

SECTION VII

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

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS Report No. 1

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

FUND	Budget 2006	Requested for 2007	Recom- mended for 2007	% Change	Average Net Funds Factor
1 World Service **	1,975,790	2,059,583	2,059,583	4.2%	0.025017
2 Conference Benevolences	2,117,328	2,270,103	2,270,103	7.2%	0.027574
3 Episcopal Fund **	503,643	529,560	529,560	5.1%	0.006432
4 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	2,433,061	2,102,492	2,102,492	-13.6%	0.025538
5 District Superintendents Salary	1,012,000	1,012,000	1,012,000	0.0%	0.012292
6 Equitable Compensation	300,000	275,000	275,000	-8.3%	0.003340
7 District Administration	830,000	780,000	780,000	-6.0%	0.009474
8 Conference Administration	1,330,507	1,610,835	1,566,002	17.7%	0.019021
9 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	166,023	166,023	166,023	0.0%	0.002017
10 General Conference Administration **	173,549	178,121	178,121	2.6%	0.002164
11 Senior College Scholarships	1,374,825	1,374,825	1,374,825	0.0%	0.016699
12 Spartanburg Methodist College	534,343	534,343	534,343	0.0%	0.006490
13 Campus Ministry	511,637	511,637	511,637	0.0%	0.006215
14 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,446	638,446	638,446	0.0%	0.007755
15 Camps & Retreat Ministries	368,798	368,798	368,798	0.0%	0.004480
16 Congregational Development	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	0.0%	0.012754
17 Ministerial Education **	714,044	708,722	708,722	-0.7%	0.008608
18 Interdenominational Cooperation **	55,497	54,872	54,872	-1.1%	0.000666
19 Black College **	284,809	282,210	282,210	-0.9%	0.003428
20 Africa University **	63,754	62,320	62,320	-2.2%	0.000757
TOTALS	\$16,438,054	\$16,569,890	\$16,525,057	0.5%	

** Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds.

Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Report No. 2

The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 2, Report No. 1) will be divided as follows:

Fund	Budget for 2005	Re-organized Budget for 2005	Budget for 2006	Requested Budget for 2007	Recom- mended for 2007	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries (formerly CCOM)						
1. Conference Advance Specials						
Ministry Programs	200,486	200,486	195,572	195,572	195,572	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	37,485	23,278	25,000	25,000	25,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	237,971	223,764	220,572	220,572	220,572	0.0%
2. Board/Agency Programs	714,545	708,360	650,000	521,150	521,150	-19.8%
3. Board/Agency Administration	113,377	110,477	60,000	80,000	80,000	33.3%
4. Operations (100% guaranteed)						
Salaries	385,000	385,000	525,000	681,250	681,250	29.8%
Employee Benefits	180,000	180,000	200,000	220,000	220,000	10.0%
Staff Housing Allowances	36,000	36,000	60,000	75,000	75,000	25.0%
Staff travel	22,950	22,950	35,000	70,000	70,000	100.0%
Office Rent	56,688	56,688	56,688	56,688	56,688	0.0%
Office Operations	30,000	30,000	35,000	40,000	40,000	14.3%
Equipment/Maintenance/Depreciation	13,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.0%
Staff Development	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	50.0%
Insurance & Bond	1,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Interpretation	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Program Review	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel Contingency	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	20.0%
Contract Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (4)	734,638	734,638	937,188	1,169,438	1,169,438	24.8%

Fund	Budget for 2005	Re-organized Budget for 2005	Budget for 2006	Requested Budget for 2007	Recom- mended for 2007	% Change
5. Communications						
Electronics	132,328	132,328	45,400	55,000	55,000	21.1%
Resource Center	65,000	65,000	25,000	35,000	35,000	40.0%
Public & Media Relations	48,000	48,000	48,000	55,000	55,000	14.6%
Committee Meetings	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (5)	246,828	246,828	119,900	146,500	146,500	22.2%
Sub-totals (A)	2,047,359	2,024,067	1,987,660	2,137,660	2,137,660	7.5%
B. Other Conference Agencies						
Cabinet Emergency Fund	15,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund	750	750	1,000	10,000	10,000	900.0%
Committee on Episcopacy	750	750	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence	8,000	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Archives & History						
1) Conference Archivist Contract	0	14,207	14,633	15,218	15,218	4.0%
2) Program & Administration	0	9,085	7,285	7,375	7,375	1.2%
Board of the Ordained Ministry						
1) Operations	50,600	50,600	57,450	53,350	53,350	-7.1%
2) Formation in Ministry Programs	6,000	6,000	5,300	5,000	5,000	-5.7%
3) Career Planning Programs	3,000	3,000	2,500	0	0	-100.0%
Sub-totals (B)	84,100	107,392	129,668	132,443	132,443	2.1%
Total Conference Benevolences	\$2,131,459	\$2,131,459	\$2,117,328	\$2,270,103	\$2,270,103	7.2%

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 8, Report No. 1) shall be divided as follows:

	Fund	Budget for 2005	Budget for 2006	Requested Budget for 2007	Recom- mended for 2007	% Change
1	Advocate	143,000	143,000	172,833	143,000	0.0%
2	Contingency Fund	250,000	300,000	325,000	325,000	8.3%
3	Journal Publication	62,000	70,000	75,500	75,500	7.9%
4	Ministers Book	5,000	5,000	8,350	8,350	67.0%
5	Director of Administrative Services Office					
	Salaries	155,204	181,428	348,844	348,844	92.3%
	Benefits	66,341	48,405	106,525	106,525	120.1%
	Operations	91,824	89,874	155,540	155,540	73.1%
	(Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)			(80,000)	(80,000)	
6	Print Media Services	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000	0.0%
7	Council on Finance & Administration	2,500	2,750	2,750	2,750	0.0%
8	Conference Expense Fund	130,000	160,000	152,500	152,500	-4.7%
9	Conference Staff Relations Committee	300	300	300	300	0.0%
10	Nominating Committee	1,000	500	500	500	0.0%
11	Conference Secretary	27,660	40,000	41,750	41,750	4.4%
12	Standing Rules Committee	500	250	250	250	0.0%
13	Methodist Center Trustees	40,000	40,000	40,000	25,000	-37.5%
14	Coordinator of Clergy Services	150,000	155,000	166,193	166,193	7.2%
15	General Conference Delegates	7,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	0.0%
16	Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
	TOTALS	\$1,217,829	\$1,330,507	\$1,610,835	\$1,566,002	17.7%

Report No. 3

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2007 will be set at \$84,271.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$12,641) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2007 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- 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 \$20,000 per district.
 - 2) Exception: 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.
 - 3) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$3,000 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 15,000. The schedule for 2007 will be as follows:

	Membership	Amount
Anderson	15,454	\$3,000
Charleston	24,953	\$4,000
Columbia	30,778	\$4,600
Florence	19,936	\$3,500
Greenville	22,210	\$3,700
Greenwood	17,016	\$3,200
Hartsville	20,716	\$3,600
Marion	22,115	\$3,700
Orangeburg	19,362	\$3,400
Rock Hill	16,551	\$3,200
Spartanburg	17,164	\$3,200
Walterboro	15,533	\$3,100

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$132,000 for the total of all districts (or an average of \$11,000 per district), insurance & pensions at \$264,000 (\$22,000 per district), and continuing education at \$500 per superintendent.
 - 5) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved by the District Committee on Continuing Education 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. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. 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.
- 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 \$250 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:

Recommended for 2007

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	% of District Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	\$10,000	\$45,000	\$55,000	0.009424
Charleston	15,000	12,000	27,000	0.003394
Columbia	14,000	16,000	30,000	0.002425
Florence	14,000	34,000	48,000	0.007943
Greenville	15,000	25,000	40,000	0.004714
Greenwood	12,000	12,000	24,000	0.004030
Hartsville	18,000	27,000	45,000	0.007277
Marion	16,000	30,000	46,000	0.005606
Orangeburg	8,000	33,900	41,900	0.007880
Rock Hill	10,000	26,000	36,000	0.006046
Spartanburg	20,000	25,000	45,000	0.006917
Walterboro	<u>10,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>	0.009955
	\$162,000	\$310,900	\$472,900	

Report No. 4

- A. We call attention to the "Special Days" designated by the *Book of Discipline* and recommend that they be observed with appropriate free-will offerings and that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church.
- Human Relations Day – January 14, 2007
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 4, 2007
 - One Great Hour of Sharing – March 18, 2007
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 22, 2007
 - Peace With Justice Sunday – June 3, 2007
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 13, 2007
 - Work Day – September 9, 2007
 - Church school offering first Sunday each month
 - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – July 8, 2007
 - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 16, 2007
(youth offering)
 - World Communion Sunday – October 7, 2007
 - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 4, 2007
 - United Methodist Student Day – November 25, 2007
 - Global AIDS Awareness Sunday – December 2, 2007
- B. An offering may be taken to support the Bessie Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund as a part of the observance of Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 11, 2007.
- C. We offer the following recommendations:
- 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.).
 - 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.
 - 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 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 for 2007 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 \$4.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for the evening meal.

- 4) That each charge place in its budget an amount of at least \$500 per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund, and that 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. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when there is a change of pastor. It is also recommended that the health insurance premium be paid by the local church directly to the Office of Ministerial Affairs; if it is done on a salary reduction basis, the amount must be included in the charge conference worksheet which itemizes compensation and benefits for 2007.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2007 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. When a church has declined for two consecutive years in "net funds," the term "average net funds" shall mean the average of the last two years only; the first year net funds increases, a three-year average will be used, and the following year the normal four-year average. Newly organized churches will be treated in the same manner as other churches of the conference. A four-year average of net funds will be used, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero.
- 8) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 64 through 72 (inclusive) of Table II.
- 9) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table II statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table II reports for use in future year calculations.
- 10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 13, Report No. 1) 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 10, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin University.
- 11) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts up to \$7,500 from the Conference Contingency Fund to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 12) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of the Conference Council on 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.
- 13) 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.
- 14) That the budgets of the Resource Center, Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.

- 15) That local churches of the conference incorporate, as recommended in *The Discipline*. A packet of materials prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available from the district office to assist in this process. 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. 5

A major reconstruction/repair project for the dam at Lake Junaluska was approved by the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and has been undertaken by the SEJ Council on Finance and Administration. By action of the SEJ, each member conference has been asked to raise \$.50 per member over a four year period. South Carolina's share would be approximately \$121,000, or \$30,250 per year. We ask each church within the South Carolina Conference to contribute \$.125 per member during 2007, based on the membership as reported in the 2005 Report to the Annual Conference (statistical report).

Report No. 6

Following is a listing of the 2005 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of 2007 apportionments.

District	2005	District	2005
Anderson	5,836,424	Hartsville	6,814,011
Charleston	7,956,385	Marion	8,205,798
Columbia	12,369,130	Orangeburg	5,317,512
Florence	6,043,071	Rock Hill	5,954,327
Greenville	8,485,601	Spartanburg	6,506,100
Greenwood	5,955,017	Walterboro	3,585,153

H. Samuel Johnson, President
Sara Ann White, Vice-President
Ernestine Hunter, Secretary
James H. Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer

Conference Benevolences #500									
	Authorized Appointed Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
Episcopal Residence	8,000	24,000	6,513	210,100	504,127	(480,127)	326,419	0	38,905
Camps/Retreats Board	6,746	6,746	6,513		7,434	(688)	(211)	0	(1,132)
Church & Society/Administrative	4,000	5,980	3,942		4,506	1,474	15,196	(13,216)	1,416
Education/Administrative	14,329	14,329	14,397		14,373	(44)	(1,821)	0	(1,797)
Evangelism/Administrative	3,736	3,736	3,771		3,104	632	335	(335)	667
Health & Welfare Ministries/Administrative	3,200	4,203	3,256		3,253	950	9,822	(8,819)	1,006
Higher Ed & Campus Ministry/Administrative	5,320	5,320	5,313		3,549	1,771	649	(649)	1,764
Lay/Ministry/Administrative	7,900	7,900	7,884		4,949	2,951	4,336	(4,336)	2,935
Global Ministries/Administrative	7,904	10,300	7,884		5,365	4,935	15,918	(13,518)	4,919
CUIC/Administrative	2,248	2,248	2,228		396	1,852	9,866	(9,866)	1,832
Religion & Race/Administrative	5,800	5,800	5,827		2,827	2,973	8,277	(8,277)	3,000
Status & Role of Women/Administrative	800	800	857		312	488	1,812	(1,812)	545
Worship/Administrative	4,980	4,980	4,970		6,404	(1,424)	0	0	(1,434)
Pastoral Care & Counseling/Administrative	960	2,320	1,028		1,081	1,239	8,600	(7,240)	1,307
Ethnic Local Church Concerns/Administrative	16,000	16,000	16,111		9,028	6,972	1,136	(1,136)	7,083
Youth Council/Administrative	3,049	3,049	3,085		2,418	631	17	0	684
Archives & History/Archivist	14,207	14,207	11,483		14,207	0	0	2,724	0
Youth Council/Program	55,400	55,400	55,703	4,944	49,939	5,461	(658)	0	10,050
Archives & History/Administrative	2,320	2,320	2,400		1,033	1,287	4,587	0	5,954
Archives & History/Program	4,948	4,948	4,970		4,156	792	2,790	0	3,604
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	600	600	686		300	300	1,184	0	1,570
Career Planning (Programs)	2,400	4,000	2,400		0	4,000	13,143	0	15,543
Church & Society/Program	27,760	30,160	27,927		17,353	12,807	32,591	(30,191)	12,974
Harvest (Evangelism)	24,000	24,000	24,166		10,930	13,070	5,532	0	18,768
Council on Ministries (Operations II)	28,000	28,000	28,108	6,847	32,176	(4,176)	0	0	2,779
Cabinet Emergency Fund	12,000	12,000	11,997	15,000	23,682	(11,682)	(4,207)	0	(892)
CUIC/Program	1,600	1,600	1,543		568	1,032	5,020	(5,020)	975
Education/Program	66,596	66,596	67,015		68,664	(2,068)	(1,822)	0	(3,471)
Higher Ed & Campus Ministry/Program	11,560	11,560	11,655		9,173	2,387	6,285	(6,285)	2,482
Committee on Episcopacy	750	750	686		1,119	(369)	1,571	0	1,138
Ethnic Local Church Concerns/Program	80,000	80,000	80,383		74,292	5,708	29,575	(29,575)	6,091
Evangelism/Program	10,736	10,736	10,798	1,785	9,137	1,599	5,004	(5,004)	3,446
Health & Welfare Ministries/Program	8,000	8,000	8,055		7,806	194	16,420	(16,420)	249
Lay/Program	13,632	13,632	13,711		10,953	2,679	2,823	(2,823)	2,758
Committee on Communications	1,200	1,200	1,200		2,517	(1,317)	5,889	0	4,572

Council on Ministries (Operations I)	699,638	699,638	562,511	648,616	51,022	0	86,105	0
Board of Ministry (Operations)	50,600	61,300	40,449	39,186	22,114	6,060	0	7,323
Conference Advance Specials	179,011	179,011	179,962	183,867	(4,656)	4,626	0	921
Pastoral Care & Counseling/Program	24,000	24,000	24,166	23,842	158	(537)	0	(213)
Religion & Race/Program	14,520	14,520	14,588	9,393	5,127	44,613	(44,613)	5,175
Global Ministries/Program	223,644	223,644	224,867	211,637	12,007	78	0	13,308
Status & Role of Women/Program	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	1,200	1,563	(1,563)	1,200
Worship/Program	4,000	4,000	3,942	1,067	2,933	2,025	(2,025)	2,875
Disaster Response Committee	1,680	1,680	1,714	4,641	(2,961)	5,193	(5,193)	(2,927)
Public & Media Relations	38,400	38,400	38,563	64,929	(26,529)	62,455	0	36,089
Communications/Electronics	105,862	105,862	106,135	128,185	(22,323)	58,697	0	59,336
Resource Center	65,000	72,102	52,275	77,100	(4,998)	1,557	0	(4,491)
Board of Ministry (Formation in Ministry)	4,800	5,840	4,800	3,753	2,087	9,140	0	10,307
Emerging Ministries				9,737			244,248	234,511
	\$1,873,036	\$1,918,617	\$1,713,617	\$280,262	(\$388,530)	\$721,548	\$115,161	\$513,704

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
Contingency Fund	250,000	250,000	186,767	120,124	24,500	225,500	100,000	(304,826)	77,565
Journal Publication	62,000	73,000	46,305	3,880	65,453	7,547	38,213	0	22,945
Minister's Book	5,000	11,000	3,730	2,872	33,887	(22,887)	59,408	0	32,123
Treasurer's Office	313,369	313,369	234,163	25,000	290,477	22,892	0	31,314	0
Conference Staff Relations Committee	300	300	192	0	713	(413)	4,837	0	4,316
Council on Finance & Administration	2,500	2,500	1,910	2,000	2,269	231	(1,158)	0	483
Conference Expense Fund	130,000	130,000	97,068	7,437	131,756	(1,756)	104,295	0	77,044
Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	7,000	7,000	5,185	0	0	7,000	21,021	0	26,206
Nominating Committee	1,000	1,000	728	0	1,737	(737)	4,148	0	3,139
Conference Secretary	27,680	27,680	20,742	0	29,285	(1,625)	3,920	4,623	0
Standing Rules	500	500	264	0	212	288	1,993	0	2,045
Methodist Center Trustees	30,000	184,900	29,839	150,460	164,557	20,343	39,939	0	55,681
Coordinator of Clergy Services	150,000	150,000	112,078	0	143,662	6,338	2,275	29,309	0
General Conference Delegates	7,500	7,500	5,640	0	0	7,500	(6,418)	0	(778)
Advocate	143,000	143,000	106,802	0	106,802	36,198	0	0	0
Print Media Services	60,000	306,750	58,222	207,697	263,042	43,708	(8,566)	0	(5,689)
	\$1,189,829	\$1,608,479	\$909,635	\$519,470	\$1,258,352	\$350,127	\$363,907	(\$239,680)	\$295,080

Administration Fund #550 -

Other Apportioned Funds - January 17, 2006

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
District Administration	800,000	800,000	691,247	0	652,878	147,122	64,081	0	102,450
Campus Ministry	431,410	431,410	385,310	0	441,963	-10,553	9,749	54,789	7,885
Equitable Compensation	300,000	300,000	273,766	16,057	269,978	30,022	311,288	0	331,133
Dist. Supt.'s Salary	987,000	987,000	909,949	0	1,005,910	-18,910	0	95,961	0
Congregational Development		(allocated from 2004)							
Office Operations	191,197	191,197	207,197	1,000	173,285	17,912	22,147	-16,000	41,059
Existing Churches			94,077	0	0	0	3,921	-94,645	3,353
Allocated			0	5,000	390,323	0	193,923	474,645	283,245
New Congregations			188,154	0	0	0	323,009	-202,000	309,163
Land Acquisition			94,077	0	0	0	478,096	-210,000	362,173
			583,505	6,000	563,608	17,912	1,021,096	-48,000	988,993

Dear South Carolina United Methodist Conference Members:

In previous years a report of many pages was printed in the Pre-Conference Handbook entitled "Funds Analysis." While all of that information can be useful and should be available to all conference members, it is the judgment of the Treasurer's Office that it is not good stewardship to print all of those pages when it is likely that only a few persons want or need such detail. What follows are summaries of all apportioned funds that are not simply "pass-through" apportionments; i.e. apportioned funds which are administered within the conference and for which there can be retained carry-over funds.

In this report (shown above), funds receiving apportionment distributions are grouped – first, those that receive funds from the Conference Benevolences Fund, then those that receive funds from the Conference Administration Fund, and finally all other non-pass-through funds. Please note that it is the custom of the Congregational Development Committee to retain all apportioned funds received within the year and to then distribute them at the beginning of the next year. That explains the note that the Congregational Development funds are allocated from 2004.

As I stated above, the information previously made available in the Funds Analysis is information that should be available to all conference members. Anyone desiring to have a copy of the full report of 2005 conference finances may request it from the Treasurer's Office. I hope that it will also be available on the conference web site by the time you receive this handbook, so please check there first if you want a copy.

In Christ's service,
James H. Knowles-Tuell
Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Report No. 1

Vision: *Make Disciples (learners and followers) of Jesus Christ*

The Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM) is striving to provide better opportunities to equip and meet the needs of local churches as they realize the need to win disciples for Christ. We are aware of the need to strengthen our local churches by empowering them to provide ministry opportunities in their various communities.

As you know, the CCOM has asked each local church to participate in daily Bible readings and prayer. It is our hope that clergy and laity are benefiting from this spiritual discipline. We are certain that through such spiritual disciplines, we can become more aware of God's hopes for our conference ministries.

In our efforts to more effectively equip and empower local congregations for the ministry of disciple making, we have a pilot project for a district congregational specialist. The Reverend Kathy James is assigned to the Spartanburg, Rock Hill, and Hartsville districts. This pilot project is actually an implementation of a portion of the action taken at the 1998 Special Session of the Annual Conference. That conference called for the establishment of District Program Directors. The district congregational specialist's primary responsibility is to assist local congregations in being better equipped for disciple making.

In addition, the CCOM in consultation with the Conference Staff Relations Committee has established a pilot project for a Director of Communications. Matt Brodie is employed as director and is busy at work strengthening our communication ministry.

These two ministries are being funded for 2006 with money from our Emerging Ministries fund.

The pilot programs have experienced great success and positive feedback. The congregational specialist pilot program has received strong support from the districts being

served. Much interest has been shown by other districts in acquiring the service of a district congregational specialist. After prayerful consideration and evaluation of this pilot project, the CCOM is recommending the deployment of its entire staff to districts to serve as district congregational specialists.

We are also recommending the establishment of a permanent position for Communications because of the results we have seen during this pilot project.

The CCOM received and approved a request from the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee, the African American Task Force, and Black Methodists for Church Renewal for the establishment of a conference level position concentrating on strengthening our African American churches. The CCOM in approving this request has agreed that this staff person would also serve as a district congregational specialist as will the Conference Coordinator for Hispanic Ministries. Each of the six congregational specialists would serve two districts and coach a major ministry area of the annual conference. They will be expected to live within the bounds of one of the districts they serve and be present in each of them. The current support staff would continue to serve as administrative assistants to the various boards and agencies of the annual conference.

In addition the CCOM is asking that its name be changed from Conference Council on Ministries to Connectional Ministries. This will keep us in line with the terminology of our discipline.

The CCOM is aware that these changes represent a major shift in philosophy. While not eliminating conference programming, we are suggesting a major shift of personnel and funding to better equip and respond to the needs of local congregations. Conference boards and agencies will continue to respond to the needs of local congregations and provide programming as needed.

All these staffing changes and additions can be realized without any increase in the CCOM budget. All these actions by the CCOM will require Annual Conference approval.

The Conference Council on Ministries along with Congregational Development is presently involved in a process of training about 70 persons (clergy, staff, and laity) in Natural Church Development. We believe that this is a process that will revitalize our annual conference in discovering the real meaning of making disciples for Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that our annual conference becomes all that God desires it to be.

Earline Haywood Ulmer, Chairperson

Approval Needed from Annual Conference

- 1. Upon consent of the Conference Staff Relations Committee, the **deployment of six district congregational specialists.**
The establishment of **a position for communications.**
The establishment of **a position for strengthening African American Churches.**
The establishment of **a sixth congregational specialist position.**
- 2. That the name of the Conference Council on Ministries be changed to the **Conference Council on Connectional Ministries.**

**Report 2 – Part I
Special Days for 2007**

A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE	
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 14
Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBGS, CORR)	January 14
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 4
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 11
Women's History Month	March 2007
World Day of Prayer	March 2
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 12
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 18

Religion in American Life Month (Worship)	April 2007
Rural Life Sunday (GBGM)	April 2007
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 22
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2007
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2007
National Day of Prayer	May 4
National Family Week	May 7-13
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 20
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	June 3
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 7
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 21
World Community Day (UMW)	November 1
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 11
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 25

B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS

Christian Action Council Sunday	January 7
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 4
Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 11
Soil and Water Stewardship Months	April and May 2007
Advocate Emphasis Month	May 2007
Mental Health Awareness Month	May 2007
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 13
United Methodist Men's Day	June 17
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	July 8
Literacy Sunday (GBCS)	September 2
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	September 2
Continuing Journey Sunday	September 9
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 16
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance in cooperation with the Children's Defense Fund	October 12-14
SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday	November 4
United Methodist Homes Sunday	November 25

C. OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- Christian Education Sunday
- Disability Awareness Sunday

Resources for 2007 Special Day Observances

United Methodist Communications develops interpretive material for special days designated by the General Conference. Sample materials and order blanks are sent to pastors 60 days prior to the special day. Also check out the website at www.umc.org. Resources for special days designated by the Annual Conference will be provided as below:

SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministry Sunday – The Conference Board of Global Ministries provides materials for this special day.

Women in the Pulpit Sunday – The Commission on the Status and Role of Women provides material to be used in a worship service on *Women in the Pulpit Sunday* or another Sunday selected by the church. The packet will be mailed to the Conference COSROW members and local church COSROW chairs and to others by request.

Rural Life Sunday – The Conference Board of Church and Society provides materials upon request for *Rural Life Sunday*, or another Sunday selected by the local church – traditionally, the fifth Sunday after Easter.

Mother's Day and Work Day for Epworth – Epworth Children's Home prepares bulletin enclosures and sends samples from the General Church.

- Literacy Sunday** – Materials are provided by the Conference Board of Church and Society and the S.C. Christian Action Council upon request.
- Golden Cross Sunday** – Supports the work of health and welfare ministries in the annual conference, including nursing scholarships and emergency medical care scholarships.
- United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday** – Asbury Hills United Methodist Camps and Sewee Coastal Retreat Center provide materials upon request for this special day.
- United Methodist Homes Sunday** – The Methodist Oaks of Orangeburg, Wesley Commons of Greenwood and The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee provide materials for this Sunday.
- Christian Education Sunday** – The annual conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.
- Disability Awareness Sunday** – The annual conference determines the date. An offering may be received to be used by the annual conference to create architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches.

Report 2 — Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2007

- Alston Wilkes Society:** Since 1962, the Society has been in the business of rebuilding lives and providing second chances. It creates and supports opportunities statewide to help adult and juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, homeless veterans and other homeless people, emotionally- and behaviorally-disturbed children, and the families of these groups of people to become responsible and productive through employment, mediation, life skills, rehabilitation, prevention, volunteerism, and transitional housing services.
- Appalachian Development Committee:** Sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction, this project gives assistance to the people of the Appalachian region.
- Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** This ministry's purpose is to strengthen the local churches in their ministry, and to minister to all of the people in its geographical area by a program of activities which can best be realized through the cooperation of the churches within the parish. The services provided are: Joint Worship, Bible Study, Activities for Children and Youth, Leadership Training in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission (ex. distribution of food commodities, health fair, mission fair, blood drive, clothes closet and relief kits.), Tutorial Program (K-12) In-School and After-School, Vacation Bible School, Transportation, Newsletter and Shalom Zone (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Emergency Medical and Inadequate Housing), Shalom Literacy and Congregational Resource Center for Strengthening the Black Church.
- Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia:** The mission of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment where children and youth are nurtured through activities and programs that address their educational, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. Additionally, the Center seeks to empower women and families to enhance their quality of life by providing assistance and services with special attention to the concerns of justice and advocacy. Since its inception in 1945, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center continues to service the residents of the Waverly-Edgewood and surrounding communities. It provides a variety of programs to include a lab for Computer Literacy Technology, Pre-GED classes, After-School Enrichment and Tutorial Program, Summer Reading Activities, Vacation Bible School, Emergency Food Distribution, Community Forums, Internship Opportunities, and Parenting Classes. The Center's facility is available for utilization by the community for programs, weddings, meetings, worship services and other activities.
- Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg:** The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's day care facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of two and five. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts

(dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults include Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.

Church and Community Workers Field Share: A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries and the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant—Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA): Also sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction, CORA is a partnership of denominations, community groups and congregations whose mission is to work for justice and to express God's love in the empowerment of the people of Appalachia.

Cooperative Ministry: A unique ministry of the religious community serving as an instrument of God's love to those in crisis. Through the Ministry, religious congregations in the Greater Columbia area respond to requests for help from local and transient people, improve the quality of life for the needy and visibly reflect God's care and concern for the total well-being of all persons in our community. This ministry offers direct financial assistance, counseling, information, referrals, clothing, computers and furniture, and long-term programs to address the root causes of poverty.

Crisis Ministries-Anderson: The ministry responds to critical, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. It provides crisis prevention, intervention, stabilization, and education. This includes telephone crisis lines and a walk-in center providing for stabilization of immediate crisis situations, information and referral to other community agencies and brief crisis counseling. The ministry works with other community agencies such as Mental Health and Anderson Interfaith Ministries to extend access to their services after business hours. Through our Providence Project, we seek to enlist churches and mentors/volunteers to help provide emotional and supplemental assistance to those in our community who are in crisis. They also provide Camp Providence, a summer day camp for community groups and children in the community who cannot afford a day camp experience.

