

SECTION IV

The Journal of Proceedings

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

Sunday, June 3 – Thursday, June 7, 2007
Florence Civic Center
Florence, South Carolina

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Presiding

“Following Jesus In This Way of Life....To Serve the Present Age”

The First Day – Sunday Afternoon

June 3, 2007

Lay Orientation. An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5:00 p.m. in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with an overview and welcome by Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader. A devotional was then offered by Mrs. Brenda Hook of the Conference Board of the Laity, after which the Conference sang, “*The Church’s One Foundation*”.

Ms. Mille Carter, Congregational Specialist, offered an explanation to the gathered group concerning the Great Day of Service, which was to be held on Tuesday afternoon of the Conference Session.

Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough, Associate Conference Lay Leader, guided the Lay Members in preparing for the Session of the Conference by reviewing the printed materials distributed in the pre-conference and registration packets. Her review included the fact that the conduct of the Conference is guided by *The Book of Discipline*, the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference, the Rules of Order of the preceding General Conference, and the current edition of *Roberts Rules for Order*, in that order. She also reviewed the procedures for resolutions and the use of the Consent Calendar.

Dr. Heyward then provided an explanation of the 2007 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Election process including ballots, voting, and recommended nominees. Pictures of each of the lay nominees were shown.

Mrs. Scarborough highlighted the information included in the registration packets about the Five Day Academy for Spiritual Growth. Announcements were made concerning the ordination service, the Laity Luncheon, and the Laity Convocation. Dr. Heyward reviewed the document included in the registration packet entitled, “*The Things I Learned at Annual Conference*,” which is designed as an aid for lay members to record the important events and decisions of annual conference.

After Dr. Heyward provided an opportunity for questions, Mrs. Brenda Hook invited the gathering to close with the singing of the hymn, “*O Jesus I Have Promised*.”

Clergy Session. The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor at 5:00 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Taylor offered a prayer to begin the session.

The Reverend Patricia J. Parrish, Chairperson of the **Board of Ordained Ministry**, was recognized for remarks. She reviewed the work of the Board since the last session of Annual Conference.

The Reverend Dr. Granville A. Hicks, chairperson of **The Administrative Review Committee**, presented the report of the committee. The Reverend Melford Alonzo Wilson, Jr., and the Reverend Melford Alonzo Wilson, III, probationary members of the annual conference, were being recommended for termination by the Board of Ordained Ministry pursuant to paragraph 327.6 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*. Also, the Board of Ordained Ministry was recommending that the Reverend Harrison D. Ervin, who had been on Involuntary Leave of Absence, be terminated from conference membership based on paragraphs 354.2 and 362.2 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*. Finally, the Board of Ordained Ministry had voted to place the Reverend Ethel G. Jefferson on Involuntary Leave of Absence pursuant to paragraph 354.1b of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*. Dr. Hicks reported that the Administrative Review Committee had examined the documentary record of these proceedings, and found that the Board of Ordained Ministry, in each case, had provided proper documentation and had complied with the fair process requirements of the *Book of Discipline*.

The Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson, Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, then presented the full written, distributed report. **Business Questions 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 53** were presented for information and moved to record, as no vote was required. Bishop Taylor reminded the clergy session that on Board of Ordained Ministry matters, only Deacons and Elders in full connection are eligible to vote. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 38, 39, 40, 47, 48, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62, was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by the Reverend Nelson as in motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was perfected and approved by more than two-thirds vote of the clergy session.

The clergy session approved Business Questions 21, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, and 83 as presented in the written report, with the following correction which was also adopted: Under Question 54 a: the name of Grady Watson Mills II (Florence District) was removed from Voluntary Leave of Absence, and was added to Transitional Leave under Question 58.

Questions 33, 35, and 54 were approved by a two-thirds majority. Question 83 was approved by a three-fourths majority. Following the reading of clergy who had died during the past year, listed under question 52, Bishop Taylor offered a prayer in remembrance and appreciation of their service to the Annual Conference.

The following persons were approved (Business Question 21) as licensed **Local Pastors** for the first time: Wanda Diane Altman, Alexander Baker, Carleatha Major Benson, Daniel Seay Burbage, Kathy LaVerne Carr, William Thomas Dargan, Jerry Lewis Dicks, Marian Woodle Dyer, Thurmond O'Neil Flowers, Enrique Roberto Gordon, Walter Harley, Tarnishia Vanarda Jenkins, John David Jordan, Donna Elizabeth Lollis, Marie Brigman Long, Joshua Timothy McClendon, Deborah H. Miller, George Everett Olive, Darlene Moore Richardson, Davie Demetrius Sanders, Daniel Ray Smyth, Ronald Washington, and James Timothy Whited.

The following persons were elected (Business Question 28) as **Probationary Members**: Carol Dianna Allison, Audrey Boozer, Scott Meade Bratton, Laura Louise Canine, Ann Dease Everett, Daniel Flessas, James Alan Grubb, Robert Lee Malachi, Christine Marie Matthews, Stephen Aaron Meadows, Alfonso Porter, Cheryl Dyke Toothe, Jason Glen Wilson, and Neal Young Wood.

The following persons were elected (Business Question 33) as **Full Members of the Annual Conference**, and (Business Question 35) to be ordained as **Full Elders**: Judith Martin Alford, Leatha Williams Brown, Joseph David Cate, Joyce Marie McMahan Chiles, Henry Murray Davis, IV, Peggy Jean Garland, Megan Lynn Gray, William Bradford Gray, Robin Audrey Griffeth, Michael James Hood, Sandra Smith King, Jerry Lewis Lane, Barry Sinautry McFadden, Jo Anna McGehee, Grady Bernard Ponds, Julius Wayne Smith, Jr., Thomas Wesley Smith, Geneva Geraldine Stafford, and Edward Nunnery Taylor, Jr.

Motion 2, on the second page of the Clergy Session Memorandum, was approved, authorizing the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Coordinator of Clergy Services to make editorial changes to the business questions where necessary in preparing them for the Annual Conference Journal.

Bishop Taylor reminded the members of the evening worship session of ordination and commissioning and declared the clergy session adjourned.

The First Day – Sunday Evening

June 3, 2007

Celebration of Holy Communion, Ordination, Commissioning and Licensing. The service was held in the Civic Center Arena at 7:30pm. Prior to the start of the service, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor called the Annual Conference to order, and invited those present to begin the Conference by singing, "And Are We Yet Alive". During the service, Bishop Taylor presided, preached the ordination sermon titled, "My Calling To Fulfill," which was based on Matthew 10:1-10, and celebrated Holy Communion. An offering was taken for the Seminary Students Scholarship Fund.

Liturgists in the service were the Dr. Joseph Heyward, The Reverend Patricia J. Parrish, The Reverend Leonard C. Ripley, and The Reverend Jimmy J. Montgomery, along with Megan Lynn Gray, Elder Candidate, Neal Young Woods, Probationary Elder Candidate and Barry Sinautry McFadden, Elder Candidate. Musicians included the United Methodist Choir of the Pee Dee, directed and accompanied on the organ by William B. Mills, together with a Brass Choir composed of Kurt Slaughenhaupt, Kelly Jokisch, Lyn Alberty, Daniel Cassilo, Terry Roberts, and Ernest Stackhouse and percussionists Joseph Henderson and William Kretch. The crucifer was Jonathan Edward Tompkins, the Episcopal Banner Bearer was Amanda Carrie Taylor Young and the acolyte was Jillianne Meyer Davis. Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Ordination sponsors, members of the Cabinet and the candidates participated in the procession and service.

The following were **licensed as local pastors** in the worship service Wanda Diane Altman, Alexander Baker, Carleathea Major Benson, Daniel Seay Burbage, Kathy LaVerne Carr, Weston Campbell Cheatham, William Thomas Dargan, Jerry Lewis Dicks, Marian Woodle Dyer, Thurmond O'Neil Flowers, Enrique Roberto Gordon, Walter Harley, Tarnishia Vanarda Jenkins, John David Jordan, Donna Elizabeth Lollis, Marie Brigman Long, Joshua Timothy McClendon, Deborah H. Miller, Bonnie Farais Miller, George Everett Olive, Darlene Moore Richardson, Davie Demetrius Sanders, Daniel Ray Smyth, Ronald Washington and James Timothy Whited.

The following persons were **commissioned as probationary members** Carol Dianne Allison, Audrey Boozer, Scott Meade Bratton, Laura Louise Canine, Ann Dease Everett, Daniel Fleassas, James Alan Grubb, Robert Lee Malachi, Christiane Marie Matthews, Stephen Aaron Meadows, Alfonso Porter, Cheryl Dyke Toothe, Jason Glenn Wilson and Neal Young Woods. The following persons were **ordained as Elders** Judith Martin Alford, Leatha Williams Brown, Joseph David Cate, Joyce Marie McMahan Chiles, Henry Murray Davis, IV, Peggy Jean Garland, Megan Lynn Gray, William Bradford Gray, Robin Audrey Griffeth, Michael James Hood, Sandra Smith King, Jerry Lewis Lane, Barry Sinautry McFadden, Jo Anna McGehee, Grady Bernard Ponds, Julius Wayne Smith, Jr., Thomas Wesley Smith, Geneva Geraldine Stafford and Edward Nunnery Taylor, Jr.

A reception in honor of those licensed, commissioned, and ordained was held following the service in the Exhibit Hall of the Florence Civic Center.

The Second Day – Monday Morning

June 4, 2007

Organizational Session. The Conference was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor at 8:35 a.m., who invited the Conference to begin by singing, "A Charge to Keep I Have". The Reverend Thomas C. Pietila, Senior Pastor of Central UMC in Florence, then brought greetings as the Host pastor, after which he introduced Mr. Frank Willis, Mayor of the City of Florence, who brought greetings on behalf of the city and welcomed Bishop Taylor and the members of the Annual Conference.

The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary of the Annual Conference, offered various **organizational motions** for the Conference. The first motion was that the Tellers nominated by their District Superintendents for the 2007 Annual Conference session be elected as nominated

without reading and their names be published in the 2007 Conference Journal. The following clergy were nominated and elected: The Reverends Faye Stephens, Greta Bridges, Jennifer Williams, Harold Gordon, Paul Cheezem, Billy Lynch, Daniel Burbage, William Harper, Wyatt Minton, III, Emily Allen, Michael Hayhurst, George Scott, Calvin Smith, Thomas Byrd, Larry Watson, David Bauknight, Anna Miller, Roberta Josey, John Bolin, Steve Jordan, Connie Barnes, Ray Smith, David Williamson, Debra Armstrong, Albert Murdaugh, Steven King, Sandra King, Tony Adams, Arthur Vick, John Williams, David Caughman, Kevin Dalton, William Farley, James Grant, Curtis Young and Sandra Hatchell The following laity were nominated and elected: Don Carr, Lee Murphy, Linda Ferguson, Kate Hyder, Doris Baskin, Jane Agan, Cassie Watson, Laura Benson, Yun Cha King, Francis Hipp, Leon Love, Tommy Glenn, Amelia Fulton, Dorothea Bailey, Cynthia Williams, Sue Hallums, Catherine Cuneo, Tonie Gary, Raymond Smith, Susan Pickney, Sue Towery, Sandi Edens, Freda Murphy-Belton, Sonya Gary-Heyward, Sabine Marcotte, Joyce Waters, Ann Fairey, Ruth Tate, Shirley Dibble, Tommy Burton, Mike Keziah, Alice Keziah, Lanette Nason, Joyce Shores, Marlene Spencer, Robert Mitchell, Bill Verdell, Larry Campsen, Ronnie Brewer, Tarah Dobison and Mary Brown

The other organizational motions were: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2007 Annual Conference Session; 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 2007 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session; that the seating areas on the floor of the Civic Center Arena, and the seating in sections 209, 210, 211, 212, 313, 314, 315, and 316, together with any wheelchairs present on the floor or in the handicap area immediately behind sections 313 to 316, the platform and area surrounding the platform, and the sound and recording booth, be designated the "bar of the conference" for all business sessions of the 2007 Annual Conference Session; and that for all business sessions of the 2007 Annual Conference Session the "bar of the conference" be divided by the center aisle which runs the length of the main floor and extends into the tiered seating of the Civic Center Arena and that the clergy members of the Annual Conference sit in the half section at the right of the Presiding Officer and that the lay members of the Annual Conference sit in the half section at the left of the Presiding Officer, provided that clergy and lay members seated on the platform or waiting to be part of presentations on the platform, seated at the sound and recording booth, and the Tellers shall be exempt from this requirement as shall visitors and guests who may sit where they wish, and provided further that this division of the body shall no longer be in effect after all voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates has been completed. All of these organizational motions were seconded and approved.

