on the first ballot to serve as Director to United Methodist Women National, Elizabeth Waters was elected to serve as a member of the Program Advisory Group and Rebecca Eleazer was elected to serve on the SEJ Committee on Nominations for the next quadrennial meeting.

After leaving the SEJ meeting we gathered in Florence on June 5-8 to conduct the business of our church at the South Carolina Annual Conference. This was a wonderful time of celebration, fellowship and worship. As UMW is the only officially recognized women's group in the church, it is very important that we have a presence at Annual Conference and make the work we do known. It is also important that we actively cultivate good working relationships with, and support for, our clergy.

'Radical Love: Finding Peace, Forgiveness and Acceptance' was the theme for 2016 Mission U held at Spartanburg Methodist College on July 21-23. The 239 ladies in attendance had an opportunity to grow in understanding the mission of the church through worship, in-depth study, music, prayer, sharing and exploring. Twenty four beautiful young girls-future UMW-blessed us with their presence as they participated in bible study and interactive activities pertaining to climate change and justice issues. The Spiritual Growth study "The Bible and Human Sexuality" was led by Dr. Paul Harmon and Dr. Robin Dease. The Craft Room raised \$1611.35 and will be split among our five mission projects. In addition to the crafts, twelve nights were purchased for a family to stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. Again, thank you for your outpouring of faith, hope and love in action.

We unfortunately missed our pledge of \$479,340.00 to mission by 72% in 2015. When we donate to various missions, we fulfill our purpose to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Our giving changes lives forever in our hometowns, state, country, and around the world. Without your gifts we cannot function. Each of us has an opportunity to change lives through our giving. There are many women, children and youth depending on you and me.

On line membership reporting was a new feature and a new challenge for SCCUMW from the national office. The final result of our 2015 on-line census count showed a membership count of 10,882. The national office reported that this method was successful with 89% of the conferences reporting their information online in comparison to 60% from the previous year. Local units are encouraged to continue working out the kinks to ensure all members are counted.

Our Forty-fourth Annual Meeting theme of 'Growing in Blessedness' was celebrated with 349 attendees. Our Bible study leader Cathy Nelson reminded us of our blessed lives and the

beauty of God's world. We were pleased to have Bishop Holston as our Communion celebrant. Rev. Adriane Burgess's message on the lost coin was powerful and memorable. Keynote speaker Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby shared her passion for living a bold and blessed life, beginning with the rescue of Moses, and the blessings of life as seen by a child. Our ears were thrilled with music performed by Michael Lopez on piano and organ, voices of many young children in the Melody and Wesley choirs, the Wesley Foundation Praise Band with electric guitars, and the Long Term Survivors Band, a trio of talented performers. Officers elected to second two year terms were Marlene Spencer-President, Cathy Ford-Vice President, Jackie Hicks-Social Action Coordinator, and Gladys Lemon-Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator. Newly elected officers were: Jacqueline Williams-Secretary, Oleather Smith-Secretary of Program Resources, Jane Jowers-Communications Coordinator, Judy Roumillat-Committee on Nominations Chairperson, Dannett Golden-Committee on Nominations member, Mary Cabaniss-Committee on Nominations member, Sharon Washington- Committee on Nominations member, and Jan Fleming- Committee on Nominations member.

Following our Forty-fourth Annual Meeting, we were saddened by the loss of Sara Shingler, SCCUMW President from 1981-1984. Sara also served as President of the Women's Division from 1977-2000. Sara was a dedicated and tremendous leader to our organization and she did much for United Methodist Women and for the general Church. We are deeply grateful for the time, talents, gifts, service and witness that she gave to the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women.

Our Officer Training Event at Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church was held November 5th. Sincere thanks go to another great church for joyfully opening their facility to us. It was a blessing to have Rev. Scott Smoak of Virginia Wingard, and Rev. Diane Moseley of Killingsworth, share a devotion and message with us. Our theme "A Compassionate Community Striving for Wholeness" reminded us that we are to live our lives as Jesus taught. Over 130 district officers joined their conference counterparts for training and sharing of information.

As we round out 2016, we are overly excited about our new SCCUMW Presidential Scholarship. Our scholarship committee has been hard at work this past year developing guidelines for a UMW scholarship to be awarded to young women pursuing a degree in higher education. Monies are being set aside to fund the scholarship annually beginning in April-May 2017. This is a great way to put our Faith, Hope and Love into Action.

