

**THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Report No. 1**

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

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Budget for 2007</b>	<b>Requested for 2008</b>	<b>Recom- mended for 2008</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Average Net Funds Factor</b>
1 World Service **	2,059,583	2,174,147	2,174,147	5.6%	0.025258
2 Conference Benevolences	2,270,103	2,337,612	2,337,612	3.0%	0.027189
3 Episcopal Fund **	529,560	568,584	568,584	7.4%	0.006613
4 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	2,102,492	1,866,102	1,866,102	-11.2%	0.021705
5 District Superintendents Salary	1,012,000	1,042,400	1,042,400	3.0%	0.012124
6 Equitable Compensation	275,000	540,000	540,000	96.4%	0.006281
7 District Administration	780,000	780,000	780,000	0.0%	0.009072
8 Conference Administration	1,566,502	1,631,897	1,600,264	2.2%	0.018613
9 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	166,023	166,023	166,023	0.0%	0.001931
10 General Conference Administration **	178,121	191,391	191,391	7.4%	0.002226
11 Senior College Scholarships	1,374,825	1,416,099	1,416,099	3.0%	0.016471
12 Spartanburg Methodist College	534,343	635,000	587,777	10.0%	0.006837
13 Campus Ministry	511,637	561,637	561,637	9.8%	0.006533
14 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,446	638,446	638,446	0.0%	0.007426
15 Camps & Retreat Ministries	368,798	368,798	368,798	0.0%	0.004290
16 Congregational Development	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	0.0%	0.012213
17 Ministerial Education **	708,722	706,605	706,605	-0.3%	0.008219
18 Interdenominational Cooperation **	54,872	55,808	55,808	1.7%	0.000649
19 Black College **	282,210	281,367	281,367	-0.3%	0.003273
20 Africa University **	62,320	62,134	62,134	-0.3%	0.000723
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$16,525,557</b>	<b>\$17,074,050</b>	<b>\$16,995,194</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	

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

# Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Report No. 2

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

Fund	Budget for 2005	Re-organized Budget for 2006	Budget for 2007	Requested Budget for 2008	Recom- mended for 2008	% Change
<b>A. Connectional Ministries (formerly CCOM)</b>						
<b>1. Conference Advance Specials</b>						
Ministry Programs	200,486	195,572	195,572	229,000	229,000	17.1%
Special Salary Supplements	23,278	25,000	25,000	34,000	34,000	36.0%
<b>Sub-totals (1)</b>	<b>223,764</b>	<b>220,572</b>	<b>220,572</b>	<b>263,000</b>	<b>263,000</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
<b>2. Board/Agency Programs</b>	<b>708,360</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>521,150</b>	<b>521,150</b>	<b>521,150</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>3. Board/Agency Administration</b>	<b>110,477</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>4. Operations (100% guaranteed)</b>						
Salaries	385,000	525,000	681,250	700,000	700,000	2.8%
Employee Benefits	180,000	200,000	220,000	226,000	226,000	2.7%
Staff Housing Allowances	36,000	60,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
Staff travel	22,950	35,000	70,000	84,000	84,000	20.0%
Office Rent	56,688	56,688	56,688	45,000	45,000	-20.6%
Office Operations	30,000	35,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.0%
Equipment/Maintenance/Depreciation	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.0%
Staff Development	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Insurance & Bond	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Interpretation	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Program Review	1,500	0	0	0		
Travel Contingency	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Contract Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (4)</b>	<b>734,638</b>	<b>937,188</b>	<b>1,169,438</b>	<b>1,196,500</b>	<b>1,196,500</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

**5. Communications**

Electronics	132,328	45,400	55,000	55,000	55,000	0.0%
Resource Center	65,000	25,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	48,000	48,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	0.0%
Committee Meetings	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%

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<b>Sub-totals (5)</b>	<b>246,828</b>	<b>119,900</b>	<b>146,500</b>	<b>146,500</b>	<b>146,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
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<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>2,024,067</b>	<b>1,987,660</b>	<b>2,137,660</b>	<b>2,207,150</b>	<b>2,207,150</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
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**B. Other Conference Agencies**

Cabinet Emergency Fund	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund	750	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Committee on Episcopacy	750	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Archives & History						
1) Conference Archivist Contract	14,207	14,633	15,218	15,827	15,827	4.0%
2) Program & Administration	9,085	7,285	7,375	7,885	7,885	6.9%
Board of the Ordained Ministry						
1) Operations	50,600	57,450	53,350	55,250	55,250	3.6%
2) Formation in Ministry Programs	6,000	5,300	5,000	0	0	-100.0%
3) Career Planning Programs	3,000	2,500	0			

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<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>107,392</b>	<b>129,668</b>	<b>132,443</b>	<b>130,462</b>	<b>130,462</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
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<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$2,131,459</b>	<b>\$2,117,328</b>	<b>\$2,270,103</b>	<b>\$2,337,612</b>	<b>\$2,337,612</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
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The Conference Administration Fund (Item 8, Report No. 1) shall be divided as follows:

Fund	Budget for 2006	Budget for 2007	Requested for 2008	Recom- mended for 2008	% Change
1 Advocate	143,000	143,000	172,833	150,000	4.9%
2 Contingency Fund	300,000	325,000	325,000	325,000	0.0%
3 Journal Publication	70,000	75,500	75,000	75,500	0.0%
4 Ministers Book	5,000	8,350	6,125	6,125	-26.6%
5 Director of Administrative Services Office					
Salaries	182,023	348,844	366,150	366,150	5.0%
Benefits	51,400	106,525	114,583	115,283	8.2%
Operations	70,590	155,540	149,185	149,185	-4.1%
(Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)		(80,000)	(80,000)	(80,000)	
6 Print Media Services	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000	0.0%
7 Conference Expense Fund	160,000	152,500	152,500	152,500	0.0%
8 Administrative Committees			2,750	2,750	
Council on Finance & Administration	2,750	2,750	0	0	-100.0%
Conference Staff Relations Committee	300	300	0	0	-100.0%
Nominating Committee	500	500	0	0	-100.0%
Standing Rules Committee	250	250	0	0	-100.0%
9 Conference Secretary	40,000	41,750	44,360	44,360	6.3%
10 Methodist Center Trustees	40,000	25,000	40,000	30,000	20.0%
11 Coordinator of Clergy Services	155,000	166,193	169,411	169,411	1.9%
12 General Conference Delegates	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	0.0%
13 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,314,813</b>	<b>\$1,566,002</b>	<b>\$1,631,897</b>	<b>\$1,600,264</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

### Report No. 3

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2008 will be set at \$86,864.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$13,030) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2008 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
  - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
  - 2) Exception: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
  - 3) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$3,000 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 15,000. The schedule for 2008 will be as follows:

	Membership	Amount
Anderson	15,410	\$3,000
Charleston	25,245	\$4,000
Columbia	32,211	\$4,700
Florence	19,797	\$3,500
Greenville	21,660	\$3,700
Greenwood	16,882	\$3,200
Hartsville	20,077	\$3,500
Marion	22,194	\$3,700
Orangeburg	19,211	\$3,400
Rock Hill	16,548	\$3,200
Spartanburg	17,052	\$3,200
Walterboro	15,764	\$3,100

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$132,000 for the total of all districts. This will be set at \$11,000 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$132,000. In addition, insurance and pensions is set at \$264,000 (\$22,000 per district), and continuing education at \$500 per superintendent.
- 5) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved by the District Committee on Continuing Education prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.
- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.
- E. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund:

### Recommended for 2008

<u>District</u>	<u>Parsonage</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of District Avg. Net Funds</u>
Anderson	\$10,000	\$45,000	\$55,000	0.009171
Charleston	15,000	15,000	30,000	0.003579
Columbia	10,000	30,000	40,000	0.003100
Florence	15,000	35,000	50,000	0.007867
Greenville	15,000	25,000	40,000	0.004586
Greenwood	12,000	13,000	25,000	0.004008
Hartsville	17,000	30,000	47,000	0.007299
Marion	16,000	30,000	46,000	0.005186
Orangeburg	8,000	36,000	44,000	0.007988
Rock Hill	12,000	27,000	39,000	0.006235
Spartanburg	20,000	25,000	45,000	0.006726
Walterboro	<u>15,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	0.010882
	\$165,000	\$336,000	\$501,000	

### Report No. 4

- A. We call attention to the "Special Days" designated by the *Book of Discipline* and recommend that they be observed with appropriate free-will offerings and that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church.

Human Relations Day – January 20, 2008  
 Golden Cross Sunday – February 3, 2008  
 One Great Hour of Sharing – March 2, 2008  
 Native American Awareness Sunday – April 6, 2008  
 Peace with Justice Sunday – May 18, 2008  
 Epworth Children's Home  
     Mothers' Day – May 11, 2008  
     Work Day – September 14, 2008  
     Church school offering first Sunday each month  
 Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 10, 2008  
 Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 16, 2008  
     (youth offering)  
 World Communion Sunday – October 5, 2008  
 Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 2, 2008  
 United Methodist Student Day – November 30, 2008  
 Global AIDS Awareness Sunday – December 7, 2008

- B. An offering may be taken to support the Bessie Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund as a part of the observance of Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 9, 2008.

- C. We offer the following recommendations:

- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.).
- 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage.
- 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their

conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate for 2008 when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$4.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for the evening meal.