Grand Strand Leisure/Crisis Ministries: Responds to critical needs of persons vacationing in or traveling through the Grand Strand area. It provides worship services, Bible study, recreation, a snowbird ministry (October-March), crisis assistance, information and referrals.

Interfaith Community Services, Inc.: Addresses social challenges and meets community needs through advocacy, education, collaboration, research and services. Interfaith Community Services provides training and technical assistance to churches and other community groups working to meet critical social needs, sponsor and support local and state efforts which help people overcome the interrelated barriers of racism and poverty, and develop cooperative programs and resources which respond to the needs of children, young people and families. Current program areas include child care resources and referrals, faith-based community health initiatives and community development.

Killingsworth: This is a transition home for women in crisis. Our ministry is to support, empower, and advocate for women recovering from crisis within a safe, nurturing Christian environment. This includes: room and board, counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and community re-orientation.

Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry: The Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry is an Advance Special that ministers to children and adults visiting six of the area's campgrounds. Services include day camps, crafts, drama, music and evening and Sunday services. A seminary student serves as the campground chaplain and is provided with room and board from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The main goal is to advance Christian education while meeting the religious and social needs of families and individuals visiting the Grand Strand area.

Oliver Gospel Mission: Operating within its third century of service, the Mission continues to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the homeless and needy citizens of

Columbia, South Carolina. This mission's purpose is to glorify God and to evangelize, educate, and disciple while providing food, shelter and spiritual guidance to the poor and neglected. The ministries of Oliver Gospel Mission provide counseling, referrals, life-skill training, employment, and an alcohol/drug recovery unit. It is our desire that all will go forth refreshed and newly aware of his place in society as a new creature in Christ.

Rural Mission, Inc.: This is an ecumenical organization that provides human, spiritual and social services to low-income Sea Island residents and migrant workers. Through education, advocacy and outreach, Rural Mission provides a lifting hand -- spiritually, emotionally, physically, and economically -- whatever the need, ministering to anyone on the S.C. Sea Islands. To better meet the needs of our migrant children and families, the mission collaborates with outside agencies by networking their local migrant task force, schools, health and social services, and governmental agencies, as well as farm workers' organizations and local churches.

South Carolina Christian Action Council: The Council is the statewide ministry of 16 denominations. It is their voice of advocacy in matters of public policy; their facilitator for cooperative ministries in social justice; and the convener and support for matters of faith and order. Through its ministries of Justice and Reconciliation, Health and Peace, and Christian Unity, it facilitates networks of church, private, and government groups working on issues of legalized gambling, criminal justice, children, aging, faith and health, and religious freedom.

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow): This is an ecumenical Christian mission providing children with food for the body, mind and spirit. It serves children during the summer months at sites located in Abbeville and Anderson Counties. All services are free. For the children's bodies it provides SCDSS approved lunch's weekdays and physical activities at each site. For the mind it provides games, activities, speakers and field trips that the children would not experience without the program. It also provides back-to-school supplies to program children. For the spirit the sites are led by caring Christian people. Some sites have Bible Study and all sites say grace.

United Methodist Relief Center-Mount Pleasant: An agency of the South Carolina Conference, the United Methodist Relief Center's mission is provide affordable housing to very low and low-income families through housing rehabilitation, replacement, or first-time homebuyer opportunities, while at the same time offering opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in hands-on ministry. Volunteers work under the guidance of experienced construction supervisors and participate in spiritually enriching activities led by clergy.

Through its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, the UMCR addresses the critical need for safe, adequate housing for families living at or below 50 percent of the median income, with priority given to those at or below 30 percent. The program also includes an advocacy component called the "Helping Hand." The primary goal of "Helping Hand" is to work with individuals and/or families to increase their level of self-sufficiency in maintaining their homes once rehabilitated or replaced and to increase their awareness of their property as an asset. This additional assistance serves to instill a feeling of dignity and self-worth in the participants, as well as to ensure their ability to maintain and manage their asset.

The ET (Elderly Transportable) Housing Program is a statewide program that enlists local churches and businesses to participate in the construction of housing for elderly recipients. These handicapped accessible housing units constructed on recycled mobile home frames in parking lots are used to replace dilapidated housing and are provided rent free to the recipient as long as needed.

The newest program of the UMRC is the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. This construction programs enables low and very-low families to participate in home ownership through construction of their own homes in partnership with one another, building community while building homes. During this process, families learn decision-making skills, as well as construction skills, thus preparing them for the responsibilities of home ownership.

UMRC was born of devastation generated by Hurricane Hugo.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission: Its mission is to provide opportunities for South Carolinians to get personally involved in short-term mission projects at home and abroad. Its services include construction, medical care, education, agriculture and supportive services.

United Ministries of Greenville: The United Ministries is an extension of the servant ministry of cooperating congregations in Greenville County. United Ministries assists poor people in emerging from hurting situations by providing for basic needs and by creating environments that allow people to make positive changes. United Ministries has developed a process for helping people move from basic survival to self-reliance. The process includes: **Survival** (Emergency Assistance – help with rent, utilities, food, heat, medicine; Place of Hope – a day shelter for homeless people; and Travelers Aid), **Stabilization** (Transitions – helping families access public services; and Adopt-A-House – rehabilitation for low/moderate income homeowners), and **Barrier Removal** (Employment Readiness – helping find, get and keep jobs; Magdalene Project – working with women who are homeless, addicts, pregnant or prostitutes; and Life Skills – teaching basic skills for health and responsible living.)

Wallace Family Life Center: This is a family-oriented facility whose mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people in the Wallace community.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

I am happy to report that your Board of Church and Society is working on your behalf to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of South Carolina. We continue to address the issues that affect our communities and our state.

Our Task Force on Children and Poverty has concentrated its efforts on addressing the issues impacting the education of our state's students. Last year we proposed A RESOLUTION REGARDING FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA that you adopted in an overwhelming statement of support. Since then, we have asked you to help us implement the proposal by contacting your Legislators to voice your concerns regarding this matter. I encourage you to continue to keep speaking out in support of a quality education for our children and youth. They need a good education for many reasons. One of the reasons has an impact on our mission as United Methodists – To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ. The ability to read the Holy Bible is an important component of growing as disciples of Jesus. Unfortunately, too many of our citizens cannot read the Bible or anything else. According to the director of the Director of the Literacy Association of my county, 23 percent of the adults living here are functionally illiterate. Certainly, South Carolina can do a better job of providing the necessary resources to educate our young people.

Our Task Force on Racism is fostering new attitudes in racial relations in our conference and in our local congregations. They are working hard to provide opportunities and training for building bridges by equipping local church members to lead cross racial / cross cultural dialogue sessions. I encourage you to participate in this ministry: Ambassadors for the Ministry of Reconciliation.

Our Task Force on Restorative Justice is also taking on the responsibility of leading Social Principle Training Workshops across our conference. These classes are designed to acquaint our laity with the Social Principles adopted by our denomination's 2004 General Conference.

Our Board is grateful to partner with the UMW in support of their Capitol Day. This helps us fulfill our responsibility to speak to the church on issues facing us today.

Thank you for the privilege of working with the churches of our conference as we strive to make our communities places with which we can all be pleased.

Scott Wachter, Chair

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Conference Board of Education's vision is: to be a vital resource for The United Methodist Church in the South Carolina Conference, to bring fresh, workable, and enabling ideas and challenges to make our churches places of learning, spiritual growth, and service in the world. Our responsibilities are in the area of Christian education for the entire life span of church members. These duties are carried out through the identification or development of resources appropriate for children, youth, young adults, adults, older adults, and families. This includes promotion and dissemination of information to church leaders and providing resources for training those leaders involved in large and small group ministries.

During this past year, the Board of Education has experienced many successful programs, activities, and training events. Some of our activities have included training for: Disciple Bible Study, Christian Believer, FaithQuest, Companions in Christ and Christian Workers School. The goal of these training opportunities is to produce strong and knowledgeable Christian Educators who are empowered to develop or strengthen Christian Education programs at the local church.

The Age-Level Councils of the Board of Education sponsor training events, retreats, conferences, workshops, programs, and fellowship events to enhance spiritual growth. Their various reports of ministries give more details of activities and significant achievements during this past conference year. We offer praise to God and thanks to all age-level council chairpersons and participants who spend countless hours working to provide opportunities throughout the Conference, Districts, and Local Churches that empower all of God's children to become more Christ-like.

The Board of Education is excited about the many changes that have taken place in our conference in regards to monies for ministry items. We have spent much time in preparation for changes in the area of grants and look forward to our church growing stronger through the many changes that are taking place.

J. Michael Arant, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

Excited, active, committed older adults, representing the twelve districts, the three retirement communities, the Cabinet, the Board of Laity, and specialized interest in older adult ministries are an appropriate description of the Council on Older Adult Ministries. Meeting quarterly, this group works diligently to fulfill the purpose of strengthening older adult ministries in the local churches and districts in the South Carolina Conference.

Again this year the Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength program, propelled and supported by a grant from Duke University Caring Communities, has required constant effort by representatives of the Council and the Arnold School of Public Health of the University of South Carolina. Two-day training events quarterly have brought together leaders chosen by local churches as they were prepared to return to their respective churches to recruit four or five additional persons from each church to make up a group. Designed as a small-group program with no more than twelve persons in a group, from two churches of differing racial or cultural background, each weekly session includes physical and mental exercise, Bible study using *Companions in Christ*, and opportunities to grow in spiritual development. It has been exciting to hear reports from groups who have completed their commitment of a year with such comments as:

"Though we are different in some ways, we are more alike than different."

"It helped us as individuals to consider ways we could contribute to others."

"I realized how important the exercises are as they enabled us to discover more things we were able to do for ourselves."

"We feel the presence of the Holy Spirit every week."

"Regardless of which church, it's the same church-the same problems. We hope one day to be one church." (refers to 2 churches located 2 blocks apart)

"We are stronger Christians living the way Christ wants us to live among ourselves and in our community."

We need the assistance of every pastor and all local church older adult leaders to make these experiences available to an increasing number of individuals and churches.

Our annual February Spiritual Life Retreat found Springmaid Beach facilities bursting at

the seams as over 700 older adults excitedly gathered to greet and hear from South Carolina's own son, Bishop Will Willimon. And he did not disappoint anyone! Enhancing the worship sessions again were Paul Frey and Thomasina Conyers, our spirited, joyous music leaders. Filling the time between sessions with fun activities (puzzles, games, line dancing, and comedy) was the beloved leisure activities director, Jim Wall of Mississippi. Guiding our morning and evening praise was the Reverend Ellen Younker, who also led the Ash Wednesday service. As if that were not enough, an Ed Kilbourne concert was added.

To help beautify the Asbury Hills campsite and make it more inviting for all the youth and children who will come in the summer, we older adults through our Mission Event in April pulled weeds, planted flowers, painted, and did the odd jobs assigned by camp personnel.

For our own training, twelve to fifteen people attended the Southeastern Jurisdiction Older Adult Conference at Lake Junaluska in August. In September, local church older adults gathered at Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church in Irmo for a day of sharing and being inspired as Bishop James Swanson climaxed our "Continuing the Journey...Transforming Lives" event.

As is our custom, each year we have one quarterly meeting at one of the three retirement communities on a rotating basis (Wesley Commons in 2005) and another at one of the conference mission sites (Sewee Coastal Retreat Center in 2005). The purpose is for our Council members to become more aware of those ministries in order to share that information with persons in their districts.

We are well aware that none of this could be accomplished as effectively without the support of the Conference, especially the Board of Education, and the staff support of June Willson. It is our joy, with grace and strength from God, to serve by providing ministries by, with, and for older adults in the South Carolina Conference.

Hazel C. Bennett, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON SINGLES MINISTRY

Mission Statement:

To affirm the value of single adults in God's eyes, the Conference Council on Singles Ministry will promote awareness of single adult needs; explore possibilities for creative ministries; establish channels of communication between single adults in the Conference; plan and implement programs and provide training and resources for singles ministry on the Conference, District, and local Church levels.

The Singles Council strives to fulfill this mission statement by offering opportunities for Singles to attend retreats, one day events, and mission opportunities within the Conference. The retreat each year is sponsored by the SC Conference Singles and the Western North Carolina Singles. For the 2005 retreat Chris Hughes was the leader. This continues to be a tremendous event in the lives of the Singles in the SC Conference.

The one-day event was held in September at Trenholm Road UMC. The Rev. Mike Henderson introduced the group to the theme of "Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me, and Use Me".

The Singles Council, made up of volunteers from around the Conference, meets four times a year to plan, implement, and evaluate. At present, members are: Sidelle Derrick; Margaret Ervin; Shelly Holder; Elaine Hinebaugh; Kevin Lausch; Vickie O'Brien; Mindy Thompson; Libby Waldrep; Don Whelchel; and Larry While. We are indebted to this group who gives of their time and gifts to Ministry with Singles.

THE DIVISION ON MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Ministries with youth, young adults, and adults who work with youth and young adults continues to be in transition as we live out the mandates by General Conference. This transition will continue as we move forward.

During 2005, network groups continued to work on becoming the Division on Ministries

with Youth People. Network groups of the Division are: Youth, Young Adults, and Adults. The Fellowship of Adults in Ministry is the network group for adults working with youth and young adults. In addition to network groups, the Division is divided into table groups. These tables are: Spiritual Formation, Communications, Mission/Outreach, Discipleship, Advocacy, and Leadership Development.

The South Carolina Division celebrates the election of Benji Spivey from St. Luke UMC, Hartsville as the Chair-Elect of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Division on Ministries with Young People, and Brandon Taylor as the Secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Division on Ministries with Young People. These two join with those elected to serve in 2004 – Kristopher Roof from Student Movement; Courtney Lynch from the SEJ; and Mickey Cunningham and Courtney Lynch who serve on the Youth in Missions Design Team.

Again in 2005, South Carolina had the largest number of youth, young adults, and adult workers with youth attending the SEJ Convocation. This convocation is a tremendous learning opportunity for network groups, for district Ministries with Young People, and for Local Church Ministries with Young People.

South Carolina is blessed with tremendous youth, young adults, and adult workers with Young People. Serving on the Leadership Team for the Division for 2005-2006 are:

Kristian Roof, Chair; Katie Lavender, Secretary; Brad Stewart, Lauren Jordal, Jenna Whitesell, Shelley Blakeney, Benji Spivey, Courtney Lynch, Skyler Nimmons, and Shelly Holder.

The purpose of the Division on Ministries with Young People is to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders by:

1. developing youth/young adult spiritual leaders of local congregations to transform lives by making disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. challenging The United Methodist Church to embrace, confirm and celebrate God's call on the lives of young people:
3. cultivating and nurturing life-giving ministries where influence and worth are not limited by age or experience;
4. advocating for the issues and concerns of young people in the church and the global community;
5. empowering young people to work as agents of peace, justice, and mercy;
6. building a network of support and providing resources that connect the diverse experiences of youth and young adults in the local ministries and communities across the globe.

The Division continues to realize that much work needs to be done in these transition years. As we continue to study, learn, and grow, the Division will become a reality in the South Carolina Conference.

*Kristian Roof, Youth Network
Skyler Nimmons, YA Network
Shelly Holder, FAYM Network
June Willson, Staff Liaison*

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES

The mission of the Conference Council on Ministries with Families is to discover, share, and strengthen the diverse relationships in homes, congregations, and communities. The Council's objective is to resource the local church in ministering through relationships to their congregations and in their communities. Our case statement highlights four areas (Storytelling, Interacting with Integrity, Healing and Restoration, and The Baptismal Journey) and shapes the Council's direction.

The Family Ministries Council offered a one-day event on February 26th, "Moving Your Congregation to a New Day with Family Ministries Through The Baptismal Journey." Dr. Roland Martinson, a member of the National Council on Family Relations and Professor of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in Minnesota was the featured speaker. Sixteen

churches participated and explored what it means to belong to the household of faith and the church's mission as keepers of the promise made between God, parents, and the congregation at baptism. The importance of being God-bearers to one another was also reinforced.

Additionally, the Council on Ministries with Families has maintained a website at www.agelevel.org that includes a bibliography of resources, dates for SCC family events, models for family retreats, a parental covenant litany, helpful links, family devotionals, and the Council's case statement.

The Council looks forward to offering additional "Moving Your Congregation to a New Day with Family Ministries" sessions addressing the areas of Interacting with Integrity, Healing and Restoration, and Storytelling.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism continues to provide resources and training for United Methodist churches in the South Carolina Conference. One program offered by the Board of Evangelism allows churches and districts to offer workshops for evangelism at little or no cost. The Board of Evangelism offers to pay expenses and honoraria for leaders. When the local church discovers a need they contact the board and arrangements are made to secure needed leadership for the church or district event.

In 2005 the board sponsored, along with the Anderson, Greenwood, Spartanburg, and Greenville districts, an event entitled *Uncovering Hidden Treasure: The Smaller Membership Church Counts*. The event was held October 14&15, 2005 at Shiloh UMC in Piedmont, SC. The attendance for the two day event was over 150. Clay Smith from the Hinton Rural Life Center provided the leadership. Two similar events are scheduled for 2006. One event will be held at Liberty Chapel UMC in Florence and is co-sponsored by the Florence, Marion, and Hartsville districts. The second is being held at Bethel UMC in Walterboro and will be co-sponsored by the Walterboro, Orangeburg, and Charleston districts.

In 2005 there were 22 Bishop's 5 Star Churches. The Denman Evangelism Awards were given to Mrs. Nelda Canada of Wesley UMC in Columbia and Dr. Jody Flowers, pastor of Chapin UMC in Chapin.

On March 18, 2006, the annual Bishop's BASH was held. Over 370 young people enrolled in confirmation classes and their adult chaperones were in attendance. The leadership for the event was Bishop Taylor, Rev. Jim Hunter, Rev. Thom Jones, Rev. Rebecca McPherson, and Rev. George Ashford.

THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Truly this is the time in our Conference to celebrate the call of GOD to our clergy and laity as their love of our FATHER, JESUS CHRIST and the HOLY SPIRIT is revealed through mission. It is also the time for continuous prayer for all who serve and are served.

Images of suffering and devastation since our last annual conference reveal the need for service through love. In whatever capacity our clergy and laity serve-such as staff or volunteer at one of our Advance Special's sites or participating in Salkehatchie Summer Service or supporting Shalom Ministries or traveling outside our Conference with UMVIM-all of their service is appreciated and their lives are an inspiration to others.

Consider the accomplishments of UMVIM, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission in South Carolina. In 2005, 60 teams with 47 international trips and 13 domestic trips-11 of which traveled to the Gulf Coast-gave their talents, time and money. These 60 teams were composed of a total of 855 people who not only volunteered to serve but also raised money with their churches to finance the trips. Funds were greatly needed since UMVIM only received \$2723.00 through our Advance Special Ministries.

Also our Communities of Shalom Ministries have 30 active sites-an increase of five sites since last year. The conference-wide celebration was held in the Greenville District on February 10-12 with 650 people attending. Look to this ministry as offering the complete package of spiritual growth and development, educational training with literacy and job training and health care. Again we thank Rev. Jack Washington, our Associate Director for Outreach and Witness,

for his passion and leadership.

At our August 13, 2005 meeting, presentations/reports were given for the following organizations: Belin Trust by Rev. Jack Washington, Congregational Development by Joe Lloyd, General Board of Global Ministries by Rev. John Culp and the Deaconess/Home Missionary Committee by Mary Lou Edens. Bob Sargent, our Refugee Coordinator, reported on the workshop he attended in New York. Rev. Grady Mills reported about his trip to Old Mutare Mission Center in Zimbabwe.

Grants from the Belin Trust were distributed as follows:

St. Luke UMC, Greenville District \$10,000
Camden First UMC, Hartsville District \$12,500
United Methodist Relief Center, Charleston District \$15,000

Advent Call:

St Luke UMC, Greenville District

Hungrief:

21st Century Community Learning Centers, Camden, Hartsville District

The Board also passed a motion by Rev. John Culp in support of an educational mission trip during the summer of 2006 to Washington, DC and New York City.

The Conference Mission Education Event: "Responding to the Call for Mission" which was held April 1 & 2, 2005 at Union United Methodist in Irmo with

Dr. Randy Day from the General Board of Global Ministries in New York along with 10 workshop leaders and representatives from our Advance Special Ministries was discussed. Evaluations found the event informational and well organized.

Our winter meeting was held on January 14, 2006. Presentations/reports were received from Rev. Diane A. Mosley, executive director of Killingsworth, who was representing the Advance Special Ministries and Dr. Vivia Fowler, the Belin Trust representative. Also, Dr. Charles P. Teague, President of Spartanburg Methodist College, discussed short term and long range plans for the 2 year college and emphasized how the mission of the college and campus life are the same.

Belin Trust recommendations passed as follows:

Toxaway UMC-Tracy Jackson G.I.F.T.	\$8,000	Anderson District
Asbury UMC	\$5,000	Spartanburg District
United Methodist Relief Center-SOAR	\$15,000	Charleston District
Orange Grove UMC	\$7,500	Orangeburg District
Bethel UMC	\$13,000	Florence District
Winthrop Wesley Foundation-	\$3,000	Rock Hill District
Tuesday's Child Learning Center		
Jones Chapel UMC	\$3,500	Walterboro District
Port Royal UMC	\$5,000	Walterboro District
New Grace UMC	\$15,000	Walterboro District

The motions passed for the Lenten Call to be Port Royal UMC, Walterboro District and the Conference Call to be Jones Chapel UMC, Walterboro District.

Hungrief funds were distributed as follows:

21 st Century Community Learning Center	\$1,200
John Wesley UMC-Breakfast Outreach Ministry	\$1,900
Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.	\$1,900

Our Board members divided into our subcommittees to review budget items for 2007 or to establish goals for 2007. Our Volunteer Services Committee Chair is Rev. Michael Henderson. Our Mission Education Committee Chair is Sarah Smith and Rev. Steven Gaither is our Rural/Urban Chair.

Let us continue to give thanks for all that GOD has done within our Conference. While we realize that GOD's work is not statistics, it is often easier to comprehend mission efforts when it is expressed in numbers. Dr. Randy Day, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, in a letter from February 24, 2006 provided information on giving in our Conference. Joyfully our gifts have increased since 2003. In 2003, 785 gifts equaled \$303,178. In 2004, 995 gifts equaled \$406,600 and last year (2005) there were 2714 gifts that totaled \$2,624,674.

As the present Chair of our Board of Global Ministries, I wish to express my thanks to all who serve our Board and to all who serve in our Conference.

Margie Wilkie, Chairperson

COMMUNITIES OF SHALOM

Communities of Shalom Ministries is an intentional defined geographic area within a community that enables both United Methodists and Ecumenical congregations to collaborate with residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations to work together to transform the systems and conditions that affect individuals' lives in a prophetic way.

Mission Statement

The South Carolina Conference Communities of Shalom Ministries seek to identify needs in poverty stricken areas, and provide a diversified, high-quality standard of life that strengthens churches, individuals and families through the following goals:

1. Spiritual Growth
2. Economic Development
3. Strengthened Multi-cultural Relationships
4. Healing and Wholeness

Vision Statement

The South Carolina Conference Communities of Shalom Ministries strive to make a positive difference in the lives of churches, individuals, and families through the following Principles:

1. Asset-Based Community Development
2. Collaboration
3. Mission and Evangelism
4. Systemic Change

This will be done as churches and communities continue working together to rebuild and renew community life for all people.

2006 Communities of Shalom Celebration

The 11th Annual Communities of Shalom Celebration was held February 10-12, 2006, St. Mark United Methodist Church, Taylors, South Carolina. The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bowman was our host pastor.

The event was hosted by the three Communities of Shalom Sites of the Upstate.

The central focus for the celebration; "Caution, Youth at Risk" Theme: Youth Impacted "Crisis Issues" – Live or Die.

The celebration opened on Friday evening with more than 450 participants gathered in the sanctuary for a spirit filled hip-hop worship service. The Rev. Marco Yeargin gave the evening message; his sermon topic was "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste."

Music for the Friday evening worship service was provided by a combined children and youth choir from the 3 Communities of Shalom Sites in the Upstate. This choir came together in a record time of one week of preparation under the guidance of the music director for St. Mark United Methodist Church.

Elder Ronald Wydman. Rev. Joyce M. Chiles and Rev. Kurt Stutler are the Shalom Site Coordinators.

The Holy Spirit moved across the sanctuary in a powerful way when Pastor Yeargin extended the invitation to Christian discipleship. About 350 youth made their way to the altar for prayer and gave their lives to Christ. It was a great evening to witness the Power of God at work in the life of so many young people in and through the United Methodist Church. The evening concluded with about 400 youth and adults traveling to Frankie's Fun Park for a time of reflection, fellowship and fun.

The celebration continued on Saturday morning with a Spiritual Reflection led by Rev. Leatha W. Brown, Pastor of Rowesville Parish, Orangeburg District, Rowesville, SC, and Site Coordinator for the CMP Communities of Shalom.

The day continued with workshops and activities for all age/grade level groups. For children age 7 and under there were Puppet Shows, Storytelling, Videos and Musical Skits. There were 15 participants in attendance.

For children age 8 – 11 there were workshops on Character Building, Etiquette/Table

Manners and Dancing Skits. There were 32 participants in this age group.

Workshops for youth and adults ran concurrently in separate settings. They were: Sex/AIDS, Gangs/ Music, Smoking/Drug/Cancer, Peer Pressure and Positive Self-esteem. There were 410 youth and 175 adults in attendance for these workshops. A total of 632 participants were in attendance for the workshop sessions.

The Celebration Banquet took place on Saturday evening at 7:00 pm with the Rev Leonard Huggins, former Site Coordinator of the Friendship-Nesmith Communities of Shalom and Pastor of New Covenant United Methodist Church, Bowman, SC. His Topic for the Message "Where There is Smoke There is Fire." There were 653 participants in attendance at the banquet.

The Shalom Celebration concluded on Sunday morning in a joint worship service with the St. Mark UMC Church Family. Dr. Thomas J. Bowman led the congregation in worship and the Rev. Jack C. Washington, Coordinator for the South Carolina Conference Communities of Shalom, delivered the morning Message. The scripture text was Luke 22:19, "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."" The theme was: Don't Forget the Bread. We were reminded that Jesus didn't ask to be remembered by his walking on the waters, turning water into wine, or raising Lazarus from the dead. He wants us to remember him in the breaking of the bread because this is something we do everyday of our lives.

He also reminded us that Jesus didn't go around building Big Church Buildings. He went around Building Better Communities. This is what the Communities of Shalom Ministries is all about, "Churches and Communities working together to rebuild and renew community life for all people".

We give thanks to Almighty God and to the Annual Conference for all the support given to the Communities of Shalom Ministries during the past year. Thank you to all the local churches and individuals who gave of their time, talents and tithes to make the Communities of Shalom Ministries of the South Carolina Conference the best Communities of Shalom Ministries throughout Methodism in the United States and abroad. Thank You.

Edd Cunningham, Chair – Shalom Steering Committee
Wiley B. Cooper, Secretary – Shalom Steering Committee
Jack C. Washington, Conference Shalom Coordinator

SHALOM LITERACY MINISTRY

Does riding an escalator excite you? It does if you are a child and have never ridden one before. Last Spring, 22 children from McColl, SC, came to Columbia to experience an after-school youth event held at the Convention Center. Many of the children had not traveled out of their community until this opportunity.

Through tutorial assistance and enriching activities, Shalom Lit has equipped local churches to work with academically at-risk students statewide in a positive environment to promote an increased awareness of the student's abilities and accomplishments through engaging literacy programs and youth development.

This was the first year to announce grant opportunities for after-school programming through this office. There were three awards given: East Anderson, Eau Claire, and Edisto Fork Shalom Communities.

Through the efforts of our staff statewide, partnerships with local agencies have served as a bridge between at-risk communities in need of assistance and those communities that have begun to be self-sustainable. Partnerships have been established to strengthen existing programs, and technical assistance has been provided to the faith community for new programs.

Church/School Partnerships – Linking a church and a school to assist in volunteerism and support.

Higher Education/After-School Partnerships – Collaborating with Claflin University, The Citadel, the College of Charleston, Spartanburg Methodist and Wofford College to assist students and enrich the lives of our young adults.

Organization/Community Partnerships – Seeking organizations that provide a resource that strengthens a community such as scouting.

State Agencies/Conference Partnerships – Assisting state agencies in areas where they recognize that the faith community can fill in the gaps where they cannot.

Empowerment Through Technical Assistance – Equipping individual churches to implement quality-based programs including child protection, by-laws, mission, purpose, funding, curriculum, and resources.

God's work is seen through the eyes of the committed individuals across the state and those they serve. The Shalom Literacy Ministry attempts to bridge the gap between church and state. The focus is to utilize the faith community to serve academically at-risk students and adults. When individuals have the right tools and attitude, an at-risk community will achieve academic success, and the communities will become a vital part of society.

Robin P. Landers, Program Coordinator

THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

There is a poem by Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers", which opens with the following lines: "I've known rivers. I've known rivers as ancient as the world, and older than the flow of human blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the rivers." Langston Hughes' message is that our souls do indeed become impacted by the rivers (disasters, storms, etc.) in our lives.