The South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women continue to be a vital arm of the United Methodist Church in our commitment to Missions. We are proud of our heritage, we are passionate about mission and we are women of action!

Shalom, Grace and Peace for the journey.

Marlene SpencerPresident, SCCUMW

THE SOUTH CAROLINA METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION

This year, the South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union marks 62 years of service to the Ministers and their families, the churches and their members, and the institutions of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. The Credit Union was chartered on September 19, 1955, by ten elders of the South Carolina Conference (1785). The Reverend Hawley B. Lynn was elected to serve as the first president. Initially the Credit Union was chartered to serve ministerial members of the annual conference and others under appointment of the bishop, employees of the Boards and Agencies of the annual conference, and their family members. Today, membership encompasses not only the clergy of the South Carolina Conference and their families, but also members of the churches, and employees of the local churches, the Annual Conference, and the United Methodist Colleges, and Retirement homes of the South Carolina Conference.

As a member of the Credit Union, individuals and their family members can benefit from a member-owned, not-for-profit, service-driven, relationship-oriented, stewardship model that is at the core of our financial ministry. Although our primary business continues to be new and used automobile loans and personal loans for our members, the Credit Union also offers loans to the local churches and institutions of the South Carolina Conference. In 2016 we helped a local church realize its goal of purchasing a parsonage, as we continue to be a prime source of needed funds for local churches.

The Credit Union remains safe, strong and sound in its mission to serve its members. This year brought about changes in our staff, beginning with the retirement of Mrs. Lora Atwood after many years of faithful service to the Credit Union. Mr. Robert Silva now serves as Loan Officer/Member Services Representative, and Rev. Sarah Fletcher joined the staff as Member Services Representative and Receptionist.

The Credit Union's website (www.scmccu) provides protected access to personal accounts and an interactive feature that allows a member to transfer funds from one of his or her Credit Union accounts to another.

Finally, it is the Credit Union's hope that as you get to know it better you will want to share with other United Methodist friends the news of the Credit Union's expanding services, and you are invited to become ambassadors for the Credit Union as it continues to serve United Methodism and United Methodists in South Carolina.

South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016

Assets	2016	2015	CHANGE
Cash	\$ 421,098.67	\$ 352,884.83	\$ 68,213.84
Investments	\$ 2,164,353.21	\$ 2,253,751.12	\$ (89,397.91)
Loans Receivable	\$ 2,963,811.10	\$ 2,870,244.14	\$ 93,566.96
Land	\$ 48,400.00	\$ 48,400.00	
Building	\$ 26,757.01	\$ 28,469.34	\$ (1,712.33)
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 452.49	\$ 3,848.28	\$ (3,395.79)
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 14,777.99	\$ 14,674.67	\$ 103.32
NCUA Deposit	\$ 46,900.69	\$ 45,880.50	\$ 1,020.19
Other Assets	\$ 8,329.05	\$ 9,696.90	\$ (1,367.85)
Allowance of Loan Losses	\$ (30,367.71)	\$ (30,164.90)	\$ (202.81)
Total Assets	\$ 5,664,512.50	\$ 5,597,684.88	\$ 66,827.62
Liabilities	2016	2015	CHANGE
Shares	\$ 5,110,920.92	\$ 5,016,312.24	\$ 94,608.68
Other Liabilities	\$ 2,113.44	\$ 3,741.93	\$ (1,628.49)
Guaranty Reserve Fund	\$ 304,175.02	\$ 304,175.02	\$ --
Undivided Earnings	\$ 247,303.12	\$ 273,455.69	\$ (26,152.57)
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,664,512.50	\$ 5,597,684.88	\$ 66,827.62
Income and Expenses			
Income	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	
Interest - Loans	\$232,800.00	\$224,200.06	
Interest - Business Loans	\$ 960.00	\$ 2,731.50	
Fees	\$ 6,156.00	\$ 10,285.09	
Share Income	\$ 240.00	\$ 561.10	
Investment Income	\$ 20,244.00	\$ 24,319.43	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,432.00	
Total Income	\$262,800.00	\$266,529.18	
Expenses	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	
Personnel Expenses	\$177,504.00	\$180,988.05	
Facilities & Operations	\$ 63,756.00	\$ 61,426.48	
Professional Fees	\$ 12,468.00	\$ 14,160.63	
Dividends Paid	\$ 8,719.20	\$ 8,166.19	
Total Expenses	\$262,447.20	\$264,741.35	
Net Income	\$ 352.80	\$ 1,787.83	

AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

It is a great joy to recognize and thank the South Carolina Conference for a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016. The commitment of local churches across all five jurisdictions enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States – up from 32 in 2015 – to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the many ways in which the churches of the South Carolina Conference has been active, faithful, and generous in helping Africa University to realize its mission. In addition to their investment in the AUF, South Carolina United Methodists have made ongoing contributions for scholarships and campus infrastructure. Thank you for all that you have contributed to realizing the dream.

