

**SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972 Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South
Carolina Conference (1866)**

Sunday, June 1, 2014 – Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Florence Civic Center Florence, South Carolina

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding CONFERENCE THEME:

“A More Excellent Way: Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope and Love”

The First Day – Sunday Evening June 1, 2014

Registration: Registration began at 1:30 p.m. at the Florence Civic Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, registration booklet including additional reports and other information, information regarding the Florence area.

Clergy Session: The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Jonathan Holston at 5:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Holston opened the meeting with a word of prayer. The Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reviewed the work of the Board since the last session of Annual Conference.

The Reverend Ken Nelson stated that there were no names to be brought forth from the Administrative Review Committee for the previous year and that was celebrated.

The Reverend Mel Arant presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Clergy members were presented with a full written report for the questions.

Business Questions 37, 38, 40, 41, 46e, 47 and 49 were presented as information and moved to record, as no vote was required. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 29, 34, 36, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57-59 (statistical data questions calculated after clergy session), was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by Reverend Arant as Motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was approved by more than two-thirds vote of the Clergy Session.

The Clergy Session acted to approve each of the following Business Questions separately: 18b, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 42, 45, 46, 48, 50 and 76. Questions 32, 33, and 50 were approved by more than a two-thirds majority. Question 76 was approved by more than a three-fourths majority.

Following the reading of the names of clergy who had died during the past year, as listed under Question 48, Bishop Holston offered prayer in remembrance and appreciation of their service to Annual Conference.

Bishop Holston asked the clergy to honor the Reverend Karen Radcliffe for her work as Director of Clergy Services. The Reverend Radcliffe is being appointed to serve in a local church.

There being no further business, Bishop Holston offered the closing prayer, and reminded the members of the evening worship session, thanked them for their presence and participation, and declared the Clergy Session adjourned.

The materials distributed during the Clergy Session are attached for reference.

Lay Orientation: An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5:00 PM in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with a welcome by Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader.

All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures, and parliamentary process of the 2014 Annual Conference. Announcements were made concerning the ordination service, the Laity Luncheon, the conference worship services, additional hand-outs, and the Laity Convocation schedule for later in the summer. Opening and closing hymns were sung.

The **Opening Service of Worship** began at 7:30 PM in the Civic Center with Bishop Jonathan Holston presiding. The Bishop's sermon entitled "Exposed to a Higher Standard" was based on John 14:15-21.

Gathering music was provided by the Children and Youth Choirs of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Kingstree.

The Second Day - Monday Morning June 2, 2014

At 7:30 AM, the Conference began in the Civic Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. The Reverend Ross Chellis, pastor of Hampton/Varnville, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:36 AM, Bishop Jonathan Holston called the Conference into order and invited those in attendance to open with the historic opening him, "And Are We Yet Alive."

The Florence District Superintendent, Reverend John Hipp, welcomed conference attendees to the city of Florence and the Florence District. Mr. Dennis Sullen, the Florence Lay Leader, also extended the welcome to attendees.

The Reverend Barbara L. Reid, speaking on behalf of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, welcomed Bishop Holston and his wife, Mrs. Felicia B. Holston, to the South Carolina Annual Conference. She pointed to Bishop Holston's "God-sized vision" for children in poverty, campus ministry and the goal of collecting a million books. Conference attendees recognized Bishop and Mrs. Felicia B. Holston as they celebrated their anniversary.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe, Secretary of the Conference, offered a series of organizational motions.

The first motion was to elect the tellers nominated by their district superintendents for the 2014 Annual Conference session as nominated without reading and to publish their names in the 2014 Conference Journal.

The other organizational motions were as follows: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated as the official roll and record of attendance for the 2014 Annual Conference Session, and that the Conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials, along with such scheduling adjustments and additions which the President and the Secretary have since made, be adopted as the Agenda for the 2014 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session.

An additional motion set the bar of the Conference. These organizational amendments were approved.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe presented as information that the daily updates for the conference will be posted by 10 pm each night. In addition, the Daily Advocate is being published each day to provide a look at what is happening each day at the conference. In addition, she reported that a one-page summary of the business of the conference will be available at the close of conference. This will allow delegates to report the information back to their churches.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe provided additional information on the Civic Center and exiting the parking lot during lunch breaks. She presented additional information on voting during conference sessions.

Mr. Willie Robinson, chair of the **Committee on the Standing Rules**, presented two changes to the standing rules of the Conference:

The first amendment to **Standing Rule 47** will lead to the identification of denominational or religious affiliation for individuals who are nominated to Boards of Trustees and who are not members of the South Carolina Annual Conference. This amendment was approved.