The Report of the **Committee on Standing Rules** was next presented by Mr. Leon Love, chairperson of the committee. The changes proposed by the committee affected Rule 48f, Rule 52a, Rule 73, and Rule 94c, as presented on pages 74-75 of the Registration Materials. Mr. Love reviewed all of the proposed changes in order. The Reverend Michael B. Henderson made a motion to amend the report of the Committee by deleting all of the proposed addition to Rule 48f. The proposed amendment was seconded, but was defeated by the body.

The Reverend Delos Corderman requested a **ruling of law** concerning Standing Rule 30.d which provides election of the Conference Secretary. The Bishop took the request under advisement. (The Bishop rendered her decision following the close of Annual Conference. The decision is printed in its entirety as an addendum at the end of this Journal of Proceedings.)

The Reverend Willie S. Teague offered a motion on behalf of the Committee on Nominations to amend Standing Rule 34 by deleting the phrase "shall not exceed eight (8) consecutive years." and replacing it with, "shall be for a quadrennium and shall not exceed two quadrennia. Vacancies shall be elected to complete the quadrennium." The motion to amend was approved.

The Reverend Stephen Taylor made a motion to amend Standing Rule 36 by adding the Board of Trustees of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry to the boards listed in the Rule. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Reverend Carol Cannon offered a motion to divide the question to allow each Standing Rule to be voted on individually. The motion was seconded, but was defeated by the

house. The Reverend Bundy Bynum requested a written or counted ballot. The Bishop interpreted the request as an appeal from the ruling on the vote. The house sustained the ruling of the Bishop.

The Reverend Wiley Cooper proposed an amendment to the report of the Committee relating to Rule 73 by substituting the phrase “two superintendents” for the phrase “the superintendents”, in order to designate the number of superintendents who may be named to the Committee on Nominations by the Bishop. The Cooper amendment was seconded and approved.

All the proposed changes to the Standing Rules, including amendments offered from the floor and approved, were adopted. Upon the motion of the Chair, Mr. Love, the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference, as amended, were adopted as a whole. (The Standing Rules are printed, as amended, in their entirety in Section IX of the *Journal*.)

The Reverend Timothy Rogers then explained the process of the **Consent Calendar**, found on page 72 of the Pre-Conference materials, and the manner in which items might be removed from the Consent Calendar for individual action. The Consent Calendar and any items removed were scheduled for approval on Wednesday afternoon.

The Report of the **Committee on Nominations** was presented for review by the Reverend Carlton McClam, Chairperson. The main report was found in the Registration Materials beginning on page 78. A printed addendum to the report of the Committee was distributed by the tellers. Rev. McClam then read aloud the nominations from the Board of Health and Welfare for: the Board of Epworth Children’s Home, the Board of Wesley Commons, the Board of The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee, the Board of The Oaks, and the Board of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. (These nominations had been omitted from the main report of the committee, and from the printed addendum.) Rev. Richard Rogers-Berry asked to have his name removed from the Conference Committee on Congregational Development as the Charleston Representative, and from the Charleston District Committee on Congregational Development, having earlier resigned from these two bodies. The Reverend Albert Cox nominated The Reverend Delos Corderman in place of The Reverend Arthur Holt to the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Reverend Eugene Curry, Charleston District Superintendent, offered the name of The Reverend Timothy Bowman to serve on the Charleston District Committee on Congregational Development in place of the Reverend Richard-Rogers Berry. The Reverend Willie S. Teague offered a motion to suspend Rule 34, in order to allow for the re-election of The Reverend Mel Arant to the Conference Committee on Nominations for one additional year, due to his critical role in the building of a database for the Committee. The rule was suspended. The entire report of the Committee on Nominations, together with amendments, was presented for information. It was scheduled to be acted upon by the Conference on Wednesday morning.

The Report of the **Conference Council on Finance and Administration** was then presented by The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson, Chairperson of the Council, highlighting specific items of interest within the report. In addition, certain editorial changes were made to the report by The Reverend Johnson, including corrected dates for the Workday Offering for Epworth Children’s Home and the Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday, as well as corrections to Report No. Three. The Conference then watched a video presentation that explained the apportionment system. The Report of the Council was presented to the Conference for information and reflection, to be acted upon on the final day of the Conference session.

The Report of the **Board of Laity** was presented by Dr. Joseph Heyward, Conference Lay Leader. He introduced two new District Lay Leaders-Elect: Ms. Donna Easterling of the Columbia District, and Ms. Cynthia Williams of the Florence District. He remembered the death of the former Columbia District Lay Leader, Mr. John Gass, and the death of Mr. Mike McCain, who had recently undertaken the leadership of the Stewardship Task Group of the Board of Laity. After further comments about his work as Conference Lay Leader, the work of the Board, and the role of the laity throughout the church, Dr. Heyward moved to record the written report of the Board of Laity and it was accepted.

The Bishop called for the **first ballot for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates**. The Conference Secretary provided instructions for voting. The tellers distributed

voting materials. At the close of the ballot, the Bishop called a recess until 10:55 a.m. at which time the Bible Study was led by Dr. Carl Evans, Chair of the Department of Religion of the University of South Carolina. Holy Communion was celebrated by The Reverend Thomas C. Pietila, the Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Florence. The session was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The Second Day – Monday Afternoon

June 4, 2007

At 2:00 p.m. the Annual Conference Memorial Service was held. The preacher for the service was the Reverend Eugene L. Curry. His sermon was titled, "Worth the Feast", and was based on Luke 15: 22-24. The opening hymn was "*For All the Saints*" and the closing selection was "*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought.*" Special music was provided by the Clergy Choir, led by Toni Hollingsworth, Director. The following deceased ministers, spouses, and others were remembered during the Memorial Service: Active Ministers remembered were David Forrester Best, James Russell "Jimmy" Smoak and James William McGill, Sr. Retired Ministers remembered were John Risher Brabham, William "Bill" Dixon Davis, Robert Newsome DuBose, Anderson McDowell "Andy" Gray, Levi Green, Harold Roland Johnson, Richard Hilton Johnson, Samuel Haywood Poston, Jerry Max Price, Edwin William "Bill" Rogers, Thomas Henry Ross, Zoel Garland Taylor, Jr., Benjamin Franklin Webb. Retired Diaconal Minister: Hazel Myers Melia. Spouses remembered were Lillie Mae "Bill" Adams, Patricia A. Davis and Patricia Williams Shaw. Surviving Spouses remembered were Frances C. Broome, Lucinda Conyers, Marie King DuBose, Anna Ruth Gregory, Alma Williams Jenkins, Eunice Baker Kemmerlin, Annie Sue Hopkins Kirkley, Mary Nita Lee, Daisy Evangeline Sewell Mims, Opal Katherine Griffin Pendleton and Billie Adair Robinson. At the close of the service, the session was in recess for 30 minutes.

At 3:30 p.m. the session was called back to order by Bishop Taylor with the reading of the results of **Clergy Ballot Number One**. There was no election on the clergy ballot. **Laity Ballot Number One** was also read. **There were two elections on the lay ballot: Dr. Carolyn Briscoe (first) and Dr. Joseph E. Heyward (second).** After the results of the lay ballot were read, The Reverend Jimelvia Pettiford Martin offered a motion that on all future ballots, only the names of those receiving ten or more votes be read. The motion was seconded and approved. Ballot Number Two for both clergy and laity were then received.

The Reverend Catherine Jamieson-Ogg, Chairperson of **The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**, presented the report of the Board, and introduced the presentation of the presidents of the United Methodist institutions of higher education in South Carolina. The Conference was addressed by Dr. Charles Teague, President of Spartanburg Methodist College. Dr. Teague then introduced Dr. Henry Tisdale, President of Claflin University; Dr. Caroline Whitson, President of Columbia College; and The Reverend Dr. Ron Robinson, Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Wofford College and Mr. David Beachum, the Vice-President of Administration Services and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, both of whom were present to represent Wofford College. (Dr. Bernie Dunlap, President of Wofford College, was in Chapel Hill, N.C. awaiting the birth of a grandchild.) Dr. Teague highlighted honors and recognitions of the four South Carolina United Methodist colleges and pointed out the distinctiveness of each institution.

Then the Reverend Patricia J. Parrish, Chair, **Board of the Ordained Ministry**, began the report of the Board by recognizing and thanking the members of the Board. She then directed the attention of the Conference to the report of the Board, and asked for any questions related to that report. She then turned to the Reverend Hazel Bennett, who presented certificates to those who had earned certification in specialized ministries. Certificates were presented to: Jillianne Davis, Diana Flake, and Miriam Lou Jordan. Reverend Bennett also presented certificates from the eChristian Ed program to Diana Flake and Miriam Lou Jordan. Jillianne Davis was presented a certificate for full professional certification in Christian Education and in Youth Ministry. The Reverend Kathy James, Chair of the Order of Deacons, was next recognized to highlight the tenth anniversary of the Order of Deacons. All Deacons, both active and retired, were invited to the front of the Conference to receive towels as symbols of appreciation for their work and ministry. Bishop Taylor offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the

work of the Deacons in the South Carolina Annual Conference. The Reverend Parrish then moved for adoption of the Board of Ordained Ministry report as a whole. The report was approved.

Ms. Betty Walker, Chair of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**, directed the attention of the Conference to the resolutions which were to be considered by the Committee, as printed on pages 66 - 69 of the Pre-Conference materials. She also announced the meeting of the Committee later that afternoon, when those Resolutions that had been submitted would be considered. Finally, she announced the deadline for presentation of any other resolutions. These were presented for information only.

The Reverend Wesley Brown, Associate Dean of **Duke University Divinity School**, spoke to the Annual Conference session on behalf of the Divinity School and all of the **United Methodist Theological Schools**. He particularly spoke on behalf of the Ministerial Education Fund and asked for the continued support of the Conference.

The Reverend Charles Johnson offered a motion that the session reconvene following the evening worship service for the reception and taking of Ballot Number Three. This motion was seconded and approved. The Conference Secretary made announcements prior to adjournment at 5:00 p.m.

The Second Day – Monday Evening

June 4, 2007

The Evening Worship Service was held at 7:00 p.m. in Civic Center Arena. The service theme was entitled "Celebrating the Tercentenary Anniversary of Charles Wesley's Birth." The preacher for the evening was The Reverend Kenneth B. Timmerman, Senior Pastor of First Church, Myrtle Beach. His sermon was entitled, "When We Believe," and was based upon John 11:17-27. The liturgists for the evening were The Reverend Scarlett Tanner Hester, The Reverend Ken Nelson, The Reverend Jean Osborne and Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. Music was offered by the Horry County United Methodist Consortium Choir directed by Dr. Tim Koch, performing pieces collected and edited by Dr. Andrew Fowler. A Handbell Choir directed by Jayne Smith and the Long Bay Symphony Orchestra also contributed to the worship service. An offering was received for the "Nothing But Nets" emphasis to combat malaria worldwide.

Bishop Taylor reported both **Clergy Ballot Number Two** and **Laity Ballot Number Two** following the worship service. The Laity elected **Kathryn W. Scarborough (third), Elizabeth J. Patterson (fourth), and June Willson (fifth)** as delegates to General Conference. The Clergy elected **The Reverend Dr. W. Timothy McClendon** as their **first** delegate to General Conference. Prayer was offered and Ballot Number Three of the 2007 SC Annual Conference session was received. Conference adjourned for the day.

The Third Day – Tuesday Morning

June 5, 2007

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor called the session to order at 8:35 a.m. **Dr. Jan Love, the new Dean of Candler Seminary at Emory University** was recognized by Bishop Taylor. Dr. Love, a former professor at The University of South Carolina and Executive Director of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, spoke to the Annual Conference.

Ballot reports from **Clergy Ballot Number Three** and **Laity Ballot Number Three** were received and reported by Bishop Taylor. The Laity did not elect anyone as General Conference Delegate. **The Reverend Stephen P. Taylor** was elected as the **second** Clergy Delegate. Ballot Number Four was taken following prayer by Dr. Timothy McClendon, Head of the 2008 South Carolina Annual Conference Delegation. (Leadership of the delegation rotates between clergy and laity every four years.)