- 4) That each charge place in its budget an amount of at least \$500 per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund, and that if the full amount is not used in a given year, the unused portion may be carried forward from year to year during the tenure of a pastor, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's continuing education allowance. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when there is a change of pastor. It is also recommended that the health insurance premium be paid by the local church directly to the Office of Ministerial Affairs; if it is done on a salary reduction basis, the amount must be included in the charge conference worksheet which itemizes compensation and benefits for 2008.
- 5) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 6) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 7) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2008 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. When a church has declined for two consecutive years in "net funds," the term "average net funds" shall mean the average of the last two years only; the first year net funds increases, a three-year average will be used, and the following year the normal four-year average. Newly organized churches will be treated in the same manner as other churches of the conference. A four-year average of net funds will be used, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero.
- 8) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 64 through 72 (inclusive) of Table II.
- 9) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table II statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table II reports for use in future year calculations.
- 10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 14, Report No. 1) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 11, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin College.
- 11) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts up to \$7,500 from the Conference Contingency Fund to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 12) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of the Conference Council on Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

- 14) That the budgets of the Resource Center, Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 15) That up to 15% of the cash salary, exclusive of a designated housing allowance, for clergy staff of the conference be designated as a utilities allowance for 2008 in addition to any designated housing allowance.
- 16) That local churches of the conference incorporate, as recommended in *The Discipline*. A packet of materials prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available from the district office to assist in this process. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

#### **Report No. 5**

A major reconstruction/repair project for the dam at Lake Junaluska was approved by the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and has been undertaken by the SEJ Council on Finance and Administration. By action of the SEJ, each member conference has been asked to raise \$.50 per member over a four year period. South Carolina's share would be approximately \$121,000, or \$30,250 per year. We ask each church within the South Carolina Conference to contribute \$.125 per member during 2008, based on the membership as reported in the 2005 Report to the Annual Conference (statistical report).

#### **Report No. 6**

The Conference undertook the building and funding of a major renovation to the United Methodist Conference Center in 2002. The 2002 conference session agreed that all churches of the Conference would share in the cost through an "asking" to be paid over the following five years. That five year period will be done at the end of 2007. However, many churches are behind in meeting this obligation and there is a significant outstanding balance on the construction loan. Because the terms of our loan have given us until the end of 2008 for final payment, we request permission to continue this campaign through 2008. Only those churches that have not paid the full amount originally assigned to them for the five years will be notified of the balance outstanding during 2008. This will be identified as an "Asking" at the bottom of the monthly apportionment statement.

#### **Report No. 7**

Following is a listing of the 2006 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of 2008 apportionments.

<b>District</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2006</b>
Anderson	5,997,069	Hartsville	6,439,470
Charleston	8,381,256	Marion	8,879,815
Columbia	12,904,143	Orangeburg	5,508,446
Florence	6,355,581	Rock Hill	6,255,261
Greenville	8,722,213	Spartanburg	6,698,700
Greenwood	6,237,056	Walterboro	3,699,546

*H. Samuel Johnson, President*  
*D. Mitchell Houston, Vice-President*  
*Ernestine Hunter, Secretary*  
*James H. Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer*



	Authorized Appropriated Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
<b>Conference Benevolences #500</b>									
272	8,000	18,000	8,634	10,000	13,987	4,013	38,905	0	43,552
152	14,633	14,633	12,640		14,633	0	0	1,993	0
585	50,693	50,693	54,827	0	26,665	24,028	0	(28,162)	0
150	2,320	2,320	2,804		1,178	1,142	5,953	0	7,579
154	3,508	3,508	3,469		1,581	1,927	3,605	0	5,513
274	800	800	860	10,000	5,121	(4,321)	1,570	0	7,309
264	2,000	2,000	2,177	1,300	5,740	(3,740)	15,542	0	13,279
520	18,865	18,865	20,404		12,832	6,033	0	(7,572)	0
502	31,200	31,200	28,663	0	40,719	(9,519)	2,573	9,463	0
225	24,000	24,000	25,932	7,500	24,698	(698)	(892)	0	7,842
525	1,232	1,232	1,332		1,281	(49)	0	(51)	0
530	56,022	56,022	48,862		49,531	6,491	(3,471)	4,140	0
591	11,560	11,560	11,430		10,115	1,445	0	(1,315)	0
270	1,200	1,200	1,299		0	1,200	1,148	0	2,447
535	73,150	73,150	79,115	1,505	82,915	(9,765)	0	3,800	0
540	9,818	9,818	10,619		10,719	(901)	0	(1,405)	0
545	8,470	8,470	9,161		2,831	5,639	0	(6,330)	0
550	13,706	13,706	14,824		11,165	2,541	0	(3,659)	0
515	1,200	1,200	1,299		3,810	(2,610)	4,572	0	2,061
500	898,188	898,188	778,668		868,690	29,498	1,421	88,601	0
260	45,960	45,960	49,628	5	47,021	(1,061)	6,535	0	9,147
620	175,479	175,479	117,655	130	175,479	0	70,187	0	12,493
555	23,100	23,100	24,964		17,959	5,141	(213)	(6,812)	0
560	12,628	12,628	13,658		4,766	7,862	0	(8,892)	0
565	233,200	233,200	259,026		230,370	2,830	0	(28,666)	0
570	2,310	2,310	2,499		1,056	1,254	0	(1,443)	0
575	5,679	5,679	7,392		5,590	89	0	(1,802)	0
505	48,000	48,000	51,914		49,982	(1,962)	0	0	1,932
580	0	0	0		2,796	204	45	5,751	3,000
517	38,400	38,400	41,470	170	47,360	(8,960)	31,071	0	25,351
504	45,400	45,400	59,220	0	39,018	6,382	59,636	0	59,838
510	20,000	28,000	21,604	10,245	27,467	533	0	0	4,382
262	4,240	4,240	4,573	0	3,928	312	10,306	0	10,951
595	0	230,000	0		229,388		311,719	141,618	223,949
	<b>\$1,864,961</b>	<b>\$2,135,961</b>	<b>\$1,750,662</b>	<b>\$40,855</b>	<b>\$2,070,391</b>	<b>\$64,968</b>	<b>\$560,212</b>	<b>\$159,267</b>	<b>\$440,625</b>

Administration Fund #550 -

	Authorized Appropriated Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
103 Contingency Fund	300,000	300,000	248,559	256,726	11,687	288,313	100,000	(270,079)	323,519
112 Journal Publication	52,500	65,250	59,005	3,800	80,274	(15,024)	7,574	0	(10,895)
114 Minister's Book	3,750	6,750	4,138	3,231	1,506	5,244	31,736	0	37,589
105 Treasurer's Office	331,418	331,418	274,580	0	304,012	27,408	0	28,432	0
120 Conference Staff Relations Committee	240	240	244	0	1,431	(1,191)	4,303	0	3,116
107 Council on Finance & Administration	2,500	2,500	2,280	0	1,740	760	482	0	1,022
101 Conference Expense Fund	128,000	149,000	132,565	4,805	143,775	5,225	77,044	0	70,639
135 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	5,600	5,600	5,794	0	662	4,938	26,206	0	31,338
116 Nominating Committee	500	1,000	411	0	1,414	(414)	3,139	0	2,136
110 Conference Secretary	37,600	37,600	33,146	0	33,596	4,004	0	450	0
118 Standing Rules	300	300	211	0	37	263	2,144	0	2,318
180 Methodist Center Trustees	30,000	179,800	33,146	149,286	167,454	12,346	55,681	0	70,659
210 Coordinator of Clergy Services	155,000	155,000	128,417	0	148,511	6,489	0	20,084	0
140 General Conference Delegates	7,500	7,500	7,452	0	0	7,500	(778)	0	6,674
80 Advocate	143,000	143,000	118,473	0	118,295	24,705	0	0	178
180 Print Media Services	60,000	306,750	64,634	231,173	277,640	29,110	(5,688)	0	12,479
	<b>\$1,257,908</b>	<b>\$1,891,708</b>	<b>\$1,112,055</b>	<b>\$649,021</b>	<b>\$1,292,034</b>	<b>\$399,674</b>	<b>\$301,843</b>	<b>(\$220,103)</b>	<b>\$560,782</b>

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Other Appropriated Funds - January 17, 2007

	Authorized Appropriated Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt. Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
District Administration	830,000	830,000	751,801	0	672,090	157,910	102,450	0	182,161
Campus Ministry	431,410	431,410	432,605	0	446,902	-15,492	13,044	13,340	12,087
Equitable Compensation	300,000	300,000	278,698	19,865	214,035	85,965	331,132	0	415,660
Dist. Supt.'s Salary	1,012,000	1,012,000	955,401	0	1,021,571	-9,571	0	66,170	0
Pension Fund	64,374	5,189,945	52,640	4,667,232	4,867,646	302,299	273,205	0	115,431
Pension Administration	160,891	160,981	131,984	0	118,994	41,987	178,373	0	191,373
Health Insurance	2,062,344	12,359,256	1,870,505	7,614,467	9,900,000	2,459,256	667,180	0	252,153
Insurance Administration	145,352	145,352	119,171	0	116,522	28,830	216,013	0	218,662
Congregational Development (allocated from 2005)									
Office Operations	203,833	203,833	203,833	0	206,308	-2,475	41,316	0	38,841
Existing Churches			107,291	0	0	0	3,353	-110,000	644
Allocated			0	300	238,071	0	283,245	495,000	540,474
New Congregations			214,591	53,588	0	0	309,163	-385,000	192,312
Land Acquisition			107,291	0	0	0	362,172	0	469,463
			<b>632,996</b>	<b>53,868</b>	<b>444,379</b>	<b>-2,475</b>	<b>999,249</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,241,734</b>

## THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

### **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, p. 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 the congregations and the conference.
5. provide a conference staff that will focus on equipping and connecting congregations for ministry

The Conference Council on Connectional Ministries is excited about its new vision statement, purpose and process because it clearly states that we are a church that mobilizes all our resources to assist congregations in making disciples for Jesus Christ. We have deployed six congregational specialists throughout the districts to assist and equip our local churches, as we seek to realize our vision.

The congregational specialists have been deployed in their assigned districts since October 2, 2006. They have received training in Natural Church Development and in coaching. They have monthly staff meetings and quarterly retreats in order to hone their skills and to be spiritually strengthened.

We have received from pastors and laity positive evaluations of the congregational specialists. “Your efforts are making a real difference. In February our specialist spent the weekend with us leading workshops on Saturday, preaching on Sunday, and attending an evangelism committee meeting after church. Her leadership was effective and her preaching was excellent.” “I think the conference is hearing that the congregational specialists are available for a wide variety of needs in the local church. This is one of the most important new programs of the annual conference that I have seen. It has such a major impact on the life and day-to-day functioning of the local church.”