It seems that in recent years our lives have been continually under various types of disaster watches brought on by human and natural events: Our nation suffered brutal terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; four major hurricanes devastated Florida in 2004; in December, 2004, a tsunami killed hundreds of thousands of people and damaged vast areas of property and land in southeast Asia; in 2005, we witnessed one of the worst natural disasters in modern time. Virtually the entire infrastructure of New Orleans and other cities in the gulf coast area were destroyed. From these disasters, some named and so many unnamed, there are some major lessons that we have learned. As we reflect on these events, we are confronted with several imperatives for disaster preparedness.

1. We should have an evacuation plan in place in the home, school, church, community, and individually. The bottom line is that in the large scheme of things, local groups **must** help each other. Each person **must** help other persons to survive. Starting right now, put in place an emergency plan for your local area. Designate shelters, identification badges, health kits, Bibles, flashlights, non-perishable foods, etc.
2. Evacuate early if your community is under an evacuation order, or if it seems that you will be under an evacuation order! It may be tempting to stay at home, but remember that homes can be replaced- lives cannot be.
3. Communicate, communicate, communicate (before the storm), and stay in communication with family members, the local emergency preparedness organizations, our Conference Disaster Response Committee, and Volunteers in Missions organization, etc. These groups will share information which you may not know.
4. Educate! We never fully learn enough about how to survive, to manage, or come through a disaster. We must invest in taking workshops and training classes which may become available. The more we know, the more we can help ourselves and each other to move through the "storms" of our lives. In February of this year, The Conference Disaster Response Committee sponsored a Pastoral Crisis Intervention Workshop. Those who attended this workshop will be great resources to their districts and local areas. We plan to sponsor a similar workshop in February 2007. Please know that educating and equipping ourselves is one of the most effective ways to assist each other.
5. Talk and listen. Learn how to talk and listen to each other. Talking and listening are two basic survival skills. It is what we "say or don't say", "hear or don't hear", that will make a world of difference in whether we can survive minute by minute during a disaster.
6. Practice 'After-the -Storm Safety'. Do not be in a hurry to go outside or travel after

the disaster is over. Remain indoors until you are absolutely sure it is safe to go outside. Power lines and other wires can be most dangerous immediately after a disaster.

7. Pray. Pray for those who are in disasters. Pray for persons who will be helping in disasters. Pray for ourselves who may possibly be affected by disasters in the future. We are fragile. If the disaster misses us this time, It just may reach us the next time.

The South Carolina Conference Disaster Response Committee seeks to stay in the connection with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other response organizations in order that we may stay effectively prepare each district in our conference. You can help us stay in connection with you. Call and ask questions. Every question is a significant question. Ask your question.

Don't forget that the Conference Disaster Response Committee has two major meetings each year. In August, there is a basic district-check-up meeting. In February, there is a major training and workshop. Each district should commit to attend these meetings. This is how we help our districts stay in the connection.

Give Thanks! Let us give thanks to Almighty God for bringing us through past disasters and disasters yet to come.

I thank The Reverend Willie Teague, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries and Millie Carter, who serves as administrative assistant to Rev. Teague. Willie has been a great source of support and inspiration in assisting us with resources and technical support. Millie has helped us in so many technical ways as well.

I thank each district and district superintendent who continues to ensure that their district representatives are in attendance at disaster response trainings and meetings. I thank resident Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor for her support, concern, and sensitivity for persons who have been directly impacted by recent disasters. Many thanks also to those many persons who traveled to impacted areas to assist in recovery efforts. My experiences and visits to the gulf coast area continue to burn within my soul. I assisted many groups with recovery efforts. To have been able to lend a helping hand, prayer, and listening ear are the best gifts that I could ever give.

Don't Forget! The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is in March. More people around the world are receiving God's compassionate love and care through this offering. Through this offering, UMCOR can respond immediately to disasters such as floods, hurricanes, civil unrest and violence, refugee crises, landslides, earthquakes, hunger, and famine relief. This is a lifeline connection. Please give.

Let us continue to learn and learn well. Each disaster impacts our lives in significant ways. Yet, the lessons learned prepare us to weather future storms. Let us continue to learn together.

Blessings and Peace!

Lee C. Bines, Chairperson

FOSTERING FAMILIES

VISION: The vision of Fostering Families is to have individuals, families, and communities that are whole. It is to have families that are healthy spiritually, physically, mentally/emotionally, economically, and socially.

MISSION: To engage local churches in loving relationships with individuals or families in crisis to empower them to become whole. By providing food, clothing, shelter, health care, and helping to meet the basic needs, we can help individuals and families toward wholeness.

This ministry has seen much transition over the years. This program initially started as a partnership with the Department of Social Services to address the needs of at-risk families by having churches to adopt and nurture them. Since that time the partnership has ended, but through the support of the Board of Global Ministries Fostering Families has still been a light in the community.

During the year we have helped people who were in crisis by referring them to local churches for assistance or by providing them emergency assistance through this office. The funding here has been extremely limited; however, we have helped those with the greatest needs. Some came with eviction notices, others with electricity or water turned off or in danger

of being turned off. Priority is given to those who have children and the elderly. It is our desire to help everyone that needs it, but there would never be enough to go around.

It is not always money that is given, but sometimes people need encouragement, direction, education, and most of all they all need prayer. Praying with people in crisis is a great source of comfort and encouragement to them in being able to face their circumstances. It is truly a blessing to have even a small part in this ministry.

It is my hope that this ministry will continue as it has such an awesome potential of empowering churches to help transform the lives of the people in the villages around them by touching them personally, one family at a time, and by blessing them with their personal involvement in their lives just as our Savior Jesus did.

Millie Carter

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

"If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there."

Planning for the future is an imperative component that must become part of the fabric of every institution. In February 2005, the Board of Trustees of Spartanburg Methodist College held a two-day retreat to discuss and initiate planning for the future of our College. A *Visioneering Report* was prepared after the retreat to guide the College as we continue our work in higher education.

A significant component of the *Visioneering Report* is a one page "Strategic Statement" that establishes several guidelines for the growth of the College. Included in this statement are several ambitious yet worthy goals:

"By the year 2010, as we prepare to celebrate 100 years of service, Spartanburg Methodist College will be widely recognized in the state of South Carolina as a unique institution of higher education, with a stable enrollment of 875 students."

The "Strategic Statement" affirms that SMC will continue to be a two-year institution that is a predominantly residential institution offering a "values-oriented, liberal arts education" with "a culturally diverse student body. The campus environment will be conducive to living and learning, with current technology, with a highly qualified faculty and staff, and an involved and committed Board of Trustees." The College will "embrace programmatic changes to its academic offerings for the purpose of supporting local business and community needs. These needs include health care, business and computer services." The College must extend itself beyond the comfort zone to reach these worthy and ambitious goals.

In February 2006, the Board of Trustees established seven strategic steering committees, composed of Trustees and members of the Spartanburg Methodist College community, to determine the best practices in higher education that would become the benchmarks for our institution. The seven strategic steering committees include: The Benchmarking Committee; the Academic Programs, Learning Outcomes, and Technology Committee; the Fundraising Committee; the Admissions, Image and Marketing Committee; the Facilities and Grounds Committee; the Student Life and Support Committee; and the Faculty, Staff and Board Development Committee. These Committees were charged with the task of exploring issues related to the future of the institution. The President will compose a summary report to be presented to the Board of Trustees in the February 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees. It is with a renewed commitment to the mission of the College that we engage in this yearlong study.

In the February 2006 Board meeting, the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board of Trustees authorized the development of a Master Plan that will guide the expansion of the physical plant for decades to come. This Plan will enable the College to follow a Board approved prioritized list of facilities to guide the College for many years.

Even as we embark on the strategic steering committee work, the College continues to grow. In 1999, our enrollment bottomed out at 503 students. In 2006, the College opened with 716 students. In 2002, the College opened the 93-bed Bridges Residence Hall and reached the maximum capacity for residential enrollment. In the intervening years, all residential beds have

been filled to capacity with a waiting list to replace those who might withdraw. In 2006, a 118-bed facility, Sparrow Residence Hall, will open, increasing our residential capacity to over 600 beds. Based on enrollment projections for fall 2006, we anticipate another year of full residential enrollment. Our research leads us to believe that the demand for residential housing will continue to grow at SMC into the foreseeable future.

The expansion of the Buchheit Administration Building will begin during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The extension will include "The Phyllis Buchheit Conference Room" and "The Vassey Information Technology Suite." The Conference Room is designed to seat 100 persons and will include a food preparation area. Also, the Conference Room will be equipped with the latest technological resources. The Information Technology area will become the hub of all computer technology and telephone services on the campus.

As an extension in the ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference, Spartanburg Methodist College is proud of its historic roots with the United Methodist Church. We offer a diverse religious life program, endowed through the generosity of Drs. Ed and Charlotte Ellis, which include denominational and interdenominational organizations that are expressions of the Christian community. Our Worship Services continue to be among the most popular weekly activities on campus. It is common to see the Chapel filled to capacity as we profess our faith and challenge one another to be in Christian service to others. Our full-time Chaplain, the Rev. Candice Sloan, is to be commended for her wonderful ministry to our academic community.

Servant Learning is an important component of our academic community. Our Freshman Day of Service program, religious life program, and Kappa Sigma Alpha, our service fraternity, offer students many opportunities to serve others in the greater Spartanburg community. Our Touring Choir travels throughout the State participating in worship at many United Methodist churches. We continue to enjoy a strong partnership with the South Carolina Annual Conference Youth Choir and the United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission, both of which have met on our campus in recent years. To serve the needs of local churches, we have offered continuing education programs for church workers and church secretaries, particularly in the use and application of computer technology in local churches. Our annual "Faith and Society Symposium" continues to draw a wide diversity of participants to our campus to explore the relationship of our faith to particular current themes. In the 2005-2006 academic year, the theme for the Symposium was "Faith and Medicine."

Our recent growth in enrollment brought with it a unique set of challenges that the College has met with the construction of Bridges Residence Hall and Sparrow Residence Hall. As we move toward the goal of expanding enrollment to 875 students, we know that additional challenges will emerge. Our fundraising program faces challenges that are unprecedented in the history of our institution. For many years, the College has enjoyed many successful campaigns as a result of generous gifts from the textile industry, local Foundations, and apportionment support from the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. These were primary sources of revenue for many years. However, support from these sources has been severely reduced with the demise of the textile industry, reduced revenues available to charitable Foundations, and recent changes in the payment of pensions and health insurance that has now become the responsibility of local United Methodist churches. In the face of these challenges, we trust that our motto, *Deus Providet*, "God Provides," is true. We operate on a leap of faith that our many friends who support our unique mission will continue to do so in the years to come.

Some have asked why it is important to us to remain strongly affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The answers are simple. First, we are a faith community engaged in ministries that are offered in the unique setting of higher education. Second, our identity is grounded in the principles of the Christian faith as expressed most clearly in the United Methodist Church. Third, we offer academic and ethical foundations grounded in the Christian tradition that will serve our students well for the rest of their lives. Finally, we believe that the Christian faith should ensue in appropriate ethical behavior in all areas of life. Few things in life are more exciting than helping students become responsible young adults with their future solidly grounded in the Christian tradition. We are affiliated with the United Methodist Church because this is our mission and our calling. It is our hope that we shall continue to educate and serve others as an extension ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for generations to come.

Charles Teague, President

THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Board of Health and Welfare continues to work to uphold the ministry of Christ and the tradition of John Wesley, in the United Methodist Church, with the ministry of health and wholeness.

Del Soule chairs the sub-committee on Golden Cross. One of our goals is to make Golden Cross a more visible ministry to our churches. Because of your gifts to Golden Cross, we were able to award seven health care scholarships in the amount of \$6,300 and grant fifteen request for medical assistance in the amount of \$9,180.71. We awarded one grant of \$1,200 for a grant assistance program.

Rev. John P. Thomas chairs the programs sub-committee. Through the four programs offered by our board, we awarded one grant to eliminate architectural barriers (\$500). We awarded six grants (\$4,200) for "Health Fairs" held in various districts.

Rev. Harry Stullenbarger chairs our committee on nominations. Nominations are made for the Board of Trustees of Epworth Childrens Home, Wesley Commons, Methodist Oaks, Pee Dee Manor and Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. These Nominations are presented to the Conference Committee on Nominations and to the Annual Conference.

Rev. Athon Arant chairs the homes sub-committee. We continue to work for a strong positive relationship we share with each of the homes. We commend the splendid leadership provided by each home. The ASNM is still making progress for their first home. Groundbreaking for their first home is scheduled for March 27, 2006, on the campus of Epworth Children's Home.

At present, there are nine housing units for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, which are occupied, one at the Pee Dee Manor, which is occupied, and four at Wesley Commons, two occupied and two vacant. The Board of Health and Welfare approved a Ministerial Unit Policy Procedure, that was mutually agreed with the homes, as workable. As of December 31, 2005, there was an ending book value of \$88,419.24 in the Elma Hill Endowment Fund. The ending book value in the Williams-Walker fund was \$23,913.25. The interest from these funds helps maintain the retired clergy units. \$5,968.19 has been given to the Methodist Oaks and to Wesley Commons, for repairs on the retired clergy units.

We have continued working with the homes concerning the percentage of allocated funds to the homes. This year we are making a recommendation for a change in the percentages. At present, Methodist Oaks receives 55%, Wesley Commons 30% and the Pee Dee Manor 15%. We are recommending the following change; Methodist Oaks 50%, Wesley Commons 35% and Pee Dee Manor 15%. We are committed to continue working with the homes concerning this matter.

We also have worked hard to continue with better communications with each of the homes. It is our plan to have a representative of the Board of Health and Welfare present at the Board of Trustees meeting at each Home. Representatives are as follows: Pee Dee Manor, Angela Bruce; Wesley Commons, Bayard Lindell; Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry, Rev. Harry Stullenbarger; Epworth Children's Home and Methodist Oaks, Rev. Arant.

We are very grateful for the wonderful support and cooperation we have received throughout the conference. We look forward to working with you and for you as we continue the ministry of Christ, in the area of Health and Welfare.

Athon M. Arant, Sr., Chairperson

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry continues to make strides in the development of Christian homes for adults with developmental disabilities in South Carolina. A brochure with a detachable donation envelope was developed to be used for Aldersgate Sunday. The brochure was also distributed at Annual Conference and is used at other educational forums. In April, two of our board members presented a program to the South Carolina Downs Syndrome Conference. A sponsor support program, *Aldersgate Angels*, has been established. An *Aldersgate Angel* is an individual who supports the general ministry of ASNM by contributing \$24 a month through a yearly renewable commitment. The symbol for the *Aldersgate Angel* program is an angel designed, painted and contributed by Mr. Philip Powell. Upon receipt of a

commitment form and contribution, the *Aldersgate Angel* receives a lapel pin featuring Philip's angel. Mr. Powell also sponsored an angel art show and donated his proceeds to ASNM.

The ministry received a tremendous boost a few months ago when a sister agency of the United Methodist Church, Epworth Children's Home, approved the placement of the first women's home on the Epworth campus. Dan Shumaker of Shumaker Homes and the Home Builders Association of Columbia have agreed to handle construction of the home. Groundbreaking ceremonies are to be held March 27, 2006.

In January, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved our application for a Section 811 grant for a home to be constructed on the grounds of the The Methodist Oaks. We continue to seek other grants to help support our efforts.

As our prayers continue to be answered, we feel extremely blessed to be a part of this ministry.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

The focus of Epworth Children's Home is centered in the **Mission Statement:**

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME ministers to children, youth and families through a caring, accepting, safe, Christian community. Led by a professional team, the hurts of children, youth and families are healed; hope is given; and faith in God, self, and others is developed.

Epworth has been caring for children for 110 years. Spiritual nurture, education and a productive work ethic under gird the care of children at Epworth. Epworth Children's Home was established in 1895 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and chartered by the Act of the South Carolina General Assembly as Epworth Orphanage. Situated in the heart of the State, Epworth is located on 35 acres.

Under the direction of a 21 member Board of Trustees, Epworth Children's Home is a private, non-profit child and family service organization serving South Carolina. Volunteer contributions, wills, bequests, and trust funds support Epworth. All donations, designated and undesignated, go to minister to the needs of children, youth and families.

In July 2005 Epworth Children's Home renewed the five year accreditation through the United Methodist Association. In the accreditation and peer review assessment of April 2005 the following was noted:

EAGLE ACCREDITATION & PEER REVIEW TEAM - April 24-26, 2005

(Numbering corresponds to the items in the Peer Review questionnaire)

A. Commendations of Epworth:

II.2.(2) Exemplary efforts to seek out and participate in cooperative health care and human services ministries. i.e., Salkehatchie program to rehabilitate house for the elderly, Aldersgate Project to serve high-functioning adults with special needs, train local church representatives in advocacy for children, use of facilities for conference Health & Welfare related meetings, the Early Intervention Program for developmentally delayed children, and most recently the Intensive Family Services Program to prevent out-of-home placements.

III.6.(1) Excellent health, nursing, medical facilities and services for clients

VII.2.(1) Additions of new buildings (school & dining hall), on upkeep, replacement and addition to buildings and effort of all employees to keep facilities and campus an attractive and safe place to live.

VIII.1.(14) Commitment to providing benevolent care in all aspects of service

IX.2.(1) Sharing of facilities and resources with the local and church community The Barnes Learning Center, early intervention center, Epworth Memorial UMC, Williams Brice Activities Center, and other campus locations are used regularly by others in various

ways that advance ministry and work for children & families

B. Suggestions to Epworth and Follow-up Actions

III.3.(9) Pastoral counseling notes and assessments should be placed in each child records. **(Effective July 2005)**

III.4.(7) Although some changes have been made in client's records, they need to reflect the work accomplished and the changes clients are making by including all counseling notes from all counselors. **(Effective July 2005)**

III.4.(7) All documents in client files requiring signatures should be signed and dated especially when it requires a witness for authorization from parents. **(Effective April 2005)**

IV.4.(9) Board of Directors from time to time utilize non-staff members or outside expertise to enhance the current Board training. **(Planned for August 2006)**

IV.3.(3) Board of Directors and President develop an annual President evaluation tool that will indicate general assessment or performance, specific goals achievements and achievement in professional development. **(August 17, 2005 goals established)**

V.2.(1) The individual in charge of Quality Assurance (Lee Porter) be so listed in the organizational chart and receive formal training in QA so that he may train others in that it becomes part of the agency's culture. **(Training January 25-27, 2006)**

VI.1.(2) The grievance and harassment policy be more inclusive in order to cover the Chief Operations Officer and the President should a complaint be made. **(Effective November 2005)**

C. Recommendations:

V.3.(2) Organization needs to adopt outcome goals for each of its operations and to have training in the positive aspects of a quality QA culture. **(Effective 2006)**

X.3.(1) Agency utilize the code of ethical principles and standards or nationally recognized fund raising association to identify specific codes and ethics for its PRDM activities. **(Effective May 2006)**

At present **80** children and youth live in the campus cottages of Epworth Children's Home with 9-12 children per cottage. Each cottage is supported by a Case Manager, Cottage Coordinator and Life Skill Specialist in Residence. Some modification of the cottage staff format is under way by revisiting use of married couples. The children are grouped by age and gender, ranging from ages four to eighteen years, including 13 sibling groups.

The children participate in campus church worship, daily meals in W.E. Sellars Dining Hall, school (K-8th grades on campus; 9-12 Dreher High), community outreach, quality health care, counseling, scheduled activities, which include swimming in the on-campus pool, organized team sports, and church group activities (UMYF, Choir, Bible).

The Epworth Early Intervention Center provides day services for **18** children from infancy through age 5 who have been affected by developmental delays such as Down's syndrome and autism. Its ministry also includes a home-based intervention component, one of the first in the state, reaching **43** families.

Epworth is extending the support of the special needs ministry. Epworth granted to the SC Conference Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry a 40 year Lease signed on December 13, 2005 for a new special needs home site on Epworth campus to serve high-functioning adults.

Since July 2005 some Goals established, accomplished and/or in progress are:

Finances: To reduce expenditures and limit spending to essentials for the children

Staff: To identify essential staff functions, reduce turn over and build confidence

Program: To focus on care of children and family needs with a supportive staff

Travel: To conserve and limit staff travel to essentials

Quality Assurance: To design training for staff in quality assurance

Fund Raising: To define and adopt a policy of ethical principles and standards in Public Relations and Fund Development

Budget: To adopt a reduced 2005-2006 Budget by November 2005 consistent with

Investment Policy; to prepare and adopt 2006-07 Budget by August 2006

Board Policy: To renew all Board Policies annually in May for orientation of the Board

Public Relations: To build connections with DSS Offices, individuals and businesses; to increase local church and other groups touring on campus

Speakers for Epworth: To promote speakers in local churches and cultivate support

Organizational Structure: To restructure functions and reporting of staff

Under the guidance of the Board of Trustees, adoption in November 2005 of revised policies and a long term financial management design for the Endowment Investments and budgeting has been implemented. Without hindering the ministry and care for the children, the reassignment and consolidation of staff functions with reduction from 109 staff positions to the current **85** staff positions has been accomplished. The reduction of staff positions and the close supervision of annual budgeting and expenditures by the staff resulted in the initial budget reduction of \$500,000. With this reduction, the **2005-2006 Budget** was adopted at **\$4,132,500**.

Under the revised November 2005 investment policy **65%** of the total 2005-2006 Budget is sustained by the designated and endowed investment yields. **The remaining 35% of the budget total must be received from the generous donations from local churches on Annual Work Day, Mother's Day and special gifts along with the individual bequests, wills, and estate gifts to adequately care for the children.**

The Search Committee for the President of Epworth Children's Home has completed the process of reviewing the fifteen applications received prior to November 15, 2005. The interviews with five selected finalists in January 2006 and reporting to the February 16, 2006 Board of Trustees meeting resulted in the election of the new Epworth **President, Reverend John E. Holler Jr.** The newly elected President will assume duties by June 15, 2006.

Ted H. Walter, President

THE METHODIST OAKS - ORANGEBURG

The Methodist Oaks, one of the three United Methodist Continuing Care Retirement Communities connected to the South Carolina Annual Conference, is continuing its stated mission:

To provide superior continuing care retirement living 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 Board has, however, upon evaluating the community in which the Oaks resides, determined that the mission of The Methodist Oaks is in need of rethinking and expanding. The understanding of being a "faith based" community forces us to review the ways in which we are different from "for profit" communities in the provision of our services. Certainly the existence of the Residents Assistance Fund made possible by the generous giving of South Carolina United Methodists through the apportionment line item and other avenues, is a significant difference for us. Also, the providing of daily Bible Study and frequent devotion opportunities may differentiate us. But the Board feels that more must be done. In that regard, the Board has instructed the staff to set about reviewing and implementing programs which provide services for seniors in the communities surrounding the Oaks.

In Orangeburg County, 63% of the senior population is below the poverty level. With our current operation, we are not able to provide for that market need. Expanding our program focus to look at affordable housing and to provide senior care at home for those seniors unable to reside with us in our traditional programs, is a daunting task; however, it is one the staff and Board undertake with determination. Additionally, the Board has instructed the staff to investigate the feasibility of Home Health, Adult Day Care, Child Care for employees and surrounding industry workers, a Hospice Care Center, Geriatric Care Planning and Management, and Senior Care assistance for our market area. At the same time, we are expanding our Eden focus which stresses patient and person centered care in our medical

building. In short, The Methodist Oaks seeks to become a primary resource for senior care in Orangeburg and surrounding Counties.

The traditional provision of services to residents will be strengthened and improved. Our marketing effort is effective and bringing in new residents. We have to reach out to remote areas of the state, but are finding receptive prospects there. Our multi-room units, apartments, and cottages are almost full. Our medical building and Assisted Living areas are full with folks waiting to get a space. Our Rehab unit is very popular with the doctors and residents of our market area, and is a service we will be increasing in the future. We are converting many of our older, single room units to multi-room apartments and finding good success in filling those as we complete the renovation.

The Seniors market is changing drastically and rapidly throughout the United States. Staying abreast of the changing market is paramount to the continued strength and growth of The Methodist Oaks. The Board and staff are monitoring the market and making adjustments to prepare for the future. New products and ways of delivering services will be initiated.

The Board, Residents, and Staff are very excited that the Aldersgate Home will be under construction soon on our campus. We look forward to sharing in ministry with this and other ministries in our community.

*June Bunch, Board Chairperson
James R. McGee, President/CEO*

THE UNITED METHODIST MANOR OF THE PEE DEE

In December, 1991, the dream of a retirement community where senior adults could enjoy an enriching lifestyle became reality with the opening of The United Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee. The Manor was such a success that in the fall of 1993 100% occupancy was attained, and the need for expansion was indicated by the growing number of waiting list applications. Construction began on three additional wings – an infirmary (Health Care Center), additional suites in the Wesleyan Suites (Assisted Living), and the new wing of Independent Living apartments. With their completion, 1995 showed the start of our Chapel. The beautiful Chapel, designed specifically with seniors in mind, was completed and dedicated on December 3, 1997. In December, 1998 the first phase of our Patio Homes was started. Phase Two was then started in June of 2000, and Phase III in April of 2006.

Our most recent expansion project was completed in September, 1999. This expansion included the renovation of our existing kitchen, expanding the Independent Living Dining Room, removing the wall between the exercise room and the game room, building a new wing to the Wesleyan Suites which included a new dining room, three new activity rooms and a new sitting area, sun room and ten rooms to our Health Care Center. Construction of additional patio homes continues. As of this communication, there are 100 Independent Living apartments, 53 Assisted Living suites, 32 Health Care Center beds, a 12 suite special care facility for Alzheimer's and related dementia, and 17 patio homes, with two currently under construction.

The Methodist Manor is more than bricks and mortar, we're individuals united by a common bond. Making a difference is what happens when individuals, local churches, community groups and the annual conference take part in the ministries of the United Methodist Retirement homes. Those who live with us live longer – so, you help give life! We are grateful to you and for you for allowing us to share with you in bringing God's love into the lives of his older children. We cherish the chances we have with you for making a difference.

*D. Laurence McIntosh, Chairman, Trustees
Kathy Woolley, Executive Director*

WESLEY COMMONS

Fiscal Year 2005 marked another year of continued expansion of our programs and services. With the opening of the Sara Stone Haugh Wellness Complex, our wellness program has grown dramatically and now serves over 250 participants. Class types range from weightlifting and water aerobics to yoga and massage. Approximately 60% of our Independent Living residents participate in over 30 different classes each week and roughly 32% of our

Assisted Living residents participate in our programs as well. The Skilled Nursing Facility also participates via satellite Wellness Programs. Participation in our Wellness Programs has added more than improved health for our residents; it has sparked a youthful energy and excitement felt campus wide.

We currently serve over 410 residents on our campus. We are very pleased to see our campus occupancy at 92% and growing higher each month. Many of our neighborhoods are sold out and our waiting list is growing. With more than two-thirds of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from all areas of the Southeast, we have re-engineered our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Involvement with our Resident Committees allows us to continuously fine tune the scope of our offerings.

In conjunction with our overall growth we continue in our quest to redefine nursing care in a manner that replaces the current definition of a "Nursing Home." Our Vision and efforts have progressed in this area, and we are cultivating multi-function teams to help give birth to this new program in the very near future. We plan to mimic our extremely successful, 12 resident Special Care House, Jasmine Cottage, in the development of a "neighborhood" of cozy "home based" skilled nursing homes to replace the traditional monolithic hospital design of today. The challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, is to design this exceptional program to be affordable and viable for a Medicaid and lower income population. We believe that if we can achieve this goal, it will spread to others, so that in the near future, a skilled nursing home will look and operate in such a special manner that it bears no resemblance to today's "homes."

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our older brothers and sisters continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. The support of the Methodist Homes Support Fund and other Private Supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide support for over 35 of our residents across our campus. In 2005, Wesley Commons provided over \$750,000 of subsidized care as well as wrote off a Medicaid Contractual adjustment of another \$536,468. With the Methodist Conference providing just over \$132,000, Wesley Commons' Operational funds made up the difference of that subsidy to those unable to pay for their care.

Wesley Commons', Methodist Oaks' and Methodist Manor's need for support will only increase as our communities continue to grow and conversely, our state and federal funding for our nation's seniors continues to be reduced. 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.

*C.J. Lupo, Jr., Chairman
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO*

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that the Greatest Commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39). All across our United Methodist colleges and campus ministry programs, this commandment is being lived out by faculty, staff, and students. In the great tradition of Jesus and John Wesley, we are helping students to grow as faithful disciples. Education in the Methodist tradition is more than simply an academic or intellectual endeavor. At Claflin, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist and Wofford, students are growing in heart, soul, and mind. The same is true in our Wesley Foundations at USC, Clemson, Charleston, S.C. State-Claflin, Winthrop, Francis Marion, and Furman.

Through apportionments and other support, South Carolina United Methodists are participants in perhaps the greatest mission field in the world – the college campus. In the context of change and transition, our young adults need the abiding presence of the church. When secular pressures, career choices, and life-changing decisions confront students, they need the spiritual guidance of chaplains, campus ministers, and Christian faculty and staff. Thanks be to God for the faithful witness in the sea of change, where students grasp for meaning and identity.