The report from the **Board of Camps and Retreats** was presented by John Redmond, Chair, who recognized Russell Davis, outgoing Director of Camps and Retreats, who has now moved to take a similar position with the North Georgia Conference. The report of the

Conference Board of Health and Welfare was presented by The Reverend Athon Arant, Chair. He then introduced representatives of the **Conference Related Homes** (The Methodist Oaks, The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee, Wesley Commons, Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry, and Epworth Children's Home). The representatives spoke to the Annual Conference concerning their ministry and its effect. A video presentation highlighting Epworth Children's Home was shown.

The Committee on Congregational Development presented four new church planters including The Reverends Mel Arant, Randy Madsen, George Ashford, and Lloyd White. A prayer was offered by the Committee Chair, The Reverend Dan Bradley, on behalf of the work of these newly organizing congregations. A video was then presented showing the work of Congregational Development which focused on the Natural Church Development program, and on the four new churches that the conference is starting under the leadership of the four pastors introduced earlier in the report. At the conclusion of the video, the Conference voted to receive the report of the Committee on Congregational Development.

The Reverend Joseph James then presented the report of the **Task Force to study the process for starting new churches** authorized by the 2006 Annual Conference. The report of the Task Force was presented in the form of a resolution titled, "A Resolution to Plan for New Church Starts". Questions were asked regarding initial funding and legal wording concerning a proposed incorporation for a New Church Property Board of Trustees pursuant to paragraph 2552 of the *2004 Book of Discipline*. After discussion, the resolution was approved by the Conference as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO PLAN FOR NEW CHURCH STARTS

WHEREAS, The Conference Committee on Congregational Development has initiated the establishment of four new congregations in 2006 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Conference Committee on Congregational Development has a process of discernment and assessment of new church pastors; and

WHEREAS, The population growth of the state of South Carolina is creating many opportunities to fulfill the mandate of the Gospel to make disciples; and

WHEREAS, Property costs continue to rise at an alarming rate creating a need to expedite property transactions for new church starts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church authorize the incorporation of a New Church Property Board of Trustees, and that the board be comprised of eight persons; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ¶2552 of the *2004 Book of Discipline*, the initial trustees of this Board shall be named by the Bishop; and be it further

RESOLVED, That future classes shall be nominated by the Conference Committee of Congregational Development, to be elected by the Annual Conference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Board will receive, purchase, hold and dispose of property for the sole purpose of starting new churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, That beginning in January of 2008, The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall utilize a different compensation support schedule for all new church starts. (New church starts initiated prior to January 2008 will utilize the Part 1 schedule (from the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation) for the duration of their support from Equitable Compensation.) Under this new schedule, the Commission will pay up to the minimum compensation base for the category of the person appointed, with the Committee on Congregational Development paying the remainder up to the compensation level adopted by the Cabinet and Congregational Development for that particular new church appointment. The direct bill payments for pensions and health benefits will be split equally between the Committee on Congregational Development and the Commission on Equitable Compensation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the compensation support schedule utilized by the

Commission on Equitable Compensation for new church starts beginning in January 2008 shall be as follows:

Year 1 and Year 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

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

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

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

The Commission on Equitable Compensation report was then presented by The Reverend Joseph James, Chair. Reverend James announced several editorial changes to the report as follows: In Report Number 2, A.1, the figure of \$500,000 was changed to \$540,000, and the figure of \$575,000 was changed to \$605,000; in Report Number 3, Part 1 was renamed, "Schedule for New Churches Initiated Prior to January 2008"; a new Part 2, titled, "2008 Schedule for New Church Starts" was inserted, consisting of the salary schedule included in the resolution passed immediately prior to the report of the Commission; and Part 2 was then renumbered as Part 3. The report, as amended, was approved. The Reverend James asked for a point of personal privilege thanking the churches and clergy of the Conference for their prayers, concern, and support during and after the illness and recent death of his brother.

Awards, presentations, and recognitions of the various boards, agencies and institutions were guided and announced by Mr. Tom Kinard, a radio personality in the Florence, and the son of a South Carolina clergyman. He reminded the Annual Conference of the United Methodist historical importance of Florence where Bishop Francis Asbury preached at the Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church. After introductory remarks, Mr. Kinard began the presentation of awards and recognitions. The Herbert Hucks Awards were presented to Mrs. Harriet Anderson Mays and to Mountain View United Methodist Church of Taylors. Centennial Churches were Jerusalem UMC, Harleyville Parish, Walterboro District; Marshall Memorial UMC, South Anderson Charge, Anderson District; Ware Shoals UMC, Ware Shoals-Harmony Charge, Greenwood District and William UMC, Adnah-Williams Charge, Ruffin, Walterboro District.

Leaders, together with the youth and young adults involved in Salkehatchie Summer Service, Mission Possible, and the Summer Investment Program were introduced and greeted by Bishop Taylor and the Conference.

Recipients of the Dr. Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Awards were Mr. K.C. Carter and The Reverend Tony Rowell. The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award was given to Tracy Pender. The Francis Asbury Award, recognizing excellence in and support of higher education ministries, was presented to Dr. Harris Parker. Graduates of the eChristian Education/Certification Training Program at Columbia College and sponsored by the Board of Education were honored. The individual graduates were Connie Borgianini, April Buddin, Dianna Flake, Tommy Jones, Lou Jordan, James Magann, Lisa Overbay, Donna Pinckney, Gay Smith, Rebekah Travis, Amy Utley, Ashley Walker and Jenny Wilburn. Scholarship recipients provided through the Board of Ordained Ministry including the Bessie B. Parker Memorial Scholarship (Linda McDaniels Guthrie and Amanda Taylor Young), the T. Dennie Smith Scholarship (Michelle Dellinger Cockcroft, Judith Anne Knox and Jimmy Washington) and the Seminary Students' Scholarship (Genova McFadden).

The Bishop's Awards of Excellence in Scouting was presented to Troop 750 of Stallville UMC, Summerville, Troop 507 of Lexington UMC, Lexington, Troop 56 of St. Mark UMC, Greenville, Pack 77 of Bethel Park UMC, Denmark, and Pack and Troop 190 both of Trinity UMC, Orangeburg. The G. Ross Freeman Award, given by the United Methodist Men was

presented to The Reverend Jeff Kersey. The Denman Evangelism Award is presented by the Foundation for Evangelism. The lay recipient was Mr. John Willis, member of Saint James UMC in Sumter. The clergy recipient was The Reverend John Cribb of the Unity/Sardis Charge.

The Bishop's Five Star Award of Excellence was presented to Aldersgate UMC in Greenwood, Leesville UMC in Leesville, Bethany UMC in Summerville, Bethel UMC in Winnsboro, Bethlehem UMC in Greenwood, Centenary UMC in Charleston, Chapin UMC in Chapin, Christ UMC in Bennettsville, Dunean UMC in Greenville, First UMC in Loris, Goose Creek UMC in Goose Creek, Grace UMC in Columbia, Grace UMC in Abbeville, Hodges UMC in Hodges, Landrum UMC in Landrum, Lexington UMC in Lexington, Little River UMC in Little River, Mauldin UMC in Mauldin, Mount Horeb UMC in Lexington, Pageland UMC in Pageland, Pleasant Grove UMC in Cheraw, Red Bank UMC in Lexington, Sardis UMC in Union, Saint Luke UMC in Hartsville, Saint Paul UMC in Ninety-Six, Trinity UMC in Andrews, Trinity UMC in Blythewood, Trinity UMC in York, Wesley UMC in Pinopolis, Woodland UMC in Rock Hill, Shandon UMC in Columbia, and Grace UMC in Charleston.

At the close of the awards presentations, the Conference was in recess for 15 minutes. When the session resumed, Dr. Carl Evans offered the Bible Study. Holy Communion was then celebrated by The Reverend Lethea Brown. Following Communion, Bishop Taylor commissioned those participating in the "**Great Day of Service**", utilizing the renewal of baptismal vows.

The Third Day – Tuesday Afternoon

June 5, 2007

THE GREAT DAY OF SERVICE TO FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Approximately 800 members of the annual conference spent the afternoon serving in various ministries throughout the Florence community and surrounding areas.

The Third Day – Tuesday Evening

June 5, 2007

The Tuesday Evening Worship Experience began at 7:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music was provided by the Praise Band from Christ UMC, Myrtle Beach. A sermon, entitled "*Larry*" was offered by The Reverend Tiffany Knowlin based on the scripture Mark 7:24-30. The Reverend Cam Treece served as liturgist for the service.

The results from **Clergy Ballot Number Four** and **Laity Ballot Number Four** were reported by Bishop Taylor. The Laity elected **Rubielee L. Addison (sixth)** as a General Conference Delegate. The Clergy elected **The Reverend Katherine L. James (third)** was elected to General Conference. Ballot Number Five was taken following prayer by Dr. Carolyn Briscoe, the first Lay Delegate elected to General Conference.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Morning

June 6, 2007

Bishop Taylor called the session to order at 8:30 a.m., inviting the Conference to begin the morning by singing the first verse of "Amazing Grace". The results of **Clergy Ballot Number Five** and **Lay Ballot Number Five** were reported by the Bishop. Elected to General Conference by the laity were **Kelsey C. Taylor (seventh)** and **John A. Redmond (eighth)**. There was no election by the clergy. Ballot number six was then taken following a prayer by Dr. Joseph Heyward. A motion was offered by The Reverend LaRue Cook to read only the names

of candidates to General Conference who received at least 20 votes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Conference. The Conference Secretary then made several announcements.

Dr. James Salley presented a report and a video describing the work undertaken by the Conference to provide clean water at **Old Mutare Mission**, and describing the continuing work at **Africa University**. Following his report, **The Reverend Quay Adams, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the Report of the Cabinet**. The Reverend Adams encouraged all persons to build the kingdom and to be faithful disciples. He indicated that the report reflected conversation among district superintendents and many other individuals as well. He called the Annual Conference to “take seriously the entire Gospel mandate as we seek unique opportunities that transcend institutional chaplaincy or maintenance ministry.” The Reverend Adams stated that the Cabinet was “concerned about pastoral personnel in the South Carolina Conference regarding quantity and leadership”, especially with Erskine Theological Seminary no longer being approved by the University Senate.

The Reverend Adams reported that there is no “conspiracy to discontinue small churches” and that the Cabinet was concerned about churches of all sizes across our conference. The Natural Church Development movement was highlighted and emphasized as an effective ministry tool. The Cabinet affirms the action to develop new church starts and the redevelopment of existing congregations.

Open itinerancy must continue to be modeled in the appointment process, and attention must continue to be given to ministry to the Hispanic / Latino community. Additionally, Reverend Adams reminded the members of the Conference that travel reimbursement and housing are not considered compensation in the appointment process when ministers are being moved. The Report of the Cabinet was received as presented with the correction that Erskine Theological Seminary did lose its accreditation but its approval by the University Senate.

The Report of the Committee on Nominations was brought before the Annual Conference session for action. The Reverend Carlton McClam, Chair, reminded the Annual Conference that nominations for the Board of Pension and Health Benefits had been read to the session on Monday. The name of The Reverend Delos Corderman had also been nominated from the floor for membership on the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to replace The Reverend Arthur Holt whose name had been presented by the Committee on Nominations. A vote was taken and the name of Delos Corderman was substituted for that of Arthur Holt. The Chair then offered the entire report, as amended, for approval, and it was adopted. The final report of the Committee on Nominations, including any amendments to the report made on the floor, is reflected in Section II of the Conference *Journal*. The Reverend McClam reminded the Conference that editorial change sheets were available in the registration/information area of the Civic Center concourse.

The report of **Connectional Ministries** was presented by the Chair, Mrs. Earline Ulmer, who then introduced Congregational Specialist Mrs. June Willson, who presented speakers from the Division of Youth Ministries, the Young Adult Network and the Youth Worker Movement. The report of the Division on Ministries with Young People was moved to record and duly received by the Conference.

Mrs. Ulmer then introduced the new vision, purpose and process of the South Carolina Conference Council on Connectional Ministries as follows:

Vision: A Church of diverse congregations called, united and sent by Jesus Christ.

Purpose: “to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God.” *The Book of Discipline 2004* Page 351, Para. 601.