We have seen the effectiveness of focusing the staff’s energies on local churches and their needs. Therefore, we hope to develop a process to assist boards and agencies to focus their work on equipping and connecting local churches for ministry.

The Conference Council on Connectional ministries is painfully aware of the need for more specialists in order to meet the needs of our local churches; however we are in the process of developing ways to be better stewards of our specialists’ gifts and abilities. We are aware that each specialist is responsible for working with local churches in two districts plus serving as staff liaison to several boards and agencies. The Council on Connectional Ministries has assigned a task force to provide training opportunities for board and committee chairpersons because they will be given greater responsibilities as we continue to provide programs and training events for our local churches.

Natural Church Development is a major tool that is being utilized in our conference and all of our specialists are using it as a component of their ministry with churches. The conference has provided training opportunities in Natural Church Development to all pastors in each district. It is our prayer that we will allow this process to strengthen our local churches as we realize our vision.

*Earline Haywood-Ulmer, Chairperson*

**Report 2 – Part I  
Special Days for 2008**

**A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 27
Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBGS, CORR)	January 20
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 3
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 10
Women's History Month	March 2008
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 2
World Day of Prayer	March 7
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 9
Religion in American Life Month (Worship)	April 2008
Rural Life Sunday (GBGM)	April 2008
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 6
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2008
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2008
National Day of Prayer	May 1
Christian Family Week	May 5-11
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 18
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBGS)	May 18
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 5
Laitry Sunday (GBOD)	October 19
World Community Day (UMW)	November 7
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 9
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 30
Global AIDS Awareness Sunday	December 7

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

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 2
Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 9
Soil and Water Stewardship Months	April and May 2008
Advocate Emphasis Month	May 2008
Mental Health Awareness Month	May 2008
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 11
United Methodist Men's Day	June 15
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	August 10
Literacy Sunday (GBGS)	September 7
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	September 14
Continuing Journey Sunday	September 14
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 21
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance in cooperation with the Children's Defense Fund	October 10-12
SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday	November 2
United Methodist Homes Sunday	November 23

**C. OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

- Christian Education Sunday
- Disability Awareness Sunday

**Resources for 2008 Special Day Observances**

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

- SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministry Sunday** – The Conference Board of Global Ministries provides materials for this special day.
- Women in the Pulpit Sunday** – The Commission on the Status and Role of Women provides material to be used in a worship service on *Women in the Pulpit Sunday* or another Sunday selected by the church. The packet will be mailed to the Conference COSROW members and local church COSROW chairs and to others by request.
- Rural Life Sunday** – The Conference Board of Church and Society provides materials upon request for *Rural Life Sunday*, or another Sunday selected by the local church – traditionally, the fifth Sunday after Easter.
- Mother's Day and Work Day for Epworth** – Epworth Children's Home prepares bulletin enclosures and sends samples from the General Church.
- Literacy Sunday** – Materials are provided by the Conference Board of Church and Society and the S.C. Christian Action Council upon request.
- Golden Cross Sunday** – Supports the work of health and welfare ministries in the annual conference, including nursing scholarships and emergency medical care scholarships.
- United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday** – Asbury Hills United Methodist Camps and Sewee Coastal Retreat Center provide materials upon request for this special day.
- United Methodist Homes Sunday** – The Oaks of Orangeburg, Wesley Commons of Greenwood and The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee provide materials for this Sunday.
- Christian Education Sunday** – The annual conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.
- Disability Awareness Sunday** – The annual conference determines the date. An offering may be received to be used by the annual conference to create architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches.

## Report 2 — Part II

### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2008

- Alston Wilkes Society:** Since 1962, the Society has been in the business of rebuilding lives and providing second chances. It creates and supports opportunities statewide to help adult and juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, homeless veterans and other homeless people, emotionally- and behaviorally-disturbed children, and the families of these groups of people to become responsible and productive through employment, mediation, life skills, rehabilitation, prevention, volunteerism, and transitional housing services.
- Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** This ministry's purpose is to strengthen the local churches in their ministry, and to minister to all of the people in its geographical area by a program of activities which can best be realized through the cooperation of the churches within the parish. The services provided are: Joint Worship, Bible Study, Activities for Children and Youth, Leadership Training in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission (ex. distribution of food commodities, health fair, mission fair, blood drive, clothes closet and relief kits.), Tutorial Program (K-12) In-School and After-School, Vacation Bible School, Transportation, Newsletter and Shalom Zone (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Emergency Medical and Inadequate Housing), Shalom Literacy and Congregational Resource Center for Strengthening the Black Church.
- Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia:** The mission of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment where children and youth are nurtured through activities and programs that address their educational, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. Additionally, the Center seeks to empower women and families to enhance their quality of life by providing assistance and services with special attention to the concerns of justice and advocacy. Since its inception in 1945, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center continues to service the residents of the Waverly-Edgewood and surrounding communities. It provides a variety of programs to include a lab for Computer Literacy Technology, Pre-GED classes, After-School Enrichment and Tutorial Program, Summer Reading Activities, Vacation Bible School, Emergency Food

Distribution, Community Forums, Internship Opportunities, and Parenting Classes. The Center's facility is available for utilization by the community for programs, weddings, meetings, worship services and other activities.

**Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg:** The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's day care facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of two and five. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts (dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults include Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry:** The Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry is an Advance Special that ministers to children and adults visiting six of the area's campgrounds.

Services include day camps, crafts, drama, music and evening and Sunday services. A seminary student serves as the campground chaplain and is provided with room and board from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The main goal is to advance Christian education while meeting the religious and social needs of families and individuals visiting the Grand Strand area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The newest program of the UMRC is the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. This

construction programs enables low and very-low families to participate in home ownership through construction of their own homes in partnership with one another, building community while building homes. During this process, families learn decision-making skills, as well as construction skills, thus preparing them for the responsibilities of home ownership.

UMRC was born of devastation generated by Hurricane Hugo.

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

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

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

#### **Budgeted Financial Statement for 2006 Emerging Ministries**

Beginning Balance	\$311,719.24
Support Staff / Pension / Insurance / Travel for 3 staff	\$132,016.77
Equipment	\$64,153.15
Grants / NCD	<u>\$33,217.76</u>
	<b>\$229,387.68</b>
 2006 Ending Balance	 \$82,331.56

#### **THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

"The conference board of church and society shall serve to connect the General Board of Church and Society and the district and local churches in relating the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to the persons and structures of the communities, nation, and world in which they live. Program shall be developed that provides education and action on issues confronting the Church consistent with the Social Principles and the policies adopted by the General Conference" (From ¶ 628.4. *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church – 2004. Copyright © 2004 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission).

Our board has been active in working on some of the issues that are affecting our churches and our society today.

Last year the South Carolina Annual Conference referred "A Resolution Supporting Human Rights and Peace in the Middle East." While our board supports human rights and peace, the board makes no recommendation concerning this resolution. As a matter of practicality, it would be better if persons submitted such resolutions directly to this board if this board is asked to deal with the issue. Otherwise, the Annual Conference would do well to vote its will on such issues. Our board welcomes input from any member of the Annual Conference. In fact, one of our main issues this year has become predatory lending. This was due in large part to concerns



shared with the board from lay and clergy members of the conference. A resolution from our board was circulated amongst our churches in March. Thank you for your efforts in supporting our board's work to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our state from financial exploitation. If the South Carolina Legislature has not passed legislation by the time we meet for Annual Conference, we anticipate another resolution for the conference's consideration. Our board will also bring resolutions on immigration reform and the atrocities going on in Darfur. These issues were the focus of a special meeting of the board this spring. Last year the South Carolina Annual Conference also referred part of "A Resolution To Support The UMC Global Aids Fund" to our board. While we wholeheartedly endorse this resolution, we do not have a preference for a date to observe "Global AIDS Awareness Sunday." We believe that the boards and agencies that set the dates for all the special days should set this day as well. Finally, in continuation of our resolution approved at last year's Annual Conference, we encourage you to continue to work to protect our children against poverty.

*Scott Wachter, Chairperson*

## THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Conference Board of Education's vision is: to be a vital resource for The United Methodist Church in the South Carolina Conference, to bring fresh, workable, and enabling ideas and challenges to make our churches places of learning, spiritual growth, and service in the world. Our responsibilities are in the area of Christian education for the entire life span of church members.

This past year, the Board of Education has experienced many successful programs, and activities. It has been a very interesting year with the change from conference staff persons to congregational specialists. A positive outcome has been that we have been forced to be more intentional about why and how we do things. This has included taking more responsibility in eChristianEd and being more intentional in the way we organize our Age-Level Councils. Our Older Adult Council has a very effective structure. We are now seeking to mirror the nomination process and structure of the older adult council for all of our Age-Level Councils.

One of the more significant items of interest has been trying to determine how we as a committee must shift focus from conference events to empowering local churches. At this point we continue to see the importance for encouraging training in areas of Disciple Bible Study, Christian Believer, FaithQuest, and Companions in Christ. In order to shift our focus onto empowering local churches, we will be exploring a variety of approaches to education. For example, we will be sending Christian educators into local churches to equip congregations during this next year.

A great deal of the work of the Board of Education is done through Age-Level Councils. The reports of the Age-Level Councils of the Board of Education give details of their activities and significant achievements during this past conference year. We offer praise to God for all of their hard work and their cooperation as we seek to empower all of God's children.

*J. Michael Arant, Chairperson*

## THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

As with all committees and councils, the Council on Older Adult Ministries faced the challenges of change and transition in 2006. In addition, we were in the last year of the Duke Endowment Caring Communities Grant which supported the vital **Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength Program**. Facing the termination of this grant, the Council made plans to sustain the program through the formation of a sub-committee to facilitate the program, subsequently trained two resource persons in each district, and have enlisted the assistance of the District Superintendents and Congregational Specialists. This program started in 2003, with a grant from the General Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministries using three pilot groups, each of which had an African-American Church and a Euro-American Church. Eleven groups have completed the program and many of the groups continue to work together.