Through Africa University, the South Carolina Conference helps young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. The disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university's 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. People who would otherwise be on the margins are actively helping others to experience God's grace, peace and abundance.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. (*Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represent more than half of the student body.*)
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of AU's 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the South Carolina Conference to celebrate their journey with Africa University. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University's honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special "AU@25" event or Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University's ministry and invite attendees to each give at least \$25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to active faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who serve in the South Carolina Conference.

*James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office, PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007
Tel: (615) 340-7438, jsalley@gbhem.org www.support-africauniversity.org*

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We've also partnered with the University of Georgia's School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly \$5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology. Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Hauptert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

*Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology*

DREW THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding this year, we find ourselves in the unique position of reflecting deeply on our past and, at the same time, looking with confidence and enthusiasm toward the future. Drew Theological School has, throughout its long and distinguished history, fostered a vibrant spirit of learning and community that allows for a rich diversity of both expression and experience. These qualities of inclusion and a steadfast commitment to social justice are what make the Theo School what it is today – and have, in fact, defined it from the beginning of its existence.

In the spirit of our founders, we continue to educate students from all over the United States and throughout the world. We continue to pursue a mission of empowering students to “creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace and love of God, neighbor and the earth.” In the classroom and beyond, we continue to focus on educating and forming rooted, innovative, and bold leaders for the church, the academy, and the world.

These are the principles that attract students to our programs, and they guide us in all we do to support them during their time with us.

We have seen the effects of this in our rising enrollment numbers. In the last three semesters, the Theological School has seen a steady growth in both applications and enrollments, and early indications strongly suggest we will continue that trend this year. Our students hail from across the country, represent 21 different denominations, as well as a sturdy non-denominational presence, making Drew a truly ecumenical community. Yet we could not have arrived here on our own: over 30 percent of our applicants come to us through recommendations from our alumni and friends.

We also have a history of great success when we open our doors to prospective students and invite them to explore our programs first-hand. Of the students who attended our Open Doors at Drew event last March, more than 50 percent enrolled.

These gatherings are so successful because they offer prospective students an opportunity to see Drew in person – to see Drew in action. We allow them to immerse themselves for the day in dynamic classroom conversations, worship services, and panel discussions with both current students and alumni. These events highlight our efforts to create a truly collaborative, comprehensive, and transformative experience that involves the entire Drew community.

A recent report by the Pew Research Center, “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” made clear that seminaries and theological schools must reimagine their programs and how they reach students who are seeking out new expressions of Christian theology, ethics, liturgy, and gathered community.

In order to accommodate these prospective students and offer them the kind of dynamic and relevant theological training they seek, we embarked on an ambitious transformation of our curriculum, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

This project has been guided by our efforts to address the changing needs of our students, those who may not choose to pursue a traditional ministerial path, and those who require a more flexible structure to their education. While our commitment to the Church and to the training of pastoral leaders is unwavering, we have also focused on ensuring that our current curriculum, teaching, and student assessment are aligned with more diverse demographics, changes in vocational choices, and the need to prepare religious leaders to serve effectively in multi-faith, secular, and even non-religious settings. We aim to serve the students whose vocational goals may include chaplaincy in healthcare settings, the military, or corporate venues, those who may seek to work as life coaches, or who may pursue careers in advocacy, social activism, and the non-profit world more generally. The focus is on preparing students for transformational leadership, wherever their vocation is lived out.

Our curriculum transformation project also includes a focus on various modes of delivery – online classes and a flexible course schedule for students who are unable to attend class during the day or those who live too far from campus to attend in person regularly. These

changes will expand our sphere of influence and the contexts in which our students serve, inspiring us to think more broadly about what is required for leadership-in-context. It will also hopefully bring us an even more diverse student body, something that Drew values highly.

The curriculum that we hope to implement will more clearly and intentionally help students root themselves in the cumulative wisdom of their tradition (more Bible and theology) but also prepare them to be adaptive leaders who confidently innovate ancient wisdom and tradition in order to address contemporary needs and challenges. They will do more and sit less.