In the following reports from college presidents and campus ministers, you will see evidence of the Greatest Commandment. Students and faculty are engaged in Hurricane

Katrina relief work, overseas mission trips, racial reconciliation, academic excellence, community service, leadership development, and ethical discussion. Where can you find people from all religions and races, colors and creeds, joining together in dialog, worship, and service? I dare say, "Not in the local church, where race and theology still divide us." Only on the college campus, do we see the Greatest Commandment lived out in the context of diversity, where bridges are built in classrooms, residence halls, and most importantly, the chapel.

On behalf of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, I express my deepest gratitude to the United Methodists in South Carolina for your prayers and contributions. Please know that every penny and prayer you offer makes a huge difference on the campus, and in the world. Nothing less than the Kingdom of God is at stake.

Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chair

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Claflin University, founded in 1869, is the oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the state of South Carolina. U.S. News & World Report 2006 ranks Claflin in the "Top Ten" overall and number one in the category of "Best Value" among Southern Comprehensive Colleges for students working toward a bachelor's degree. Also, in the 2006 *Guidebook to America's Best Colleges and Universities*, published by U.S. News & World Report, Claflin University ranked number one for an impressive graduation rate. The John Templeton Foundation commends Claflin in its publication, *Colleges that Encourage Character Development*. A small university offering a big educational experience, Claflin has long been recognized for the rich legacy of its graduates' achievements in medicine, law, teaching, and dozens of other professions. Committed to maintaining the very highest standards of academic excellence, Claflin is gaining ever-greater national recognition as a premier liberal arts comprehensive institution in the southeastern region of the United States.

Currently, the University enrolls nearly 1,800 students in its 33 undergraduate and two graduate programs. Its pursuit of excellence is steered by a strong faculty and an academic and research agenda that is under-girded by several centers of excellence that are emerging as regional resource centers providing leadership in their areas of focus.

The Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy convened its 14th Annual Lecture Series February 2-4, 2006 at the University. Overall, the Academy seeks to unite laity and clergy, establish church leadership, address age-level leadership, increase awareness of Christian education's role within the church, enhance church/university relationships and offer cross-cultural experiences within the church. The University celebrated its annual Religious Emphasis Week February 19-22, 2006. This year's guest lecturer was Dr. Abena Safiya Fosua, Director of Invitational Preaching Ministries, General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Claflin University implemented the *Claflin Cares* Campaign to address the needs of those who were victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Southeast Asia Earthquake and other catastrophic disasters. The University has a strong history of answering the call of those who are less fortunate. During the Christmas holiday season and in the spirit of giving, Claflin students collected over 150 toys for tots. Faculty and staff donated hundreds of gifts for Orangeburg-Calhoun area families during a Christmas gathering hosted by President and Mrs. Henry N. Tisdale. The University family transformed 'the reason for the season' into acts of generosity and love.

Claflin achieved unprecedented national accreditation for several of its academic programs in 2005. The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program received national accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) continued the accreditation for the University's professional education unit through 2011. Claflin University became the second private institution and one of eight colleges and universities in South Carolina to earn national accreditation for its Chemistry Program. The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) awarded associate membership to the Claflin University Department of Music. The English Education Program received national recognition from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

President Henry N. Tisdale has often stated, *"An institution can never be any better than its faculty."* Claflin University's faculty earned unprecedented prestigious awards in 2005 and in 2006 for outstanding achievements in their disciplines. Dr. Angela W. Peters, Chair, Department of Chemistry, was named the 2005 South Carolina Governor's Professor of the Year. This is the second time in the University's history that a faculty member has won the distinguished award. And, in 2006, two of Claflin's professors, Dr. Omar Bagasra and Dr. Rebecca Bullard – Dillard, were named the Governor's Professors for Excellence in Scientific Awareness.

Claflin University embarked upon a new direction that has redefined its position and identity. Claflin has emerged as a strong and leading undergraduate research institution in South Carolina. At Claflin, eminent faculty are procuring millions of federal dollars for ongoing research in HIV/AIDS, cancer, forensics and genomic sequencing. As a result of participation in undergraduate research in all academic areas, increasingly, Claflin students are finding success in competing for employment, internships, and graduate and professional school opportunities.

Along with its many competitive academic offerings, Claflin University's Center for Vocational Reflection is designed to engage and encourage the Claflin community to seek answers concerning their identity, role and vocational purpose in life not only at the University, but in the larger society.

Transformation and change can be readily seen within the University's physical plant, academic programs, and infrastructure. There is much anticipation about the ongoing construction for the new chapel. Groundbreaking for the new chapel took place in June 2005 with participation from a large number of friends and supporters. Tingley Memorial Hall and Lee Library earned the 2005 South Carolina Historic Preservation Honor Award, the states' highest honor for preservation. Also, plans are ongoing to fundraise and build the new Bioscience Center.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

It has been an exciting and incredibly inspiring year at Columbia College. Celebration of our Sesquicentennial year ended with students, faculty and staff setting sights even higher as we prepare women leaders for critical roles in public service, the arts, education, the sciences, and technology.

Columbia College was selected to participate in the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education. This four-year, multi-million dollar program is one of the most comprehensive national studies of the effects of American higher education. We are in distinguished company as one of twelve liberal arts institutions where incoming freshmen will be followed throughout their college career to gain insight about specific features of college life that promote student growth and to assess the impact that liberal arts education has on students.

The 2005 Columbia College Medallion Awards were presented in October to four distinguished recipients who have long supported the College in many ways: Helen Nelson Grant, Dr. Robert J. Moore, M. Edward Sellers, and Elizabeth Johnston Patterson.

The 2005 Sporting & Family Fest was held in November at the beautiful North Camden farm of one of our trustees. Sporting dog competitions and auctions raised over \$62,000 to fund scholarships. The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation awarded the College an \$84,000 grant to fund student scholarships for 2005-2006.

Student Achievements

This past year has been a remarkable year of achievement and wide recognition for Columbia College students. Education major Jennifer Dowling and English major, Karen Shaner were recipients of the 2005-2006 Honeycutt Awards in recognition of their research and presentations. Dowling's research included a two and a half month visit to Namibia, where she studied women's roles in Namibian society and how education has affected those roles. Shaner spent three months working at an orphanage for children with AIDS in southern Africa and studied the effect of AIDS on women in Lesotho.

Education major Amanda Friday received the 2004-2005 Savory Scholars Award, a grant that gave her the opportunity to work with Dr. Joyce Fields on a pilot research study, "Racial/Ethnic Identification in Young Children". She interviewed and collected drawings to

assess self-identification and racial/ethnic awareness of others in five-year-old and ten-year-old children.

The 2006 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges includes the names of 28 students from Columbia College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Honors student Kelly McDowell was recognized as the 2005 Tull Foundation Honors Scholar, an endowed award. Each year, one rising senior is recognized for her exemplary record of academic achievement and service.

Senior English major Mitra Arthur's summer internship was spent in the heart of New York's theatre district with New Dramatists, a non-profit organization devoted to supporting playwrights. Meanwhile, summer clinicals were completed in Seoul, Korea, by four of our education majors who are South Carolina Teaching Fellows. This fall, internships for the seven students participating in our Washington Semester were arranged by the Pentagon, the offices of Sen. Jim DeMint and Rep. Joe Wilson, Pin Point Theatre, and the National Dance Institute.

Fourteen students and two faculty members participated in the National Collegiate Honors Council in St. Louis, MO, in October. The main feature of the conference was the Katrina disaster relief effort inspired, organized, and implemented by our students. Columbia College students, and their mentor Dr. Joyce Fields, were singled out among 1620 members in attendance to receive a warm and appreciative ovation for the passion they brought to this effort. The Clubhouse Gang of Eau Claire received a \$1000 grant from the Target Corporation for their afterschool reading program offered for children in the Eau Claire neighborhoods. Clubhouse is an afterschool program operated by our students at College Place UMC.

Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies held on April 30, 2005, conferred bachelors degrees on a total of 221 candidates. Columbia College conferred master's degrees on 97 candidates at Graduate School Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, December 18, at College Place united Methodist Church.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

We are extremely proud of the honors and accomplishments of our dedicated faculty and staff. Dr. Laurie Hopkins, Provost, and Dr. Vivian Fowler, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning presented "Encouraging Student Persistence: A Retention Strategy" at the annual meeting of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December, 2005. "Northern Ireland: A Case of Civil Unrest" was the title of a spring honors seminar which culminates in a summer trip to Northern Ireland for a group of honors students, led by Dr. Lynne Noble and Dr. John Zubizarreta. Campus Police Chief Howard Cook was chosen to attend the international FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Chief Cook is among only 5% of police captains nationwide to be selected to attend this prestigious school.

Columbia College legend, Lucile "Ludy" Godbold, a gold medalist in the 1922 First International Track and Field Meet for Women who taught physical education at the College for 58 years, was posthumously inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame. President Emeritus R. Wright Spears was profiled in the winter 2005 issue of Sandlapper magazine for his years of contributions to the state, Columbia College, and the United Methodist Church.

Leadership

Since its inception last year, the Alliance for Women has energized the discussion and exploration of women's issues in South Carolina. Two conferences, "The Summit on Women Entrepreneurs" and the upcoming "A Seat at the Table" are part of the ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing the economic autonomy of women and increasing the number of women in policy-level roles in the state. In addition, a series of statewide meetings are planned to address these two factors.

Columbia College will host The Honorable Margaret Spellings, United States Secretary of Education, and The Honorable Inez Tenenbaum, South Carolina Superintendent of Education in February. Their presentation, "A Lesson in Leadership," will explore the role of education in keeping both the United States and South Carolina competitive in the global market.

Religious Life

In the area of religious life, chapel services this year followed the theme of "Peacemaking." The topical study ranged from making peace with the past and within oneself to making peace in relationships and among communal topics of contention. Speakers included Rev. Toni White and alumnae Helen Nelson Grant and Jane Jenkins Herlong, as well as faculty members Dr. Linda Salane and Dr. Vivian Fowler. In line with recent years, attendance at chapel remained

above 100 as students have enjoyed the devotional services of songs and meditations.

The Columbia College Labyrinth also continued to be a source of spiritual experience for students. The 40" x 40" canvas labyrinth was installed bi-monthly for students to walk in prayer and meditation. An ancient tool of spirituality, the labyrinth is an intricate pathway one walks in quiet reflection to commune with God. The labyrinth has been a popular event for students and an accessible spiritual practice for students not affiliated with a particular church.

As a college committed to educating not only for lifelong learning but also for social justice, the College offered bi-monthly community service projects throughout the academic year. "Community Service Fridays" took students to local service agencies and immersed them in servant leadership in aid of others. Our annual Community Service Day during Fall Orientation was another success. The entire entering class dispersed throughout Columbia to work at 15 different sites and experience first-hand the relationship of learning to service and leadership. Additionally, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service experience led students off campus and into our surrounding communities to meet our neighbors and to beautify our neighborhoods.

Columbia College again hosted in February the Bishop's Retreat for Persons Considering Ministry. Sponsored and planned by the conference, the retreat provided twenty-six persons - including students - with an invaluable opportunity to explore the call to ministry with ordained clergy. The day-long event featured conference clergy who mentored prospective ministerial candidates and modeled for them a plethora of different ministries of the church.

And speaking of ministry, the college was particularly proud to host a major conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. In recognition of generations of women in ministry and in preparation of many more to come, Columbia College welcomed clergywomen from across our jurisdiction and denomination to a three-day conference of worship, workshops and celebration. Following the theme "Jubilee Voices: An Inner Journey, An Outward Call" the conference featured our own Bishop Taylor as well as Bishops Hope Morgan Ward, Minerva Carcano and Leontine T. C. Kelly.

Finally, our Chaplain, Rev. Carl King, completed five years of exemplary ministry to the college and returned to school to pursue a doctoral degree in service to the church. Rev. King was a valued member of the college community and he leaves a good religious life program for our next chaplain. Committed to our relationship with The United Methodist Church, we look forward to welcoming another caring and gifted minister to our community.

Founded by the South Carolina Annual Conference in 1854 through a vote taken at Washington Street UMC, Columbia College celebrates its ministry with and through all the churches of the Columbia District and of the SC Annual Conference. In gratitude for the Church's faithfulness to Columbia College, we look toward a bright future of continued mutual support.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

One afternoon in the fall of 2005, a group of four Wofford students worked to market renovated homes in Spartanburg's historic Hampton Heights neighborhood. Another team conducted a survey to help the National Beta Club assess leadership programs for its members. Still other students learned American Sign Language at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind. Each project was part of Wofford's Success Initiative, a leadership and scholarship program that offers practical, project-based experiences to selected students. The brainchild of finance professor Dr. Jim Proctor and funded in large part by donors Jimmy and Marsha Gibbs, the Success Initiative is now in its third year. The program started with eight students and has grown each year since. Now, approximately 40 students are involved in the program, with plans to add more. Their common goal is to apply their liberal arts education to real-world situations. The Success Initiative is just one of almost a dozen innovative co-curricular opportunities offered on the campus.

In February 2005, George D. Kuh, Jillian Kinzie, John H. Schuh and Elizabeth Whitt wrote a landmark book, *Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter* for the American Association of Higher Education. The authors did their research under the auspices of Project DEEP, visiting 20 colleges and universities that they identified based on outstanding scores on the National Survey of Student Engagement. On Project DEEP campuses ranging in size from Wofford to the University of Michigan, they found that institutional values guide actions and are

soon evident to all who visit. Moreover, these colleges and universities embrace diversity, the unfettered pursuit of knowledge, and the creative search for truth.

Several months later, the *Washington Monthly* asked its readers, "What should colleges do for America?" It rated the nation's campuses on student and alumni community service, research, and upward mobility for their graduates. In this study, Wofford ranked among the nation's top 10, along with Wesleyan, Amherst and Fiske.

At Wofford, we take pride in being seen as a national benchmark in areas that reflect our historic ties to the United Methodist Church. Dr. Ron Robinson, the college's Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and a 1978 Wofford graduate, has defined this relationship in these few words: "We at Wofford want you to send us your finest students, formed in the Christian faith. We will send back to you young women and men who are prepared to be leaders in the church and community."

In 2005, we were particularly pleased to announce the establishment of the Bauknight Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. It celebrates the ministry of the late Rev. Heber Felder Bauknight (Wofford class of 1937) and his sons, the Rev. John Michael Bauknight '69, and the Rev. David Derrick Bauknight. Two other sons, the late Heber Felder Bauknight, Jr. '60 and Dow Napoleon Bauknight '71 were also graduates of Wofford. Members of the Bauknight family have been dedicated to serving small membership churches in South Carolina for eight decades.

Dr. Robinson believes the Bauknight Scholarship – which is open to students of all denominations – will put Wofford on the cutting edge of pre-ministerial education. "I think it's important because we want to encourage talented young people to explore the call to ministry, we need to educate and train a new generation of leaders, and we want to provide that opportunity without the hindrance of great debt, which can be created by tuition at high caliber colleges and divinity schools," he said. Each year, four students will receive scholarships of \$2,500 to take part in pre-ministerial preparation. They also will take part in the theological exploration of vocation, leadership and service opportunities, and a guided discernment process that includes spiritual direction, mentoring and internships. Students who excel in the program during their first and second years at Wofford will have the opportunity to vie for a larger scholarship to cover half of their total expenses (at least \$15,000) during their final two years at Wofford.

It remains very important to remember that all good intentions and creative innovations require an undergirding of financial and academic strength. Wofford strives to remain affordable for all deserving students by administering a \$22 million financial aid program. The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church generously contributes to that effort through the Senior College Scholarship Fund. We are grateful for that support, as well to alumni, United Methodists and other friends who make contributions to the college as individuals.

Benjamin B. Dunlap

CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation has had a tremendous year of growth and activity. We could not have sustained such momentum without the unwavering, generous support of the churches of the Charleston district. Each of our successes is due to your love, prayers and support. We would be remiss if we did not thank Trinity UMC- Charleston for the continued use of their facilities, resources and support. Here is our 2005-2006 year in a snapshot:

Soul Café, our ministry to the MUSC students, was renamed TGIF and revitalized with the pivotal help of John Wesley UMC and Bethel UMC. We average about 15 students and staff every week for Bible study and lunch. God does provide!

College of Charleston Wesley Foundation continues to enjoy our home at Bethel UMC. The weekly dinners are so delicious. Your Christian hospitality and generosity are the "wind beneath our wings". One of our College of Charleston Wesley students is employed by First UMC Isle of Palms as their youth director. We are so proud of you, Christen!

The Charleston Southern University group has tripled in number. We now average about 10 students at our biweekly lunch and Bible study. Most of these students are also

active in the CSU gospel choir so I am at the campus quite often to support them. LaQuisha Chisolm was a successful 2005 SIP missionary and has applied to be a 2006 SIP missionary. LaQuisha, we are so very proud of you!

Our Monday night weekly gatherings at the Citadel remain our largest group with an average of 60- 70 students attending. Thirty -six CWF students attended the SCUMSM fall retreat at Asbury Hills Retreat and Camp center. Accolades to John Wesley UMC for the magnanimous loan of their luxurious bus and wonderful driver! Seventeen students attended the SCUMSM spring retreat in early February at Camp Bob Cooper. We were the largest group at both retreats. While the SCUMSM officers for the year 2006-2007 have yet to be determined we know that our delegates will do well.

Charleston Wesley Foundation hosted its fifth annual Youth Day in October. Once again it was a good day of fellowship for all who attended this day at the Citadel. Coach Les Robinson was once again brilliantly inspiring in his keynote address. The Stallsville UMC praise team did an excellent job in leading the groups in praise and worship music. We are truly grateful to the Citadel, especially to Chaplain Golden and Coach Danny Lewis, for their generous donations of youth football tickets and cooperation.

Charleston Wesley Foundation hosted its third Mission Weekend in the fall of 2005 at the United Methodist Relief Center in Mount Pleasant. Winthrop WF could not join us due to a death in Rev. Gadsden's family. You were missed. You were in our thoughts and prayers. Approximately 20 students once again put their love of God into action as we helped to restore our neighbor's home. We were blessed to meet the owner who expressed the humility of Christ to us in such a way that our fatigue left and we worked harder and longer! Isn't God good? We went to be a blessing and received a blessing!

Charleston Wesley Foundation continues to be an integral part of the campuses it serves as well as the community. We are overjoyed to report that our two alumni who were serving in Iraq are safe and sound on American soil. Praise be to God! Our alumnus who is a seminarian at Erskine Seminary continues to do well. I continue to serve on the Religious Life Council of College of Charleston and as a part of the clergy team at Citadel's Christian Leadership forum. We are proud to say that we are a functioning partner of HALOS. This organization provides services and opportunities for the abused and neglected victims served by the Charleston County Department of Social Services. We gave 5 birthday salutes (\$20 gift cards) last year and sponsored an adolescent girl on the Angel Tree in December. The ministry of Charleston Wesley Foundation could not be so alive and progressive without the guidance, prayers and support of the Charleston District Wesley Foundation Board. We are grateful to all of the churches of the Charleston district and the South Carolina Conference for their continued prayers and support as we "watch over the college students of Charleston in love".

Lisa C. Hawkins, Campus Minister

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

For the fifth year, it has been my privilege to serve the South Carolina Conference as the Campus Minister for the Clemson Wesley Foundation.

Given Clemson Wesley's covenant with Clemson UMC, this year has been full of many new things, due mostly to CUMC's historic move to a new 22-acre campus away from the heart of downtown. But, thanks to the generous support from CUMC and so many other local churches in the area, CW continues to grow in our presence at Clemson University and throughout the upstate as we seek to fulfill our mission: *to be a Christ-centered community where all are welcomed as they come, treated like family from day one, challenged to grow into faithful disciples of Jesus, and encouraged to love God and neighbor in concrete ways.*

CW's worship life, centered around its Sunday evening meal and worship called *Evensong*, continued to evolve this past year as we made the transition from CUMC's old campus to their new one. Focusing on the themes of "Practicing Christ" in the fall and "In the Red: the Countercultural Teachings of Jesus" in the spring, students were challenged to grow in their faith and understanding of what being a disciple of Jesus entails. Through *Evensong*,

various retreats, a vibrant Small Groups ministry and other activities, CW has welcomed 30-35 first year students who are active, the largest group in recent years.

Like many involved in higher education, CW's year was defined in great part by a storm that hit our country a few days after classes started: Hurricane Katrina. Within days our leadership team decided that the majority of our missional efforts for 2005-2006 would be centered on the Gulf Coast region, where many of our students had family or other connections. Beginning in October and throughout the academic year, CW has partnered with other schools and local churches to send over 300 volunteers over three trips to assist with the recovery effort. Our October trip was special as CW partnered with Chaplain Christine Henchar Reed and Converse College and John Wesley UMC in Charleston to send 140 folks to New Orleans over fall break. Our trip over spring break also broke new ground, as CW partnered with the Multicultural Affairs Office at Clemson University to send a racially diverse team to help rebuild a church and homes in St. Bernard's Parish. Such experiences rarely occur at Clemson, a campus comprised of over 93% white students.

As the 2005-2006 academic year comes to a close, we can look back knowing that the ministry has weathered many difficult challenges during the year. Like some of the long-time members of CUMC, some of the long-time members of CW (juniors and seniors!) have found the transition to a "new home" and other changes difficult to handle. As a pastor, I have (re)discovered this year the importance of sacred space and sacred rituals – even for twenty and twenty-one year olds. And I have been reminded, as I have read Psalm 46 over and over again this year, that God, and only God, is our true refuge and strength when the winds of change begin to blow.

Your fellow servant in Jesus Christ,

Lane Glaze, Campus Minister

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT USC – METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

The Wesley Foundation at USC (or MSN – Methodist Student Network as we are better known) is a snapshot of the future of the church now. Tomorrow's leaders and members of our graying United Methodist Church are on campus now living out their faith in a new and vibrant way, yet faithful to the richest traditions of the church. Wesley Foundation/MSN is a mission of the church in the context of a large secular institution of higher education where the competing philosophies and ideologies of individualism, consumerism, capitalism and hedonism need to be framed in the context of Jesus' ethic of God's reign.

What has Methodist Student Network been about as we pray "Thy Kingdom come"?

Worship each Sunday (celebrating Holy Communion) in a variety of styles using the liturgical gifts and traditions of the local church.

Going out 6 times a week to serve at Soup Kitchens, After-school programs for at-risk children, an out-door feeding program and Habitat for Humanity..

Has twice led Katrina hurricane relief mission trips to Biloxi, Mississippi.

Has traveled to Venezuela to be in mission and service with our sisters and brothers in Carorita.

Was honored as USC's Most Outstanding Student Organization for service in 2005.

Is offering hospitality to hundreds of students from over 60 countries at the weekly International Hour at our center.

Is meeting in a network of Methodist style small groups for intentional spiritual growth and accountability.

Has wrestled with the big social/spiritual issues that impact life and faith: poverty, homosexuality, culture, war, etc..

This is a kairos moment for the UMC and campus ministry. We are seeing more students than ever before enrolling at our colleges and universities. Other churches and para-church organizations are devoting huge amounts of funding and resources to campus ministry. The United Methodist Church must ask itself whether it will respond likewise in this karios moment. Thanks to all who have supported John Wesley's original model of the Methodist Church, campus ministry.

Tom Wall, Director

FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

Jesus is on the move in the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation. We have over fifty students involved in the campus ministry with our average attendance creeping over thirty to 32 at our main weekly worship celebration. Our student leadership continues to flourish, making the Wesley Foundation the fastest growing campus ministry at Francis Marion University.

Here are a few of the activities we participated in over the past year:

- Students traveled to several different churches to share what God is doing in our campus ministry
- Several local mission projects including painting and making repairs on homes in our community
- First ever spring break mission trip working for The United Methodist Urban Ministries in Birmingham, Alabama—we were joined on this trip by a campus ministry group from Wesley College in Dover, Delaware
- Co-sponsored a campus-wide event with Baptist Collegiate Ministries to collect canned goods and raise awareness about homelessness—65 students slept in cardboard boxes in the middle of campus
- Collected money and assembled health kits for UMCOR to assist with both the Tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina relief
- Sponsored a campus-wide Christian Coffee House “Grounds of Faith,” which attracted over 100 students
- South Carolina United Methodist Student Movement retreats and convocations.
- Two new student-led, small group Bible studies
- Small fundraisers
- Invited guest speakers and preachers from churches in the Florence area.
- Many fun/fellowship outings

Michael A. Turner, Campus Minister

FURMAN UNIVERSITY WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Furman University Wesley Fellowship has had a very active year growing as disciples and sharing our love of Christ through our outreach to the Furman community, Greater Greenville, and on mission trips throughout the Southeast. A week in the life of Furman Wesley fellowship consists of

- Sunday worship together at Monaghan UMC
- Tuesday night worship and programs
 - Programs consist of discussing social justice issues, exploring spiritual disciplines, developing scriptural understanding, worship through musical and visual arts, game nights, and intoxicating laughter
- Wednesday night Book Study
- Thursday lunches in the Dining Hall with challenging conversations and silly antidotes to dealing with life
- Weekends filled with Mission projects and fellowship times
 - The students visit shut-ins from Monaghan UMC
 - Help renovate low income housing on Saturdays
 - Go Contra Dancing together
 - Gatti-town outings for kicks and giggles
 - Movie nights

Furman Wesley goes on retreat every Fall and Spring for renewal. This fall we were blessed with the use of Trinity UMC in Greenville's retreat house at Lake Junaluska where the students spent time learning how to be still in God's presence listening for God's direction. The Spring retreat was at Myrtle Beach spending time discussing the continuing necessity for Racial Reconciliation within the church body.

Over Spring Break a group of 18 students and local laity went to Moss Point Mississippi to help in the recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina. While nailing on new roofs the power of

God's reconciling grace was at work. At the end of the week together, the group realized the powerful impact our participation with an African American church and community had on reconciling efforts that previously seemed to be at a stand still in the deepest parts of the south.

As the conference moves ministry back into the hands of the local church, the Furman University Wesley Board is working on ways for the Methodist students to be more involved in the local churches and for the local churches to be involved in the dynamic ministry of the students. We continue to struggle with funding for the many enthusiastic endeavors of the students and will be turning to individuals and churches to help God's vision through these students become a reality.

I am honored to be able to guide and mentor these students who continue to challenge and teach me new things daily.

Jo Anna McGehee

ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

Campus ministry, according to Don Shockley, is "the church beyond itself." It is the church in a real and practical way on university and college campuses sharing the love and message of the gospel of Christ to students, faculty, staff and administrators.

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation takes seriously, in a literal sense, the concept that campus ministry is the church beyond itself on the campuses of higher education. We believe that we are the church of Christ and the United Methodist Church making Christ known through our witnessing. The 2005-2006 Conference year has been a phenomenal one for the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. We have experienced a resurgence in students' inquiry concerning matters of faith. We have experienced students seeking us to organize and start religious groups, and organize mission trips and care. To such end, our ministry included the following:

Bible Study – held weekly. Opportunities for students' study are provided on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Faculty Study – held weekly. Opportunities are provided at noon on Wednesdays.

Movie Night – movies are shown monthly with time for discussion and reflections.

Fellowship Meals – provided on Mondays with guest speakers and opportunities for students to dialogue.

Retreats – students participated in weekend spiritual retreats at Asbury Hills Camp and Camp Bob Cooper.

SIP – several students spent their summer participating in our Summer Investment Program.

Mission – Students were involved in collecting and donating monetary gifts for victims of The Tsunami, Katrina, and Southeast Asia. Additionally, we spent a week volunteering at the Methodist Relief Center, Mount Pleasant, SC.

Worship – opportunities are provided on Wednesday evenings.

Thanksgiving – food baskets were collected from student organizations and given to families in the community.

Conferences – students attended the United Methodist Student Forum, Jackson, MS.

Hicks Lectures – planned, coordinated the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy, February 2-4, 2006.

Jimmy J. Montgomery

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Winthrop Wesley Foundation has been a home away from home for many students that enter this institution of higher learning. We affirm, nurture, encourage, support, and challenge all in this academic community. Each semester we engage students that enter our doors in group sharing, community involvement, worship, pastoral care, and teaching.

Students are always encouraged to involve themselves in a local church setting. Many of our students provide leadership in various ways across the community as they minister to youth

and other young adults placed in their care.

Our large weekly gathering continues to be a time of inspiration for all. We are indebted to 24 local United Methodist churches that provide our community with a home cooked meal every Wednesday night Winthrop is in session. The churches provide a close glimpse of what is means to be part of the connection. Our time together after fellowship around the table gives our students to explore the Scripture as well as express themselves in song.

Our students provide leadership in variety of ways in different service learning activities throughout the year. We continue to provide the leadership for the York County CROWWALK held each year in the month of October. For the last several years, we have two walks, the main walk in Rock Hill beginning and ending at Dinkins Student Center on campus, and a satellite walk in York, beginning and ending at Trinity United Methodist Church. Also, we were instrumental once again in leading the Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run. These two events provided a combined total of \$35,000 to help alleviate hunger around the globe as well as in our local community.