The **Spiritual Retreat**, held each February, remains a vital component of our ministry. Two retreats were held in 2006 with Reverend John Holbert as the leader for both retreats.

Reverend Paul Frey and Mrs. Thomasina Conyers were the music leaders at both, while Jim Wall led activities at the first and Roger Maness was the activities leader at the second.

Walterboro District was the site for the **Mission Event** this year. Being true to the mission of relating programs to the local church, older adults worked alongside UMVIM volunteers and older adults from the four local churches. Churches that were involved were Macedonia, Bethel, John's Chapel, and Jericho - which was the host church. Missioners were able to complete all the needed repairs and goals set by the churches. Completing the work was a great accomplishment but more meaningful for the participants was the fellowship with each other and the spiritual depth of the closing worship.

Our **Fall Event** in 2006 was a trip to Ireland where Reverend A. V. Huff, Jr. served as theologian/historian while participants discovered the development of Christianity in Ireland. Many Methodist beliefs originated with Irish missionaries.

The Council meets quarterly with two of the meetings being held at one of the Methodist Homes and one of the Mission Projects within the Conference. On May 11, we met at The Oaks and on August 24, we met at Bethlehem Center in Spartanburg.

Our purpose is to serve as an advocate for all older adults in the South Carolina Conference and we shall endeavor to provide continuous opportunities for ministries by, with, and for older adults. We are most grateful for the guidance and support of the South Carolina Conference in assisting us to fulfill our purpose.

*Betty C. Shuler, Chairperson*

## **THE DIVISION ON MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Division on Ministries with Young People continues in the forming stages. General Conference adopted the Division model in 2004 upon the recommendation of the Shared Mission Focus on Young People. The Division calls for three Network groups. In the South Carolina Conference these three network groups are: Y-Net; YAM-Net; and the Youth Workers Movement or Ad-Net.

### **Youth Workers Movement/Ad-Net**

The Ad-Net group met in February, April, June, August, October, and December of 2006. Programs for these meetings centered on safe sanctuaries, teens and cyberspace, and ET housing. During the December meeting this group honored Randy and Frazier Swindler for their touching the lives of teenagers and adults who work with youth.

This group has been chosen as one of two groups to be the model chapters for the New Youth Workers Movement - thus the name change. As such, a web site has been created; this group will continue to have email contact with persons in SC working in Youth Ministry both as professionals and lay volunteers.

Contacts for this group are: Shelly Holder, Chair at St. Luke, Hartsville; Susy Speas, Secretary at Ashland UMC; and Mary Margaret Westbury, Treasurer at St. Andrews, Orangeburg.

*Shelly Holder, Youth Workers Movement*

### **Young Adult Network**

The Young Adult Network began the year with a busy schedule which included meetings, Spiritual Life Retreat; and a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The Spiritual Life Retreat was lead by Lisa Yebuah and the Marriage Encounter Weekend was lead by Elise and Chris Barrett. Both of these were very meaningful in the life of those who attended.

During the Labor Day weekend retreat at Asbury Hills for the Division, the Young Adult group chose the name YAMNET (Young Adult Ministries Network); and named Katie Yon, Chair; and Jessica Morris, Secretary.

A web site has been created with the help of Matt Brodie. Also, members of the YAMNET participated in the Division on Ministries with Young People's Communication Day. There this group helped create a video to explain the Division on Ministries with Young People and a welcome video from each of the Network Chairs.

Members of the YAMNET participated in the Global Gathering of Young People in Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Katie Yon, Chair*

## **Youth Network Group**

Youth Ministry in the South Carolina Conference continues to be a vital part of the life of youth ministry in the local church. Offering 8 retreat weekends for local churches to experience spiritual life retreats at Springmaid Beach and offering a spiritual life weekend with the option to ski during the Lifted event. In addition, the SC Conference had area and state basketball tournaments; Spirit Singers, and Youth Annual Conference or YAC as it is called.

In addition, 88 youth, young adults, and adults represented South Carolina at the SEJ Convo at Lake Junaluska. Benji Spivey from St. Luke, Hartsville is the Chair of the SEJDMYP for 2006-2008.

Elected to serve as leaders for the Youth Network group are: Kristian Roof and Andrew Cannon, Co-Chairs; Courtney Lynch and Katie Lavender as Co-Secretaries.

Youth from the Youth Network attended the Global Gathering of Young People in Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Kristian Roof, Co-Chair  
Andrew Cannon, Co-Chair*

In addition to the network groups, the Division has Table Groups. These Table Groups are:

Advocacy, Communications, Discipleship, Leadership, Mission/Outreach, and Spiritual Formation. These groups have co-leaders – 1 youth and 1 young adult.

The Leadership Team of the Division is made up of the Executive Committees of the Youth Network, YAMNET, and Youth Workers Movement.

The Division continues to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ. The Division continues to challenge The United Methodist Church to embrace, confirm and celebrate God's call on the lives of young people.

*Kristian Roof, Y-Net  
Andrew Cannon, Y-Net  
Katie Yon, YAMNET  
Shelly Holder, YWM  
June Willson, Staff Liaison*

## **THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES**

The Council on Ministries with Families has enjoyed another year of moving toward our goal of supporting local congregations and their ministry with families. In March of 2007 we welcomed back Dr. Roland Martinson, who led a training event on the Baptismal Journey. This was the fourth key component in our series of trainings. We anticipate a concluding event in 2008 that will review the four components we have emphasized and serve as a practicum for our council so that we can enter local congregations and support their ministry with families. This remains our primary goal: to be invited into local congregations where we can support the authentic ministry that is emerging within that particular context. As a council, we are excited about that opportunity, which is set to begin during the coming year.

As with many councils, this past year has been one of transition and we wish to thank June Willson and Sidelle Derrick for their wonderful leadership and support. We will miss their many contributions. We also welcome the guidance and support of Kathy James and look forward to continued growth in the area of ministry with families in our annual conference.

*William F. Malambri III*

## **THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM**

Over the past year, the Board continues to be dedicated to providing resources and training at nominal or no cost for local churches in South Carolina. These programs and resources are identified by the churches and the Conference in South Carolina. The Board was intentional about reviewing and/or modifying/adapting current programs in an attempt to better meet the needs of the United Methodist Church specifically in South Carolina.

The Board proposes to continue the Five-Star Award and the Denman Evangelism

Recognition this year. The Board elected to change the title from Denman Award to Denman Recognition, in that evangelism is a life-style for these recipients and we are recognizing this gift, dedication and response in their lives. The Reverend Doctor Tim McClendon was the clergy recipient and Ms. Shirley Mackin was the lay recipient in 2006. This year's recipients will be announced at the breakfast during the 2007 session of Annual Conference. In 2006, there were 21 recipients of the Five-Star Award. Recipients of this year's Awards will be announced at the 2007 session.

The Board has worked diligently and faithfully this year in attempting to accurately project the budgetary needs for the coming year, including reducing monetary requests from the Annual Conference budget.

The Bishop's B.A.S.H. was held at Lexington UMC on March 24th. This is considered to be a significant and valuable event by this Board. Confirmands, adult chaperones, parents, youth leaders, and pastors are afforded a time set apart for education, fellowship, Holy Communion, and a meal. Attendees have the opportunity to meet and get to know Bishop Taylor as well as other leaders in the South Carolina Conference in this unique setting.

The Board of Evangelism would like to thank the Bishop and the Cabinet for continuing to encourage churches to participate in these awards and recognitions. The Board is also deeply appreciative of Bishop Taylor's participation and support of the B.A.S.H. for youth around our state.

*Rufus Foster, Chairperson  
Sandra Stevens Poirel, Secretary*

## **THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

Our Board comes together to share experiences, to learn of the workings of various missions, to hopefully encourage one another and to make budget recommendations. Our meetings bring together directors, educators and supporters of missions. Our sharing is open; our responsibilities as a board are sobering. We have been blessed with dedicated, gifted and determined individuals who sacrifice for others.

Since communication is vital for any thriving committee, all of our district mission secretaries are invited to attend our meetings. Each one has special interests from their district that can be shared with the entire Board. We continue to strive to support and encourage one another.

At each of our meetings, President Charles P. Teague of Spartanburg Methodist College reports on some of the activities directed by the college on and off campus. Also the vision of their dedicated Board of Trustees, the continuous growth of the facilities, and stories of the positive impact of the two year college on the students are shared. Many times members of our Board share stories of family members or church members or friends who were blessed by attending Spartanburg Methodist College.

It should also be noted that Dr. Viva Fowler from the Belin Trust and Rev. Diane Moseley, director of Killingsworth and representing the Advance Special Ministries, serve on the Board.

While chairperson, I have always reported to our conference any moneys and special calls that have been distributed or named by our Board. Budgeted items can be found in the appropriate section of our Annual Conference information. The following information has been separated according to the appropriate meeting date.

### **September 9, 2006 Meeting**

Church Extension/Advent Call to Mt Sinai, Anderson District

#### **Belin Trust**

Suttons UMC, Florence District	\$5,000
Dunean UMC, Greenville District	\$5,000
Olive Gospel Mission, Columbia District	\$1,000
The United Methodist Relief Center, Charleston District	\$10,000
Killingsworth, Columbia District	\$9,000

## Hungrief

Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry	\$1,050
John Wesley Food Bank, John Wesley UMC Hartsville District	\$2,500

## January 13, 2007 Meeting

Belin Trust - The requested total was \$201,600

Toxaway UMC/Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT, Anderson District	\$5,000
St Paul UMC, Florence District	\$5,000
St Paul UMC, Hartsville District	\$3,500
St James UMC, Marion District	\$10,560
Mt Nebo UMC, Orangeburg District	\$5,000
Mt Carmel UMC, Orangeburg District	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$36,060

Hungrief - Balance of \$2,800

Mt Zion UMC, Florence District	\$1,400
Dunean UMC, Greenville District	\$500
Orangeburg Circuit UMC, Orangeburg District	\$900

## Church Extension Partnership

New Hope UMC, Hartsville District—Lenten Call  
Sandy Grove UMC, Hartsville District—Conference Call—pending application being completed with all the required signatures.