Process:

1. commit to focus exclusively on realizing our vision and fulfilling the purpose of the conference

2. identify the needs of congregations, districts and the conference in realizing our vision and purpose.
3. mobilize all resources of the conference to equip congregations to make disciples
4. develop a structure that is based on the needs of congregations and the conference; the structure must be fluid enough to meet the changing needs of congregations and the conference.
5. provide a conference staff that will focus on equipping and connecting congregations for ministry

Mrs. Ulmer highlighted Natural Church Development. The Reverend Willie S. Teague, Director of Connectional Ministries, then made a report correction: Epworth Work Day should be September 9, 2007 and September 14, 2008. Those dates are found in the reports of both the Council on Finance and Administration and the Council on Connectional Ministries. The Reverend Teague described the rearrangement of the Connectional Ministries staff, as the six Congregational Specialists have each been assigned to two districts within the Conference. He also described the development of the new vision statement. A video presentation highlighting the work of the Congregational Specialists was next presented. Mrs. Ulmer then moved adoption of the Connectional Ministries report and it was approved.

The Reverend Quay Adams, Dean of the Cabinet, brought before the Annual Conference **“A Resolution to Make Ministry With The Hispanic/Latino Population A Priority And To Create A Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries”**. It was approved, without debate, as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO MAKE MINISTRY WITH
THE HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION A PRIORITY
AND TO CREATE A COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES**

Whereas, The Hispanic/Latino population is estimated to be between 300,000-500,000 in South Carolina and continues to grow dramatically; and

Whereas, The South Carolina Annual Conference is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ regardless of age, nationality, or race; and

Whereas, Up until recently Hispanic/Latino ministries has been administered by a Task Force limited in scope and function and not suited to the call of the growing ministry need to the Hispanic/Latino population; and

Whereas, The strategy of our Annual Conference needs to be more clearly defined, accountable and responsive to the growing needs of Hispanic/Latino population; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference will make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to establish this priority a standing committee shall be created within the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the committee will be responsible for designing and implementing a strategy for the South Carolina Annual Conference and shall report back to the Annual Conference in 2008 with a comprehensive strategy; and be it further

Resolved, That the committee will be composed of twelve members elected by the Annual Conference; that at least three members shall be current members of the existing Hispanic/Latino Task Force; that there will be five ex-officio members, one each from the Board of Ordained Ministry, Congregational Development, and Equitable Compensation and two from the Cabinet, and that this committee shall replace the current Hispanic/Latino Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to establish the Committee immediately, the Bishop shall name the members of the committee for the remainder of this quadrennium.

Reverend Adams then presented, “**A Resolution Authorizing The Creation Of A Committee To Determine The Use of Funds From The Bequest Of The Estate Of William Norman Bobo, Jr.**”. It was approved, without debate, as follows:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE
TO DETERMINE THE USE OF FUNDS
FROM THE BEQUEST OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM NORMAN BOBO, JR.**

Whereas, William Norman Bobo, Jr., of Greenwood, South Carolina, a loyal and faithful member of The United Methodist Church, died January 18, 2005; and

Whereas, In his Last Will and Testament, Mr. Bobo made a number of generous bequests to entities affiliated with and connected to The United Methodist Church, including an unrestricted gift to the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (the “Conference”); and

Whereas, Mr. Bobo’s life serves as a splendid example for his fellow United Methodists of stewardship through his lifetime support of The United Methodist Church with his time, talents, gifts, and service; and

Whereas, The Annual Conference desires to use the funds in honor and in memory of Mr. Bobo and to respond to his request that they provide support for current and future ministries of the Conference; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Conference hereby authorizes the creation of a committee to develop recommendations to be presented to the 2008 Annual Conference for the future use of the funds, and that the committee shall be comprised of: the Presiding Bishop, or her designee (who shall serve as the Chair); President of the Cabinet, or his/her designee; Chairperson of the Conference Board of Trustees, or his/her designee; Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration, or his/her designee; Chairperson of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries, or his/her designee; Director of Connectional Ministries, or his/her designee; and a representative of the family of Mr. Bobo, to be selected by the Presiding Bishop (collectively referred to as the “Committee”).

Following the adoption of the Bobo Estate Resolution, the Bishop announced a ten minute recess.

After calling the Conference back to order, Bishop Taylor read the results of **Laity Ballot Number Six** and **Clergy Ballot Number Six**. The Laity did not elect any delegates to General Conference. The Clergy elected **The Reverend Frank J. Griffith, Jr., (fourth), The Reverend Ernest C. Etheridge (fifth), The Reverend Sara A. White (sixth), and The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers (seventh)**. Ballot Number Seven was then taken following a prayer by the Reverend Stephen P. Taylor.

Bible Study and Holy Communion. Following the ballot, a Bible Study was offered by Dr. Carl Evans. The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was then celebrated in the Civic Center Arena by The Reverend Dr. Thomas Bowman. The lunch recess followed.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Afternoon

June 6, 2007

Bishop Taylor called the Session to order at 2:00 p.m. and the Conference re-convened for the **Retirement Recognition Service**. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor served as liturgist. A video presentation recalling the ministry and thoughts of the retiring class was presented. The Reverend Douglas Bowling represented the retiring class, and the Reverend Todd Davis represented the entering class during “The Passing of the Mantle”. The following clergy and their spouses were recognized upon the occasion of their entering the retired relation: Michael C. Bell, Douglas A. Bowling, Will R. Brown, C. Gary Compton, Julian R. Ford, Joseph Frazier, Roosevelt Geddis, Joe Gibbs, Sr., Thomas H. Hill, Richard D. Hopper, Steve Hughes, H. Samuel Johnson, T. Joseph Lusk, Ludie Carolyn Matthews, F. David Mills, Jerry Leroy Phillips,

Sr., George M. Riser, Millard Cooper Stonestreet, Talmadge Stanton, Sr., Elbert S. Tillerson, Sr., and Frederick Neal Treaster. Mr. Billy Fallaw served as organist for the service, which concluded at 3:05 p.m. The Conference was then in recess.

At 3:30 p.m. Bishop Taylor called the Annual Conference back to order to hear the report of **Laiety Ballot Number Seven** and **Clergy Ballot Number Seven** for General Conference. Laiety **James H. Salley (ninth)** was elected to the delegation. Clergy had no election on this ballot. Ballot Number Eight was then taken. The Reverend Kathy James prayed before the receiving of the ballot.

David Braddon, President of the **Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**, was then introduced to the Annual Conference to make the report of that Board. Mr. Braddon highlighted several changes in the report. Report Number One A. included a 4% increase in the per service rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. He noted that under item D. bills will be sent to the charge, rather than to individual churches, starting in 2008. In paragraph F, Mr. Braddon noted an editorial change due to prior Conference action to increase the verified packing expenses from \$250 to \$ 350 per move. In Report Three there was an editorial change, to show an increase of 1.01% of the Conference Average Compensation rather than 0.99%. Reports 1, 2, and 3 of the Pension Section, with the noted changes, were approved by the Annual Conference upon voice vote.

The Group Insurance Section was next presented. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits studied other carriers for insurance but found no benefit in changing from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Report Number One included no changes from 2007. Report Number Two included a new premium credit for a wellness exam. Report Number Three and Four also had no changes. Report Number Five showed a reduction in funding requirements – and therefore a reduction in the cost of insurance - due to a good experience recently in the number and size of claims. Having concluded his review of the reports, Mr. Braddon offered Reports One through Six of the Group Insurance Section for approval. There being no questions or discussion, the reports were approved as presented. A video was then shown concerning the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

Mrs. Betty Moss McGuirt brought the annual check from **The United Methodist Publishing House**, and made a brief presentation concerning new resources and services of Cokesbury and the United Methodist Publishing House. Cokesbury is providing \$1,000,000 for pension benefits worldwide and \$ 50,000 for administration of the Central Conference Pension Initiative. This year's check to the South Carolina Conference was for \$15,603.48 which is being directed by our Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the Central Conferences.

Proposed **Petitions to the General Conference** were distributed by the tellers for consideration at the Wednesday evening session.

The Consent Calendar was considered next. **The Report of the Trustees of the Methodist Oaks** was lifted from the calendar. The Reverend Robert Cox, Chair of the Board of Trustees, moved this report to record. The Reverend Robert Huggins asked for the rationale in changing the "brand name" of The Methodist Oaks to The Oaks, A United Methodist Retirement Community. The Reverend James McGee, Chief Executive Officer of The Methodist Oaks explained the process for the rebranding. The Reverend Cox explained the rationale for the change to increase the appeal to persons of all backgrounds, provided an overview of The Oaks' ministry, and explained the connection between the ministry of The Oaks and its nature as a faith based community. The legal name of "The Methodist Oaks" still remains. The Reverend Huggins offered a motion to amend by addition, which was duly seconded, as follows: "That the Annual Conference requests that the Board of the Methodist Oaks to take under consideration the re-branding of "The Oaks" to "The United Methodist Oaks", and to report to the 2008 Annual Conference with the consideration of the financial cost of brochures already published and that the change take place within a frame of two years." A motion was made to table the Huggins motion. The motion to table was defeated. Bishop Taylor then called for a vote on the Huggins motion, and it was defeated. The entire report, as originally printed, was then before the house, and it was approved. The Reverend Cox indicated that the Board would seriously take the concerns of the Annual Conference and invited The Reverend Huggins and any others to meetings of the Board of Trustees. Bishop Taylor then offered prayer in response to a request from a member of the Conference.

The Annual Conference voted to extend the time of the afternoon session for the purpose of receiving the report of **Laity Ballot Number Eight** and **Clergy Ballot Number Eight**, and taking another ballot. No laypersons were elected. Clergy members **Kenneth L. Nelson (eighth)** and **John W. Culp (ninth)** were elected to the General Conference delegation. Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough offered prayer before Ballot Number Nine was taken. After the ballot was taken, the Annual Conference was in recess at 5:15 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Evening

June 6, 2007

A worship service highlighting the HIV/AIDS Epidemic was offered at 7:00 p.m. Mr. James Salley of Africa University preached the sermon. Special music was offered by the New Life UMC Choir and the Salem UMC Choir. The scripture lessons were Isaiah 53 and Matthew 9:1-8, 18-36. Liturgists included The Reverends Joyce Chiles, Emily Allen, Hayes Gainey, Anna Miller, and John Culp.

Following the worship service, Bishop Taylor called the Conference back to order at 9:11 p.m. The results of **Laity Ballot Number Nine** and **Clergy Ballot Number Nine** were reported. On the lay side **Carolyn G. Rogerson (tenth)** was elected as the final lay delegate to General Conference. There were no elections on the clergy side. After prayer was offered by The Reverend Ernest Etheredge, Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number One and Clergy General Conference Ballot Number Ten were taken.

The Reverend Timothy Rogers, Conference Secretary, moved the adoption of the **Consent Calendar** as presented, with the exception of the report of the Trustees of the Methodist Oaks which had been acted upon earlier. The motion was approved by the Conference. By taking this action, in addition to various reports, the Conference approved three resolutions presented by the Conference Board of the Trustees. These resolutions are as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE DISCONTINUED SPRING BRANCH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Marion County, South Carolina Marion District, South Carolina Conference

Whereas, In 2003, the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, a religious nonprofit corporation ("South Carolina Conference"), acting as the annual conference of South Carolina and functioning pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2000 ed.) (the "*Discipline*"), adopted a resolution (the "Resolution") discontinuing Spring Branch United Methodist Church ("Spring Branch UMC") of the Marion District, located in Marion County, South Carolina, as a local church; and

Whereas, Spring Branch UMC was discontinued under the *Discipline* because it no longer served the purpose for which it was organized (paragraph 2548.2, the *Discipline*); and

Whereas, The Resolution discontinued Spring Branch UMC but made no express direction concerning the disposition of the property of the discontinued church (the "Property") but evinced an intention to transfer the Property of Spring Branch UMC to Tranquil United Methodist Church ("Tranquil UMC") of the Marion District; and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of Tranquil UMC cared for the Property but declined to accept the conveyance and transfer of the Property in 2006; and

Whereas, The *Discipline* directs that the property of a discontinued local church be treated as abandoned church property under the *Discipline* when a resolution discontinuing a local church makes no direction for the disposition of the property (paragraph 2548.2(b), the *Discipline*); and

Whereas, Under the *Discipline*, the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference (the "Conference Board") may assume control of the Property (paragraph 2548.3, the *Discipline*); and

Whereas, The Conference Board assumed control of the Property; and

Whereas, the Conference Board recommends that the Property be sold or transferred; and

Whereas, The sale or other transfer of the Property is deemed to be in the best interest of the South Carolina Conference; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference approves and authorizes the Conference Board to sell or otherwise dispose of the Property; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby authorizes any two officers of the Conference Board, or any other two members of the Conference Board, to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the sale or other disposition of the Property; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference and the Conference Board shall be reimbursed for any expenses associated with the disposition of the Property from any funds received from the sale of the Property; and be it further

Resolved, That the Conference Board shall make recommendations to the Annual Conference about the use of any remaining funds from the sale of the Property.