The second amendment to **Standing Rule 49** changed the membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry from 57 to 65 members. This amendment was approved.

The next change would delete **Standing Rule 65.B**. This rule provided for the publication, each 10 years, of a book of ministers of the South Carolina Annual Conference. This deletion was approved.

Amendments to **Standing Rule 68** would allow the Conference Lay Leader to send a designee to the Conference Committee on Nominations to ensure the Lay Leader is always represented. In addition, this change would call for clearly indicating the denominational or religious affiliation for individuals who are nominated for positions of

leadership in the conference. An amendment to **Standing Rule 72** provided for a similar change to allow the Conference Lay Leader to designate an individual to attend the Committee on Standing Rules. These amendments were approved.

At 9:10 AM, **Dr. Robin Dease** led the conference in a Bible study. By looking at the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew's Gospel, her study explored what God is saying to the church at this time about faith.

Following a break, attendees heard a presentation from the **Children in Poverty-Pan Methodist Task Force** which included a video presentation. Mrs. Martha Thompson recognized members of the committee and asked attendees, "How are the children?" She challenged churches to make children in poverty a priority on the church agenda and to be in prayer for children everyday. Mrs. Thompson highlighted many of the efforts including the Million Book Effort. The report was approved by the Conference.

The attendees heard a report from Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of **Church and Society**. She thanked the Conference for many efforts including the Million Book Effort, efforts related to immigration and other advocacy issues. In addition, she raised several issues relating to the need for advocacy and she thanked the Conference for the impact it has made in her life and ministry.

The Reverend Ken Nelson presented the report for the **Board of Ordained Ministry**. He described 2013 as an active and productive year for the Board of Ordained Ministry including the interviewing of 45 candidates seeking commissioning or ordination.

The Reverend Nelson presented those who will be commissioned and ordained during the Ordination Worship services. Those presented as **Provisional Deacons**: Eric Hendrickson, Andrew Thomas Jones, Elizabeth Adams Murray
Those presented as **Provisional Elders**: Doris Regina Bright, Jacqueline Carter-Harris, William Wallace Culp III, Lillie Kerns Davis, Zachary Harmon Dillard, Angela Marie Etheredge-Manly, Kimberly Norbeck Evans, Sharon Spann Gamble, Michael Eugene Goldston, Erik Kenneth Grayson, Kayla Brooke Harward, John David Howle, Charles Brian Humphries, Sheila B. Koger, Mark Douglas Mitchell, James Lawson Morgan, Allen Nesmith, Meghan Lindsey Sweeney, Charlie Thomas, Carly Kirsten Wicklund
Presented as an **Ordained Deacons**: Katherine Amanda Brock
Presented as Ordained Elders: Hope Renee Avins, Joshua Lee Blackwelder, Benjamin Olsen Burt, Walter Joseph Cantwell, Daniel Walker Chamblee, Michael Terrence Fleming, Mallory Jean Forte, Andrew Charles Martin, David Jeffery Roper, Redonia McKnight Thomas, Suzanne Byrum Walker, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Charles Bryson Williams Jr. and Thurmond Williams.

During the presentation, the following were licensed as **Local Pastors**: Marilyn Le'Cene Boyer, Kenneth Ray Carter, Beverly Cheryl CroweTipton, Meredith Marie Dark, William Anthony DuBose, Eleanora Coaxum Ellington, Jeffery Warren Farmer, Julie Kay Gibson, Daniel Troy Hembree, John Quincey Hooks II, Brandon Craig Lazarus, Miriam Wilson Mick, Maurice McNab, Roy Wayne Mobley, Joseph Sohhwan Park, Travis Aaron

Pearson, Nancy Creswell Reed, Donald Ray Studebaker, Heyward Daniel Sullivan Jr., Richard Dale Toy, James Allen Vaught, Paige Danielle Wheeler, Sandra Eslinger Whetsell, John Talbert Windham, and Daniel Cameron Wood Jr.

Following the licensing of Local Pastors, Rev. Nelson honored the Reverend Karen Radcliffe who has served as Director of Clergy Services for the previous two years. Rev. Radcliffe will be appointed to a local church during this annual conference. In addition, Bishop Holston honored Rev. Nelson for his work as chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry. As a result of appointments set at this conference, Rev. Nelson will be serving in a new capacity and the Reverend Wayne Horne will be serving as the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Reverend Darrell Ricketts presented the report for **the Committee on Nominations** (page 87 of the pre-conference packet). He called for nominations from the floor – there were none. He also presented for information nominations from other boards and agencies. The report will be ratified on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Following the report, Bishop Holston announced that due to the Reverend Karen Radcliffe being appointed to a local church, she has asked to no longer continue to serve as Secretary of Annual Conference so that she can concentrate on serving in the local church. The Reverend Dickie Knight submitted the Reverend Ken Nelson's name for consideration to serve as Secretary. By vote of the Conference, Rev. Ken Nelson was approved to serve in this role.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe presented information on the consent calendar.