The students are involved in many different ways on and off campus. A most important ministry that has been in operation since 1992 is Tuesday's Child Learning Center. It is our ministry to the community that provides after school care and tutoring to children that are living in homelessness and other situations that deem them at risk. The student population provides these children with much care and direction each weekday from 2:30 to 5:30PM. A seven week summer camp experience is provided for these children at no cost to the families. We are able to provide this ministry to the community through generous donations from churches within the Rock Hill District as well as individuals. As a Shalom Zone Ministry of the annual conference, we are also funded through this ministry. Within the past 12 months, we were able to minister to 24 different children. Currently, we have 15 children in our program. Their ages range from 5 to 15.

Our students share in ministry with other students across the state in the South Carolina United Methodist Student Movement by participating in conference activities and have been to recent Student Forum gatherings on the general church level.

As always, we are grateful to the South Carolina Conference for providing this ministry at Winthrop University as well as other schools across our state. My personal journey to answer my call to ministry was highly influenced by the ministry provided during my early academic years on a college campus. Campus ministry is making difference in lives of many young people. It has been my privilege to work the last six years in this capacity where I have been blessed by so many young hearts and minds. Many thanks to you for this opportunity.

Jerry L. Gadsden, Campus Minister

THE BOARD OF LAITY

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” Matt 28:19

The Conference Board of Laity welcomed several new members to the Board since the 2005 Annual Conference. Mrs. Brenda Hook is our chairperson of the Stewardship Task Group, Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough has been providing leadership for the Spiritual Formation Task Group, and Mr. John Allgood was appointed as the District Lay Leader for Walterboro. These persons, along with many others, have provided excellent leadership for this conference.

The Board continues its tasks of listening and responding to local church needs, providing training for local church leaders and lay speakers, providing opportunities for spiritual formation, producing and disseminating resources in the area of stewardship and leader development, providing support for the United Methodist Women, Men and Youth, and advocating unity among laity in our churches. As a result, the Conference Board of Laity continued its work in the following areas: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Stewardship; (3) Laity Convocation; (4) Lay Speaking; and (5) Spiritual Formation.

The Conference Lay Leader was an active participant with the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders on both the jurisdictional and national levels. District Lay Leaders offered orientation sessions for Lay Delegates to Annual Conference; a power-point presentation was developed to assist with presenting the duties and responsibilities for Lay Leaders/Lay Members of the Annual Conference.

Laity Convocation is under the leadership of Mr. Robert Scarborough whose report follows: The S.C. Laity Convocation Task Force planned and organized the S.C. Laity

Convocation held July 15-17, 2005 at Lake Junaluska, N.C. The Convocation was promoted as "A weekend of Personal Spiritual Growth for Local Church Leaders and Practical Ideas for Your Church" and featured approximately 25 workshops dealing with church leadership, lay speaking ministries, safe sanctuaries, family ministries and many other topics. These workshops gave the attendees practical and understandable information about how United Methodist laity can serve Christ through the local church.

The Worship Leader was the Reverend George Mathison, Senior Pastor of Auburn United Methodist Church. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor served as Celebrant for Holy Communion during the opening Worship Service. The Laity Convocation concluded on Sunday at the Lake Junaluska Worship Service with the Reverend Grace Imathiu from Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Evelyn Laycock led special Bible Study during the Convocation. Traditions continued with the Lake Junaluska Singers in concert and the Convocation Watermelon Cutting. A new tradition was born, the Porch Fellowships where all attendees had an opportunity to meet and speak with conference officers and leaders from United Methodist institutions.

The Youth Convocation, merged with SEJ's Jubilee Weekend, and the Children's Convocation gave entire families a complete and focused message, with examples, of the difference that can be made in our world by United Methodists of every age. Organizers and leaders are to be commended for the dedication and effort devoted to executing these events.

The 2006 S.C. Laity Convocation, themed "Love God AND Love Your Neighbor" will be held July 14-16, 2006 Lake Junaluska, N.C. and will feature Rev. Tony Compolo, Professor Emeritus at Eastern University in St. David's, PA and Rev. Ross Anthony John Olivier, Lead Pastor, Galloway United Methodist of Jackson, Mississippi. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor will serve again as Celebrant for Holy Communion during the opening Worship Service.

Lay Speaking Ministries is under the leadership of Mr. Michael Cheatham. His report follows: God called each of us to ministry when he said, "Therefore go and make disciples." (Matthew 28:19, NIV) Lay Speaking Ministries' mission is "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:12, NIV) Lay Speaking Ministries has conducted training schools in all twelve districts during the past year. In addition, Lay Speakers from each district attended our conference gathering at White Oak in April. At this event we certified our first Native American Lay Speakers. In February 2006, the Greenville district certified three Koreans as local church lay speakers. We are also anticipating our first Hispanic class in 2006. Lay Speakers from the South Carolina Conference also attended the Southeastern Jurisdictional Lay Speaking Ministries gathering at Lake Junaluska.

Our conference director, Michael Cheatham, currently serves as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries, and also serves on the executive committee of the National Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries.

The South Carolina Conference's comprehensive training program for instructors of the Lay Speaking Ministries curriculum has been adopted by several conferences and has been incorporated into the Guide for Conference and District Directors, published by Discipleship Resources.

Lay Speaking Ministries trains laity for service in the local church and beyond. Lay speakers participate in every aspect of ministry including nursing home ministries, prison ministries, youth ministries, and family ministries. Lay speakers lead Bible study groups and prayer groups. Lay speakers serve on church committees, sing in church choirs, teach Sunday school, and participate in worship services. Lay Speakers are called to lead in the ministries of the church, to care for all of God's children in every circumstance, and to communicate their faith to others by their words and their deeds.

Leadership Development Task Group is under the leadership of Mr. Louis Addison. His report follows: Lou Addison expressed appreciation that his workshop was carried out at Laity Convocation in spite of his absence due to illness. The task group is reviewing an initiative by the North Georgia Conference called "Leadership UMC" which is believed to be a good model for South Carolina. The task group will continue to meet and will continue to work closely with the Lay Speaking Task Group.

Spiritual Formation Task Group is under the leadership of Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough. Her report follows: The task group met several times for the event scheduled for April 29, 2006, "Transforming Church Boards: Moving Beyond Business as Usual". Chuck Olsen will be the event leader. Information has been in ConnX, and registration materials

mailed out to local churches soon.

Members of the committee reviewed various Spiritual Formation materials to become more familiar with what's available to help individuals and local churches as we seek to become more spiritual. Copies of Chuck Olsen's book were given to committee members in preparation for the April event.

The committee has set a goal of developing a training model for using Spiritual Formation in District Leadership events-to put God first-to be aware that we constantly need to be asking, "What does God want us to do?" The target for the training model is Fall 2006 to be ready to use in 2007 Leadership Training. We are just beginning to address needs expressed by many of our local churches-to be spiritually filled individually and corporately.

Stewardship Task Group is under the leadership of Mrs. Brenda Hook. Her report follows: The task group consists of Mr. Clifford Whisnant, Rev. Roger Gramling, Rev. James Knowles-Tuell, Mr. Davie Burgdorf, Mr. Donald Love, and Mrs. Brenda Hook (serving as chair). Ex. Officio members include Dr. Joseph Heyward and Mr. Jim Arant. A young adult will be added to the group.

2005 has been a year of reading, exploring, asking questions and praying about how to be most effective in our task; that being to help our people called United Methodists in the S.C. Conference have new insight into the call to Christian stewardship as a way of life and its application as we live day to day.

We have started small by concentrating on the Lay Orientation events in four districts: Greenville, Rock Hill, Columbia, (held in January 2006) and in the Hartsville District (February 2006). Leadership of events in January was provided by members of this task force: Greenville (Rev. Jim Knowles-Tuell), Rock Hill (Donald Love and Cliff Whisnant), Columbia (Rev. Roger Gramling and Brenda Hook), and Hartsville (Fred Jordan, not a member, but guiding in presentation).

It is our goal that workshops on Stewardship will stand alone, and not be linked with lay leadership or finance, but we welcome what is available.

A list of available resources on stewardship training for personal use and use in the local church was compiled by Betty Stalnaker in our Conference Resource Center. Betty is very excited about a new resource called, *New Beginnings-A New Way of Living a Christian Life* and a follow up study called *New Beginnings-My Opportunity for Giving*.

We have continued to build on the solid foundation that was laid for our group by the work of the former task group chaired by Dr. Joseph Heyward. We continue to use and distribute the manual ***Gifted to Give: Stewardship Alive***.

Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader

THE BOARD OF THE ORDAINED MINISTRY

God's call to ordained ministry is a sacred one. Through her Discipline, The United Methodist Church has established high standards for those who are to be ordained. It is a sacred trust to enter into and to share in the covenant of ministry within The United Methodist Church. Therefore, the work of discernment and mentoring through the District Committees and The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is holy endeavor. The work of the District Committees and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is reported through the Business Questions upon which action is taken in The Clergy Session and on the Conference floor. This includes recommendations for persons to be licensed as Local Pastors, Commissioned as Ministers, ordained either as a Deacon or an Elder, and received into conference membership.

This year the Conference Board interviewed fourteen candidates for ordination as Elder and Full Membership in the Annual Conference. Of those fourteen, thirteen have been recommended. The Conference Board interviewed thirty-five certified candidates for Probationary Membership and commissioning as a minister. Of those thirty-five, five were deferred. Applicants for Probationary status represented six theology schools: Gammon (5), Candler (7), Duke (9), Erskine (16), LTSS/Lutheran (7), and Golden Gates Baptist Seminary (1). Of the deferred applications, three were from Gammon, one was from Erskine, one was from Lutheran and one was from the Golden Gates Baptist Seminary. The Board seeks to

support candidates as they progress in studies through clergy mentoring, district committees, and when necessary, Board assigned mentors for specific areas of need, and after commissioning, through the Residency Program. Through all of these means, the Board seeks to confirm the call of God and to send forth effective leaders in ministry.

In addition to examining and recommending persons for probationary and full member status, the Board is also responsible for the life of the Orders. The Board of Ordained Ministry reviews and approves positions for Extension Ministry, all status changes in regard to leaves and retirement, pastoral evaluation and administrative complaints, Continuing Education grants, Para-professional certification, and Ministerial Education Grants. You will notice in your packets the information pertaining to changes in policies that govern the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry. We present these changes as we continue to fulfill our responsibilities to the Annual Conference and to The United Methodist Church.

I want to commend the members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for performing their tasks with integrity and with grace. It is my privilege to serve in their company.

Patricia J. Parrish, Chair

POLICY ON PASTORAL INEFFECTIVENESS

The following statement of policy was adopted by the South Carolina Conference Appointive Cabinet and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. This instrument is intended to be used by the Appointive Cabinet in evaluations of clergy when issues of ineffectiveness are raised.

Pastoral Ineffectiveness

- I. Definition of Ineffective Pastor
An ineffective pastor is one whose frequent moves are characterized by one or more of the following characteristics:
 - a. Unwillingness to focus on the work of the parish.
 - b. Poor relational skills
 - c. Indolence – sloth – “laziness”
 - d. Failure to meet the pastoral care, worship or leadership (preaching) needs of the parish.
- II. Potential Reasons for Alleging Ineffectiveness:
 - a. Service record – frequent moves (for example, three consecutive appointments lasting only one or two years)
 - b. Evaluation covenant from the local church Committee on Pastor (Staff)-Relations.
 - 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 I above
- III. 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. Warn the pastor that failure to make progress in strengthening these areas could lead to administrative action. (Par. 362.2, 2004 Discipline)
 - d. Document the reviews in detail and place in pastor's file.
 - e. Continue to review at appropriate intervals and suggest appropriate consultations.
 - f. Consider leave options as provided for in *The Book of Discipline*.
- IV. If substantial progress is not made, the Cabinet will initiate appropriate action in keeping with the Discipline.

The board and Cabinet have agreed to publish this policy and other policies that set certain standards of behavior or performance criteria for clergy. They also suggest that these policies be published at least once a quadrennium in the conference journal.

CHARGE: _____

PASTOR'S NAME: _____

ANNUAL EVALUATION FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Due Date: December 1, 2005

1. What are the present ministry goals for our church?
2. What have we agreed upon that will be our pastor's role in the fulfilling of the above goals?
3. How successful has the church been in reaching its ministry goals?
4. What have been the most significant areas of our pastor's ministry this year?
5.
 - a. What issues and concerns needs his/her attention in the future?
 - b. What steps will you and your pastor take to address these concerns?
6. What suggestions would you give for the best use of your pastor's time?
7. What areas of continuing education would you recommend to your pastor for the coming year? (Please list agreed upon areas of continuing education.)

Signature of Chairperson P/SPRC

Signature of Pastor

Date

Revised 2/2006

**STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR
FULL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT**

The South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry evaluates candidates for ordination and conference membership, and recommends persons for election. The commissioned minister appointed to your church is an applicant for full conference membership and ordination. While this is not a required part of the ordination process, the Board is interested in receiving input from your Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. We therefore ask that you complete this form, and return it to your District Superintendent, who will forward it to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

We ask that this form reflect the opinion of the entire committee. We ask that your commissioned minister, who is applying for full membership, see your response, although they do not have to agree with it.

Name of Charge: _____

Name of Clergy: _____

The S/PPRC of _____ does / does not (please circle one response) recommend the above named clergy for ordination and full membership in the annual conference.

Our reasons for this response are:

Signed: _____, Chair

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Signed: _____, Clergy

(Signature shows that this response has been shared between committee and clergy.)

Due in District Office by October 15.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOM POLICY GUIDELINES
Amendments are underlined. Additions are in bold type.

Amend IV.B.4 to read:

"In addition to the requirements of Par. 319 for continuation as a Local Pastor, **all Local Pastors** who have not completed the Basic Course of Study are required to have a mentor and an annual interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and an annual Mentor's report. Superintendents may assign mentors to Local Pastors who have finished the Basic Course of Study, or a Master of Divinity degree from an approved and accredited seminary, but they are not required. If a mentor is assigned for a Local Pastor who has completed the Basic Course of Study, an annual interview with the District Committee and an annual mentor's report

is also required. An interview with the Board may be required of any mentor relationship.” (see Par. 316.4)

Amend IV.B by adding sub-paragraph 9:

“The continuing education requirement for a first year local pastor is fulfilled by attending licensing school. Course work in the Basic Course of Study is not required until the second year of service. However, if a first year Local Pastor wants to begin the Basic Course of Study during their first year, the Board has the option of supporting the request.” (see Par. 142.3d)

Amend VI. A. by adding sub-paragraph 2:

“Candidates for probationary membership who seek to fulfill their educational requirements by attending seminary shall be required to complete their seminary degree before they may be approved for probationary status.”

Amend VII.B.1 to read:

“The three-year probation period required for full deacon may be served in a conference other than South Carolina, provided that supervision is performed and documentation of such is supplied to the South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.”

Amend VIII.B.1 to read:

“The three-year probation period required for full elder may be served in a conference other than South Carolina, provided that supervision is performed and documentation of such is supplied to the South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.”

Amend VIII. B. by adding a new VIII.B.3 (and renumber the current VIII. B. 3. as VIII. B. 4.) The new VIII. B. 3 would be worded as follows:

“Probationary Members who are candidates for full connection and ordination are required to have served full-time under Episcopal appointment for at least three full annual conference years. Those appointed to Less Than Full-Time Service shall be credited with years of service under Episcopal appointment in amounts equal to the years designated in the “Less Than Full-Time Service” question in the Business Questions.”

Amend XX. B. by adding #13:

“When any candidate seeks a status which requires the completion of the 24 hours of basic graduate theological studies, at least one-half of the 24 semester hours shall be completed in the same seminary on campus. One-fourth of the 24 seminary hours may be taken as independent study from an accredited seminary approved by the University Senate.”

Amend XX. C. by adding #18:

“The Behavioral Health Guidelines provided by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be used by the Conference Board and District Committees in evaluating candidates for ministry.”

Amend XXIII.B.3 so that the third complete sentence would read:

"The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry assigns Clergy Mentors, in consultation with the District Superintendent, to Probationary Members, Associate Members seeking Probationary Membership, and Local Pastors seeking completion of the Basic Course of Study."

Amend the "Consent to Testing" form by adding the following:

"I waive any right of access to the Review of the Psychological Testing Report from the Psychological Assessment Committee, or any other work product produced within the BOM as part of their evaluation of my psychological fitness for ministry. I retain the right of access to the original Psychological Testing Report."

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 \$590 per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers, which 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 that will give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund) \$5,029,251 for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007 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, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons 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 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2006 and 2007 by each active, retired, 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 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 GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergy person 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 Clergy person 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 Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person'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 Clergy person'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 Clergy person 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 2006, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to 12% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by the Denominational Average Compensation as determined by the General Board of Pensions for the year 2006 for Ministerial Pension Plan funding. An amount equal to 4.4% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2006 or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in special 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 in special appointment is current.
- E. For 2007, 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 \$464 per month for Full Time Equivalent for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP) for 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. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2007 or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits 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 in appointment is current.

(1) For the purposes of this section the Bishop and the Cabinet have established the following for guidelines as to the full or part time status of an appointment to determine FTE status by working quarters:

- a. Full time appointments are assumed to be full time in service. Defined Plan Compensation excludes HealthFlex premium and cannot be less than the 2007 CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$32,489. There is no classification for a three quarter (3/4) time local pastor; it is either full time or part time. Student local pastors are less than full time, but study and compensation requirements have to be met on an annual basis.
- b. Three Quarter time (3/4) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (the CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$32,489 excluding HealthFlex personal premium). Service time is no less than 35 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to three weeks annually.
- c. One half time (1/2) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 40% of the DAC, service time of no less than 28 hours per week with paid vacation time is limited to two weeks annually.
- d. One quarter (1/4) time for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 20% of the DAC (\$10,217). Service time of is no less than 15 hours per week, with paid vacation time is limited to one week annually.
- e. Part-time local pastor (1/2) means Plan Compensation is no less than 30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation (\$17,581). Half time local pastor means service can be no less than 20 hours per week with two weeks paid vacation.

Part-time local pastor (1/4) means Plan Compensation is less than \$17,581 (30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation). Service time can be less than 20 hours per week with one week paid vacation.

- 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 grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$250 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time grant within 90 days of 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
2007 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

Estimated Requirement

Past Service Payment	
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit Amount	3,358,790.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,138,946.00
CRSP CPP (3%)	1,043,158.00
Old MPP (12%)	
Old CPP (4.4%)	
Clergy Transition*	67,036.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	5,637,930.00

Estimated Income

**UM Publishing House	0
Interest-Permanent Funds	145,000.00
Institutional Payments	366,643.00

Apportionment*	97,036.00
Direct Bill Payments	5,029,251.00
Total Estimated Income	5,637,251.00

***Amount to be apportioned**

Clergy Transition*	67,036.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	97,036.00

* To be apportioned

**The Bishops have asked that Jurisdictional Conference Publishing House Distributions be directed to Central Conferences to fund pension programs.

Report Three
South Carolina Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan
As of January 1, 2007

The 2007 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$590, or .99% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The Conference intends to maintain the Past Service Rate around 1% of CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by an average of about 6.2% per year, and we do not expect that pattern to continue. Therefore, we expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of about 4% per year.

As of January 1, 2006, assuming 4% annual Past Service Rate increases, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows more assets than benefit obligations. The funding plan is summarized below:

Current Plan Funding	\$89,548,946
Supplement One Liability	<u>(63,421,521)</u>
A PSR Increase of 4.0%	
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2005	\$26,127,425
Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table	

Ted R. Morton, Jr., Chairperson
Kim Zeise Neel, 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) with a comprehensive plan for major medical benefits and a Medicare supplement. The following are eligible for coverage under the program:

1. Those fully employed and funded by a local church either as Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Probationary Elders, Probationary Deacons, Probationary Deacons/1992, Diaconal ministers and Student Local Pastors related to and serving a local church within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Student local pastors appointed to and funded by a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference and actively at work.
5. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 2004 Book of Discipline.
10. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, 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.
11. 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, and shall be based on the following schedule:

10 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	0%
11 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	10%
12 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	20%
13 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	30%
14 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	40%
15 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	50%
16 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	60%
17 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	70%
18 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	80%
19 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	90%
20 continuous years of appointment and participation in the active plan	100%.

The categories of eligibility 1 -- 11 listed above are categories of access to the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Funding of persons, other than those appointed as pastors or with pension funding responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, is the responsibility of the salary-paying unit.

Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in Health Flex, the managed health care plan of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church.

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected HealthFlex BlueCross/BlueShield – Option B750 HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan 2 as the Health Care Plan. This changes the yearly deductible from \$500 to \$750 individual and from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for family.

The lifetime maximum coverage for each eligible insured and eligible dependent shall be limited to \$2,000,000.

Additional information on the major medical expense plan is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Post Office Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230.

Report Number Three Medicare Benefits

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected HealthFlex Medicare Plan 2 HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan 2 as the Medicare Supplement Plan Option.

Eligible retired participants and their eligible dependents as well as active participants and their eligible dependents that have attained age 65 shall have benefits calculated by the Medicare Companion approach. This assumes eligible participants and dependents shall be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B immediately prior to reaching the age and status for Medicare eligibility.

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 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits prior to November 30th of the preceding year.

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Health Care Division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church, 1201 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201.

Billing: At the first of each quarter, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send premium statements to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and to participants with Flexible Spending Accounts. Payments for group health premiums and Flexible Spending Accounts premiums may 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.

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, P.O. Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230. 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.

Report Number Five Group Health Insurance 2007 Operating Budget

Estimated Requirements

Active Group	
Single	2,178,576.00
Family	5,198,460.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,377,036.00

Retired Group	
Medicare Eligible Sub Group	
Participant	896,160.00
Participant +1	1,346,780.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,242,940.00

Total Retired and Active Groups	9,619,976.00
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Other*	
Incapacitation/Transition	211,104.00
Total Estimated Other	211,104.00

Total Estimated Requirement	\$9,984,665.00
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Estimated Income

Billing to salary Paying Units	4,912,585.00
Apportioned to Churches**	2,005,456.00
From Insured	2,213,111.00
From Medicare Participants	448,588.00
From Institutional Payments	251,340.00
Total Estimated Income	\$9,984,665.00

Amount to be Apportioned

Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	211,104.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,794,352.00
Total	\$2,005,456.00

Report Number Six 2007 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2006 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$6,575,968 be billed to the local churches and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program.

2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$2,005,456 to be used as follows:
 - a. ~~\$ 211,104.00~~ for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - b. ~~\$1,794,352.00~~ for retiree Group Medicare Supplement.
3. That participant premium payments be set as follows:
 - a. Personal group insurance premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
 1. Effective January 1, 2007, the single premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$169.00 per month.
 2. Effective January 1, 2007, the family premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$422.00 per month.
 - b. Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be 20% of the rate; this 20% is expected to be \$70.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2007.
4. 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 or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One, item 11.
5. Active participants attained age 65, serving salary paying units that would otherwise qualify for a Small Employer Medicare Secondary Payer Exemption, and their eligible dependents, shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premium limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule in Report One, item 11.
6. The estimated 2007 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, are expected to be: \$561.00 monthly for single coverage and \$1,404.00 monthly for family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2007.

*Ted R. Morton, Jr., Chairperson
Kim Zeise Neel, Secretary*

Board of Pension and Health Benefits Special Report One on Retiree Group Health Funding

Since 1986, ten continuous and consecutive years of participation have been required access to group health participation by persons who retire in benefit. Three years ago, the Annual Conference adopted a plan for funding the portion of the Medicare Complement for which the Annual Conference is responsible. In the 11th year through the 20th year of service, 10% of the Medicare Complement is earned. With 20 years of continuous and consecutive years of service prior to retirement the Annual Conference provides full funding of its portion (currently 80%) of the Medicare Complement. For those who work less than 20 years with continuous and consecutive service prior to retirement, the Annual Conference, the employee will contribute 10% per years of the Annual Conference portion for those persons less than 20 years. (See item 11 of Report One of the Insurance Section above.) **Ten years is still the threshold for eligibility for Medicare Compliment coverage.**

Medicare Complement access in the South Carolina Annual Conference is in line with other conferences that recognize retiree health care access as an earned benefit. Northern Illinois Conference, for example, funds retiree health care at 2.5% per year over 40 years of service. Florida and Virginia require 20 continuous and consecutive years of service in their conferences for access to retiree health care benefits. North Georgia has adopted a 35 year rule for full funding of the Annual Conference retiree health portion. Northern Illinois has a 40 year funding rule.

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has determined that the cost of this recommendation to change from "continuous and consecutive" years service to "cumulative" years served is undeterminable due to the lack of information regarding current and future

participants in this type of ministry. Also, of concern to the board is the present coverage for those who are in such ministry.

At the present time there is no common health care coverage for United Methodist Coverage and each individual conference determines such rules. It is the opinion of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits that this is a denominational issue and should be addressed at the denomination level. The Board is communicating with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and asking them to include this issue of clergy serving in the service identified in the resolution.

THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

This is my last report as I rotate off the Commission with this session of the Annual Conference. It has been a joy and a privilege to share the work of the Commission with a group that have all become good friends over the past several years. I look forward to a continuing relationship with the SEJ Historical Society, another group of wonderful people that I have met as a result of my work with the Commission. I thank all the Conference for the opportunity to participate.

SEJ HS Meeting

We are pleased to report a wonderfully successful meeting of the SEJ Historical Society in Charleston last June. We had 101 persons present for the four-day gathering at Bethel Church. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. A.V. Huff, Dr. Roger Gramling and Mrs. Ann Andrus for their attention to the details of the meeting. With their diligence, we were able to complete the event with a profit of about \$600, which was credited to the South Carolina Conference Historical Society. We requested \$2000 from the Annual Conference to cover the expenses of hosting the meeting, but registration fees covered the full cost of the meeting. The \$2000 has been distributed to four concerns: Continuing Education for the Conference Archivist, two projects at the historic Pon Pon Chapel near Jacksonboro, and local church historian training.

The next meeting of the SEJ Historical Society will be later this month at Duke University, sponsored by the North Carolina Conference. In 2007, the SEJ HS will meet at Wesley Seminary in Washington to participate in the Quadrennial Historical Convocation of the UMC, celebrating the Tercentennial of Charles Wesley's birth.

Local Church Historian Training

We have invited and funded the Conference Historical Society to assist with local church historian training by providing a one-day seminar for local church historians at three sites within the Conference and by offering the registration fee for those who would like to attend the weekend seminar at Lake Junaluska. Information about both will be delivered through *The Mark*, a quarterly publication offered by the Conference Historical Society.

OJHD Plans

We made a contribution to the grounds restoration project and have reserved \$250 to assist the Walterboro District with plans to celebrate Wesley's visit to the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease, sometimes known as the Old Burnt Church, established in the early 1700's. John Wesley preached there in April of 1737, as he returned to Savannah from his second visit to Charleston. The Old Jacksonboro Historic District is restoring the grounds and sponsoring several events there to recall its history, including the 270th Anniversary of Wesley's visit, on April 22, 2007.

Historical Address

In an effort to provide timely and interesting historical research, the Commission has offered the Historical Address in recent even-numbered years. For this year, we offered the resources of the Commission to Dr. Tim Rogers to document the Fifty Years of Full Clergy Rights for Women.

Availability of Research Assistance

For such projects, for students and local church historians, the Commission is very

pleased to support the services of a Conference Archivist. Dr. Phillip Stone, Wofford College Archivist, provides that service for us at the Library of Wofford College. He not only manages a growing collection of materials, but is available to assist in any research concerning the history of the Conference, our churches, and our programs. No research is complete without consulting with Dr. Stone. We also have a large collection of materials at Claflin University. Ms. Marilyn Gibbes and her staff are also prepared to assist. In addition, our Conference Historian, Dr. A.V. Huff, is also available with a wealth of knowledge and resources.

Mt. Bethel Academy Dedication

In February past, we had the great pleasure of completing a resolution to designate the site of the Mt. Bethel Academy as a United Methodist Historic Site. Mr. James Clamp of Central Church, Newberry, generously provided years of research and personal effort to complete the arrangements. He and Dr. and Mrs. Gramling prepared an excellent video for the Historical Society to tell the story of this remarkable school. The video will be available through the Media Center in Columbia.

Grave markers

The Commission is pleased to provide grave markers for deceased clergy. All who offer themselves in service to the Annual Conference as traveling pastors are eligible to have the marker on their final resting places, as a gift of appreciation from the Annual Conference. They are extremely durable medallions for attachment to stone or metal markers. All District Superintendents keep several in their offices to offer to grieving families. Eventually, the Commission hopes to make them available for placement on the graves of those who died many years ago. In the meantime, local churches may wish to purchase them directly from Cokesbury for placement on graves of clergy in their cemeteries, in accord with the wishes of their families, of course.