The second resolution so approved was as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE CONVEYANCE OF THE PROPERTY
OF
THE DISCONTINUED RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO SMYRNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Abbeville County, South Carolina
Anderson District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, In 1994, the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), acting as the annual conference of South Carolina and functioning pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), adopted a resolution (the "Resolution") discontinuing Ridge United Methodist Church ("Ridge UMC") of the Anderson District, located in Abbeville County, South Carolina, as a local church; and

Whereas, The property of Ridge UMC (the "Property") was placed under the care of the Trustees of Smyrna United Methodist Church ("Smyrna UMC"), Lowndesville, South Carolina, "for upkeep" but no express disposition was made concerning the conveyance of the property; and

Whereas, Smyrna UMC has provided for the upkeep of the Property (including its cemetery) uses the Property for occasional special services, and has expressed its desire to have the Property conveyed to Smyrna UMC; and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference (the "Conference Board") recommends that the Property be conveyed to Smyrna UMC; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference approves and authorizes the conveyance of the Property to Smyrna UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby authorizes any two officers of the Conference Board, or any other two members of the Conference Board, to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance of the Property to Smyrna UMC.

The third resolution so approved was as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE
OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE CHARLESTON DISTRICT TO
EDISTO ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Charleston County, South Carolina
Charleston District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, Edisto Island United Methodist Church ("Edisto Island UMC"), Charleston District, South Carolina Conference, has incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina and needs to convey the property of the church to the corporate entity; and

Whereas, Edisto Island UMC has discovered that the title to the property upon which the church building(s) are currently located was never formally conveyed to Edisto Island UMC but was inadvertently left in the name of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District; and

Whereas, The property at issue is more particularly described in the deed filed in Deed Book C208, Page 006, at the Office of the Register of Deeds for Charleston County, South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"); and

Whereas, Edisto Island UMC has requested that the South Carolina Conference authorize the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District to convey the Property to Edisto Island UMC; and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference recommends the adoption of this resolution; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, pursuant to paragraph 2517.2 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2004)*, the South Carolina Conference authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District to convey the Property to Edisto Island UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference authorizes any two officers, or any two other members, of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the Property to Edisto Island UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That Edisto Island UMC shall be responsible for paying any and all costs associated with the conveyance and transfer of the Property.

Following the adoption of the Consent Calendar, the Report of the **United Methodist Women** was presented by Ms. Mary Johnson, Conference President, who directed the attention of the Conference to the written report as printed in the Pre-Conference materials. Jean Elmore, Chair of the Board of the Wallace Family Life Center, presented a report concerning its work including a new cookbook, a workday to improve the facilities, and new computers. Software and workbooks are needed to be compatible with the new computers. A cookbook was presented to Bishop Taylor. Rebecca Rochester, Social Action Chair of the Conference United Methodist Women, directed the attention of the Conference to a resolution printed in the Pre-Conference materials regarding the sentencing of children and youth. Ms. Rochester moved approval of the resolution, and the Conference voted to adopt it. Ms. Johnson moved the entire UMW report to record, and the report was received by the Conference. The adopted resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SENTENCING OF
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

WHEREAS, the number of children and youth committing crimes in South Carolina and in the nation is on an alarming rise; and

WHEREAS, many children and youth who commit crimes are from dysfunctional families and are products of a society that has failed to come to their aid; and

WHEREAS, in our state and nation there is not a standard age in which a child or youth can be transferred from juvenile justice system into the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the SC Department of Correction 2006, in the state of South Carolina over 3% or approximately 750 of the inmates in adult criminal justice facilities are nineteen years of age and younger, and 31 are younger than 17 years old; and

WHEREAS, placing children and youth into the general population of the criminal justice system exacerbates their needs and problems and makes them victims of the adults in the penal system; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law now allows life without parole for children and youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the United Methodist Church of South Carolina encourages the governor and the legislature to address these concerns by establishing a more humane, restorative and constructive way to manage children and youth who are in the penal system so that they may become productive citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a standard age be established in which a youth can be transferred from juvenile justice system into the criminal justice system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That laws allowing life without parole for juvenile offenders be abolished; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded immediately to the members of the South Carolina General Assembly and the Governor of South Carolina for action; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of this conference be encouraged to contact their representatives and let their voices be heard.

Following the report of the United Methodist Women, the report of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals** was presented by Betty Walker, chairperson. Mrs. Walker directed the attention of the Conference to the resolutions as printed in the Pre-Conference materials. The committee recommended concurrence for the first resolution, "A Resolution to Support the UMC Global AIDS Fund". After discussion, the Conference sustained the recommendation of the Committee, and the resolution was adopted as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE UMC GLOBAL AIDS FUND

WHEREAS, We seek to be disciples of the One who came to bring good news to the poor and who sent his disciples out to witness and to heal; and

WHEREAS, Over 40 million persons globally are living with HIV and AIDS, and 9,000 people die from AIDS every day; and

WHEREAS, The AIDS pandemic causes five million persons to be infected and three million lives to be lost each year; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 15 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 980 persons who are newly diagnosed with HIV infection, including AIDS, each year in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is ranked 10th in the nation among states, and Columbia, South Carolina is ranked 11th in the nation among cities, in the number of AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, The year 2006 was the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church established a Global AIDS Fund with a goal of raising \$8 million in Special Askings this quadrennium; and

WHEREAS, One-fourth of those funds raised within our Annual Conference for this Fund remain within the Conference to be distributed as a special Conference Committee deems fit; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church is now determined to demonstrate its own financial commitment through ADVANCE Specials to combating HIV/AIDS; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Annual Conference affirm our commitment to raising an average of \$1.00 per member by special projects, offerings, or other methods as each local church deems best during the 2007-2008 Annual Conference year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday on a Sunday close to December 1st, which is recognized as World AIDS Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm the Bishop's appointment of a Conference Global AIDS Committee to (a) provide educational and promotional materials for this observance, and (b) determine the distribution of the 25% of the funds designated for Conference use.

Mrs. Walker then presented "A Resolution to Require the Establishment of a Safe Sanctuary Policy in Every United Methodist Church and Every United Methodist Conference Event in the South Carolina Conference". The Committee recommended concurrence. The Reverend Willie S. Teague, Director of Connectional Ministries asked if this applied to events sponsored by Conference Boards and agencies. The Reverend Dawn Compton, representing the resolution's writer, indicated that it would. The Reverend Kathy James provided helpful interpretation of the Safe Sanctuary policy. Speeches were offered for and against the policy. The Conference supported the recommendation of the Committee, and the resolution was approved as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE EVENT
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15 (NRSV) Jesus also said, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones. . . it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:6 (NRSV); and

WHEREAS, The Hebrew people treasured their place of worship as a holy place, a sanctuary, a place where they could worship in safety and harmony. See Psalms 20:1-2 and Psalms 27:4-5 – which provide examples of how the sanctuary is to be a community of protective nurture and harmony, holy and safe; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church regarding rights of children states, "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse." *Social Principles* (Paragraph 162C, 1996, 2000, 2004); and

WHEREAS, The General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted a Resolution in 1996, and readopted it in 2004, calling upon all local congregations and every Annual Conference to strive to make our churches safe places protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse, and provided a list of steps for local churches, Annual Conferences, and the General Board of Discipleship and the Council of Global Ministries to follow. The Book of Resolutions 2004 (Paragraph 65, Page 201); and

WHEREAS, The South Carolina Annual Conference adopted the *Sexual Ethics Policies and Procedures* on May 30, 1994, and by 1997, *Policies and Procedures for Reducing the Risk of Children/Youth Sexual Abuse in the Church* was written as it pertained to local and conference church events relating to both employees and volunteer workers, and the Conference strongly recommended each local church have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will require every local church to have a Safe Sanctuary Policy by December 31, 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference provide guidance to local churches to write and implement a Safe Sanctuary Policy by providing training, workshops and sample policies to meet criteria as outlined in The Book of Resolutions 2004, and that this will be coordinated at the district level by the Congregational Specialists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will require accountability of each church annually at Charge Conference beginning in the year 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place for all district and conference events to include training and screening procedures including, but not limited to, having application forms, interviews, reference checks and background checks for all staff and volunteers by December 31, 2008, and that this will be coordinated through Connectional Ministries by the Board of Education.

“A Resolution Concerning the Confederate Flag” was presented to the Annual Conference by Ms. Walker, who reported that the committee recommended concurrence. Speeches were offered for and against the resolution. At the conclusion of the debate, the body voted to support the recommendation of the committee, and the resolution was approved as follows:

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

WHEREAS, The Confederate Battle Flag on the State House grounds to many South Carolinians, is a symbol, not of bravery and courage, but rather of an era of slavery and oppression; and

WHEREAS, Our loyalty today is not to the Confederacy of Southern States, but to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Patriotic South Carolinians have fought with valor and distinction in a number of wars beginning with the Revolution out of which our nation was born; and

WHEREAS, It appears unseemly to honor the heroism of warriors in one conflict above that of those, no less committed, who fought in other wars; and

WHEREAS, Flying the Confederate Battle Flag in a place of special honor on the State House grounds is believed by many in the business community of our state to discourage business enterprises from elsewhere to locate in South Carolina, thus limiting the economic growth and the provision of jobs for South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, The presence of the Confederate flag on the State House grounds has proved to be a divisive issue among South Carolinians, erecting unnecessary barriers of understanding and unity among our citizens; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church beseech our Legislature without further delay to remove this flag from the State House grounds, thus ending a period of turmoil and disagreement over a symbol whose meaning is inevitably different among honorable citizens who do not share the same historic perspective of the Civil War era.

With that action, the report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals was completed. The Annual Conference was adjourned for the evening at 10:20 p.m. by Bishop Taylor.

The Fifth Day – Thursday Morning

June 7, 2007

Bishop Taylor called the Annual Conference to order at 8:35 a.m. Bishop Taylor announced that Conference Parliamentarian, The Rev. Dr. Timothy McClendon was in Charlotte with his daughter, The Reverend Narcie McClendon Jeter, who was in labor. Dr. Ted Walter was serving as Parliamentarian during Reverend McClendon's absence. Dr. Carolyn Briscoe announced the birth of a son to The Reverend Jeter. The Reverend Fred Buchanan asked for prayer and care for the servicemen in Iraq and to extend words of appreciation. The Conference Secretary made four announcements. Bishop Taylor announced the totals of the Annual Conference offerings including the Seminary Students Scholarship Fund, Nothing But Nets, Advance Special Ministries, Old Mutare Water Mission, Food Bank and the Global HIV/AIDS Crisis. The Conference also sang "Happy Birthday" to Conference Secretary, The Reverend Timothy Rogers, upon his 50th birthday on June 7th.

The Bishop announced the results of **Clergy General Conference Ballot Number Ten**, in which **The Reverend Hayes T. Gainey, Jr., (tenth)** was elected as the final clergy delegate to General Conference. Bishop Taylor declared that, because of the high number of invalid ballots cast, Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number One was invalid. The Bishop explained the voting process and makeup of the two delegations in an effort to reduce the number of invalid ballots cast. Bishop Taylor then called for **Ballot Number One for Jurisdictional Conference** for both lay and clergy. The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson moved to limit the read of the ballot to those persons receiving ten votes or more. The motion carried.

Mr. Robert Scarborough, Conference President of the **United Methodist Men**, presented his report. He invited Conferees to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Men's Event, explained United Methodist Men's support of the project of sending "Strength for Service" devotional booklets to soldiers serving, and encouraged men to assume spiritual leadership in their families by quoting John Wesley. He then moved the report of the United Methodist Men to record, and it was received by the Conference.