The Reverend David Surrett and Conference Treasurer Anthony Prestipino presented the report for the **Committee on Finance and Administration**. The Rev. Surrett reported that Bishop Holston set a goal of 95 percent giving for apportionments in 2014.

Report 1 included a 2 percent raise for District Superintendents in 2015. In Report 2, Part B, CF&A presented a change in the calculation of net giving that is used to determine apportionments. It would change the calculation of average net giving from four years to two years. Report 4 detailed the bankruptcy of the United Methodist Relief Center. Report 6 details the Conference Administration Fund and the Conference Benevolences Fund and both represent a decrease over the previous year. Report 7 presents a 0.6 percent increase in the budget from the previous year to include new church starts. The total recommendation for 2015 is \$16,708,470.

The Rev. Surrett presented information on the Direct Billing Forgiveness Plan. The objectives of this effort are to provide relief, hope and accountability to assist congregations with debt relief. This will be available as a pilot plan in the fall and is anticipated to be available to all churches in February 2015.

The report was presented as information and will be up for approval on Wednesday.

The Reverend Marvin Caldwell then presented the report for the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**. Three resolutions were presented prior to the conference: (1) A Resolution Designating Central United Methodist Church in Spartanburg as a United Methodist Historic Site, (2) A Resolution to Support Our Neighbors: The Need for Services to Individuals with Mental Illness in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, and (3) a Resolution on Gun Violence.

Ms. Kay Crowe, the **Conference Chancellor**, made a report and encouraged churches to consider the benefits of legal incorporation. In addition, she challenged churches to review their insurance coverage and to ensure that they include: employment practices and sexual misconduct coverages.

Ms. Beth Dinndorf, president of **Columbia College**, greeted the Conference and thanked attendees for support of the United Methodist colleges in South Carolina.

Bishop Holson invited Mrs. Felicia Holston and Mrs. Betty Rivers to the podium and they were greeted by the Conference attendees. Bishop and Mrs. Holston were recognized for their 30th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrate today.

The attendees watched a video on a young girl named Olive, from Wesley UMC in Hartsville, SC where the Reverend Fran Elrod serves as pastor. Olive is leading the way to stop malaria!

Prior to adjourning for lunch, Bishop Holston reported that \$9,946 was collected in offering for campus ministry.

The Second Day, Monday Afternoon June 2, 2014

Bishop Holston called the afternoon session to order.

Lester Ruth, research professor of Christian worship at Duke University, presented the report of the **United Methodist Theological Schools**. He thanked the conference for its support of United Methodist theological schools and seminaries. His report included a video presentation on Duke Divinity School.

The Reverend Steve Simoneaux offered a report on **Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry** in the South Carolina Annual Conference. He stated that more than 1,000 students are involved each week in Wesley Foundation campus ministries in South Carolina. In addition, those students are involved in ministry and mission opportunities. The Rev. Simoneaux pointed to how those students are engaged and will be engaged in the church and in leadership roles. The report included a video presentation of some of the faces of students involved in campus ministry. The Rev. Simoneaux shared stories of the impact of campus ministries and reminded those in attendance that “campus ministry matters.”

In addition, the attendees watched a video on SIM (Students in Ministry), an outreach and missions effort of the Wesley Foundations in South Carolina.

The Reverend Ken Nelson introduced Mr. Charlie Coleman III to offer the report for the **Black College Fund**. Mr. Coleman related his experiences at Dillard University and his work as a Lyndon H. McCord Ambassador. He now attends Loyola University School of Law with a concentration in entertainment law. He thanked those in attendance for their support of the Black College Fund.

Following a video presentation on “Rev it Up,” Mr. Arthur Spriggs presented the report of **Camps and Retreat Ministries**. He led the attendees in song and presented a video on camps and retreats. He also presented the winning team from the Greenwood District: James Friday, Ronald Friday, Howard Lofton and Eric Wilson as the 2014 Golf Tournament winners! Les Prichard presented a report on Sewee. Currently the property is being used by Clemson University and Prichard reported that the committee has voted to sell the property.

Following that report, the session went on a break.