Renfro Trust:

St John UMC, Florence District—approval to be forwarded to SEJ

I would also like to thank Ms. Millie Carter - Outreach Specialist, Rev. Willie Teague - Director of Connectional Ministries, and Tammy Fulmer - Administrative Assistant in the Connectional Ministries office, for their unfailing support.

*Margie Wilkie, Chair*

## COMMUNITIES OF SHALOM

A Community of Shalom is a geographically defined area within a community that engages the people who live in the community, United Methodist Churches, churches of other denominations, community organizations, businesses, and other institutions in and around that area to work together for the good of that community. It is to renew and rebuild communities from the inside out while creating a better quality of life—wellness, wholeness and prosperity (shalom)—for all who live there.

This annual conference is in a transitional period, and so is the Communities of Shalom Ministries. As we have moved from providing programming to resourcing and equipping local churches to do the ministry to which God calls them, the roles of the various committees and boards are changing. That evolution includes the Conference Board of Global Ministries to which the Communities of Shalom is related.

Our mission in South Carolina is to help identify the needs of a particular congregation or community and resource and equip them to seek and create the shalom of their community. We do this by providing training and education, funding opportunities, and technical assistance and support to existing shalom communities and to those who desire to become a community of shalom. The work focuses on spiritual growth, economic development, understanding and strengthening multicultural relationships, and focusing on health and wholeness. The outcome hoped for is that as we provide relief to our brothers and sisters who are living in poverty stricken communities amidst a country that has so much wealth, we will help to bring about systemic change that removes the barriers that keeps that cycle going. This ministry has been going strong for many years in this annual conference and there is much to celebrate.

On March 16 and 17, 2007, people from around the state and around the nation gathered in Hemingway for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Communities of Shalom Celebration. The COSS site in

Stuckey was the host for this event. What a hidden jewel. God is doing some great things in this area. Our host was the chair of the South Carolina Communities of Shalom Steering Committee, Edd Cunningham. The Reverend Geneva Stafford was the host pastor. The theme for the celebration this year was: Telling Our Story and Making a Difference. Our guest speakers were Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Bishop Schol was instrumental in starting the first Communities of Shalom after the riots in Los Angeles following the Rodney King beating; and the Reverend Jack C. Washington who was the Conference Coordinator of Shalom Ministries since it began in South Carolina. Special guests from the National Shalom Committee were also present. Good singing and preaching was the highlight of the evening.

On Saturday, there was a talent showcase which featured youth reciting poetry, singing, dancing, and rapping a positive message. Some seniors also participated singing the old songs of yesterday. Also, in keeping with the theme of Telling Our Story and Making a Difference, six of the 30 Communities of Shalom sites shared their stories of making a difference in their communities. Awards were given at a barbeque held on the site grounds in Stuckey.

Training for new sites and refresher courses for current site members have started for this year. There will be five sessions beginning in March and concluding in early June. Training is usually offered every two years for new sites, however, there will be opportunities for training available throughout the year.

Our sincere thanks goes out to the Conference Connectional Ministries for its support; the Conference Board of Global Ministries for its support; and the hard work of each of the Shalom Communities around the state. We are thankful, above all, to God for all that he has done in blessing this ministry to become what it is today. We are prayerful that it will continue to grow and flourish. We are hopeful that it will continue to meet the needs of the people in the community as we work to be a catalyst for change.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edd Cunningham, Chair, Communities of Shalom Steering Committee*  
*Millie Nelson, Congregational Specialist, Conference Coordinator of Shalom Ministries*

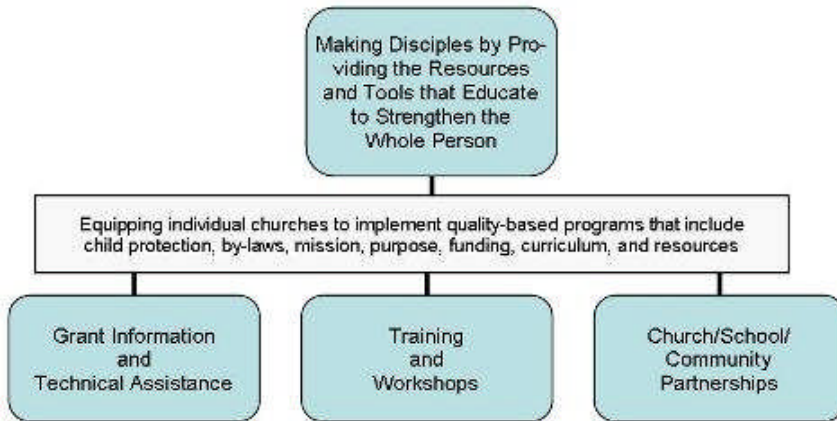
## **SHALOM LITERACY MINISTRY**

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

This outreach ministry provided 25 elementary schools across the state with school supply kits totaling more than 2800 kits. It has brought many children outside their community to participate in learning experiences at United Methodist colleges, youth rallies, and special events. We have worked with parents so that they can become self-sustainable through GED and ESL programs.

Grant opportunities and technical support for after-school programming have continued through this office providing funds and assistance to local churches and United Methodist institutions.

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



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

*Robin P. Landers, Program Coordinator*

## **DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

Disasters are always unpredictable. They are different sizes and of different scope. Often they hit us without warning. Disasters intrude into our lives with a force of destruction, and even death. In the context of hurt, debris, and dismay, we know that the people of God - the faith community and the United Methodist connection - must put forth every effort to empower those who are affected by disasters. Impacted communities, families, and churches must be helped to move toward recovery. Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Committees of the United Methodist Church connection must be united in their organizational structures to offer greater effectiveness in responding to disasters.

On **February 8-10, 2007 at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas**, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Disaster Response Coordinators, and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission accepted a covenant to unite and to organize for effective service. The belief and the intent is that we are strengthening the United Methodist Connection in disaster preparedness and recovery.

There is now a document called "Protocol for UMCORE/UMVIM Collaboration". In regards to a united disaster response, the organizational structure for the Relief Stage of response is given in the document as follows: "The consistent use of ERT (Early Response Teams) formed by UMVIM, as well as the addition of an UMVIM presence with UMCOR in the early assessment and guidance process will bring an improved and united presence to the disaster response. Therefore, UMCOR proposes to work with the jurisdictional UMVIM coordinators to create a team from each jurisdiction that can work with annual conferences to set up the volunteer management system following disasters. This Jurisdictional Disaster Volunteer Management Team (JDVMT) will be included in the consulting team that UMCOR creates after being invited, by the area Bishop, to assist. The structure also notes that the Conference Disaster Response Committee will be the overseer of the overall disaster response efforts". This protocol indeed clarifies the roles played by both UMCOR and UMVIM in the early days of a disaster. The collaboration will indeed strengthen the United Methodist Connection in Disaster Preparedness. The crowning point of this gathering was the covenant signing ceremony. All

individuals at this conference signed the collaboration covenant to demonstrate a faith commitment to work together under the agreed collaboration document.

Uniting for an effective response in disaster was demonstrated during the **South Carolina Conference Disaster Response Winter Workshop and Training held February 22-24, 2007 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**. South Carolina Conference Disaster Response Chair, Lee C. Bines, and UMVIM Chair, Tony Rowell reflected a consensus of the newly established protocol for UMCOR/UMVIM collaboration. During this conference, it was emphasized that each District Coordinator must give direct leadership if recovery is to happen in any district. It was also emphasized that the District Coordinator must work in concert with the Conference Disaster Response Committee, District Superintendent, local pastors, Volunteers in Mission, and local response groups in order to effectively assist in recovery efforts. The District Coordinators who were present gave a seven-step summary plan of recovery for their district. It was agreed that such plans would be shared with District Superintendents and District Disaster Councils. The seven steps will be most essential in assisting impacted areas in recovery after disasters.

The S.C. Conference Disaster Response Committee is also in the process of updating the Conference Disaster Response Plan. More information will be forthcoming as the revised plan is materialized.

Profound appreciation is expressed to Tom Hazelwood, Director of the General United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Emergency Services, who spent quality time at the winter training in Myrtle Beach. We also thank all District Superintendents who encouraged their District Coordinators to attend this most urgent gathering. Gratitude is equally extended to Pat Goss and Eddie Carson from the United Methodist Relief Center in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Their input and insight was most valuable as the committee planned for future involvement in disaster relief. The Reverend Charles Douglass, UMCOR consultant from the Kentucky Conference was most relevant and empowering in his presentations as our resource leader. I also personally extend special appreciation to the Reverend Willie Teague and his staff for support and assistance in the planning of the winter conference.

As the Committee on Disaster Response continues its work throughout the coming year, we remind all persons within the connection to give generously to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* Offering in March of each year. This offering is so urgent as it is used during the initial stages of relief following disasters. Further, Disaster Response Committee Chairpersons are asked to mark **August 30, 2007** and **February 21-23, 2008** on your calendars. These are the dates of our next two scheduled meetings and training. If the need arises, however, we will meet as often as necessary.

Preparing to respond to a disaster is an unending operation. We must, and will continue in our preparation efforts. Uniting is the only way to give an effective response. We thank God for giving us the insight and the courage to work together. An effective response will indeed be the result.

*Lee C. Bines, Chairperson*

## FOSTERING FAMILIES

Fostering Families continues to provide the emergency assistance that families need to make it in a time of crisis. This year we are hoping to extend that by providing training to local churches to engage families in their communities and help to empower them through education and awareness. Families who are in crisis often need some one to intercede on their behalf. Fostering Families will work to resource and equip local churches to do this in their communities.

Through the training of Family Advocates, we will help empower local churches to reach out to members, those from other congregations, and those who are unchurched by showing them Jesus in our love and our mercy. We hope to enlist 12 advocates, one from each district, by the end of the year.

Fostering Families continues to work with the Fatherhood Outreach Ministry to help encourage, resource, and equip fathers to be all that they can be in the lives of their children and families. This ministry has flourished and the annual conference is blessed to be a part of



what is taking place. Fathers who are incarcerated have been equipped to reconnect to their children; conferences to strengthen families have been held and the second annual conference for Strengthening Fathers and Families has been held this year.