The Reverend Scott Watcher, Chair of the **Board of Church and Society**, then presented the resolutions proposed by the Board. He began by presenting their first resolution, "A Resolution Concerning Predatory Lending Practices". Rev. Watcher offered an amendment to the resolution by adding the words, "and additional legislation" to the second "Resolved". The motion was seconded and approved. The entire resolution, as amended, was then presented to the Conference, and was approved as follows:

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES

Whereas, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church has identified "Predatory lending [as] a form of subprime lending characterized by unscrupulous or unethical lending practices. These practices can include the application of excessively high fees and interest rates, the use of balloon payments, flipping (successive refinancing of the original loan at increasingly higher rates), packing (linking the issuance of the loan to the purchase of some form of insurance) and steering (directing otherwise credit-worthy borrowers into high-priced subprime loans). The United Methodist Church has directed all general agencies to invest in banks that have 'policies and practices that preclude predatory or harmful lending practices' (Resolution 213, Investment Ethics)" (On Your Behalf, April 2006); and

Whereas, Predatory lending companies make predatory loans to borrowers at interest rates above 300 percent APR, and the characteristics of these predatory loans encourage repeat renewal and back-to-back borrowing on these loans; and

Whereas, These predatory loans are targeted at low-wealth and vulnerable consumers, most often the unsuspecting elderly, the military, the poor and minorities who are least able to afford the cost of such predatory practices; and

Whereas, The practice of predatory lending is a serious stumbling block for persons seeking to climb out of poverty and achieve homeowner status; and

Whereas, For these reasons, predatory payday loans hurt vulnerable consumers and the neighborhoods in which they live; and

Whereas, Other states have effectively prohibited these predatory loans through legislation; and

Whereas, The scriptures are clear in demanding economic justice for the poor (see Amos 2:6; 4:1-3; and 8:4; Deuteronomy 24:14; Exodus 23:9; Micah 2:1-2; Proverbs 14:31; 17:5; 22:16; and 22:22-23; Zechariah 7:10; and Proverbs 21:13); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church supports those who are targeted by the predatory lending industry; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church supports House Bill 3294 and additional legislation which will limit the interest rate payday lenders can charge customers, ban internet payday lending by lenders not licensed in South Carolina, limit the number of payday loans that a company can make to a consumer at one time, and ban one-sided mandatory arbitration clauses and allow for penalties when a lender violates the prohibitions of the law; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded immediately to the members of the South Carolina General Assembly and the Governor of South Carolina for action; and, be it further

Resolved, That the members of this conference will contact their representatives and let their voices be heard.

Rev. Wachter then presented "A Resolution on Immigration". The resolution was adopted, without debate, as follows:

A RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Whereas, The Holy Scriptures call us as the community of God to provide shelter, protection, and help to sojourners living among us, reminding us that we, too, were foreigners in other times; and

Whereas, As United Methodists we believe that God is the parent of all, that all people are created in God's image, and that it is the right of all people to have a full and abundant life; and

Whereas, The United States of America historically prides itself as being open to those coming from diverse places to our shores to enhance their quality of life; and

Whereas, We live in a world where there are over 13 million people who are refugees, another 26 million who are internally displaced, and millions more who are migrants looking to find a way out of poverty; and

Whereas, The history of immigration in the United States has been mixed in that the United States has at times encouraged the presence of immigrants who could provide cheap labor to build roads and harvest crops while at other times closed its borders to persons from other lands; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church strongly urges the President and the Congress of the United States to support international economic policies that promote sustainable development and that use capital, technology, labor, and land in a manner that gives priority to employment for all people and the production of basic human necessities, thereby reducing migration pressures; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the President and the United States Congress to acknowledge that our nation's immigration system is broken, and to acknowledge that huge fines, long waits for

legalization, and mandatory returns for all immigrants will not effectively or humanely reform our immigration system; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church calls for a workable comprehensive immigration bill that is not harsh and retributive but seeks to meet the standard of effective public policy and biblical faithfulness.

Rev. Wachter then presented, "A Resolution on Human Rights Violations of the People of the Darfur Region". The Reverend Austin Watson offered the following amendments to the resolution: In the first paragraph add the words "through a systematic genocide" after the word "Homeland", add the word "their" before "hostile government", and add "s" to the word "government", and add the word "military" immediately thereafter. These amendments to the first "Whereas" clause were seconded and approved.

Rev. Watson then offered an amendment to the third "Whereas". The Reverend Michael Bowers moved to amend the amendment. The Reverend Watson and the seconder of the original motion accepted the amendments. However, the motion to amend the third "Whereas" was defeated by the body. Rev. Watson then offered an amendment to the fourth "Whereas", changing the phrase "over three years" to read "over five years". The amendment was accepted by the Board.

Rev. Watson then offered a motion to amend the final "Resolved" paragraph by adding the phrase "with a mandate to protect all citizens and", and to change the word "conflict" to "genocide". The amendment was seconded and approved.

Finally, Rev. Watson offered a motion to amend the resolution by deleting the phrase, "The world must act now!" from the third Resolved, and adding a fourth "Resolved" as follows: "Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage all its members to pray for the people of Darfur and for the end to the genocide: The world must act now!" The motion was seconded and the amendment by addition was approved.

There being no further amendments offered, the body considered the resolution as a whole, and adopted the resolution, as amended, as follows:

A RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DARFUR REGION

Whereas, The people of the Sudan living in the Darfur region are being persecuted, murdered, and driven from their homeland through a systematic genocide by their hostile government's military, social, cultural, and economic policies that violate their basic human rights as human beings; and

Whereas, Present policies deny the worth and God-given right of every human being to live free of violence, injustice, discrimination, fear, and displacement; and

Whereas, The human rights of the minority people of Darfur have been and continue to be grossly violated by the government and aligned hate groups that suppress freedom and encourage genocide; and

Whereas, Darfur has been embroiled in a deadly conflict for over five years resulting in the deaths of over 400,000 people and the flight of over 2 million innocent civilians from their homes to displaced-persons camps in Sudan or in refugee camps in neighboring Chad; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the United Nations and its member states to enforce the No-fly Zone in Darfur already established by the United Nations Security Council, and urges the United States to take the lead in encouraging the Sudanese government to end indiscriminate bombing; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the United Nations Security Council to deploy a peacekeeping force to Sudan with a mandate to protect civilians and to ensure access to and protection for sufficient humanitarian aid for those in need, in order to bolster the under-funded and overwhelmed African Union peacekeepers; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the United Nations to deploy peacekeeping forces to eastern Chad with a mandate to protect all citizens and to stop the further spread of the genocide; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage all its members to pray for the people of Darfur and for the end to the genocide. The world must act now!

With the adoption of this resolution, the presentation of the Board of Church and Society was completed.

A video presentation from the **Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church** was then introduced by Ken Howle, who was representing the SEJ. The video highlighted the Bethea Welcome Center at Lake Junaluska which will be consecrated on July 9. Dr. Jimmy Carr narrated the video. The video also mentioned a diversity event to be held in December at Lake Junaluska. Mr. Howle concluded his presentation by asking Bishop Taylor to draw a name for a free stay at Lake Junaluska Assembly.

The results of **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number One** were reported by Bishop Taylor. The following laypersons were elected to Jurisdictional Conference: **Betty Moss McGuirt, (first) Skylar Nimmons, (second) Marilyn Murphy, (third) and Michael Cheetham (fourth)**. The clergy elected **The Reverends Jeanette Cooper-Dicks (first) and Patricia J. Parrish (second)**. A motion was made to limit the reading of those receiving votes to 20 or more. The motion was seconded and was approved. The Bishop read the numbers of previously elected lay and clergy. The Reverend Sara White offered prayer before Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Two was taken.

The final **Bible Study** was next presented by Dr. Carl Evans. Bishop Taylor expressed the sincere appreciation of the Annual Conference for the Bible studies presented throughout the week.

The report from the **Committee on Petitions to the General Conference** was brought to the Annual Conference by The Reverend A. Clark Jenkins, Chair. On the recommendation of the Committee, and with the consent of Reverend Amiri Hooker, the presenter of the resolution, the title was changed to, "A Petition in Support of Africa University". Upon the further recommendation of the Committee, and also with the consent of the presenter of the resolution, all references to "BMRC", or "Black Methodists for Church Renewal", were deleted, and replaced by "the South Carolina Annual Conference". Reverend Jenkins reported that the committee recommended concurrence. At the conclusion of discussion, the Conference supported the recommendation of the committee, and the petition was approved as follows:

A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Whereas, the Africa University initiative formally began by the inspiring address delivered by Bishop Emilio de Carvalho of Angola at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church in October, 1984; and

Whereas, Bishop de Carvalho was joined by Bishop Arthur Kulah of Liberia, Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, then President of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Bishop Felton E. May, then President of the General Council on Ministries, and other members in discussing the educational needs of Africa and ways the denomination might respond to this challenge; and

Whereas, the African Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church asked the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to assist them in developing significant post-secondary institutions of learning for the churches of Africa; and

Whereas, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 1988 General Conference of The United Methodist Church overwhelmingly approved the establishment of a university on the continent of Africa to be built in Zimbabwe and authorized an apportionment of \$10

million over a four year period and an additional \$10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts; and

Whereas, the official ground breaking for the university occurred on site in Old Mutare in 1991, and Africa University opened in 1992 with two faculties and forty students representing six nations on the African continent; and

Whereas, Africa University's enrollment reached a significant milestone in 2006 with its student population reaching 1,123 representing 22 African nations; and

Whereas, the number of faculties has grown from two in 1992 to eight in 2006 with the ninth faculty scheduled to open in the fall of 2006; and

Whereas, in February 2003, Africa University launched its Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance with an initial enrollment of 15 students, each of whom will earn a masters degree in Peace and Governance (MPG); and

Whereas, 2,317 Africa University alumni have been deployed across the African continent in fulfillment of the University's mission to train new leaders for the nations of Africa—new leaders like Walter Manyangawirwa, who was in the first graduating class at Africa University and who is now a leader in the field of study of fungi, viruses, bacteria and other plant diseases; and

Whereas, Africa University is the only private institution of higher learning on the African continent that may fly the international flag of the United Nations; and

Whereas, Africa University has been called one of the great success stories of Christian missions in the world today by Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International; and

Whereas, in the year that the United Methodist Church is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the gender ratio in the student body is 53% female and 47% male; and

Whereas, Bishop Daniel Wandabula of Uganda was elected to the episcopacy on 28 May, 2006, during a meeting of the denomination's Africa Central Conference on the Africa University campus in Zimbabwe; and

Whereas, the support and enthusiasm of United Methodists world-wide for Africa University are demonstrated in the apportionments remitted annually, the second-mile givings, and contributions from churches and individuals for the Africa University Endowment Fund; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Annual Conference calls upon each local church in the annual conference to pay the full Africa University apportioned line item and give generously to the Africa University Endowment Fund; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the South Carolina Annual Conference affirms that Africa University is a dynamic and important mission project of The United Methodist Church; affirms the leadership of all those involved in the continuing development and day-to-day operations of the University; and commends the Africa University Board of Directors and Advisory Development Committee for their persistence, diligence, and visionary leadership in overcoming the obstacles and barriers to fulfilling the dream; and, be it further

Resolved, that the South Carolina Annual Conference calls upon the 2008 General Conference to make Africa University a priority and to allocate an apportionment of \$10 million over a four year period and an additional \$10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts, to continue development, construction, and endowment of Africa University as outlined in the planning process determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Africa University Board of Directors; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference hereby charges its Conference Secretary, using the entire rationale stated above, to petition, in a timely and appropriate manner, the 2008 General Conference to support this South Carolina Annual Conference Petition in Support of Africa University.