Their mentors in learning and experimenting will extend beyond our residential faculty and draw from the rich resources of partner organizations and networks which can provide the real-world settings for these “experiments in courage,” where the pursuit of wisdom and godly living can be more vigorously pursued.

The majority of our students come to us with experience in ministry, and many are currently exercising some form of public religious leadership. Additionally, an increasing number of students come to us with a wide range of experience in the foundational understanding of basic biblical texts and theological concepts. Furthermore, an emphasis on public theology and the role of the public theologian and leader is an essential aspect of the work of Christian ministry today, and more attention will be paid to helping our students develop this aspect of their ministry.

All of these efforts will make it possible to offer our bold vision to a wider audience of students. While these changes will be significant, they will in no way alter the spirit that has distinguished a Drew Theological School education for 150 years. Indeed, these changes have their source and their end in that very spirit, and they will, we are confident, contribute to its continued vitality.

We are thrilled by how our vision for the future of the Theo School is unfolding and taking shape. We look forward to our continued work with the entire Drew community – both past and present, on and off-campus – as we transform this center of learning, pastoral formation, and service to respond in relevant and powerful ways to the changing needs of our churches, our communities, and the world.

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

In the academic year 2016–2017, we have been delighted to welcome our new dean of Duke Divinity School, Elaine A. Heath. Dean Heath also serves as professor of missional and pastoral theology, and her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, new monasticism, and emergence in church and theological education. Prior to coming to Duke, she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Dean Heath is the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional, missional communities in diverse social contexts, and she is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She has published books for scholars, churches, and laypeople; her most recent book is *God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church* (Upper Room). She is widely in demand as a speaker and teacher for Annual Conferences, retreats, and leadership training.

Since arriving at Duke in July, Dean Heath has begun work on a new strategic plan for the Divinity School. By the end of 2016, the initial listening and feedback phase had been completed and a task force convened to help guide the process of strategic goal-setting. With Dean Heath's leadership, Duke Divinity School remains mindful of our mission to train, prepare, and form men and women committed to God and enthusiastic about ministry. We endeavor to prepare leaders for a changing church and world who will have the spiritual formation, theological foundation, and institutional flexibility to serve God in established churches, intentional communities, or missional organizations, as the Holy Spirit guides them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2016, our total enrollment was 641 students: 418 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 52 in the M.T.S.; 8 in the Th.M.; 45 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 16 in the M.A.C.P.; 23 in the M.A.C.S.; and 8 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 48 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 11 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 24 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

On April 9, the Divinity School hosted the first annual Hispanic Preaching Festival to celebrate and explore Hispanic homiletics. The event drew 54 participants from 14 different Hispanic congregations across the region. Attendees included pastors, laypeople, and

students. The festival featured sermons from local pastors, including Alma Ruiz M.Div.'13 and associate pastor of Fiesta Cristiana, which is affiliated with Apex UMC in Apex, N.C., and Raúl Colón, pastor of Centro Cristiano de Vida in Wake Forest, N.C. The festival was part of the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative, a Spanish-language program that provides opportunities for Hispanic and Latino/a (H/L) pastors to receive homiletical training in a peer group format. Each year, 10 applicants serving as pastors in the H/L community are chosen to participate as preaching fellows. The peer group begins with a retreat and then meets monthly for 15 months to engage with homiletical, theological, and exegetical resources led by the program coordinator and other invited teachers.

The Clergy Health Initiative published a new report that illuminates how the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving United Methodist congregations in North Carolina are shifting. In an effort to better understand and describe the multiple demands and rewards of clergy life, the Duke Clergy Health Initiative has conducted a longitudinal survey of North Carolina's United Methodist clergy every two years since 2008. For the report on appointments, the Clergy Health Initiative paired survey findings with publicly available data from the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences. The findings illuminate shifts in the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving congregations.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. The Center for Reconciliation celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, continuing its work of fostering reconciliation through the Summer Institute, the CFR Justice Fellows, and the Great Lakes Initiative in East Africa. The Office of Black Church Studies, in partnership with the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, Duke Performances, Duke Dance, and the Duke Department of African and African-American Studies, presented a symposium on African-American Theology and the Arts, featuring the renowned dance company Ailey II. The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative hosted the event "Practice & Presence: Gathering for Christians in Healthcare," for healthcare professionals who want to deepen or reimagine the relationship of faith in vocation in community with likeminded practitioners. *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and "traditioned innovation" for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press "Best of the Christian Press" contest.