Centennial Churches

This year we are pleased to recognize these **Centennial Churches**:

Lake View, Lake View, Marion District
Liberty, Liberty Anderson District
Apalache, Greer, Greenville District
Bethel, Bethune, Hartsville District
Trinity, Andrews, Marion District
Pageland Church, Pageland

The **Bicentennial Churches** are:

Pisgah, Florence District
St. John, Dorchester, Charleston District
Providence, Providence Community, Orangeburg District

Hucks Awards

All churches of the Conference are encouraged to celebrate their heritage and to share the fruits of their effort with the Conference through this Award. We especially request that histories of the churches, however presented, as a two-page summary or a 200-page, leather bound volume, be placed in the Archives. The day may come when these are the only source of information about the people of some of our churches. The criteria for the Hucks Award have not changed significantly over the years. Notice is published in *The Advocate* near Christmas for the next Annual Conference session, but the criteria for any year will be an excellent place to find ideas for planning. Commission members have been thrilled by the variety of publications and events celebrated. Create your own celebration; if it covers all the criteria, we will be pleased to recognize your effort!

This year we are pleased to recognize four congregations. There is not time to describe the full range of their efforts. Products of their celebrations will become part of the Conference Archives, as for all the recipients of the award over the years. We do want to make a brief statement to recognize the historians in each congregation.

Aldersgate Church, Greenville

The church historian at Aldersgate, Mrs. Darien Pickens, a former member of the Commission, is active in preserving and promoting the church's history. She collects current materials, has added new materials and collections to the church archives, and is active in presenting the church's history to its members. This year, she compiled and presented over a thousand photographs of church events taken since 1992. The church had an anniversary celebration this year, and Mrs. Pickens updated the church's history. This is at least the second time we recognize the excellent work at Aldersgate Church.

Mountain View Church, Taylors

Mountain View created the office of church historian and started a church archives from scratch this year. The church designated an archives room and the historian began to collect the church's historical records and significant artifacts. Mrs. Frieda Anne Liston, the church historian and members of the history committee visited other local church history rooms, including the one at Aldersgate. The historian promotes Methodist and local church history by placing items in the church newsletter and by speaking to Sunday School classes and church groups. The church celebrated Heritage Sunday and has collected memories of members. We especially celebrate the newfound enthusiasm for history demonstrated by this congregation this year.

Providence Church, Holly Hill

The church historian, Mrs. Harriet L. Hutto, has been active at Providence for some time. She has worked to compile, preserve, and present the church's long history. She gained space in the new church library to use to arrange and store its historical records. The church enjoyed a celebration of Heritage Sunday and a newly-published church history was presented.

Westminster Church

Members of Westminster Church, led by Mrs. Rolann Lee, the church historian, have compiled a new church history in the past year. The church historian is active in the life of the church, and helps promote the church's history in every way she can. Members have shared their recollections of the church's history. Mrs. Lee made written record of these memories and has preserved them for future enjoyment and research.

Herbert Hucks, Jr., Individual Award for Historical Preservation and Interpretation

From time to time, another award is offered for an individual who has contributed significantly to the preservation and interpretation of Methodist history over a lifetime or in some special way, beyond the local church. This year we are pleased to recognize the efforts of Dr. Roger Gramling, recent President of the Conference Historical Society. Dr. Gramling, born at least forty years after his time, yet very much a man of the new Century, has held an interest in history for his entire adult life. His work with Methodist history includes all his work with the Society, a regular column in *The Mark*, and recently both a summary of James Clapp's history of Mt. Bethel Academy and in cooperation with Mr. Clapp, the preparation of the video previously mentioned in this report. He also has been instrumental in assembling the founding dates of the churches of the Annual Conference to enable the recognition of the Centennial and Bicentennial years for each of them.

Supplement: 2007 Award Application and Criteria

2007 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2007 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2007 Conference Session. If your church qualifies or if you know of someone who has furthered the interpretation and preservation of United Methodist Heritage in South Carolina, please send the name with answers to the questions below. Please include your name, the name of the church and how to contact the pastor by name. Mail your application to **Rev. Lisa Hawkins, 273 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401.**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS February 1, 2007

Local Church Qualifications

As many churches as have fulfilled the qualifications during the past year will be recognized. Churches may qualify any number of times in a period of years. The purpose of this award is to encourage ongoing efforts to maintain awareness of the heritage celebrated in all churches of the Conference and to create research materials for the future.

1. Describe how the church historian has been active in the local church: projects, publications, collection and preservation of objects/data.
2. What steps have been taken to organize and preserve records or artifacts or what additions have been made to the church's archives in the last year? What is the overall quality of the current collection?
3. In what ways have Methodist heritage, conference or local church history been interpreted for people in the local church in the past year as part of the Sunday School or confirmation class curriculum; UMW, UMM or UMYF program; worship experience; or general interest display?
4. Has Heritage Sunday been celebrated in some form in the past year?
5. Has a record been made on paper or video/audio tape in the past year of recollections of members who witnessed aspects of the church's story?
6. Have copies of published documents been sent to the Archives at Wofford College and/or Claflin University? (May be included with this application.)
7. Please include appropriate documentation for responses to questions above.

Individual Qualifications

Nominees for this singular recognition should be someone who during his or her life, or in some special way recently, has contributed significantly to the preservation or interpretation of United Methodist history/heritage at some level **beyond a local church and its constituency**. Please describe in a few paragraphs the contributions made by this person. One individual recognition may be awarded annually; re-nominations are welcome any time.

Deadline: February 1, 2007. The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions during February 2007.

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is charged with the mandate to "interpret, advocate and work for the unity of the Christian Church in every aspect of the life of the conference and its churches, and to encourage dialogue and cooperation with persons of other living faiths." The commission works for the unity of the Christian church, cooperates with persons of other faiths, coordinates ecumenical workshop experiences, encourages understanding, and promotes the charity of our Lord in all relationships.

Opportunities to dialogue with other faiths and work for unity and understanding among our churches and heritage churches abounded.

As we become more of a global community, there are increasing opportunities to work toward this unity. But to live ecumenically is proving to be both rewarding and controversial.

In January, during the National Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, bishops, laity, and pastors from the LARCUM denominations (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist) gathered to celebrate our unity with worship and renewal of our baptismal vows. The congregation was encouraged to reflect on the meaning of those vows and to live them daily. The LARCUM bishops in South Carolina led this worship service. The LARCUM Prayer service was held at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on January 29, 2006.

The LARCUM Interfaith Bishops' Dialogue was held at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia on November 4, 2005.

We continue to be grateful to all of the United Methodists and others for your continued love, prayers, and support.

Shirley Anne Huges, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

It has been my great privilege to serve as chair of the Commission on Communications. The Commission has been a joy to serve with, and I have found them to be a faithful, hard-working group.

The Conference Year 2005-2006 has been a strong one for Communications in the South Carolina Conference. Beginning with the changes at Annual Conference, including use of the I-Mag projection screens, improved audio production, and increased use of audio-visual resources at Annual Conference, the Commission of Communications has made good progress in improving communications in the Conference..

Use of the electronic forms in many areas of the Conference has been growing, and the information made available has been more and more useful. ConnX, the monthly electronic and print newsletter for the Office of Connectional Ministries, has been a great success, despite a few technical glitches with the company that prints the Advocate. Many local churches have expressed their appreciation for the information they have received, and the "connection" they have felt with the Conference through ConnX.

The Resource Center continues to grow, and continues to be one the great successes of the Conference. Especially the smaller churches—which are the great majority of the churches in our Conference—can benefit from using the Resource Center for help in worship, small group, Christian Education, and short-term learning group resources. The Resource Center also has many of the Discipleship Bible Study resources available for Local Church use. I strongly encourage all churches to subscribe to and use the Conference Resource Center.

Probably the biggest news this year is the hiring of a Conference Director of Communications, Matt Brodie. Brodie began working with the Conference in 2005, at the Annual Conference session at Wofford. He worked to produce several of the video programs seen at Annual Conference, and to design the animated logo for the theme of the Annual Conference: "In This Way of Life." He also worked with the audio and video production of the Conference, including the I-Mag large projection screens.

Brodie began work at the Conference on January 17, and has been an integral part of the Conference Staff from the beginning of his time here. He will work on internal and external communication, writing and distributing press conferences, working closely with the media throughout South Carolina.

I leave the chair of the Commission on Communications with great hope and great confidence for the continued strengthening of communications in all areas of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Paul Cheezem, Chair

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

A. Mission

The Commission on Equitable Compensation exists for the support of full-time clergy and students serving as pastors in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. *The Book of Discipline, 2004*, Paragraph 624.2 states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for clergy support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on clergy support to district superintendents and Committees on Pastor-Parish Relations.") The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in situations in transition. The Commission on Equitable Compensation is the usual means whereby the Annual Conference supports a variety of local church missions through providing pastoral support which cannot be provided locally.

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. Schedule of Total Minimum Compensation for clergy serving in the South Carolina Annual Conference

In accord with the mandate of the Discipline, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2007, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of \$275,000 be made to fund the estimated \$475,500 Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2007. These funds will be used for the base compensation supplements and support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

FOR FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS AS CLERGY IN LOCAL CHURCH:

Category	Amount
1. Clergy in full connection	\$37,000
2. Probationary, Commissioned and Associate Members	\$33,150
3. Local Pastors	\$31,000

[Compensation may be allocated within these amounts by each church as it sees fit, but in no case should the total of "cash salary" plus "Tax-Deferred Annuity" fall below \$25,959, for charges where a parsonage is provided and \$32,959, for charges where no parsonage is provided, as per CPP, or the pastor risks losing CPP benefits.]

Facts concerning individual pastoral compensation packages that may merit additional study by the local church:

- Clergy who depend on the pastoral support package for medical insurance have experienced several years of consecutive insurance premium increases. Staff- or Pastor-Parish Relations Committees are asked to adjust the clergy compensation package so that a cash salary increase is possible if it appears that the health insurance premium increase will result in a reduction of cash salary, year-to-year.
- The Commission on Equitable Compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expenses through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "O." and "P." below, entitled "Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses" and "Reimbursement as Administrative Cost."

B. For Student Appointments

Each person serving a local church student appointment as pastor shall receive the compensation for his or her category, proportional to the percentage of time serving in a pastoral charge. (i.e., one-half time service would receive one-half the Equitable Compensation for that person's category.) The percentage of time serving the charge shall be determined by the Cabinet.

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 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the Annual Conference in accordance with Paragraph 331.14(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2004*. 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 331.14(c) are not affected.

D. Experience Merit

A clergyperson who has served for 5 or more years in full time service, 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.

Example:	Year 5:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$875.00;
	Year 6:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$1050.00;
	Year 7:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$1225.00;
	Year 8:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$1400.00;
	Year 9:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$1575.00;
	Years 10+:	Equitable Compensation base plus \$1750.00.

E. Housing Allowances

The Commission on Equitable Compensation 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 June through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through May compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission on Equitable Compensation before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission on Equitable Compensation and completed by the pastor, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and the District Superintendent, indicating income from all sources.

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. Guidelines listed under Report 3 will apply.

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

Directors or Coordinators of Cooperative Parish ministries which have been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the Commission on Equitable Compensation 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 disbursed monthly, and shall be paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergyperson. 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, business expenses, or church administration.

J. Utilities Allowance

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that the South Carolina 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.

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.

L. Interpretation

The Commission on Equitable Compensation 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 on Equitable Compensation recommends that District Superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work load packages in accordance with Paragraph 423.3 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*.

N. Ineligibility

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support: **1.** Retired supply pastors **2.** Part-time local pastors **3.** Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 98 **4.** Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of The United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1. a, b, c of the *The Book of Discipline 2004*. **5.** Deacons as defined in Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*. (except as appointed under Report 3 of the Commission report and Paragraph 624.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission on Equitable Compensation 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 44.5 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 the 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 pastor(s) and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

The Commission on Equitable Compensation 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.

Q. 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

Less than 5 years

5 years - 10 years

More than 10 years

Number of Weeks

A minimum of 2 (including Sundays)

A minimum of 3 (including Sundays)

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 Relations Committee and to the local church.

Report Number 3 Missional Situations

A. Definition

Missional 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. Missional situations may also include intentional ministry to persons of low income.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for Equitable Compensation assistance in missional situations the following procedures must be followed:

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a new or existing situation.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a missional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new missional situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The cabinet will strive to inform the commission of potential new missional situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The commission will budget for new missional situations after cabinet approval.
4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergyperson with at least 4 years experience and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular missional situation.
5. In all cases where a new missional situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st 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 June.

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 missional 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

1. 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.
2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each missional 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 Missional Situations Only

In those missional situations where the South Carolina Annual Conference serves as the sole salary paying unit for an appointed clergyperson, the Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the direct bill portion of the pensions and health benefits plan. As the local church or mission situation assumes a greater role in paying the compensation of the clergyperson, the direct billing payment will be paid proportionally by the local church or mission situation and the Commission. The Commission will send its proportional share directly to the conference office of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Part 1.
Schedule for New or Existing Churches

Decreasing Support: Equitable Compensation assistance for base compensation and payment on the direct billing plan will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period decreasing 25% each year after the first year and a half as follows:

First Year and a Half: The amount of Equitable Compensation support will be according to the minister's category. As the sole salary paying unit, 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 one-fourth 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 fourth 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 fourth 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 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

Part 2.
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 missional 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 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 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 District or Districts in which the ministry is located.

Report Number 4 Category Summaries of Recent Disbursements

The following is a summary of the number of churches receiving base compensation support in each of these categories and the totals granted for each as of:

	Jan. 2003		Jan. 2004		Jan. 2005		Jan.2006	
	No.	Amt	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1. New church	2	79,875	2	57,906	2	31,630	2	18,315
2. Minimum	12	75,307	14	91,801	16	132,892	9	64,408
3. "Special"	2	52,600	3	48,050	1	4,950	1	3,000
4. Cross-Racial	0		0		0		0	
Appointments								
5. Low Income	2	57,200	2	57,200	2	57,525	1	27,090
direct billing costs:						\$54,310		\$18,917
TOTALS	18	264,982	21	254,957	21	281,307	13	131,730

Clergy holding every conference relationship (except retired) are eligible for Equitable Compensation support. Receiving funds as of:

	Jan. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2005	Jan.2006
1. Effective Members	9	11	9	8
2. Probationary Members	2	4	6	3
(Full Time)				
3. Probationary Members	0	0	0	0
(Not Full Time)				
4. Associate Members	1	0	0	0
5. Local Pastors (Full Time)	5	5	5	2
6. Student Local Pastors	0	0	0	0
7. Other	1	1	1	0
TOTALS:	16	18	21	13

Report Number 5 Projected Disbursements Projected disbursements for 2007

- I. Salary payments:
 - A. Minimum Salary support \$75,000
 - B. New Church Salaries \$180,000

C. Low Income Salaries	\$90,000
D. Emergency Grants	\$25,000
II. Direct Billing Costs (Pensions and Insurance)	
A. Missional Situations	\$96,000
III. New Church accountable reimbursement	\$7,500
IV. Commission expenses	
Training, travel, copies, postage, etc.	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total Anticipated Disbursements for 2007:	\$475,500

Joseph James, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The role of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (2004 Discipline, Par. 642) is to monitor, enable, advocate, sensitize, empower, counseling, and investigate racism concerns in the Annual Conference.

In 2005, the Commission considered the results of three studies which it sponsored, the results of which, had recently become available. These studies included:

2002 South Carolina Conference Audit (done by "Project Equality")

2003 On-Site Review (done by the General Commission on Religion and Race)

2005 Annual Conference monitoring (done by members of the South Carolina Commission on Religion and Race)

Summaries:

2002 South Carolina Conference Audit by Project Equality

"Overall I was impressed by the serious desire and commitment of the District Superintendents with whom I met to have an inclusive church, representative of the race of the members o the district. In all my meetings I never heard an insensitive remark or any type of racial blame. The hard work that I heard about in the Cabinet Residential gatherings clearly has made a genuine difference. I am impressed with the amount of sensitivity and intentional work that has been done resulting in a Cabinet that reflects the racial representation of South Carolina. A crucial component of the future is to continue to be focused on the importance of working together to reflect the racial diversity of God's creation and the membership of the SC Conference of the UMC. In matters of racial justice, cultural proficiency and civil rights, hard work of understanding and representation can be diminished by inattention. So to keep this level of inclusion representation and understanding will require continued work."

The Rev. Kirk Perucca, PROJECT EQUALITY

2003 General Commission on Religion and Race On-Site Review

1. The continued development of the Conference Plan for Inclusiveness.
2. To develop a comprehensive plan of cross-racial appointments which will include the issues of identification and preparation of congregations and pastors, training of Staff/Parish Committees, support groups, racial and ethnic senior pastors, and all the other related issues
3. To provide on-going learning opportunities for the conference leadership on the following issues: deeper understanding of racism, workshops on racial/ethnic/cultural diversity, awareness training for appreciation of each of the people's heritage and contributions.
4. To continue developing and expanding the pool of racial and ethnic minority persons available for conference leadership.
5. To study the current situation of the salaries, housing and benefits of racial and ethnic minority pastors in order to establish a financial plan that brings equity to all.

6. To show support of the work of the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee by ensuring that the committee has adequate funding and is considered an important point of ministry by the Bishop, cabinet and other conference leaders.
7. To intentionally work on the recruitment and empowerment of Hispanic, Native American, and Asian/pacific Islander pastors for full-time ministry.
8. To continue the efforts to ensure that communication is open and inclusive at all areas of the conference.
9. That the findings and recommendations of this report be communicated to all the on-site review participants and to all annual conference members through the normal communication channels of the conference.
10. That the Conference Commission on Religion and Race monitor the implementation of the above recommendations and report annually to the session of Annual Conference.

2005 Annual Conference monitoring

Using the Jurisdiction Monitoring Form provided by the General Commission on Religion and Race for use by Commissions on Religion and Race and Status and Role of Women, the Commission discovered mixed results regarding inclusiveness. While certain aspects of various sessions included ethnic minority persons making reports or serving as participants, other sessions of Annual Conference did not reflect this diversity. This report is the result of monitoring 10 time-blocks at the 2005 Annual Conference Session. Various sessions were much more inclusive regarding gender.

Commission members noted that the Commission on Religion and Race is neither consulted during the planning of Annual Conference and its sessions, nor asked for accountability following them.

The unabridged results of all three reports are available from Commission on Religion and Race members.

Rebecca Wilkins

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Two years ago I sat in the church office and received a call from a member of the nominating committee of the conference. I was asked to serve on the ministry of COSROW. My immediate response was: "What?" He replied, "COSROW, I think it's an acronym for Commission on the Status and Role of Women." I replied, "I'm not familiar with that. What's involved in serving?" And so the conversation continued and I agreed to go on the adventure of learning about COSROW.

Seminary had not taught me about COSROW and yet it had prepared me in ways outside and inside the acronym. My first internship was at Rape Crisis of Durham where I learned the importance of inclusive language. We are formed by what we hear and read, therefore, what comes out of us is what we have imbibed. If we are constantly eating words of patriarchy, then male domination in our churches, our homes and our culture will continue.

The second way I was formed was in the class, Women and Evangelism, in the Nineteenth Century. Repeatedly I heard the voices of women in the past witness that their call is from God. Our call into whatever vocation we are participating in is a God action. Women constantly hear voices that negate our call, scriptures pulled out of the text and used as weapons to deflate God's call and puncture the very souls of our beings.

This year we celebrate the fiftieth year of women's official ordination in the United Methodist Church. Women had been ordained before 1956 but they were not given full membership into the conference with voting rights prior to this date. Our Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor is President of COSROW for the General Conference. She is being very intentional about infusing this celebration of women at Annual Conference this year.

While I am still on the road, learning what COSROW is, I see within our conference the need for women to be more intentional about supporting, building up and encouraging one another. Isolation prevails among women, whether they are ministers, doctors, lawyers, road

workers or homemakers. As ministers, we are called to be servant leaders and our leading is best encouraged by our words and our actions. How can we expect our parishioners to support, build up and encourage one another if we do not show them how to do that? This means crossing the boundaries of age, service years, status, gender and race.

Education will build upon the foundation that God has already laid. Although we are celebrating our fiftieth anniversary, women have not yet arrived; it is only the beginning, the tip of the iceberg. Sexual harassment, the silencing of our voice and failure to respect and acknowledge the call made by God and the church permeates all our lives. The foundation God has laid is found in our baptism. We are baptized into the death and life of Jesus Christ; baptized in the one Spirit to be members of the one body of Jesus Christ. And each time we gather at the table and break bread, remembering our baptism, God is tearing down the boundaries that separate and isolate one another. This is where God is educating us, the beginning and the end.

I look forward to serving as your chair of COSROW as we wash one another's feet, serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rebecca McPherson, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

The Commission on Worship continues to place major emphasis on offering Worship Training Workshops in coordination with the various Church Leadership Orientations held in district settings. Since pastors and congregations are now showing a greater interest in their worship services, the commission is offering worship training in local churches. At your request the commission is willing to offer training wherever it is needed. Possible topics include: training for the worship committee in your church, usher training, and worship nuts & bolts.

Each year the Commission on Worship works with the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music, Worship and Other Arts (The Fellowship) to do three events. Last year the Fellowship did three events: The annual music workshop held the first weekend in February at Shandon United Methodist Church; the Youth Choir Festival held at Springmaid Beach in April each year; and the Children's Music Workshop held at Shandon United Methodist Church in August. In 2005 the Children's Music Workshop will be replaced by an event for Music in the small Membership Church.

The commission takes the responsibilities for assisting with the worship services for Annual Conference. Among the services for 2005 were the opening Communion Service, the Morning Communion Services each morning of Annual Conference, and the covenant service. We are grateful to the many lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference who help to make these services a success. Leadership in these services represents the rich diversity of the United Methodist Church. The commission wishes to express our sincere appreciation to each member of the Conference who helped to carry out the worship services during Annual Conference 2005.

In early 2006 the commission sponsored ***We Worship 06***, an event that provided training and worship experiences for all styles of worship. Three tracks were offered: Contemporary worship, Traditional/Blended worship, and worship for special occasions and seasons.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on November 19, 2005, to begin the planning process for the 2006 Session of the Annual Conference. The meeting began with a review of the 2005 Conference Session, including strengths of the Conference and suggested changes for the 2006 Conference. The increased use of audio-visual presentations and the increased emphasis on worship both received positive comments.

The Executive Committee of the Committee on the Annual Conference met on January 17, 2006, to begin the detailed planning for the 2006 Session. The general agenda as followed at the 2005 Session will be followed again. The opening service on Sunday evening will be a Celebration of Holy Communion and Recognition of Full Clergy Rights for Women. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor will be the preacher. The Reverend Diane A. Moseley has been asked to serve

as the Bible Study Leader for the 2006 Conference. The preacher for the memorial service on Monday afternoon will be The Reverend Jeanette Cooper-Dicks. During the Missions Emphasis on Monday afternoon, churches have been asked to present three offerings from their congregations as part of the Annual Conference Trinity Initiative Of Needs (ACTION). One offering is for the Bishop's Appeal for Katrina Relief; one offering is for the water system at Old Mutare; and one offering is to consist of school kits, prepared at churches and delivered to Conference. The preacher for the Monday evening service will be Bishop Woody W. White. The Ordination Service will once again be held on Tuesday evening, with Bishop Taylor preaching.

The Committee on the Annual Conference expresses its gratitude to Trinity United Methodist Church, the Orangeburg District, and Claflin University for work as hosts for the 2006 Session. Their gracious spirit, their generous offering of time, facilities, and support in many different ways, are all crucial to having an effective conference. At the center of this planning is Mr. Spencer Anderson, the Director of Auxiliary Services at Claflin University, whose knowledge and commitment have been indispensable to these preparations.

The Book of Discipline provides that the Annual Conference set the place of 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. Following a meeting of the full Committee on April 18, 2006, the Committee is prepared to unanimously recommend to the Annual Conference that the 2007 Session be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence, S.C. With seating for more than 9,000 in the main arena, the Civic Center provides new opportunities for worship and business at Conference. Facilities will also allow the clergy session, Laity Luncheon, and other aspects of Conference to be held in the same building, while also allowing expanded room for exhibitors. Paved spaces for 2,500 cars will provide improved parking, and almost 1000 motel/hotel rooms within ½ mile of the center, and nearly 3,000 rooms within 5 miles, will provide ample accommodations for all Conference members. Because the Civic Center is located less than 1 mile from the intersection of I-20 and I-95, access is very convenient. More information about the Civic Center can be found at www.florenceciviccenter.com.

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson
Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The Committee on the Conference Journal continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the progress on its publications.

The 2001 edition of *United Methodist Ministers in South Carolina* was delivered from the printers shortly after the close of the 2005 Annual Conference, and has been offered for sale for \$14.00 per copy. A letter was sent to all of the local church historians in the Conference inviting them to purchase copies for their church libraries, and advertisements were published in the *Advocate*. Several hundred copies have been sold, and the Committee will continue to seek ways to market this volume.

The 2005-2006 volume of the *Pictorial Directory of the South Carolina Annual Conference* has been completed, and delivery from the printer, Church Family Albums (PCA International), is expected in early to mid-April. Every minister who had their picture made for the directory will receive a free copy. Other copies will be offered for purchase by the public.

Volume II of the 2005 Conference Journal was completed and mailed in October.

Volume I of the 2005 Conference Journal was completed and mailed in April.

With the assistance of the Commission on Communications, the Print Media Center, and the Conference Director of Communications, the Committee has made arrangements to post the pre-conference materials on the Conference web-site. This is part of an effort to make the journal also available on the Conference web-site.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to a number of people for their part in the many projects that fall under the direction of the Committee: Sylvia Hulbert, secretary to the Conference Secretary, for her invaluable work on so many different projects; David Surret, Assistant Conference Secretary, for his work on the Journal of Proceedings; Delos Corderman and the staff in the Pension and Health Benefits Office, for their help with the journal; Pat Mack and the staff in the Print Media Center, for their work in producing both volumes of the journal as well as all of the pre-conference and conference registration materials; Dan Rowton and the

staff at Church Family Albums, for their work on the pictorial directory; and especially Roger Gramling, immediate past Secretary of the Annual Conference, for the countless hours and invaluable expertise which he has given over the past year.

Herman A. Newman, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee met three times this year to fulfill their responsibilities. Their work included meeting with the Director of Connectional Ministries, each of the Associate Directors, the Director of Congregational Development, the Director of Clergy Services / Conference Secretary, as well as the new staffing of the Conference Director of Communications, and the Congregational Specialist. The Committee discussed the particular ministry goals for each of these positions.

Working within the budget parameters set by the annual conference, the Committee

- 1) established staff compensation for 2006 and submitted budget requests to the Council on Finance and Administration for 2007.
 - 2) submitted timely budget requests for 2006 to the Council on Finance and Administration;
 - 3) worked within the budget parameters set by the annual conference to establish staff compensation;
 - 4) reclassified Sonia Ortigoza's position to Hispanic Ministries Specialist; and
 - 5) approved two new staff positions.
- A) The first new staff position was that of a Congregational Specialist, a position which is the first step toward hiring Program Directors in each district. This reflects a paradigm shift in Connectional Ministries from a program orientation to a focus on assisting local churches with ministry. Our Congregational Specialist has the responsibility to resource and equip three districts. Because this is a pilot program the committee felt it was important to have a proven entity to serve in this position. The person selected to serve in this position is the Reverend Kathy James. The three districts will be Rock Hill, Spartanburg, and Hartsville.
- B) The second position is that of Conference Director of Communications. This person is responsible for focusing and guiding the communications ministry of The United Methodist Church within the annual conference. Their job will keep us abreast of new technologies as tools for ministry, lead the conference in developing effective relationships with the news media, promote and coordinate activities to enhance the awareness and reputation of the Church, develop and guide the implementation of strategies for effective communication among annual conference agencies, districts, and local churches, and much more. The person selected to serve in this position is Matt Brodie.

This committee realizes what a wealth of talents and abilities we have in our conference staff. It pleases us to approve the addition of these two new positions and the two talented individuals chosen to fill them, Reverend Kathy James and Matt Brodie. We feel we are blessed with wonderfully gifted individuals here at The United Methodist Center and for this we give thanks.

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

In 2005 the Office of Clergy Services underwent a change with the appointment of a new Coordinator. Rev. Frank Griffith completed an outstanding tenure in this office, combining excellent pastoral care gifts with the administrative abilities required by this position. His support has been invaluable as I have begun the process of learning the work of Clergy Services. His continued help, and that of Ted Walter who established this office, have been a true blessing to me, and an important contribution to the life of this conference.

I am also indebted to Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services. Her organizational abilities and her knowledge of the clergy database maintained by this office have been crucial in continuing our work during this transition. A debt of gratitude is also owed to the twelve district secretaries who do such outstanding work in guiding ministerial candidates through the forms and processes involved in candidacy certification and beyond. I am also indebted to the Superintendents who are vital to the process of identifying, nurturing, and instructing new clergy for our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues to fulfill its crucial role in providing qualified, committed clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. Under the excellent leadership of Rev. Patricia Parrish, members of the Board contribute countless hours to oversee and enable the process leading toward ordination.

Over the past year this office has received and responded to email inquiries, telephone calls and hard copy mail. These contacts have concerned questions related to the Book of Discipline, candidacy requirements, the ordination process for various types of conference status, clergy continuing education, transfer requests, and other clergy related matters. It is a goal for the coming year to refine the web page for this office to increase its usefulness in providing forms and information related to the candidacy and ordination processes. I am grateful for the support of the Bishop's Office and the other offices related to this work for their patience and help. It is an honor to serve this conference, and a pleasure to work with so many fine people committed to seek the good of our Church. I look forward to the coming year.

Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In this year of transition for Congregational Development many exciting things are happening.

1. In fulfilling the conference mandate to start 10 new churches by 2010, we are projecting new congregations for Lady's Island in the Walterboro District and Fort Mill/521 in the Rock Hill District. Both of these areas have long been identified as priorities for our annual conference. We anticipate a team approach in starting these churches and there are many opportunities for winning people to the Kingdom.
2. A partnership with Connectional Ministries resulted in launching Natural Church Development as a conference-wide strategy to strengthen each of our churches. The focus of NCD is church health, under the premise that healthy churches are growing churches. NCD identifies 6 growth forces and 8 quality characteristics as components that will help churches assess their current state of health. We are involved in implementing this process throughout the conference.
3. The Academy for Ministerial Excellence continues to equip and support pastors in being effective in the practice of ministry. This year there are plans to have an academy group that will address the specific needs and skill-set for church planters.
4. As the population of South Carolina grows we must continue to develop new churches and revitalize our existing churches. Our membership continues to be around 240,000. Based on the membership we had when the population was 3 million (8%) we should have at least 320,000 United Methodists in South Carolina with a population of 4 million. This continues to motivate all who serve on the congregational development committee. We believe that the mandate of the Gospel is to make Disciples, and that we have much to do.
5. It is an encouragement that many people across our conference see the need to start new churches. Some have written, others have called, many have sent newspaper clippings about development and growth in their areas. This interest indicates that a growing number of United Methodists are committed to helping our conference do all that Christ is calling us to do. Helping people meet, know, serve, and share Jesus is the essence of what the church is to be. May we be faithful!

Rusty Taylor, Director

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Following the last Annual Conference the Committee on Episcopacy met December 19, 2005, at the Methodist Center. Another meeting is scheduled for the spring.

The Committee affirmed the positive leadership Bishop Taylor has brought to the Conference. She shared with committee members some challenges and opportunities for the future. These included providing strong leadership and support for laity and clergy throughout the Conference.

The Episcopacy Committee recognized the need for a small contingency fund for Bishop Taylor to enable her to perform her duties adequately. The Committee hopes to make such a budget request for the year 2007.

The members unanimously affirmed Bishop Taylor's joyful outlook and her positive guidance thus far. It is with great anticipation that this group looks forward to where she leads the South Carolina Conference in the future.

George K. Howle, Chair

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS COMMITTEE

"Dear Friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know Him better." (1 John 4:7, The Living Bible)

We are blessed with many ethnic brothers and sisters in the South Carolina Annual Conference. God calls us to celebrate and embrace our multi-cultural reality. We must strive to understand as well as respect the cultural integrity and uniqueness of each group: the African-Americans, the Hispanics/Latinos, the Korean-Asian Americans and the Native Americans. A report follows for each of these groups.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

African-American Committee

Rev. Herbert Fogle, Chairperson

The past conference year has seen very little in the workings of the African-American Committee. In 2004 we anticipated bringing about a new focus: 1) moving from a task force to a committee 2) working closer with other African American entities and organizations to foster a greater and better relationship with those bodies 3) to forge a greater partnership with the Hispanic community to develop programs that will enhance both the African-American Committee and the Hispanic Church community and 4) develop, encourage, and stimulate the National Fatherhood Initiative throughout the SC Annual Conference.

Historically, the African-American Committee has been one of the sponsors of the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Lay and Clergy at Claflin University. We continued this tradition February 2-4 of this year.

Hispanic-Latino Committee

Rev. Sonia E. Ortigoza

According to recent studies and research from the University of South Carolina Consortium for Latino Immigration studies indicate that there are approximately 400,000-500,000 Hispanics in South Carolina. This information is based on statistical data such as immigration rates, birth rates, school enrollment and other surveys conducted. According to recent studies, South Carolina is considered to be one of the "new settlement" areas in which the Hispanic-Latino population is migrating to live. The South has become an area where many are choosing to settle. The reasons range from employment opportunities to specific environmental factors. South Carolina Hispanic-Latino population has increased 333% in a fourteen year period indicating that it is the fastest growing minority population. The counties with the greatest number of Hispanic-Latinos are Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Lexington, Richland, Beaufort and Horry.

Many of these newcomers are recent immigrants from Central and South America. Studies also indicate that the majority of immigrants in our state are of Mexican descent followed by Puerto Rican, Cuban, Colombian, Central and South American, and other Caribbean descent. Their arrival presents our Annual Conference with a significant opportunity for outreach and evangelism.

In response to this opportunity, churches from the coast to the foothills have become involved in a variety of ministries. Some offer ESL classes and after-school programs for children, furniture for newcomers, assistance with documentation and other services. Others provide opportunities for worship, Bible study and Vacation Bible School. In addition to these programs, dedicated individuals have given countless hours to help Hispanic-Latino people one-on-one.

Churches and District Ministries 2005-6
Faith Communities/Outreach Ministries

Anderson/Greenville Districts	Homeland Park UMC Worship – Sundays....6 p.m. English as a Second Language Saint Andrew UMC – Easley English as a Second Language Highway 29/Williamston (home) Bible Study Group Victor UMC Worship English as a Second Language Christ UMC, Duncan UMC, Friendship UMC, Northside UMC Faith Communities
Charleston District	Midland Park UMC, North Charleston Worship – Sundays, 4 p.m. Bible Study Groups English as a Second Language Aldersgate UMC Summer Vacation Bible School Bethany UMC, Summerville Worship – Sundays, 2 p.m. Bible Study Groups English as a Second Language
Columbia District	Brookland UMC Together for Education – Skills for Life and Work ESL and GED Christmas – Adopting a Family Virginia Wingard UMC Furniture distribution –14 families served Christmas – Adopting a Family Rehoboth UMC English as a Second Language FIESTA Trinity UMC Children Program (once a week) West Columbia Churches (Cayce UMC, Brookland UMC, Trinity UMC, Mount Hebron UMC, Platt Springs UMC) Vacation Bible School – Summer 2006
Greenwood District	Central UMC, Newberry Worship – Sundays, 1 p.m. Bethany-Zoar UMC, Saluda English as a Second Language

Marion District	Socastee UMC English as a Second Language
Orangeburg District	St. Paul's UMC Worship and Bible Study – Sundays, 6 p.m, English as a Second Language Music Classes
Spartanburg District	Arcadia UMC ARCH – After School Program Vacation Bible School Gravely Memorial After School Program
Walterboro District	St. Andrew By the Sea, Church of the Palm, Bluffton and Hardeeville UMC Envision to start a low country Hispanic Ministry soon

Conference/Jurisdictional Events/Participation

Workshop leadership on the First Statewide Hispanic-Latino Issues Conference
 SC State Commission for Minority Affairs – 2 Participants
 SEJ Convocation for Non-Hispanic-Latino Churches – 6 Participants
 South Carolina Hispanic/Latino Health Coalition – 2 Participants
 Immigration Issues Conference, Charleston – 1 Participants

Throughout the year the Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry and the District Task Forces worked with churches, districts and pastors promoting Hispanic-Latino ministry through advocacy, education and networking.

The local churches and districts involvement in this ministry is far behind the needs and opportunities that are challenging to us as a church. We feel the need of the Conference to embrace the Hispanic/Latino as a Ministry of the United Methodist Church and not only of the Hispanic-Latino Committee.

We believe that our Hispanic brothers and sisters are here to stay, so is our commitment to work alongside and worship with them. Our churches can provide a place that they feel grounded and feel spiritual connection.

Korean-Asian American Committee

This committee is inactive. We hope to reactivate this committee in the near future.

Native American Committee

Zan Tracy Pender, Chairperson

The bells continue to ring and progress continues to be made!!! Rejoice, Rejoice!!

As I write this annual report, I again have plenty of good news to share. At the 2005 Annual Conference, we were extremely pleased with the passing of the **Resolution on Reconciliation with Native Americans**. We feel that the United Methodist Church has welcomed us as native peoples to its congregations. The resolution is very thoughtful in all of its points. The final line says it best, *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the United Methodist Church pledges to recognize the indigenous people of South Carolina as citizens and neighbors accepting them for whom God made them to be.”*

Last year, the Governor of South Carolina officially recognized two tribes. In January, three more joined that list. The support of state recognition is one of our major goals in our comprehensive plan. From the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, the official tribes are: *Waccamaw Indian People, Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina, Santee Indian Organization, and Beaver Creek Indians*. The official groups are: *Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina, and Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian people*. As a committee, we are proud to have members serving from most of these tribes and groups. We are meeting the requirements of The

Discipline for our committee to be majority Native American.

We continue to work towards meeting the goals and objectives of our comprehensive plan. Yet, we are still climbing that huge mountain but we are making progress every year. We will reach the mountain top! Our goal continues to be to make the "invisible people" (our American Indian people and communities) visible. We have begun to evaluate our efforts in meeting the short and long term goals of the comprehensive plan.

The Native American Committee was organized in March, 1992. This is the mission statement adopted by the committee:

The Native American Committee seeks to: promote inclusion of Native Americans in the South Carolina Conference; explore and implement awareness of and appreciation for Native American presence, history, traditions and spirituality; promote Native American Ministries Sunday in this conference and dispense the funds contributed on Native American Ministries Sunday (one half of the funds collected remain in the conference).

The parent organization of the NAC is the Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency for Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) which is housed at Lake Junaluska. The NAC chair serves as a board member to SEJANAM. SEJANAM provides training and support for this committee. Monies collected for Native American Ministries Sunday are used exclusively for mission projects.

The following are highlights from 2005:

- We continued our Native American Representative training conducting our third training in February 2006. Thirty-eight (38) people attended. Participants enjoyed learning about the history of South Carolina Indians, dispelling myths and stereotypes, traditional story telling, flute music, drumming, smudging and a traditional worship celebration. This year, we developed training binders. These will be sent to each district office and will be easy to update. Next year, we are hoping to tape our training and send the tape to all district offices. This is a major accomplishment, but we still have a long way to go to ensure there is a Native American representative appointed and trained from each church.
- Our committee was sad to see the departures of Donna Ott, Kizer Johnson, and Lee Scott. Their influence has been significant. However, we welcomed Beckee Garris, a Catawba Indian, Terry Hatcher, a Waccamaw Indian, Russell Christopher Weik, a Wassamasaw Indian, and Mary Louise Worthy, the Vice Chief of the Piedmont American Indian Association, Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation.
- Working with Beckee Garris, our committee is assisting the Catawba Indian nation with the printing of their cultural language books. This project will help them teach tribal members, especially children, their own language as well as other interested people.
- Sarah Sanchez continues to produce and publish our newsletter. If your church does not receive this newsletter, please let us know.
- Once again, our committee provided scholarships for South Carolina Indian families to attend the SEJANAM Native American Conference in June. We had a great showing, and our conference continues to be a model for others to follow, like our Native American Representative training and other outreach initiatives. We are definitely a leader in this area.
- Reverend Bart Sistare had another successful year with the Salkehatchie summer work crews. His crews worked on homes in the Santee Indian community in Orangeburg. This year, his teams will be in Dillon working on homes for the Pee Dee Indians of Upper South Carolina. **Volunteers are needed. Contact Bart at (803) 787-3058.**
- Our chair, Zan Tracy Pender, wrote and developed a training model and guidelines for *Presenting and Selecting Native American Youth Literature*. His inspiration was working in the school system and finding books in the library from the 1960s with inappropriate references to South Carolina American Indians. He also discovered the lack of cultural knowledge about American Indians by educators. He has already presented this course in his school district and will present it to the South

Carolina Reading Association in February 2006. He wishes to thank all of the tribal elders from around the United States, who helped him research and put together these materials.

- Rocky Swamp continues as a Ministry of Presence under the Native American Committee. They have developed traditional worship as well as a sweat lodge. They have outstanding programs at Rocky Swamp. We encourage United Methodist members to visit Rocky Swamp to experience a traditional Native American worship service. If you need directions, please let us know. (Rocky Swamp's report follows)
- **Comfort Baskets:** This year, our committee launched a major project. Through Rocky Swamp Ministries, we are providing comfort baskets to South Carolina Indian people. Many of the South Carolina American Indian people live far below the poverty level. As a result, Rocky Swamp Ministries prepares comfort baskets to be delivered to our native communities. The primary target is the tribal elders. Yet, other members of the tribe may receive support. We provide these baskets at times of need, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are gathering supplies now. In November, Lemira Elementary, in Sumter, South Carolina, conducted a can food drive during the Clemson-Carolina rivalry week. The school had a large donation which was used for the comfort baskets. To assist us, we are asking churches to gather men's and women's health care products and general hygiene. This includes toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair care products, deodorants, facial products, shampoo, and soaps. We also need can foods and non-perishable food items. A can food drive is an excellent way to support us. We can also use school supplies. **Please make an annual event of this in your church to conduct either a can food drive or a comfort basket support drive.** Cathy Nelson is our committee contact person for this. Her number is (843) 835-8589. Finally, we ask that you provide all items to Rocky Swamp instead of directly to any tribe. This way, we can ensure all tribes receive help and nobody is left out.
- **Native American Ministries Sunday:** We are asking that each church in our conference hold a Native American Ministries Sunday. At a minimum, mention this special service and conduct the collection. Please remember that contributions stay within our conference to support our outreach ministries for South Carolina American Indians. Our committee conducts our training sessions, provides support services, assists Rocky Swamp ministries, education opportunities and provides food, clothing and other support to services thanks to your contributions. **This year, we started a special recognition for those churches who gave. It starts with an honor necklace and a special piece of Catawba pottery. Every year afterwards, each tribe is providing a bead to add to your necklace. Start your church honor necklace this year.** Our committee is happy to provide your church a guest speaker for Native American Ministries Sunday. Typically, we conduct the sermon portion of the service for that Sunday providing education on our committee and South Carolina American Indians. However, we can meet with men's and women's groups, Sunday schools or other request. Please remember that there are only nine of us; thus, the date gets booked fast. Native American Ministries Sunday can be conducted any time during the year. Please give us some alternative dates for us to come, so we can work with you. A good month is November, which is Native American Heritage Month in the United States. If you want to have a speaker, please contact Tracy Pender, 803 905-5672.

Native American Committee Rocky Swamp American Indian Ministries

Mission Statement: To perpetuate a spiritual sanctuary for American Indians and others where American Indian spiritual practices are encouraged and celebrated as a part of a Christian ministry.

This ministry of presence is a free-standing Ministry of Presence that reports to the Native American Committee of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Highlights of 2005: This was a year of change and growth. We worked through and resolved some tough issues concerning how we are organized and the delegation of responsibilities for the administration and the work of the ministries. Cathy Nelson, a Certified Lay Speaker, functions in the role of pastor.

Each and every Sunday since Rocky Swamp opened, there has been worship, or someone on the grounds available for prayer and worship. We have been richly blessed and look forward to continue walking on THE GOOD RED ROAD.

2005 YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS **Wofford College**

Name	Church/Charge	Pastor
Baker, Erika D.	John Wesley, Greer	Rev. James Friday
Blackwell, Jamee V.	John Wesley, Lamar	Rev. Charles Wilson
Bradley, Benjamin	John Wesley, Lamar	Rev. Charles Wilson
Bryant, Jessica R.	Mt. Nebo, Islandton	Rev. James A.. Ross
Bullock, Caprice S.	John Wesley, Greer	Rev. James Friday
Caldwell, Anthony D.	Mt. Beulah, Lake City	Rev. Charles Branch
Clark, Eric J.	John Wesley, Lamar	Rev. Charles Wilson
Cook, Ricardo L.	Antioch, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Crosby, Cierra D.	Mt. Nebo, Islandton	Rev. James Ross
Daniels, Jacquard	St. James, Darlington	Rev. Anna Miller
Daly, Shirell R.	Canaan, Ridgeville	Rev. James G. Land
Davis, Eddie	Antioch, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Dean, Christopher A.	Bethel, Greer	Rev. Morris Waymer
Dean, Jamar R.	Bethel, Greer	Rev. Morris Waymer
Dollard, Joe L.	Jeremiah, Hemingway	Rev. Geneva Stafford
Douglas, L'Asia	Centenary, Hartsville	Rev. Kenneth Nelson
Drayton, Gerald M.	John Wesley, Greer	Rev. James Friday
Drayton, Preston	Sand Hill, Ridgesville	Rev. James G. Land
Drummond, Jeremey D.	Bethel, Greer	Rev. Morris Waymer
Duffie, David L.	Cumberland, Florence	Rev. Jeanette Dicks
Edwards, Marcus D.	Centenary, Hartsville	Rev. Kenneth Nelson
Epps, Shaquanna D.	Mt. Beulah, Lake City	Rev. Charles Branch
Evans, Jeronia N.	St. Mark, Sumter	Rev. Telley Gadson
Fair, Edwin G.	Shepherd, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Ford, Damion M.	Shiloh, Bennettsville	Rev. Robert Malachi
Gainey, Keena D.	Clark, Oswego	Rev. Eddie Thomas
George, Bernard	John Wesley, Lamar	Rev. Charles Wilson
Graham, Brandon	Shiloh, Bennettsville	Rev. Robert Malachi
Hall-Brown, Omari J.	Sand Hill, Ridgeville	Rev. James C. Lane
Hampton, Tekila R.	St. Mark, Sumter	Rev. Telley Gadson
Hanna, Juwan F.	Jeremiah, Hemingway	Rev. Geneva Stafford
Harley, Jonathan	St. Mark, North	Rev. Thomas Pearson
Hayes, Conrad W.	Wesley, Beaufort	Rev. Donald McAllister
Haynes, Brandon S.	Sand Hill, Ridgeville	Rev. James C. Lane
Haynesworth, Essey	Antioch, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Howard Brandon	Mt. Zion, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Howard, Chavis A.	Mt. Zion, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans
Isaac, Brittany N.	St. Paul, Lynchburg	Rev. Rufus Snowden
Jett, Jorichia	Centenary, Hartsville	Rev. Kenneth Nelson
Johnson, Ashleigh	St. Mark, Sumter	Rev. Telley Gadson
Jones, Alexis K.	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Jones, Shannon	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Jordan, Terrance	St. James, Darlington	Rev. Anna Miller
Kennedy, Al'trell E.	St. Paul, Lynchburg	Rev. Rufus Snowden
Kennedy, Maryon S.	St. Paul, Lynchburg	Rev. Rufus Snowden
Lane, Precious	Mt. Zion, Sumter	Rev. Nathaniel Evans

Lewis, Sierra N.
 McCain, Brenda M.
 McCray, Kelcy
 McPherson, Julius
 Major, Braylon L.
 Mills, Braylon
 Minton, Wyatt C. IV
 Murdaugh, Charla M.
 Peacock, Marcus H.
 Perry, James
 Perry, Jasmin
 Pindar, David M.
 Polk, Zonnetta R.
 Ponds, Channen L.
 Ponds, Shelsea M.
 Ponds, Shiheem O.
 Pressley, Joe Blake
 Rank, Phillip
 Rock, Marguise
 Shaw, Candice
 Singletary, Jamesia J.
 Stokes, Carmen A.
 Stokes, Nyland R.
 Stroman, Michael
 Washington, Ashley F.
 Wilson, Matrese
 White, Andrew D.
 Wise, Tiffany
 Woodard, Rayshon L.
 Woods, Tia

Jeremiah, Hemingway
 Shepherd, Sumter
 St. James, Darlington
 Centenary, Hartsville
 John Wesley, Greer
 Bethel, Greer
 Faith, Kingstree
 Mt. Nebo, Islandton
 Mt. Nebo, Islandton
 Sand Hill, Ridgeville
 St. James, Darlington
 Shepherd, Sumter
 Clark, Oswego
 Good Hope/Wesley Chapel, Lugoff
 Good Hope/Wesley Chapel, Lugoff
 New Hope, McBee
 Cumberland, Florence
 Mt. Zion, Sumter
 St. Mark, Sumter
 St. Mark, North
 Mt. Beulah, Lake City
 Clark, Oswego
 Clark, Oswego
 St. Mark, North
 Jeremiah, Hemingway
 St. Paul, Lynchburg
 Shepherd, Sumter
 St. Mark, North
 Mt. Beulah, Lake City
 Antioch, Sumter

Rev. Geneva Stafford
 Rev. Nathaniel Evans
 Rev. Anna Miller
 Rev. Kenneth Nelson
 Rev. James Friday
 Rev. Morris Waymer
 Rev. Wyatt Minton
 Rev. James A. Ross
 Rev. James A. Ross
 Rev. James C. Lane
 Rev. Anna Miller
 Rev. Nathaniel Evans
 Rev. Eddie Thomas
 Rev. Bernard Ponds
 Rev. Bernard Ponds
 Rev. J. Elbert Williams
 Rev. Jeanette Dicks
 Rev. Nathaniel Evans
 Rev. Telley Gadson
 Rev. Thomas Pearson
 Rev. Charles Branch
 Rev. Eddie Thomas
 Rev. Eddie Thomas
 Rev. Thomas Pearson
 Rev. Geneva Stafford
 Rev. Rufus Snowden
 Rev. Nathaniel Evans
 Rev. Thomas Pearson
 Rev. Charles Branch
 Rev. Nathaniel Evans

HARAMBEE 2005 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Clark College, Atlanta GA

Name	Church/Charge	Pastor
Anderson, Taliah	John Wesley, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Bowman, Erika	St. Stephen, Orangeburg	Rev. Kay A. Best
Bowman, Michael .	Cedar Grove, Orangeburg	Rev. Kay A. Best
Brisbon, Avery	Good Hope/Wesley Chapel, Lugoff	Rev. Bernard Ponds
Dickson, Jasmine	N. Orangeburg, Orangeburg	Rev. Eddie Williams
Elder, Tanisha L.	Bluff Rd., Columbia	Rev. Ellis White
Felder, Tia	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Fleming, Jaquan	Mt. Carmel, Bamberg	Rev. A. Middleton
Ford, Leon	Wesley Chapel, Lake City	Rev. Anthony Whay
Franklin, Shardamia	Mt. Carmel, Bamberg	Rev. A. Middleton
Franklin, Tanischa	N. Orangeburg, Orangeburg	Rev. Eddie Williams
Fyne, Alesha	Easley Chapel, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Garrett, Stacie	Bluff Road, Columbia	Rev. Ellis White
Gilliam, Will	N. Orangeburg	Rev. Eddie Williams
Hamilton, Harold	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Hickson, Lorenzo J.	Wesley Chapel	Rev. Anthony Whay
Holiday, Thorn	Good Hope/Wesley Chapel	Rev. Bernard Ponds
Hunter, Lauren B.	Easley Chapel, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Joe, Centralia E.	Mechanicsville, Sumter	Rev. Herbert Fogle
Johnson, Kandis	N. Orangeburg, Orangeburg	Rev. Eddie Williams
Johnson, Sharla	Buckhead, Walterboro	Rev. Mark A. Williams
Jones, Amber N.	Bluff Road, Columbia	Rev. Ellis White

Jones, Alexis K.	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Jones, Shannon I.	Trinity, Orangeburg	Rev. Larry McCutcheon
Leggett, Roosevelt Jr.	St. Luke, Greenville	Rev. Clara Gary
Manigault, Kelly	Mt. Carmel, Bamberg	Rev. A. Middleton
Maynard, Candace B.	Cedar Grove, Orangeburg	Rev. Kay A. Best
Middleton, Blythe	Mt. Carmel, Bamberg	Rev. A. Middleton
Miller, Cory	Good Hope/Wesley Chapel, Lugoff	Rev. Bernard Ponds
Pearson, Zachary C.	Mechanicsville, Sumter	Rev. Herbert Fogle
Ponds, Shiheem T.	New Hope, McBee	Rev. James Williams
Ponds, Channen L.	Good Hope/Wesley Chapel, Lugoff	Rev. Bernard Ponds
Russell, Christin	John Wesley, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Simon, Robert W.	Mechanicsville, Sumter	Rev. Herbert Fogle
Smith, David C.	John Wesley, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Talley, Megan S.	John Wesley, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Thomas, Sade	St. Stephens, St. Stephens	Rev. Kay A. Best
Van Dyke, Sheldon	Bluff Road, Columbia	Rev. Ellis White
Vernon, Darian D.	St. Luke, Greenville	Rev. Deberry Cook
Walters, Shakia	Easley Chapel, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Washington, Keivon N.	Wesley, Lake City	Rev. Anthony Whay
Wilson, Jasmine	Easley Chapel, Easley	Rev. J. P. Martin
Wright, Brian T.	Mechanicsville, Sumter	Rev. Herbert Fogle

GRANTS FUNDED

Golden Band Outreach Ministries	Wesley UMC, Ladson, SC	\$5,000
Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.	Toxaway UMC	\$4,000
Student Achieving Valued Education	Mt. Carmel UMC, Charleston	\$3,000
Summer Enrichment Program	St. Paul, Ravenel	\$4,000
ARCH Ministries, Inc.	Arcadia UMC, Spartanburg	\$5,000
5th Annual Family Retreat	Camden First	\$2,500
BCACM Literacy Program	Bennettsville-Cheraw Cooperative Parish	\$5,000
St. Matthew UM Youth Fellowship	St. Matthew UMC, Camden	\$1,500
Lifted 2005 – Spiritual Life Retreat		
Family Ministries Convocation	New Hope, Ridgeville	\$4,000
Spirit Singers Celtic Christianity	Spirit Singers Study Program	\$2,500

OTHER AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Washington 2000	Lashawnda Williams, St. James, Darlington	\$ 150
Homelessness Seminar	Tiffany Mack, St. James, Darlington	\$ 150
	April McPherson, Centenary, Hartsville	\$ 150
Conference Youth	Somone Nesmith	\$ 300
Choir Camp	Joseph Nesmith	\$ 300
National Conf. on Preaching	Rev. Constance Barnes	\$ 250
World Pilgrimage to Jerusalem	Tiffany Knowlin	\$ 500

CHURCH VISITATIONS

Rocky Swamp American Indian Ministries
Springfield, SC
April 10
Cathy Nelson, Lay Speaker serving as pastor
(Native American Ministry)

Wesley United Methodist Church
Ladson, South Carolina
August 21, 2005
Rev. Keith Hunter, Pastor
(African-American Church)

Midland Park United Methodist Church
N. Charleston, South Carolina
August 21, 2005
Rev. Edinson DeArco Pacheco
(Hispanic/Latino Church)

ELCC visited the aforementioned churches. The chairperson of ELCC gave the morning message at Wesley UM Church in Ladson. The services at all the churches were special and very uplifting. The worship was authentic to their culture.

This has been a busy year for ELCC. We have much to celebrate and yet much remains to be done.

Charlotte A. Grooms, Chairperson

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Board of Trustees met on two occasions during this conference year. The first meeting was held on September 16, 2005 and the second meeting on February 17, 2006. Attendance by Board Members needs to improve. Board Members are being reminded of attendance requirements. The board continues to spend the majority of its time addressing abandoned and discontinued church properties. This is a significant problem requiring much time being spent by the Conference Chancellor, Conference Secretary, District Superintendents, Board of Trustees Members and others in trying to identify, locate and make final disposition of these properties.

During this conference year final disposition has been made of the following properties: Pickens Chapel UMC, Saxon UMC, Shiloh M. E. Church, South, Stopping Pines UMC, Spring Branch UMC and Barrs Chapel Methodist Church.

The Board would like to express thanks to all who have assisted us in bringing final resolution to these church properties and request your continued support in the future as we continue to work to resolve abandoned and discontinued church issues.

Andy Morris, Chairperson

THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

This last year has been a year of preparation and change.

At the Annual Conference of 2005, we announced that Russell Davis had been named as the Director of Camps and Retreat Ministries for the Annual Conference. His responsibilities were shifted from just being responsible for Asbury Hills to being the Executive overseeing our entire ministry of hospitality. With the naming of Paul Turner as the Site Director at Asbury Hills, Russell has been "freed up" to assist and support the Board in its efforts to position both of our present sites for implementing the Long Range Plans that were announced several years ago. Russell's leadership is essential as we move into the capital phase of the first steps in our Long Range Plan.

Utilization of our facilities have been has been "maxed out." Until we have additional physical resources, our programs are at equilibrium. We are presently serving as many people as we are capable of serving with our present available facilities...both for our signature Summer Camp experiences as well as our year round activities.

We have a new and friendlier web site....www.sccampsandretreat.org and invite you to check it out. You'll find links there to sites for each of the ministries under the Camps and Retreat Ministries umbrella: Asbury Hills – www.asburyhills.org; Sewee – www.sewee.org; Summer Camping – www.scsummmercamps.org; and the new "Palmetto Adventures", a ministry designed to function across the conference at local churches and other facilities – www.palmettoadventures.org.

THE REPORT OF JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

The Board of Trustees of the James L. Belin Property has been in existence since May 19, 1859. According to the Will, Reverend Belin left to his trustees in perpetuity the rights to buy, sell and invest his Estate in "whatever they may deem more profitable, and the property thus purchased shall be considered and held by them, my trustees in trust, being my Estate, and the annual avails thereof appropriated for the purposes and benefits herein provided." The Will also reminds us as a Conference that "profits from the Estate should be appropriated for the benefit of Missions."