The Reverend Jenkins then presented the second petition reviewed by the committee, renamed without objection, "A Petition in Support of the Black College Fund". Also without objection, all references to "Black Methodists for Church Renewal" (or "BMCR") were deleted and replaced by "The South Carolina Annual Conference". Reverend Jenkins reported that the recommendation of the committee was concurrence. There being no discussion, the Bishop called for the vote. The recommendation of the committee was supported, and the petition was approved as follows:

A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK COLLEGE FUND

Whereas, Since 1866 when Rust College was established to address the educational needs of freed slaves, and over the next 141 years, the mission to empower African Americans through education continued with the founding of Bennett College for Women, Bethune Cookman University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Huston Tillotson University, Meharry Medical College, Paine, Philander Smith and Wiley Colleges, the Methodist Church's commitment to higher education has been unequivocal; and

Whereas, Since the founding of these colleges, they have added value to our society, educating some of the world's great teachers, scientists, bishops, doctors, ministers, politicians, and professionals in other walks of life, and some of the world's best and brightest students are today enrolled in these schools and are receiving a quality education through the work of dedicated and committed faculties and staffs; and

Whereas, Since 1972, the Black College Fund has been an apportioned item and continues to provide necessary funds for daily operation, capital improvements and academic program enhancement at these schools, and this funding is a critical investment in the dreams of young people and all those who thirst for knowledge; and

Whereas, These institutions are and have been since their founding, open to people of all ethnicities, races, creeds and nationalities, and all are treated with dignity and respect, and therefore the mission and ministry of these schools is still vital and important; and

Whereas, Many annual conferences are going the extra mile to pay their 100 percent apportionment and this commitment and faithfulness to this important cause continues to make a difference; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference requests the General Conference reaffirm its commitment to the ministry of the eleven church-related historically black colleges and universities; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference requests that the General Conference approve the continuation of the Black College Fund as an apportioned item for the 2009-2012 quadrennium; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference urges every congregation to pay 100 percent of its asking so that these historic institutions may continue to effectively and triumphantly educate leaders for the church and the world; and, be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby charges its Conference Secretary, using the entire rationale stated above, to petition, in a timely and appropriate manner, the 2008 General Conference to fulfill the intentions of this South Carolina Annual Conference petition in support of the Black College Fund.

At the conclusion of the report of the committee, Bishop Taylor recognized the many contributions of Reverend Jenkins to the South Carolina Conference, and recalled also the contributions of Reverend Jenkins' family to the Conference as well. Bishop Taylor explained to the body that Reverend Jenkins was to be appointed in the coming conference year in the Holston Conference, and would be transferring his membership to that Conference as well. The

Bishop then invited the Conference to express their appreciation to Reverend Jenkins, and the body responded with a standing ovation.

Ms. Ebony Lemon, representative of the **Black College Fund** from Summerville and a Sophomore at Clark University in Atlanta, expressed appreciation for the South Carolina Conference's support of this fund each year, and urged the continued support of the Fund.

The report from the **Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate** was presented by Marilyn Murphy, Chair, who introduced a new tentative design for the *Advocate*, which includes new paper and a new layout. Appreciation was expressed to Allison Trussell, the *Advocate* staff member who has acted as editor during the deployment of the editor, F. Davie Burgdorf. Ms. Allison has managed to produce the *Advocate* with the help of only one staff writer, Rachel Haynie. Mr. Burgdorf has tendered his resignation effective June 12th. Mrs. Murphy explained the process for the search for a new Editor. The Conference sang "Happy Birthday" to the *Advocate* which is celebrating its 170th anniversary. A video highlighting the process for receiving input and redesigning the *Advocate* was shown to the Annual Conference. The report of the Board of Trustees of the *Advocate* was received by the Conference.

The results from **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Two** were reported by Bishop Taylor. On the laity side the following individuals were elected: **David V. Braddon (fifth)**, **Candy Benson (sixth)**, **Martha Thompson (seventh)**, and **Emily M. Rogers (eighth)**. On the clergy side the following delegate to Jurisdictional Conference was elected: **The Reverend David E. Nichols (third)**. Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Three was taken following prayer by The Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson. Bishop Taylor announced that the Conference would reconvene following lunch at 2:30 p.m.

The Fifth Day – Thursday Afternoon

June 7, 2007

After calling the Conference to order at 2:30 p. m., Bishop Taylor read the results of **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Three**. The final Laity Delegates were elected: **Kristian Roof (ninth)** and **James G. Futrell (tenth)**. Clergy elected were The Reverends **B. Susan Ulmer (fourth)** and **Charles L. Johnson (fifth)**. A motion was made by The Reverend Stephen Taylor to elect five lay reserve delegates and five clergy reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. The motion was seconded and was approved. Judy Antley, of Mauldin United Methodist Church, offered a motion to accept those who receive the five highest vote totals on the next ballot as the reserve delegates. After discussion, the motion was amended by the maker to state that for both clergy and laity, when the complete delegation to Jurisdictional Conference had been elected, that those who receive the five highest vote totals on the next ballot be elected as the reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. The motion was seconded and was approved by the Conference. Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Four was taken following a prayer by Rubielee Addison.

Bishop Taylor next recognized **Mrs. Bettye Rivers, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop**, and expressed appreciation for all of her work. Bishop Taylor then recognized The Reverend Dr. Timothy McClendon who returned from Charlotte following the birth of his first grandchild, Daniel Enoch Jeter, weighing 8lbs. 3oz. The Conference offered applause and congratulations to Dr. McClendon on the birth of his grandson.

The Report of Conference Council on Finance and Administration was then presented by The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson, chairperson of the Council. The Reverend Johnson reported the following editorial changes: in Report Number 3, Paragraph D, the packing expense was increased to \$ 350 from \$ 250. In Report Number 4, Paragraph C. 10, a period was inserted after "Clafflin College", and the remainder of the paragraph was deleted. Report Number Two, reflecting the Conference Benevolence Fund, was approved by the Conference. Report Number Three, as corrected, was also approved by the Conference. Report Number Four, as corrected, was presented to the body and approved. Report Number Five concerning the Lake Junaluska dam project was placed before the Conference and was approved. Report Number Six concerning the renovation funding for The United Methodist Center was presented and was approved. Report Number Seven was presented and received as information. Report

Number One, with a budget of \$ 16,995,194 for 2008, which was an increase of 2.8%, was presented by the Council and approved by the Conference. The Reverend Johnson expressed appreciation and recognized those churches which had paid 100% of their apportionments in 2006, as well as those that had increased their apportionment payments, and asked the representatives of those churches to stand. The Report of the Council on Finance and Administration was approved as a whole.

The Conference Secretary, The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, presented the report of the **Committee on the Annual Conference**. Reverend Rogers presented the recommendation of the committee that the 2008 Annual Conference again be held at the Florence Civic Center. He indicated the cost to hold Annual Conference last year on the Claflin University campus in Orangeburg was \$85,806, and the estimated cost to date this year at the Civic Center in Florence was \$90,533. Extensive discussion and questions followed of the Conference Secretary concerning the motion to return to Florence in 2008.

A motion was made by The Reverend Cathy Jamieson-Ogg with an addition to the report of the Committee: "To make a more informed decision the Committee on the Annual Conference shall develop and mail an evaluation form to all 2007 lay and clergy delegates, no later than July 15, 2007. The evaluation shall provide an opportunity for delegates to comment on their experience, including, but not limited to: cost per delegate, facilities, and the change in the tradition of meeting at our United Methodist colleges." After extensive debate, the Bishop called for a vote on the Jamieson-Ogg amendment. Being unable to call the vote with raised hand, the Bishop called for a written ballot.

While the written ballot on the Jamieson-Ogg amendment was being counted, Bishop Taylor read the report from **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Four**. The Laity elected the following reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference: **Millie N. Carter, William C. Smith, Leon A. Love, Sue G. Owen, and Mark Lott**. The Clergy elected the following delegates: **Kenneth B. Timmerman (sixth)**, and **Mary V. Teasley (seventh)**. The Lay Delegation being completed, Ballot Number Five for Jurisdictional Conference was then taken, with only clergy voting.

After taking Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Five, Bishop Taylor reported that the Conference voted in favor of the Jamieson-Ogg amendment with a vote of 449 in favor to 328 in opposition, and the amendment was approved. The amended report as a whole was before the Conference for discussion. After some debate, the question was called, and the Conference voted to approve.

The Bishop then called on The Reverend Dr. Timothy McClendon, the Secretary of the Cabinet, to present the **Charge Line Changes**. Reverend McClendon presented the Charge Line Changes, which were included in the Pre-Conference materials and are included elsewhere in the Business Questions, for information. The Conference voted to receive them.

Following the vote to receive the Charge Line Changes, the Bishop set the dates of the next Annual Conference: June 1-4, 2008.

Reverend Dr. McClendon then presented the resolutions to discontinue two churches. Both resolutions, to discontinue Albert Chapel United Methodist Church (Cherokee County) of the Spartanburg District and Bethel United Methodist (Bamberg County) of the Orangeburg District, were approved by the Conference. The resolutions read as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
ALBERT CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Cherokee County, South Carolina
Spartanburg District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, the Church Local Conference of Albert Chapel United Methodist Church ("Albert Chapel UMC") has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 13, 2007; and

Whereas, The Reverend Dennis R. Lee, District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Albert Chapel UMC, located in the town of Blacksburg in Cherokee County, South Carolina, be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Church Council of Dunton United Methodist Church ("Dunton UMC"), Gaffney, South Carolina, has agreed to minister to the members of Albert Chapel UMC; and

Whereas, The Spartanburg District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Albert Chapel UMC; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuance of Albert Chapel UMC; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Albert Chapel UMC discontinued pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2004)*, effective June 13, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Albert Chapel UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Albert Chapel UMC shall be transferred to Dunton UMC of Gaffney, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That all of the real property of Albert Chapel UMC in existence at the time of this resolution shall be sold with the proceeds, less expenses related to the sale, being distributed as set forth below; and be it further

Resolved, That all proceeds from the sale of any real property and all other funds belonging to Albert Chapel UMC shall be distributed to Dunton UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That all remaining personal property items belonging to Albert Chapel UMC shall be transferred to Dunton UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of Albert Chapel UMC is hereby authorized to convey and transfer the property of the discontinued Albert Chapel UMC consistent with this resolution and that any two officers of the said Board of Trustees are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That if any of the real property has not been sold by July 31, 2007, then the Board of Trustees of Albert Chapel UMC shall then convey the real property to Dunton UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That if any action on the disposition of the property other than that in the provisions above is requested by Dunton UMC, that requested action must be approved by the Spartanburg District Board of Church Location and Building and the Superintendent of the Spartanburg District; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District shall oversee the transfer of membership and transfer and conveyance of property to ensure completion; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers, including the contents of the cornerstone of the discontinued church, are collected and deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History of the South Carolina Conference.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bamberg County, South Carolina
Orangeburg District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, the Church Conference of Bethel United Methodist Church (Olar Charge) has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 13, 2007, and

Whereas, The Reverend Ronald A. Pettit, District Superintendent of the Orangeburg

District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Bethel United Methodist Church ("Bethel UMC"), located in Bamberg County, South Carolina, be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Church Council of Salem United Methodist Church, Olar Charge, has agreed to minister to the members of Bethel UMC; and

Whereas, The Orangeburg District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Bethel UMC; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuance of Bethel UMC; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Bethel UMC (Olar Charge) discontinued pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2004)*, effective June 13, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Bethel UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Bethel UMC shall be transferred to Salem UMC, Olar Charge; and be it further

Resolved, That all of the real property of Bethel UMC in existence at the time of this resolution shall be sold with the proceeds, less expenses related to the sale, being distributed as set forth below; and be it further

Resolved, That the net proceeds from the sale of any real property and all other funds belonging to Bethel UMC shall be divided and distributed as follows: one-third to Kearsae UMC; one-third to Mizpah UMC; and one-third to Salem UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That all remaining personal property items belonging to Bethel UMC shall be transferred to Olar Charge; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of the winding up of the affairs of Bethel UMC, the Board of Trustees of Bethel UMC is hereby authorized to convey and transfer the property of the discontinued Bethel UMC consistent with this resolution and that any two officers of the said Board of Trustees are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District shall oversee the transfer of membership and transfer and conveyance of property to ensure completion; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers, including the contents of the cornerstone of the discontinued church are collected and deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History of the South Carolina Conference.

Upon completion of the votes, Bishop Taylor led the Conference in a prayer of thanksgiving for the many years of ministry offered by these churches. This action completed the report of the Cabinet regarding Charge Line Changes and discontinuances.