In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, the Thriving Rural Communities initiative sponsored the 2016 Convocation on the Rural Church, "Apprenticeship with Jesus," to discuss issues important for transforming rural churches and communities. The Divinity School held a two-day conference titled "Tamar's Ashes: Pastoral Ministry Amidst Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence" for the school's students as part of the Mentoring for Ministry program. Duke Divinity School remains committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced communities, and providing pastoral training for our students to allow them to minister to people and in places that are often marginalized or forgotten.

We are delighted to announce the hiring of a new assistant professor of homiletics, Jerusha Neal. She is currently serving as a missionary and lecturer in practical theology at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the South Pacific. Her particular interests are formational theological education, teaching preaching in cross-cultural settings, and affirming women in their pastoral call. A native of the U.S. Midwest, Neal has served as co-pastor of the Santee United Methodist Church in Santee, Calif., and been the director of Christian education at the First Presbyterian Church of Fullerton, Calif.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by the Office of Dean Elaine A. Heath

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In 2016-2017, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is focusing on the following priorities:

- Supporting the local church in **addressing economic challenges** and **engaging young adults as active members of the church**.
- Furthering our commitment to public theology with the launch of the **Garrett-Evanston Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program** and the Hispanic and Latino/a Center's **installation of the Cátedra Paulo Freire**.
- Re-imagining lifelong learning as a new **"Connectional Learning"** program that provides opportunities to meet learners where they are with the type of education they need when they need it.
- Engaging faculty scholarship in the design of new courses for a **new MDiv curriculum** beginning Fall 2017 and in celebrating **faculty publications**.

Supporting The Local Church In Addressing Economic Challenges And Engaging Young Adults

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary received two Lilly Endowment awards this fall. A \$750,000 grant will support clergy education in theologically informed financial and business practices. We believe that strong leadership in the financial health of a congregation is critical to its vitality. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment's National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. To help clergy meet these economic challenges, Garrett-Evangelical has created a multi-dimensional program, **"Leading Vibrant Congregations: A Collaboration of Faith and Finance."** To read more about the program, visit: www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance.

The \$1.5 million grant will assist congregations in launching or mentoring new ministries that will attract young adults – a population that congregations today are struggling to reach. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment's newly announced Young Adult Initiative 2016. With this grant, Garrett-Evangelical becomes one of 12 innovation hubs around the country helping churches create informed and meaningful ministries for millennials. Read more about **"Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships: A Peer-to-Peer Young Adult Ministry Initiative"** at www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative.

Public Theology

This year, Garrett-Evangelical opened the **Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program** in partnership with the Evanston community. The CDF Freedom School's program is a six-week, high-quality, literacy-rich program free to underserved children proven to curb summer learning loss and help close achievement gaps. Last summer, we had thirty-five children in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade who participated. These scholars were from Evanston's Fifth Ward, a ward of primarily black and brown people and the only ward in Evanston without its own elementary school. The program was a resounding success. Parents saw their children fall in love with reading and excited to go to the school each day. And, we were excited to learn in January, the Garrett-Evanston CDF Freedom Schools Program was approved for summer 2017.

We are driven to increase enrollment of Hispanic and Latina/o students. Dr. Débora Junker, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the Hispanic Center, has revived the work of the Center including new volunteer activities and "lunch and learn" discussions. In 2016, the Center installed the **Cátedra Paulo Freire**, which promotes educational events, research activities, and the enrichment of dialogue among students, faculty, religious leaders, and community members. The *Cátedra* is a resource for Latino/a communities encouraging their engagement and interaction with the realities and contexts of the Latino/a population in the U.S., and at the same time enhances relationships with the Garrett-Evangelical community.

Connectional Lifelong Learning

At Garrett-Evangelical, we understand every person has a unique learning path. Education and training needs vary based on the journeys of the career and vocation in which you may find yourself. Considerations for physical location, ability to travel, learning preferences, time, and budget are important when undertaking learning, whether for degree purposes or for lifelong learning purposes. That's why we designed "Connectional Learning" to meet you where you are and to connect you with the education you need when you need it.