We are thankful to Connectional Ministries, the Board of Global Ministries, and the Outreach Section for the support and leadership it has provided to this ministry in the community.

Respectfully,

*Millie Nelson, Congregation Specialist, Outreach Section*

## **SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE**

Spartanburg Methodist College continues its mission as a United Methodist institution dedicated to serving students in their first two years of a liberal arts education. The College continues its historic tradition to never deny a student admission because of the lack of financial resources. Each year, many first generation college students enroll at SMC. Approximately 95% of the students who matriculate receive some form of financial aid. An increasing number of SMC students receive the LIFE Scholarship, Lottery Scholarship, and Tuition Grants Award. These State grants, coupled with federal financial aid and loan programs and grants from the College enable us to be financially competitive with public and private institutions in South Carolina. It is our privilege to serve these students at the only independent, two-year, regionally accredited institution in South Carolina.

We continue to offer students a challenging academic curriculum that is comparable to the first two-years of liberal arts studies at institutions across the State. Approximately 85-90% of our graduates transfer to four year institutions where many earn the baccalaureate degree. We are pleased to report that the entering freshman class for the last three years had a cumulative high school grade point average of over 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

When freshmen students enter SMC, there are no juniors and seniors with whom to compete for leadership roles at our College. To strengthen their leadership capabilities, the area of Student Development offers a Leadership Program that is open to all students. Also, the faculty and staff who serve as advisors to student organizations help students refine their leadership abilities. When students transfer to senior institutions, many are prepared to continue serving as campus leaders.

At Spartanburg Methodist College, we emphasize the value of serving others as an expression of our faith. Throughout the year, we offer numerous opportunities for students to experience the joy of servant leadership. On their first full day on campus, entering students are immersed in our Freshman Day of Service Program. This year, over 450 students, faculty, staff, Trustees, and friends of the College were taken to various work-sites throughout the County. This eye-opening experience begins to give students a new perspective on the world. Upon returning to the campus, students discuss their experiences and share with one another the value of this experience in their lives and in the lives of those they served. Through our Campus Ministry program, Kappa Sigma Alpha Service Fraternity, and other student organizations, students may continue their volunteer service to others throughout their enrollment at SMC.

Through a generous gift from Drs. Ed and Charlotte Ellis to endow the Religious Life Program at SMC, our Chaplain, Rev. Candice Sloan, has expanded the variety of programs in very meaningful ways. Each week, the Chaplain leads a Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday. Our Religious Life Program includes a variety of ways students may explore their faith and find various ways to express their faith on our campus and in the community. The Religious Life program includes the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, music ministries, service-oriented ministries, and special campus-wide services such as *The Hanging of the Greens*. These opportunities are open to everyone on campus. During the Fall Break and the Spring Break, Chaplain Sloan and others from the faculty and staff take students on mission trips. These programs are an extension of our mission in higher education. Spartanburg Methodist College endeavors to be a community where John Wesley's "knowledge and vital piety" is alive and well throughout our campus community.

We are blessed to have a wonderful Board of Trustees that oversees the work of the College and clearly understands our unique mission in higher education. Our 24-person Board is very active in the establishment of policies and procedures, in all matters of governance, and

in fundraising for the College. In many ways, our Trustees are very supportive of the ongoing work of the College.

Our relationship with the South Carolina Annual Conference through the Board of Global Ministries is both unique and strong. We strive to be the type of institution that one should expect United Methodist colleges and universities to be. We are grateful for the financial support we receive from the Church and the encouraging ways the General Board of Global Ministries and the Conference Board of Global Ministries support our mission in higher education. Truly this is a grand partnership in ministry!

In January 2007, the College began the two-year Reaffirmation of Accreditation process through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This rigorous process enables the College to intensively examine every dimension of the institution and identify ways to improve our work. In the year immediately following the conclusion of the SACS review, a review team from the University Senate of the United Methodist Church will visit the campus to ensure that we effectively fulfill the mission of the College and espouse Christian values and beliefs in all that we do.

As one of only seven remaining two-year United Methodist Colleges, we believe our mission as a two-year institution is viable, meaningful and relevant. With God's guidance, and through our partnership in ministry with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, we confidently move forward with the resolve to educate the youth we serve, to instill in them the Christian values of our faith, and to equip them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

*Charles P. Teague, President*

## **THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE**

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

Del Soule chairs the sub-committee on Golden Cross. One of our goals is to make Golden Cross a more visible ministry to our churches. Because of your gifts to Golden Cross, we were able to award two health care scholarships in the amount of \$1,700. We awarded eight grants for medical assistance in the amount of \$7,426.29. We were not able to grant all the requests that we received this year. We received \$12,415.96 from local churches in the conference for Golden Cross. We also received \$1,037.49 from the Williams-Walker Trust Fund. We encourage all of our churches to remember Golden Cross Sunday, the first Sunday in February. It is through your donations that we are able to give assistance to those who are in need.

Rev. John P. Thomas chairs the programs sub-committee. Through the programs offered by our board, we awarded two grants to eliminate architectural barriers (\$964), and three grants for Health Fairs (\$1,386).

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

Rev. Athon Arant chairs the homes sub-committee. We continue to work for a strong positive relationship we share with each of the homes. We commend the splendid leadership provided by each home.

At present, there are nine housing units for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, which are occupied, one at the Pee Dee Manor, which is occupied, and four at Wesley Commons, two occupied and two vacant. We have worked together with the three homes, and have agreed to a more unified plan for filling the retired clergy units. As of December 31, 2006, there was a balance of \$89,165.88 in the Elma Hill Endowment Fund. The interest from this fund helps maintain the retired clergy units. \$4,600 has been given to Wesley Commons for repairs.

At present, the percentages of funds are allocated as follows: Methodist Oaks (50%), Wesley Commons (30%) and Pee Dee Manor (15%). We will continue to be in communication with the homes on the percentages and make recommendations as needed.

We are very grateful for the wonderful support and cooperation we have received

throughout the conference. We look forward to working with you and for you as we continue the ministry of Christ, in the area of Health and Welfare.

*Athon M. Arant, Sr., Chairperson*

### **ALDRSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry continues to slowly move forward in the development of Christian homes for adults with developmental disabilities. This year we have focused on fundraising and disseminating information about our ministry. Excitement abounded the first of the year when we received notification of approval of a Section 811 Housing and Urban Development grant for the home on The Oaks campus. This was followed by approval from the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority for a grant for the home at Epworth. Central Carolina Community Foundation presented us with a grant for a strategic marketing campaign. The Horne Foundation and the Norton Family Foundation also awarded grants.

As the year progressed, we became painfully aware that we were still in dire need of extra funds in order to begin construction on both of these homes. Because our homes have to be licensed by DHEC, we must meet their building criteria. These requirements cause a significant increase in the construction costs. Our board members and friends immediately began working extremely hard to provide various avenues of raising funds. The Columbia group hosted an informational fundraiser. An Orangeburg high school student held a tennis tournament. The Women's Missionary Ministry of the First Baptist Church in Orangeburg along with six other churches sponsored an "Aldersgate Angel Evening" at which dinner was served, paintings by artist Philip Powell were sold and Rev. Stephen Taylor spoke. An 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party was held in Rock Hill in honor of a board member's son and "Grace at Aldersgate" bracelets were sold at a Columbia church. Encouraging individuals to become an "Aldersgate Angel" by agreeing to give \$24 a month is another project that is ongoing. The board continues to research and identify other means of financial support for our ministry.

Ceremonial groundbreaking was held at Epworth Children's Home in March for the Aldersgate home to be built there. Dan Shumaker and the Columbia Home Builder's Association continue to procure materials, labor and donations for that home. It is anticipated that construction will begin at Epworth in April. Six females have been chosen as residents of this home.

The home at The Oaks has also been delayed because of lack of adequate funding. It is hoped that construction will begin there in August. The Admissions Committee is meeting to determine resident selection for this home.

Brochures were distributed at Conference, the Senior Men's Conference and the Women's Conference as well as the Home Builder's Home and Garden Show, the Down's Syndrome Conference and numerous churches. We are currently updating our informational packet with the funding received from the Central Carolina's grant.

Although it has been a difficult year, we feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to help provide Christian homes for these adults.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all who have supported Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry this year. We ask that you continue to keep us in your hearts and prayers and encourage you to participate in Aldersgate Sunday on August 12, 2007.

*Judy Weathers, Chairperson, Trustees*

### **EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME**

Epworth Children's Home is in its 111<sup>th</sup> year of caring for children from every corner of South Carolina. The work of Epworth continues to be framed by its mission statement:

**Epworth Children's Home ministers to children, youth, and families through a caring, accepting, safe, Christian community. Led by a professional team, the hurts of children, youth, and families are healed; hope is given; and faith in God, self, and others is developed.**

The primary goal of this conference ministry is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can mature spiritually, physically, socially, cognitively, and emotionally; and where children are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

This conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued the staff and budgetary re-organization that began under the leadership of Ted Walter. As a result of this effort, Epworth's financial position has been strengthened. Thanks to donations from individuals and from 705 of our 1026 churches Epworth has experienced a solid financial year.
- II. Adopted a Funds Development Plan that includes:
  - A. Organizing a President's Development Council
  - B. Establishing the Epworth Society of 1896
  - C. Implementing a Special Projects initiative
  - D. Establishing the Epworth Sponsors group
  - E. Implementing a matching gifts program
- III. Completed two cabins and a shower and dressing facility at Camp Glenayr. Each child had an opportunity to spend at least one week at Epworth's camp in Calhoun County.
- IV. Began training all staff who relate to residential care in the CARE model. CARE is an in depth, cutting-edge training program for individuals who work in the residential care field. This model was developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principals or beliefs that form good residential group care.
- V. Continued to strengthen the ties between Epworth and the United Methodist churches in South Carolina.

During this conference year the residential population averaged 82. In addition, an average of 18 children per week participated in the Epworth Early Intervention Center program. This program serves children who experience delayed development because of conditions such as autism, and Downs syndrome. This program also served forty-three families through its home based component.