Over the years, the United Methodist Church in South Carolina has changed the vision and structure for the various Boards involved in the missional funding process. With intent, the role of the Belin Board of Trustees was changed to be more that of manager and policymaker. We are to manage the investments and manage the intent of the Belin Will in light of a changing world and manage the day-to-day affairs as they relate to the assets and our interpretation of the Will.

This new structure frees the Belin Board to concentrate on the management and growth of the income potential of the assets of the trust for the best long-term interest of the missional needs of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. With this in mind, we request that the Annual Conference insist that the Belin Board be comprised of a majority of qualified business-oriented lay people who are committed to The United Methodist Church and its ministry at the national and local conference level.

In the area of funding, the Belin Board's role is now to develop, manage, and maintain as reliable a funding source to the Board of Global Ministries as possible. The role of distributing the annual allocations of those funds was delegated to the Board of Global Ministries. The distribution of the funds is to be for one-time missional projects and programs based on an annual priority of need determined by the Board of Global Ministries. It remains the policy of the Belin Trust that the available funds are to be used as seed money for new projects and is not intended to support ongoing established programs. Even though the Belin Board of Trustees chose to be bound by our interpretation of the intent of the Will for today's world in the S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, we did not give up all influence as to how those funds might be used.

The Belin Board of Trustees is proud to have provided approximately \$4,000,000 between 1991 and 2005 for grants, scholarships and community programs that have empowered and enriched the lives of people all over South Carolina.

With this history behind us and a bright future ahead of us, we are pleased to make this report on the activities of the James C. Belin Board of Trustees for out past year of operation in 2005.

1. Received and approved the final audit from the CPA firm of Webster Rogers LLP at our February 10, 2006, Board meeting, per by-laws.
2. Continued using the financial management services of Smith Barney's Consulting Group (socially responsible investment management) and Webster Rogers LLP (CPA firm).
3. Made available to the Board of Global Ministries the sum of \$100,000 for missional grants and scholarships for 2005.
4. Provided \$20,000 in scholarships to needy students at Spartanburg Methodist College.
5. Elected officers for 2006:

Chairperson:

Mr. J. Robert Mauney

Vice-Chairperson:

Dr. Vivia L. Fowler

Secretary:

Mrs. Shirley C. Robinson

Treasurer:

Mr. Jim Moody

J. Robert Mauney, Chairperson

TRUSTEES OF THE S.C. UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

The Board of Trustees once again expresses our appreciation to Allison Trussell, who has served as Acting Editor of the *Advocate* since Editor Davie Burgdorf was called to active duty. Ms. Trussell and reporter Rachel Haynie have continued to meet every deadline in spite of the staff shortage.

At our last Annual Conference, the membership of the Board was expanded from nine to fifteen members. The Board of Trustees is continually looking for ways to improve the *Advocate* and make it an indispensable source of information for United Methodists in South Carolina. We provide five free subscriptions to each local church and free subscriptions to each new family that joins a local church. In the past year we have begun a new partnership with the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries to provide news of upcoming events and ministry resources.

During the coming Conference year we will be looking at the possibility of publishing an electronic edition of the *Advocate*. Recognizing that more and more readers, especially young adults, are eschewing paper news sources and relying more heavily on electronic communications, we think this is an important new direction in the *Advocate's* ministry.

We continue to look for ways to increase the number of subscriptions to the *Advocate*. We are planning a survey for members of Annual Conference gathering in Orangeburg this year. Information and subscription forms are available for Conference-wide and District-wide events. We ask members of the Annual Conference to help in these endeavors by (1) informing the *Advocate* of upcoming events where information will be welcomed, (2) by subscribing to the *Advocate*, (3) by making sure your local church is taking advantage of the free subscriptions, and (4) by encouraging your local church's support of the Annual Conference Apportionments which provide a substantial amount of the *Advocate's* operating costs. Together we can continue to keep the flame of Methodism burning bright in South Carolina.

Paul W. Harmon, Chair

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during the year.

During 2005, we received \$248,957 (62%) of the requested \$400,000 per year for five years that was authorized by the 2002 Annual Conference. These askings began with the 2003 conference year. At the present rate of payment of the askings as authorized by the 2002 annual conference, we will not be able to retire the loan within five years. The Bishop has been personally notified of the urgency of this matter, and the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Center considers that it is strictly the responsibility of the Annual Conference to address it. The UM Center Trustees have no plans whatsoever in place for continuation of UM Center mortgage payments when the five-year askings plan ends in 2007.

Clarence S. Gramling, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Conference Chancellor is the legal advisor to the Resident Bishop and the South Carolina Conference and is also an officer of the Conference corporation. Pursuant to Rule 95, Standing Rules and Resolutions, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, requests for the services of the Chancellor are made through the Episcopal Office. Due to the interdependent link between the offices of Resident Bishop and the District Superintendents, the District Superintendents may request services directly from the Chancellor.

The majority of my work this past year as the Chancellor has been devoted to working with the Conference Board of Trustees on property issues and assisting the Conference with litigation-related matters. Other legal issues of a corporate nature have arisen from time to time and have been addressed as necessary.

The Board of Trustees has continued to work on handling the disposition of properties of local churches that were discontinued or declared abandoned by prior annual conferences. As reported at the last annual conference, some local churches were "closed" years ago, but no

further action was taken to transfer, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property. In other instances, properties of closed churches may have already been disposed of, but no records of the conveyances exist at the Conference. Finally, in some cases, properties were placed under the direction or care of quarterly conferences or charges that no longer exist. Each of the districts has some of these properties located within its boundaries. Some of the discontinued and abandoned local church properties include cemeteries, further complicating their disposition. My work has involved assisting the Board of Trustees in addressing these property issues. Assistance to the Board of Trustees from the District Superintendents in this area is critically important.

The approach taken by the Board of Trustees to deal with the abandoned and discontinued properties has been two-pronged. One prong of the approach has been to work more closely with the District Superintendents, primarily through the Conference Secretary and Chancellor, to ensure that future resolutions of discontinuation and abandonment adequately address responsibilities relating to discontinuation and abandonment. The other prong of the approach involves addressing specific properties that have been identified as either discontinued or abandoned. As one might expect, this can be a slow process; however, some progress has been made.

Litigation issues have also been addressed. In the past year, two cases (one resulting in actual litigation) arose regarding the merger and/or discontinuation of local churches. Both cases highlighted the need for local churches to carefully consider property issues when approaching merger or facing discontinuation and to follow the established procedures of the *Discipline*.

Following the last annual conference, two lawsuits pending against the Conference relating to alleged misconduct by a former clergyperson were settled to the satisfaction of all parties. Those cases serve as an important reminder that the Conference, its affiliates, and each local church need to maintain adequate and comprehensive insurance programs. In both of these cases, the insurance companies of the Conference and the local church stepped forward and provided a funded defense.

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The purpose of the United Methodist Men is to help men ***declare the centrality of Jesus Christ*** in their lives. Men's Ministry is replacing "Men's Clubs", spiritual experiences replacing "eat and meet groups." While UMMenSCC has had a reasonably good year since the last Annual Conference, we hope to further the ideals expressed in our purpose and help more men find the Lord and to bring men back into our church. Sadly, only 30% of adult members of the UMC are male. We have a long way to go. With God's help, with your help, we can accomplish this task.

One resolution passed as the 2004 General Conference was a survey to try and find out why men are leaving the church, where they are, and to find ways to bring them back. As part of this, your church should have been contacted with a survey via the DSs. If you have filled that out, thank you. If not, the survey is on line on www.gcumm.org. We need your input.

We presented at the 2005 AC the SEJ G. Ross Freeman, pastoral leadership award to Rev. Joe Tysinger of St. John, UMC in Fort Mill. This annual award recognizes a pastor who has shown outstanding devotion to men's ministry. It is the third one we have awarded and hope to recognize an outstanding pastor each year. Local units should consider nominating a pastor.

One highlight of 2005 was the joint venture with the United Methodist Women to present a conference "Love Does No Harm", to highlight the problem of spousal and family abuse and to train pastors and church leaders on how to recognize and deal with the problem.. Though this event drew almost 100, it was only a beginning. Hopefully, the Conference can find a way to continue to highlight and train people to deal with the problem. It happens, even in our churches, and we need to be proactive.

Our Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach was our most successful ever, thanks to a unique concept and program developed by our Spiritual Life Coordinator, L. W. Smith. The men of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia presented a live Lord's Supper program, complete with talks by each of the Apostles. Bishop Taylor and five of the District Superintendents participated by preaching and conducting workshops with the 380 attendees.

Dr. Charles Johnson, DS of the Greenville District, was appointed by Bishop Taylor as the cabinet liaison to UMMen and the Cabinet. This is something we have long wanted and are sure it will result in better communications and will pay dividends.

The SCC UMMen are well represented in the leadership of the SEJ and National Associations of Conference Presidents and the GCUMM. LW Smith was elected as the SEJ representative to the General Commission UMMen. Our president, Bill Smith is secretary of the SEJ Conference Presidents and was recently elected secretary of the National group.

Prayer and Scouting continue to be major focuses of UMMen. SC hosts more remotes and covenant prayer groups of the Upper Room Prayer Line than any other conference. We donated over \$2000 to the URPL. The prayer line, incidentally is, as I make my report, being conducted and receiving calls at this Annual Conference. You have just seen some of the awards to boy and girl scouts with the Bishop's Award of Excellence awards. We will be providing additional focus on Prayer and Scouting in 2006 by adding district prayer advocates and scouting coordinators. We hope if you have an interest in those areas of ministry, you will volunteer to assist us in these endeavors. Hunger relief with its occasional potato drops and gleaning in various parts of the state is another focus, working through the Society of St. Andrew. If you would like to sponsor or participate in this program, please contact our vice president, Ed Cunningham.

While we chose to work through providing donations to UMCOR during the hurricane damage in LA and MS, we made a substantial donation directly to the UMMen in LA to assist in that area. Many of our men and units went down to the area to assist. We are also experimenting with a SC "church-to-church" relief program for the lower part of the state to be prepared in the event of evacuation and damage in those areas.

The Men's Ministry program is one being developed by the GCUMM in conjunction with Man in the Mirror. Training programs and prototype events are being held in 2006. We anticipate this to be a major program of UMMen in SC, with the ultimate goal of establishing a certified men's ministry specialist (MMS) in each church and a Men's Ministry program within the local church, whether or not a group is formally aligned with the United Methodist Men (by definition, all Methodist men are considered UMMen).

A potential alliance with the Promise Keepers organization is being explored at a prototype event later this year in the Midwest. It is hoped that PK's skills at conducting major men's events will be of help to UMMen. You'll hear more about this later as plans progress.

A most important concept of our church is the connectional system – we can do far more working together than alone. As far as UMMen is concerned, this is done by chartering your local men's fellowship and recertifying that charter each year. While we have one of the largest number of units chartered, we are still woefully short with less than 1/3 of our churches with chartered UMMen units. We can do better. We sincerely hope all churches will have a UMMen fellowship, as per the discipline, and we hope you will choose to align yourself with the connectional system of our church. We need to know who and where you are, and communicate with you and assist you in your efforts.

We are pleased to have Bishop William Morris, Interim General Secretary, GCUMM, as our guest speaker at the UMMen AC luncheon and to assist us in making our GRF award. Welcome Bishop Morris. This is quite an honor for SC to have the top leadership of GCUMM with us at the AC.

And, finally, a personal note. This will be the last time I will address the AC as president of the UMMen of SC. My self-imposed four year term limit as your president is up in August. I appreciate all the support you have given and the hard work and dedication of our leadership at the conference, district, and, most important, the local unit level. I've visited and spoken at most of the districts in our state. We have many active and dedicated groups working in support of men, the church, and the community where they serve. While we don't always know just what they are doing, I am constantly amazed to hear of the work of some, but we know men are active in our state. With God's help, we will expand those efforts. We think we have a real leader to succeed me, but he has not been formally nominated or elected (in August) – though he has already jumped into the training of Conference Presidents at our NACP meeting in March. I wish him well, as all the officers and leaders of UMMen, whether state, district, or local leaders.

William C. Smith, President
www.ummsc.org

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Lord has surely been with our United Methodist Women during the course of this last year. We give Him all the praise for all the wonderful things that have been accomplished.

The steadfastness and determination of the women is evident as they continue to live by the Purpose, and support our mission projects with their time, talents and finances. This year we surpassed our pledges by more than \$15,000.

The 3 elements of our Purpose guide us in many ways. First, we are to become whole persons in Jesus Christ. We do this in many ways. We study the scriptures, we educate ourselves through the reading program, we reach out to women everywhere and of course we do this by knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Secondly, I believe the strength in our team is the fact that we do have a creative and a supportive fellowship. We interact with each other in various ways. We are trying very hard at the conference level to get to know each other personally rather than just having a working relation. It is bringing us closer together and although we are from the 4 corners of the conference we function more as a team or a family because our goals are the same. Third, we are to expand the concepts of mission as we are a part of the global ministry of the church. This is the area where we excel. The United Methodist Women were founded in mission. The scripture tells us to go into the world. The needs are there and our United Methodist Women eagerly respond. All of the money received in the name of United Methodist Women are to go to mission. Our undesignated giving puts United Methodist Women and the church in areas all over the world. Some examples are our teaching of the Bible, and the women who came to the aid of the women and children after the tsunami. Also, we can never forget Isabella Thorburn and Clara Swain who started a school for girls in India. Most of the areas we may never see, but never the less our giving is our ticket to be a part of this journey through our global society. We have often heard you can't be in two places at one time. But through our giving we can be in several places easily and never leave our homes while much is being accomplished.

Our calendar for the year fills rapidly. Our women spend many Saturdays away from their families. With our meetings and our events we stay pretty busy.

Our priority at this time is Public Education. We are working very hard to get our women to volunteer in the schools. We can do so much to make a difference. Our women are certainly rising to the occasion all across the conference.

Through our Capitol Day we try hard to educate our women to become advocates for women and children. Capitol Day puts the issues before us and educates us on how we can make a difference. Our school of Christian Mission is another way we grow and learn about ourselves and our world. We have 3 courses to choose from: geographical, social justice and the Bible. Along with our reading program our women are much more educated in several areas of society.

I suppose the highlight of the year is our coming together for the annual meeting. We had a great turnout. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was our speaker. She gave a very inspiring message and challenged each of us to be better witnesses for Christ. Since the last annual meeting we have grown in numbers. Our districts continue to meet with local units. I am amazed at all the various programs and projects that are being done in the districts. One very special thing about our women is that we have some very good leaders. Our reports indicated that we had worked hard this year and we had much to celebrate. As the day came to a close, the gavel sounded and another year was written into the archives of the United Methodist Women history.

To all the United Methodist Women throughout South Carolina, thank you for the wonderful hard work you do. It is with much appreciation that I serve as your president. You set the example for younger women to follow just as our foremothers did for us. The example has been set, let us continue on this course.

Imogene Steele, President

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONNECTIONAL TABLE

The SEJ Connectional Table, under the leadership of Bishop Charlene Kammerer, continues to give leadership and set direction for the ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. An organizational task group and a task group to study the relationship of SEJ Agencies are studying

the entire organization of the jurisdiction at the direction of the 2004 Jurisdictional Conference. They continue their work to make our unique jurisdiction more effective.

The entire jurisdiction was saddened with the complete destruction of Gulfside Assembly located in Waveland, Mississippi, one of our seven agencies, as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Gulfside Board of Trustees has named a long-range study group to look to the future in order to determine how they might serve the needs of the United Methodist Church at this renowned historical African-American mission center. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Ministries for Adult Rehabilitation (SEMAR) worked through a number of challenges this past year in order to reclaim its mission and vision for the future. The SEJ Connectional Table and SEMAR celebrate a partnership with the Western North Carolina Conference through Givens Estates, Inc., in Asheville. Givens has agreed to be the lead partner in a senior adult housing project located at Lake Junaluska.

We continue to celebrate the ministries of the remaining five agencies of the jurisdiction: Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center, Archives and History, Southeastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministries and UM Volunteers in Mission. They each offer their focused ministries with annual conferences and local churches. All seven agencies of the SEJ fall under the total ministry of the jurisdiction.

Ministry within the SEJ continues to expand and grow. The focus of the SEJ Ministry Team for this quadrennium is Cultivating Spiritual Leaders. Events and resources are aligning to this end as we take seriously the vision of making disciple-makers and connecting the jurisdiction through networking opportunities. Staff leaders are working to discern needs of the jurisdiction with a focus on adults, youth and young adults, laity, clergy and ethnic constituencies. At this writing, a new staff position focusing on strengthening the African-American churches of our jurisdiction is in process. Our staff is committed to moving into the future with careful planning and evaluation of existing resources.

The Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center had 97,000 guest nights in 2005, down from the previous year. We are proud that 55% of those served are United Methodist. We have an extensive marketing program to tell the story and mission of Lake Junaluska and the jurisdiction. We have just completed renovation of an additional 50 rooms at the Terrace Hotel, which completes the renovation. The Harrell Center auditorium was recently recarpeted, the hallways and restrooms rejuvenated. Inspiration Point, located at the west end of Lambuth Inn, is complete and will receive a life-size statue of Christ this spring adding another significant place for reflection and spiritual formation at Lake Junaluska.

We appreciate the local churches that have chosen to meet the challenge of \$.50 per member for the quadrennial special asking for the renovation of the Lake Junaluska dam. Phase 3 of the work has been completed and State of North Carolina inspectors have encouraged us to continue with the schedule that has been set for repairs. The special asking collections totaled \$113,470.36.

The SEJ Connectional Table approved the Junaluska Assembly Community Council (JACC) as an advisory group to Residential Services. The election and ratification of this council was completed by the residents and began meeting in March.

We continue to appreciate the apportionment payments from all annual conferences that support the SEJ connectional ministries. Total 2005 SEJ Annual Conference apportionment payments were \$1,768,794.88. The collection percentage was 82.0%. The council's allocation of that collection was \$1,631,890, an increase over the 2004 collection.

The General Commission on Religion and Race met with the staff and the Connectional Table of the jurisdiction in the fall, monitoring our progress in becoming inclusive. They were very complimentary of the hard work that has been done to ensure the SEJ becomes an inclusive organization.

We continue to make progress with our Capital Campaign, having received \$8.3 million. Pledges for the Bethel Welcome Center are being completed with the hope of beginning construction this year. Toward the end of the year, we will begin to raise funds to build a new clubhouse for the Junaluska Golf Course.

We are grateful for the work of the elected members on the Connectional Table and those who serve as leaders in other areas of ministry. Those who serve from the South Carolina Conference are:

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Brenda B. Hook
Willie Teague

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Its mission is to *educate—through scholarship, teaching and service—faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world.* These purposes define Candler's role as a school of Emory University and of the United Methodist Church and point to the unique challenges and opportunities we face in leading a national research university in re-discovering what it might mean to relate to a major denomination.

Our school, unique in its placement within a top twenty research university and its commitment to educate pastoral and academic leadership, is poised to play an active role in the positive transformation of the church and the world. Religion has bound and divided communities since the beginning of time and now is no different. When polled about their research, over three hundred Emory professors named "religion" as a theme in their work. Ethically aware, theologically profound voices are desperately needed in our society, and Emory draws on its Methodist heritage and looks to Candler to bring wisdom, clarity, compassion, and tolerance to the conversation. For example, leading off one of our university strategic initiatives, "Understanding Religions and the Human Spirit," is Carol Newsom, C. H. Candler Professor of Old Testament.

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-four members hold full-time appointment, and six hold part-time appointments. An additional fifteen serve in an adjunct capacity. Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as United Methodist bishops in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler working with the Development Office.

In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Thirty-two Teaching Supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program, and it now includes students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences.

This year, enrollment was 513, with 417 in the Master of Divinity program, 55 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 15 in the Master of Theology program, 7 in the Doctor of Theology program and 19 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 25% US ethnic minority, 9% international, and 48% women. More than 52 denominations are represented with 60% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 40 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Nazarene, Methodist-Wesleyan and the Methodist Churches of Brazil, Korea, and the Caribbean.

Good things are happening as we develop and put into action a plan for the life-long learning of church leaders. An exceptional conference, *Faith, Politics, and Public Policy*, is planned for October 8-10, 2006. Candler's own faculty with expertise in this field, as well as Jim Wallis, Jim Forbes, Susan Pace Hamill, and several others, will provide leadership. Information about this and other upcoming events is available at <http://candler.emory.edu>.

Progress has been made toward the construction of two new buildings to house the Pitts Theology Library, faculty and administrative offices, state-of-the-art classrooms, a teaching chapel, and the University's Ethics Center, with groundbreaking on Phase I planned for spring 2007. The University plans to gather its rich religious resources within and near the Candler facilities to create a "religious complex" centered around Candler.

The faculty has completed an inspiring strategic plan that calls for the facilities noted above, new faculty chairs, program support, and increases to our scholarship endowment. Last year, 80% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 80% of tuition. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this success. However, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines

their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

It has been my privilege to serve as Candler's dean for the last six years. Next year, I will be on sabbatical, working on the long overdue "new" book on the history of the Methodist Church in America and other writing endeavors. Thereafter, I will return to Candler as a member of the faculty. Thank you for your support throughout my deanship and for your support of Candler—and my successor—in the years to come.

Russell E. Richey, Dean and Professor of Church History

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School prepares students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church through its attention to spiritual formation and transforming ministry as well as to academic rigor.

The school is an integral part of Duke University, and divinity students enjoy and contribute to the university's intellectual resources. Several new programs allow students to pursue joint degrees with other schools on campus in disciplines such as nursing and law. A partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill allows a joint master of divinity/master of social work degree.

Programs:

Duke Divinity School is delighted to announce a Doctor of Theology degree program to help prepare a new generation of leaders for church-related positions and for faculty posts in theological schools. The first class of students is expected to enter the program in the fall semester 2006. The Th.D. will address fresh areas of research, such as evangelism and mission, the intersection of divinity and health care, and the intersection of divinity, peacemaking and reconciliation. The new degree program is accompanied by funding for post-doctoral fellows in evangelism and new funding for doctoral education in evangelism.

The Center for Reconciliation was formally launched at Duke Divinity School in late 2005. Led by co-directors Chris Rice and Emmanuel Katongole, the center is dedicated to the resolution of conflicts at local, national and international levels through leadership development, research and outreach programs.

The divinity school also significantly strengthened its leadership in the area of Wesley Studies. Randy Maddox, one of the country's foremost scholars in this field, joined us from Seattle Pacific University as professor of theology and Wesleyan studies. In addition, Ed Phillips came to the divinity school from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to serve as associate professor of the practice of Christian worship. Paul Chilcote arrived as visiting professor of the practice of evangelism, following service at Asbury Theological Seminary, Africa University in Zimbabwe and parish ministry.

In support of ministerial education, the divinity school has begun a \$10 million financial aid initiative to secure additional scholarship endowment. Financial aid is essential for our core mission of preparing leaders for the church of Jesus Christ. More information about this effort may be obtained by calling the divinity school development office at (919) 660-3456. Scholarship support must come from individuals and churches who understand the critical need of this investment.

Facilities:

Duke Divinity School dedicated its 53,000-square-foot addition and renovation project in October, 2005. The addition was named in honor of the Rev. Hugh Westbrook, a 1970 divinity school graduate who has supported the school generously. The addition includes significant classroom space, Goodson Chapel, a large refectory, and offices for admissions and student life. It also includes an office suite for the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life, a multi-disciplinary effort begun in 2000 to improve care at all levels for those near death and to support those who work with them.

The portion of the school completed in 1972, formerly New Divinity, was renamed The Thomas A. Langford Building, in memory of the professor and dean who later served as Duke

University provost.

The divinity school incorporated numerous works of art into its new facilities. Additions included a bronze sculpture depicting the biblical parable of the prodigal son, two stained glass windows, two silk screened glass panels based on original papercuts interpreting Psalms 42 and 43, a quilted triptych depicting the Tree of Life, and a marble bas relief of St. John baptizing Christ. A series of 14 sermons on the theme of "Art as Evangelism" was delivered in the late summer and fall based on the artwork, all of which is rooted in Scripture.

Students:

In the fall of 2005, Duke Divinity enrolled a diverse body of 576 students. The median age overall for the school was 26. The median age for master of divinity students was about 24.

Students hailed from 40 states and several foreign countries. Most were from the United Methodist tradition, but more than 50 denominations were represented in the school. The student body was 53 percent male and 47 percent female. Twenty percent of students were ethnic minorities, including 14 percent African-American.

The divinity school's Field Education Department continued to enhance its program of summer placements. Duke Divinity had 197 students in full-time, formal placements (not including student pastors and people working in ministry other than field education). Four students were placed in South Africa, two in Uganda, and one in Brazil. The remaining students served in 20 U.S. states. The school has another 148 placements for the academic year.

Faculty:

Professors Chilcote, Maddox and Phillips were part of a substantial group of excellent new faculty members at Duke Divinity School in 2005. After an extensive search process, Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead appointed the Reverend Dr. Sam Wells as the new dean of Duke Chapel. He also accepted an appointment at the divinity school as research professor of Christian ethics. Jo Bailey Wells, who is married to Sam, took a new position as director of Anglican studies and associate professor of the practice of Christian ministry and Bible.

Tammy Williams, who had been with the school in a post-doc position, joined the faculty in a tenure-track position as assistant professor of theology and black church studies. Timothy Tyson accepted an invitation to serve as visiting professor of American Christianity and Southern culture. Lauren Winner became both a visiting lecturer and a student in our Master of Divinity program.

Honors & Achievements:

Duke Divinity School's faculty members were active on campus, across the country and around the world last year.

The American Society of Church History celebrated the career of David C. Steinmetz, Amos Ragan Kearns professor of the history of Christianity, at its winter meeting. The society hosted a panel discussion of the influence of Professor Steinmetz's research and teaching on Reformation studies over the last 40 years.

Geoffrey Wainwright, Robert Earl Cushman professor of Christian theology, chaired the final session of the current round of the doctrinal dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church in the fall. The dialogue is expected to lead to the signing of a joint declaration in 2006 resolving some of the theological disputes that led to the 16th century Protestant Reformation.

Dean L. Gregory Jones was appointed to a third five-year term as leader of the divinity school.

We are thankful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Conference, and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our Web site at www.divinity.duke.edu.

L. Gregory Jones, Dean

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The School of The Prophets, Gammon Theological Seminary founded in 1883, is one of thirteen accredited United Methodist seminaries in The United States. Gammon is the only historical African American Theological Seminary related to The United Methodist Church. Gammon was established by The Methodist Episcopal Church in connection with Clark University. Gammon is located at 653 Beckwith Street in Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon is The United Methodist component of The Interdenominational Theological Center, a model of excellence in ecumenical theological reflection and academic preparation for ministry.

The partnership with Gammon and The Interdenominational Theological Center offers a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition, and offers a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service. Students prepare for preaching, teaching, administration, counseling, and a range of other spiritual and secular roles with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community. The ecumenical, interracial, and multi-cultural environment introduces students to the diversity they will encounter in developing and implementing faith based solutions to the contemporary challenges of congregations and communities they will serve after graduation.

The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry - merging theory and practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community. Degree programs offered are the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Arts in Church Music, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling. Cross-registration arrangements are maintained with Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Columbia Theological Seminary, Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Gammon Alumni serve the community and larger society as bishops, pastors, college presidents, pastoral counselors, professors, education administrators, campus ministers, chaplains, denominational executives, government officials and community leaders.

The renovation project on the Gammon Hall Administration and Student Living Facility has been completed. With the help of our alumni and friends we plan to retire the debt on the cost of the renovation at approximately 3 million dollars as soon as possible.

The vision for the twenty-first century for our seminary is to strengthen and promote financial security for the institution with its fundraising efforts and to increase recruitment of prospective students that will honor its historic mission and embrace its promising future.

Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni Affairs Director
Walter H. McKelvey, President

THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE *ADVOCATE* AND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In order to improve the relationship between the *Advocate* and the Annual Conference, we recommend that a more organic relationship be established. This relationship will provide the Annual Conference with a more comprehensive communication ministry. The *Advocate* will have a stronger position in the conference and have better access to its resources.

Our recommendation is:

1. That three members of the Board of Trustees of the *Advocate* become ex-officio members of the Commission on Communication (chairperson, editor, and a trustee appointed by the chairperson).
2. That three members of the Commission on Communication become ex-officio members of the *Advocate* Board of Trust (chairperson, DCM, and a member appointed by the chairperson).
3. That the editor become a member of the communications staff of Connectional Ministries. The editor will relate to the DCM but will remain amenable to the Board of Trustees. The DCM will be a part of the interviewing and hiring process for the editor but without vote.
4. That a Transition Team be established to help develop and define the new relationship between the *Advocate* and the Office of Connectional Ministries: said

Transition Team to consist of the Rev. Paul Cheezem, the Rev. Paul Harmon, three members of the Advocate Board of Trustees (to be named by the Trustees), three members of the Conference Commission on Communications (to be named by the Commission), and an editor of an independent newspaper (to be named by the Transition Team). The editor of the *Advocate* and the Director of Connectional Ministries will be Ex-officio members of the Transition Team. Rev. Paul Cheezem will chair the Transition Team.