Connectional Learning is our language for building an extended learning community that connects: personal learning interests with accessible non-degree educational resources; professional development needs for knowledge and skills with continuing education units; and diversity of learners to a variety of delivery formats (on and off-campus; online; hybrid). Check our Connectional Learning site often for the latest regional offerings, online courses, webinars, and faculty blogs: www.garrett.edu/ConnectionalLearning

Faculty Scholarship

In light of all that is happening in the world today and our commitment to put faith into action for the wellbeing of all persons and creation, we have redefined the focus, requirements, and targeted outcomes of our Master of Divinity degree. The **new MDiv curriculum** will begin fall 2017. The faculty has designed a number of new courses for this curriculum that prepare leaders for ministry in contemporary cultural and social realities, including attention to race, gender, class, and sexuality, as well as the personal and vocational development of the student.

We are also pleased to share the following **faculty publications** that may be of interest to you:

- **Nancy E. Bedford**, Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology, *Galatians: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*
- **Wonhee Anne Joh**, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, *Critical Theology against US Militarism in Asia*

- **James L. Papandrea**, Associate Professor of Church History: *Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of Early Christians; Seven Revolutions: How Christianity Changed the World and Can Change It Again; The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in Postapostolic Age*
- **Stephen G. Ray, Jr.**, Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher Professor of Systematic Theology, *Awake to the Moment: An Introduction to Theology*
- **Jack L. Seymour**, Professor Emeritus of Religious Education, *Teaching Biblical Faith*
- **Mark R. Teasdale**, E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*
- **Brent P. Waters**, Jerre and Mary Joy Stead Professor of Christian Social Ethics: *Just Capitalism; Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoculture*
- **K.K. Yeo**, Harry R. Kendall Professor of New Testament: *The Trinity Among the Nations: The Doctrine of God in the Majority World; The Spirit Over the Earth: Pneumatology in the Majority World*

Cordially,
Lallene J. Rector, President

About Us

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by some of the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO. Here are a few highlights from a busy year.

Recognition as a “bright spot” in theological education

Auburn Seminary recognized MTSO among a small number of seminaries in its September report, “Bright Spots in Theological Education: Hopeful Stories in a Time of Crisis and Change.” Auburn is a leadership development institute seeking to equip leaders of faith and moral courage to inspire positive change in the world. The report details the “leap of faith” that began with MTSO’s founding of Seminary Hill Farm and extends to an array of commitments to ecology and social justice.

Major Luce Foundation grant

The Henry Luce Foundation awarded MTSO a three-year, \$425,000 grant in December to support the establishment of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative. The grant is shared by MTSO, the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, and the Green Seminary Initiative, a project of Drew Theological School and GreenFaith. A growing number of seminary leaders recognize the moral imperative to play a role in the care of God’s creation, but they face significant challenges in addressing environmental issues on their own. The Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative aims to establish best practices and offer resources for seminaries that wish to engage in environmental issues academically and institutionally.

Faculty appointments

MTSO welcomed two new faculty members in January. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey serves as assistant professor of theology, ecology and race. She comes to MTSO from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, where she was a post-doctoral research fellow. Francesca Nuzzolese is associate professor of pastoral care and counseling. Most recently she was associate professor of pastoral care and spiritual formation at Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University in Philadelphia.

New course at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

MTSO offered a special graduate course, “Race, Religion and Nation: From Black Power to Black Lives Matter,” at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in January. The class offered a historical exploration of the Black Lives Matter movement and its precursors, including Black Power activism, hip hop music and culture, and the presidency of Barack Obama. It was offered through MTSO’s cooperative relationship with the Freedom Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Russell, director of communications

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Where Dreams Take Flight

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a Bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream of developing the first successful "flying machine." They experienced great difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream. Through their determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone's heart to become a full-time servant of Jesus Christ. In St. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who said, "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to partner with that person in helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their God-given call and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God's call and vision for their lives.¹ Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to become faithful, fruitful and effective pastors and church leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. According to a recent survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local congregations or are retired from serving in local congregations.² United alumni/ae are making an impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in ministry with Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become an extension site for the Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing a convenient hybrid program for part-time pastors pursuing a local pastor's license. Through United's Course of Study, pastors experience a Friday-Saturday weekend on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks that follow. Courses are offered four times per year.

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage you to go online to united.edu to discover the option that fits your ministry and calling. May God bless you as you respond to God's dream for your life to serve in either the ordained, commissioned or lay ministry.

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Kent Millard, President
United Theological Seminary

¹ Fall 2016 headcount of masters' and doctoral students enrolled in courses.

² According to the 2014 United alumni/ae survey.

NOTES