In August the Board of Trustees adopted a budget of \$4,255,190 for the fiscal year 10-1-06 through 9-30-2007. This is an increase of \$122,690 from the previous year.

*John E. Holler, President*

## **THE METHODIST OAKS**

The past year has been one of progress, preparation and change as The Methodist Oaks moves into new ministries in keeping with the mission of a Faith-Based Community. While the community has grown significantly due to successful marketing throughout the state, we are equally excited to have been one of only 15 entities in the United States to receive a \$500,000.00 Rural PACE Startup Grant. The Oaks is the only Continuing Care Retirement Community and one of only two Faith-Based entities to receive a grant. The PACE program works with frail elderly who are qualified for Medicaid and who are certified eligible for nursing home care. PACE keeps the participants at home through managing care and a day care center with a medical clinic. Palmetto Senior Care in Columbia is the other PACE site in South Carolina. The Board of The Oaks has challenged itself and the staff to find ways to assist seniors in the surrounding counties. The PACE program is the first. Others are to come.

Currently, The Oaks is working to manage the growth coming in the future in balance with effective stewardship of our natural setting. Home to five (5) identified Eco Systems including the Edisto River, a 125 acre Tupelo Swamp, a geologically significant Bluff area, at least four (4) Carolina Bays and more than 700 acres of Southern Plantation as well as deer, fox squirrels, and wild turkeys, we learn more each day about how special our site is and how important it is for us to plan properly. Yes we will grow, but we will do so responsibly.

We are also investigating the potential for alternate sources of power and hot water. Working with various universities and environmental groups, we are planning for the use of solar and possibly wind power in our future. Our goal is to be as self sufficient as we can, making sure that our stewardship of resources carries us into the future.

Building on the natural beauty we enjoy, we have re-branded The Oaks, changing the logo

and the tag line used for advertising and marketing pieces. While remaining The Methodist Oaks, our new brand is The Oaks. The Oaks, a United Methodist Community identifies more accurately our role as more than a retirement community. The Oaks is the location of one of the Aldersgate Special Needs Homes being built. The Oaks is the home of a 6,000 foot interpretive nature trail that will be open to schools and special groups as well as the residents of the community. The Oaks is where bridge tournaments for surrounding counties' players are held. It is where our Wellness Center and Heated Pool will be made available to seniors in the area. The Oaks is a place alive with learning, wellness, activities, dances, mission opportunities, Bible Studies, etc. Here at The Oaks we say, "Celebrating Life is in Our NATURE." Check out our new web site at [www.theoakssc.com](http://www.theoakssc.com).

We are embarking on a capital campaign to expand our Wellness Center and Campus Life Center to accommodate the increasing demand as we grow our community. The initial thrust is the newly opened heated pool which was built primarily with donations. Now, we look forward to wrapping the new Campus Life/ Wellness Center around the pool.

In closing, we thank the South Carolina Conference for the continued support to Senior Communities of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina. Each year, The Oaks adds to the amount given in the Apportionments, some \$600,000.00 additional out of operating revenues to provide assistance for those residents who have, "outlived their resources." We give glory to God that we are able to be in ministry and mission in our work here at The Oaks. From staff, residents and resident families, and the Board, we say God Bless and thank you.

*Mrs. June Bunch, Chair  
The Methodist Oaks Board of Trustees  
The Reverend James R. McGee, CEO/President*

## **THE UNITED METHODIST MANOR OF THE PEE DEE**

The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee came into being during the 1980's when a small group of Methodist in Florence felt there was a need for a retirement home in this area affiliated with the Methodist Church. They struggled with fund raising and with the strong assistance of a few major contributors were able to raise enough funds to qualify the Manor to issue tax exempt bonds to fund the construction, furnishings and equipping of the Manor. Without those founding contributions to provided equity for the project, the debt financing would not have been possible.

The Manor opened for occupancy in December 1991. It soon achieved a level of occupancy which assured that the Manor could meet its debt service payments. Today the Manor is occupied by approximately 200 residents. They are housed in patio homes, independent living apartments, assisted living units, a dementia unit and a skilled nursing unit. Each resident pays for the cost of his or her care by monthly service fees. The monthly service fees are based on the cost of the service provided with the skilled nursing care being the most expense. The annual operating budget of the Manor is \$5.8 million. The bonded indebtedness as of December 31, 2006 is in the amount of \$12.9 million.

The past year has seen an expansion of new patio homes in the Asbury section of the Manor. Asbury Village has grown from seventeen to twenty two patio homes in the last year with six more under construction. The capital to construct these homes is paid into the Manor by their occupants. The program to finance these homes provides that when an occupant vacates a home a portion of the capital contribution can be refunded by a capital payment made by the next occupant.

The Manor is undergoing a remodeling of its independent living apartments to upgrade them to quality expected today by people seeking retirement housing. Refinements and improvement to service of residents have also been made to include the introduction of restaurant style dining, and increase in the amount of direct service staff and adding events and speakers that focus on current issues and stimulate mind and spirit. Management is infusing a new spirit of caring to enhance the quality of life of those who call the Manor their home.

In the last year the South Carolina Methodist Conference contributed \$77,054 to the residence assistance fund at the Manor. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those whose resources have been depleted and are not left adequate to meet their monthly service fees. There are currently four residents receiving assistance from this fund. As the Manor matures, so does its residents. As life expectancies extends, more people will find funds put

aside for retirement running out. It is anticipated that more people are going to need assistance in meeting their expenses. The Manor also received \$696.50 last year as its portion of the distribution from the South Carolina Methodist Conference Endowment.

The Manor will continue to grow, to evolve and to refine its facilities, services and ministries to meet the needs of those who have chosen to make the Manor their home.

*D. Laurence McIntosh, Chairman, Trustees  
Wm. Frazier Jackson, Executive Director*

## **WESLEY COMMONS**

Fiscal Year 2006 marked another year of continued accomplishments for Wesley Commons. Our Ministry of Care and Vision of the Future remains vibrant and solid. Our Wellness Program continues to serve over 250 residents per week in a variety of structured and free form programs managed by three full time wellness staff members. Class types range from weightlifting and water aerobics to yoga and massage. Approximately 60% of our Independent Living residents participate in over 30 different classes each week and roughly 30% of our Assisted Living residents participate in our programs as well. The Skilled Nursing Facility also participates via satellite Wellness Programs. Participation in our Wellness Programs has added more than improved health for our residents; it has sparked a youthful energy and excitement felt campus wide.

In addition to our resident focused wellness programs, we have now begun an extensive wellness initiative for our 260 employees. After an extremely successful Employee Health Fair, Administration developed staff focused wellness programs designed to holistically support our greatest asset and their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

We currently serve over 430 residents on our campus. We are very pleased to see our campus occupancy at 96% and growing higher each month. The waiting list for many of our neighborhoods is impressive and our memberships for our wellness programs have proven to be very attractive to individuals living in the Greater Greenwood area. With more than two-thirds of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from all areas of the Southeast, we have re-engineered our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Involvement with our Resident Committees allows us to continuously fine tune the scope of our offerings.

In conjunction with our overall growth, we continue in our quest to redefine nursing care in a manner that replaces the current definition of a "Nursing Home." In doing this, we have begun our first phase of evaluation, where we will deconstruct our current health system and will design our vision of a person centered health service. We plan to mimic our extremely successful, 12 resident Special Care House, Jasmine Cottage, in the development of a "neighborhood" of cozy "home based" skilled nursing homes to replace the traditional monolithic hospital design of today. The challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, is to design this exceptional program to be affordable and viable for a Medicaid and lower income population. We believe that if we can achieve this goal, it will spread to others, so that in the near future, a skilled nursing home will look and operate in such a special manner that it bears no resemblance to today's "homes."

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our elders continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. The support of the Methodist Homes Support Fund and other Private Supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide subsidy to many residents across our campus. In 2006, Wesley Commons provided over \$1,300,000 of subsidized services. With the Methodist Conference providing just over \$130,000, Wesley Commons' Operational funds made up the difference of that subsidy to those unable to pay for their care.

Wesley Commons', Methodist Oaks' and Methodist Manor's need for support will only increase as our communities continue to grow and conversely, our state and federal funding for our nation's seniors continues to be reduced. Wesley Commons' current level of support is extremely taxing on our resources; our ongoing Ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. I thank you for your continued financial support of those who built our great nation and deserve our fullest attention.

In His Way,

*The Rev. John T. Miller, Chairman  
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO*

## THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

<sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

I Corinthians 3:6-10

This past year has been a year of abundant growth in the ministry of higher education. All around the state, we have observed and participated in the growth of God's kingdom in the hearts and lives of college students. On behalf of the four college presidents and the campus ministers, I thank the S.C. United Methodists for continued support. You have been fellow workers with us, planting seeds in young people, and nurturing faith to maturity. We thank you for all the ways you have furthered kingdom growth by:

- paying apportionments for Campus Ministry, Spartanburg Methodist, and the Senior College Scholarship Fund
- sending the names of your college students to the campus ministers
- providing meals at a Wesley Foundation
- praying for the campus ministers, faculty, staff, students
- making a donation to a Wesley Foundation mission trip
- serving on a college Board of Trustees
- serving on a Wesley Foundation Board
- donating time and talents to a project on campus

The seeds of faith have continued to grow abundantly in our four colleges and in our Wesley Foundations at USC, Claflin/State, Winthrop, Charleston, and Clemson. Full reports from each campus minister follow, and you will see the growth in these stories. For 2007, we envision expanding the Francis Marion Campus Minister to a full-time position. Rev. Michael Turner has laid the foundation for this expansion, and has been instrumental in growing Wesley at Francis Marion University. Central UMC in Florence is partnering with the BHECM to fund and support a full-time associate pastor who will also be the Wesley director at FMU. Your support of increased apportionments is needed to make this dream a reality. Once we have this in place, our next vision is to expand the Furman Campus Minister to full-time. The Wesley at Furman continues to thrive and grow, and a full-time staff person is needed.