Concluding items. The Annual Conference Secretary then offered the following **expressions of appreciation** to those who had assisted with planning and presenting Annual Conference. "I wish to express appreciation to the following for their contributions to organize and conduct the 2007 Annual Conference Session: Rev. Janice Frederick-Watts, Florence District Superintendent, and Margaret Smith, her administrative Assistant; Rev. Tom Pietila, Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church, the Host Church, together with the people and staff of Central including Roger Malfatti, Facilities Director, for many acts of service and hospitality; Kendall Wall, General Manager of the Florence Civic Center, together with the Civic Center staff; the United Methodist volunteers from throughout the Florence District who served

in registration, in the information booth, and as ushers; the Reverend Cec Jenkin, our Conference Recorder; Mrs. Pat Mack and the staff of the Print Media Center, who printed and assembled the pre-conference and registration materials, prepared the name badges for registration, and printed Conference program materials; Laura Hill, Bonnie and Walt Speas, and Sylvia and Bill Hulbert who assisted with special registration; David Wood and GNTV who handled audio and video services for the Conference; Mrs. Tracy Mahaffey who "signed" the evening worship services; The Reverend Nelson L. Stokes who coordinated the Exhibitors and helped set up the exhibitors area; Ms. Millie Carter and the members of the organizing committee who oversaw the Great Day of Service; the three Assistant Secretaries serving on the platform: The Reverend David C. Surrett, The Reverend James C. Lane, and The Reverend Kristen Richardson-Frick; Mrs. Bettye Rivers, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Taylor; Mrs. Judith Murdaugh and the Commission on Worship; The Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray, Conference Worship Coordinator; Mr. Billy Fallaw, Conference Organist; The Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe and members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry who planned the Ordination Service; Highland Park United Methodist Church for the use of their pulpit; Manning United Methodist Church for the use of their kneelers; Dr. Carl Evans for leading our Bible Studies each day; the choirs who added so much to our worship experiences; our worship leaders and celebrants; the preachers for our worship services: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, The Reverend Eugene Curry, The Reverend Kenneth Timmerman, The Reverend Tiffany Knowlin, and Mr. James Salley; our Parliamentarian, The Reverend Dr. W. Timothy McClendon; our Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Joseph Heyward, who planned and led the Orientation Session for Lay Members on Sunday afternoon; The Reverend Paul Cheezem, who operated the computer program that tallied the votes in our election process; our Tellers, sixty-eight persons from across the Conference who served us so ably throughout the week; and our bishop, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, who gave direction to our planning and so ably presided over the Conference."

The Conference Secretary then made the following **omnibus motion**: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the final ballot, the Closing Worship and The Fixing of the Appointments this 2007 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*. The motion was approved by the Conference at 4:40 p.m.

Carolyn Briscoe offered a motion for the Annual Conference to provide funding for the two Lay Reserves and two Clergy Reserves to General Conference and for all five Clergy and Lay Reserves to Jurisdictional Conference. The motion was seconded and approved. Bishop Taylor then announced the results of **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Five** with the election of The **Reverend Clarence E. "Smoke" Kanipe (eighth)**. Then Ballot Number Six was taken at 4:45 p.m. following prayer by The Reverend John W. Culp.

Bishop Taylor then encouraged all Conference members to remain for the closing service, and explained the process for completion of the balloting process. Bishop Taylor announced that 900 laity and 838 clergy registered for this Annual Conference for a total of 1,738 registered delegates, with an additional 50 to 75 visitor packets having been distributed at the registration table. The Conference was then in recess prior to the closing worship service.

Service of Holy Communion and The Fixing of the Appointments. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor led the Annual Conference in closing worship at 5:25p.m. in the Florence Civic Center Arena including serving as celebrant for Holy Communion. The appointments were distributed by the tellers at the beginning of the worship service. The scripture for the service was John 13:1-17, and Bishop Taylor preached on the topic of "A Pattern Laid Down." The District Superintendents were invited to the platform to come and stand with the Bishop for the fixing of the appointments. Each Superintendent reviewed their appointments and made brief corrections as needed. Following the fixing of the appointments by Bishop Taylor for the coming Conference year, the congregation participated in The Affirming of the Appointments, and in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Joseph Heyward, Conference Lay Leader, served as liturgist for the service. Mr. Billy Fallaw served as Organist. The service concluded at 6:15 p.m.

The Conference immediately reconvened to take final action on the election of Jurisdictional Conference delegates and reserves. The Reverend Stephen Taylor offered a motion that the Standing Rules be suspended in order to accept the two clergy receiving the

most votes on the ballot about to be reported as the final delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, and that the next five receiving the highest number of votes be designated as reserves. The motion to suspend was seconded and was approved. The Conference then received and seconded the main motion, and voted to approve. Bishop Taylor then reported the results of **Jurisdictional Conference Ballot Number Six. The Reverend B. Michael Alexander (ninth) and The Reverend Sonya Ortigoza (tenth)** were elected as the final two Jurisdictional Conference delegates. Reserves elected were: **The Reverends Delos Corderman, Russell Freeman, Thomas Bowman, Lillian H. Washington, and Willie S. Teague.** All of the business of the Conference being completed, the 36th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference was adjourned *sine die* at 6:25 p.m.

Addendum

DECISION OF LAW

**Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
South Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church
July 2, 2007**

Request for Decision of Law

On the morning of Monday, June 4, 2007, during the regular session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, during the report of the Committee on Standing Rules, the following request for a Decision of Law was submitted:

"[I]n accordance with Paragraph 2609.6 request is hereby made in writing in the regular business of the 2007 session during the Report of Standing Rules for a decision of law by the bishop pertaining to Standing Rule 30.d being in conflict with Paragraph 603.7 of the Discipline by limiting the nomination source to the Bishop and Cabinet." Request for a Ruling of Law, June 4, 2007.

Decision of Law

Standing Rule 30.d. of the Standing Rules and Resolutions of the South Carolina Conference is not in conflict with paragraph 603.7 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2004 ed.).

Statement of Facts and Procedural History

The South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, an annual conference of The United Methodist Church, is a religious, nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina and subject to the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1994, codified at S.C. Code Ann. §§ 33-31-101, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as the "Nonprofit Act").

Under the Nonprofit Act, "Unless otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, a corporation shall have a president, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as are appointed by the board." S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-840(a). "The incorporators or board of directors of a corporation shall adopt bylaws for the corporation." S.C. Code Ann. § 33-31-206(a).

Pursuant to the Nonprofit Act, the South Carolina Conference adopted Bylaws. Article III (Governance) of the Bylaws states: "The Corporation shall look to *The Discipline*, the Standing Rules, the law of South Carolina governing nonprofit corporations and these bylaws for guidance in the operations of its affairs." Article V (Officers of the Corporation), Section 1, of the

Bylaws, states in relevant part: "The Annual Conference shall elect the other officers of the Corporation as provided in *The Discipline* and the Standing Rules, who shall be the Conference Secretary. . . ."

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2004 ed.) (hereinafter the "*Discipline*") provides that "All provisions of the *Discipline* relating . . . to the formation and operation of any corporation, . . . are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws, and in the event of conflict therewith the local laws shall prevail. . . ." Paragraph 2506.1, the *Discipline*.

The *Discipline* further provides that "The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church. . . ." Paragraph 604.1, the *Discipline*.

Paragraph 603.7 of the *Discipline* reads in relevant part: "The annual conference at the first session following the General Conference or jurisdictional or central conferences . . . shall elect a secretary and statistician to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. In the case of a vacancy in either office in the interim of the sessions, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference."

The South Carolina Conference, through its members, has adopted various rules for its operation and governance. Standing Rule ("SR") 1 states in relevant part: "The procedure of the Annual Conference shall be governed by the following in the order listed: The *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, The Standing Rules of the Annual Conference, The Rules of Order of the preceding General Conference and the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*."

SR 30 reads in relevant part: "The officers of the Annual Conference, to be elected quadrennially, shall be elected at the Annual Conference preceding the beginning of the quadrennium and shall be as follows: . . . d. The secretary, upon nomination by the Bishop and the Cabinet."

On June 4, 2007, pursuant to paragraph 2609.6 of the *Discipline*, The Reverend Delos Corderman, a retired member of the South Carolina Conference, made a written request to the Presiding Bishop for a decision of law. The request is set forth above verbatim and is contained in a document entitled "Request for a Ruling of Law" (hereinafter the "Request"). At the time it was offered, I took the Request of Rev. Corderman under advisement and now render this decision pursuant to paragraph 2609.6.

The annual conference session adjourned on June 7, 2007.

Analysis

SR 30.d. is not in conflict with paragraph 603.7 of the *Discipline* because the standing rule at issue does not interfere with or otherwise affect the rule of the *Discipline* that the annual conference elect the secretary of the conference. The standing rule simply establishes a procedure for nomination of a candidate for the office of secretary; it does not affect the right of the annual conference to elect the secretary. Nomination and election are two different processes. Consistent with the authority granted by the *Discipline*, as well as the Nonprofit Act, the South Carolina Conference, "for its own government," has adopted procedures, through its Bylaws and standing rules, for the nomination of the secretary (as well as other officers).

The Request asserts that "With the exception of the presiding bishop, and the district superintendents, [SR 30.d.] denies the right of other members of the South Carolina Annual Conference to nominate anyone to serve as secretary of the annual conference." This is a flawed premise because the members of an annual conference do not have a "right" under the Articles, Bylaws, other rules, or the statutory law of South Carolina to nominate a secretary for the annual conference. As set forth above, the Nonprofit Act does not confer on members of a nonprofit corporation the right to nominate, or even elect, officers of a nonprofit corporation. Subject to contrary provisions in the articles and bylaws of a nonprofit corporation, the authority to appoint officers of the corporation resides with the board of directors (or trustees) of a nonprofit corporation.

The Articles of the South Carolina Conference do not address the procedures for nomination and election of the secretary of the annual conference. Although the Bylaws of the South Carolina Conference do not expressly set forth the particular procedures to be followed in nominating and electing the secretary of the annual conference, the Bylaws do expressly mandate using the procedures of the *Discipline* and the Standing Rules for electing officers of the conference corporation.

As stated above, the South Carolina Conference, through its membership, has adopted various rules for its governance, including certain standing rules relating to the nomination of officers. SR 30 is the established procedure for nominating certain officers of the Conference, none of whom may be nominated by the general members of the Conference. In the case of the secretary, the authority to nominate is granted to the Bishop and Cabinet by SR 30.d. Simply put, no "right to nominate" has been denied any member of the annual conference because no right to nominate exists.

The Request correctly cites paragraph 604.1 of the *Discipline* for the proposition that the annual conference may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the *Discipline*. Accordingly, the members of the South Carolina Conference enacted SR 30.d.

In certain instances, the *Discipline* mandates nominating procedures for officers within an annual conference. For example, the *Discipline* establishes that the conference treasurer shall be nominated by the council on finance and administration and elected by the annual conference (paragraph 618 of the *Discipline*). The *Discipline* also establishes that the conference chancellor shall be nominated by the bishop and elected by the annual conference (paragraph 603.8 of the *Discipline*). No right is denied a member of the South Carolina Conference (or any other annual conference) to nominate the treasurer or the chancellor because no right has been conferred upon the members of annual conferences to nominate persons for those offices. Furthermore, as pointed out above, nomination and election are different processes.

Here, however, with regard to the secretary, the *Discipline* is silent concerning the nomination procedure. In such an instance, the authority of paragraph 604.1 allows an annual conference to adopt rules and regulations to determine the procedure for nomination, because the *Discipline* plainly does not establish a general individual membership right to nominate officers. As demonstrated by the previously cited examples, the right to nominate may quite properly reside only in individual persons or subordinate bodies.

In essence, the authority of paragraph of 604.1 allows an annual conference to "fill the gap" when no express procedure is set forth by the *Discipline*. That is exactly what the South Carolina Conference has done by enacting SR 30.d. In so doing, no conflict has been created with the *Discipline* by the enactment of SR 30.d. because the *Discipline* has not mandated a nomination procedure for the secretary.

Conclusion

By virtue of the authority of the *Discipline*, as well as the Nonprofit Act and other applicable rules, the South Carolina Conference has lawfully and properly established a procedure for the nomination of the conference secretary by the enactment of SR 30.d. No conflict exists between SR 30.d. and paragraph 603.7 of the *Discipline* because SR 30.d. addresses the nomination procedure while paragraph 603.7 addresses the election procedure. Finally, SR 30.d. acts as a gap-filling provision for the nomination of the conference secretary and thus cannot be in conflict with the *Discipline*.

Decision submitted by:

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Resident Bishop, Columbia Area
July 2, 2007