In addition to celebrating the growth of our Wesley Foundations, we also celebrate the exciting achievements at Wofford College, Columbia College, Claflin University, and Spartanburg Methodist College. In these hallowed walls, students engage in challenging learning experiences that help them grow spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically. John Wesley viewed education as a means of evangelism, and we are making and nurturing disciples. Please take time to read each report and give thanks to God for the ministry of higher education in SC.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chair*

## CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Claflin University has had another year of distinguished academic successes. Campus growth and development, marking a ten year period of strategic objectives, reflect a continued escalation of achievements, which saw us surpass several of our stated goals. Our mission to educate regardless of race, gender or religious opinion now extends to 25 states and 14 countries. Our enrollment has risen to approximately 1,800 students. The university's retention and graduation rates of 68% and 80% respectively, have received national commendation. Our graduates in natural and computer sciences are accepted at some of the nation's top graduate

and professional school's including Brown, Johns Hopkins, Duke University, Emory University, and Yale to list a few. Recent graduates in business have been equally successful with positions in prominent Wall Street investment firms: JP Morgan, Goldman, Sachs and Company, UBS Investment Bank, Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse, again, to list a few. Off campus higher education and degree programs, which reach out to working adults, are offered in Beaufort, SC, at Fort Jackson, SC and in the fall of 2007, in West Columbia.

For the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the university is listed in U.S. News and World Report's Guidebook to America's Best Colleges and Universities, ranking higher than all comprehensive colleges in South Carolina, coming in at number eleven in the Top Tier for Best Comprehensive Colleges in the South for students pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

The university continues to enhance the infrastructure and further build the institutional capacity to allow faculty and students to engage in significant research and scholarly activities. Given this commitment to increasing student preparedness, research programs have been expanded. In Claflin University's Center for Biotechnology, research is ongoing in the areas of prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and DNA. Our DNA program recently allowed us to collaborate with South Carolina law enforcement agencies to assist in forensic DNA testing generating a powerful tool for criminal investigations, while increasing our commitment to community service. Our HIV/AIDS program last year incorporated an international component. Under a federal grant, members of our faculty developed a unique HIV/AIDS outreach prevention program. The program, *Culturally Sensitive HIV/AIDS Prevention Risk Reduction and Intervention Training Program in India*, through methodology, is actively fighting the spread of this virus in targeted regions of the country. Our faculty embarked on their third visit to the Punjab State at the end of February.

The university underscored its historical significance and also expanded scholarly research in the humanities with the establishment of the Jonathan Jasper Wright Institute for the Study of Southern African History, Culture and Policy. The institute, named for the distinguished African American who served on Claflin's first board of trustees and also on the South Carolina Supreme Court, sponsors symposia and intellectual study for nationally known and gifted scholars in the social sciences.

Our reputation reached other areas of the globe when in November 2006, the U.S. Department of State chose Claflin University as one of a few universities to be visited by dignitaries from the Near East and North Africa under the International Leadership Program. Claflin was chosen because of our student programs which instruct in civic education and the university's encouragement of ethics, tolerance and citizenship in a multicultural society.

Because of the emphasis we place on character and ethics, one of the university's greatest achievements this year will be the consecration of the new university chapel on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Architecturally, the chapel has many beautiful and unique features from its semi-circular brick ramps ascending to the front entrance to the 45-foot steeple. The chapel building, in addition to its sanctuary, will house the Department of Philosophy and Religion. For much of Claflin's history there has been a site for worship and meditation on campus. The last chapel, named for the Reverend T. Willard Lewis one of the university's founders who died tragically young from yellow fever, was demolished 37 years ago to make room for our expanding campus. It has since been our goal to build another chapel to serve the students of this university and the community. Our mission will be the stronger with the existence of the chapel. Our students will now have a sanctuary and a physical testimony to the importance of developing both academically and morally as they prepare for an exciting and challenging future.

*Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President*

## **COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

The 2006-2007 year marked the launch of a new strategic vision at Columbia College. The heart of the vision is based in the Conference's founding statement for the college to "educate women to be of service to the church, the state, and the nation." Years in the making, and representing hundreds of participants among faculty, staff, board members, alumnae and friends, this bold new day saw the introduction of leadership infusion throughout the liberal arts programming of the college. The vision was launched with the announcement of more than \$5 million in new gifts to the College in February.



These transformational gifts affirmed the impact that Columbia College makes in the lives of South Carolinians, students and the community at large, providing new momentum to our commitment to women's leadership development. The combined impact and synergy of the College's leadership infusion programs, the Leadership Institute and the Alliance for Women create a forum for change and opportunity for learning that is unique in higher education. Courage, Confidence, Commitment, and Competence are the "4Cs"—the steps toward leadership—that create the unifying thread through each student's Columbia College experience.

### **College Awards and Grants**

Further recognition of Columbia College's trailblazing approach to leadership development came in the form of a national award, the 2007 TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence. Columbia College was chosen for the Certificate of Excellence based on its innovative and highly successful Faculty Development through Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning program. Dr. Vivian Fowler, executive director of the Center for Engaged Learning, traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept on behalf of the College.

The 2006 Columbia College Medallion Awards were presented in October to three distinguished recipients who have long supported the College in many ways: Johnnie Cordell Breed, Dr. Belinda F. Gergel '72, and Dorothy Mae Pickett.

Columbia College, Clemson University and the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced a new collaboration to help teachers transform "at risk" students into engaged learners in South Carolina's classrooms.

The Columbia College Alumnae Association honored four women for their professional achievements and contributions to the College at its annual meeting on April 1: Cornelia Rickenbacker Freeman '33, Distinguished Service Award; Nancy Jackson Gregory '76, Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator Award; Tamera Norton Smith, '90, Career Achievement Award; and Jamila Harrington Hudley '99, Young Alumna Award.

Columbia College received a grant from the U.S. Department of State for \$198,000 to provide entrepreneurship training for citizens of Colombia, South America, in partnership with the Partners of the Americas, Junior Achievement in Columbia and in Colombia, and the South Carolina World Trade Center. The grant will provide training for business and education leaders from Colombia, South America, who will return to their country to train youth and women to develop and operate small businesses.

Columbia College received the Neighborhood/Community Award for the 2006 Columbia Choice Awards. The awards are sponsored by the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission and Columbia Green. This program recognizes individuals, neighborhoods, and firms whose work has significantly enhanced the Columbia environment, both in design and in overall quality of life.

The 2006 Sporting & Family Fest was held in November at beautiful North Camden Plantation. Sporting dog competitions and auctions raised over \$67,400 to fund scholarships. The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation awarded the College an \$84,000 grant to fund student scholarships for 2006-2007.

The Koala Callers received pledges exceeding a total \$160,000 for the Loyalty Fund, far surpassing our fall semester goal of \$100,000. This was a new record for the phone-a-thon. An anonymous alumna pledged to match increased gifts as well as gifts from alumnae who have never given before. Her matching gift brought our grand total for the Loyalty Fund this semester to over \$260,000.

### **Student Achievements**

This past year has been a remarkable year of achievement and wide recognition for Columbia College students. The 2007 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges includes the names of 22 students from Columbia College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Honors student Jennifer Dowling was recognized as the 2006 Tull Foundation Honors Scholar, an endowed award. Each year, one rising senior is recognized for her exemplary record of academic achievement and service. Also, Jennifer completed a coveted internship in Namibia, Africa, for Harvard University's prestigious World Teach program. April Evans received the 2006-2007 Savory Scholars Award.

Susannah Fields and Elizabeth Walker were recipients of the 2006-2007 Honeycutt Awards in recognition of their research and presentations. Susannah Fields presented for the second year in a row at an international leadership conference in the Mideast, first in Dubai and then in Abu-Dhabi. Susannah is currently on board the Semester-at-Sea program, sailing around the world and earning a semester of credit.

Chelsea Lee participated in the Wales Honors Semester, an opportunity to study in Swansea, Wales, UK, a program in conjunction with the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

This fall, internships for four students participating in our Washington Semester were arranged. The Honors Program had an exceptional year, admitting the largest freshman class ever (42) with the second highest SAT average ever (1251). Thirteen students and three faculty members participated in the National Collegiate Honors Council in Philadelphia, Pa., in November. Columbia College had more student presenters in the program than any other South Carolina college. Every student who received a prestigious collaborative undergraduate research grant from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities this year was an Honors Program student.

Undergraduate commencement was held on May 6, 2006, conferring bachelor's degrees on a total of 214 candidates. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was the commencement speaker for the undergraduate ceremony. Columbia College conferred master's degrees on 92 candidates at graduate school commencement on Sunday, May 7, at College Place United Methodist Church.

### **Faculty and Staff Achievements**

We are extremely proud of the honors and accomplishments of our dedicated faculty and staff. Dr. Christine Hait received the 2006 South Atlantic Association of Departments of English Outstanding Teacher Award in the four-year private college category. This prestigious award is based on an exemplary record of teaching and is given annually by the SAADE organization.

Dr. Linda B. Salane, executive director of the Leadership Institute, received a James T. Rogers Meritorious Service Award from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The South Carolina Women in Higher Education announced Dr. Caroline B. Whitson as the recipient of the 2007 Martha Kime Piper Award. The award, named for the first woman president of a public higher education institution in the state, is given annually to recognize a woman with a record of advancing and supporting women in higher education and the education of women in South Carolina.

Dr. Lynne Noble (Education) received the 2007 Columbia College Faculty Excellence Award. Dr. Joyce Fields (Human Relations) received the 2007 SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Ed Sharkey (History and Political Science) received the 2007 Undergraduate Students' Choice Award for Teaching Excellence. The Faculty Excellence and SCICU Award winners are selected by a committee of faculty. The Students' Choice Award is organized by the Student Government Association and the recipient determined entirely by students.

Dr. Tamara Burk (Leadership Studies and Communication) was recognized by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church for a 2006-2007 Exemplary Teaching Award at a United Methodist-related institution of higher education in November.

### **Leadership Happenings**

Columbia College and The Alliance for Women were honored by the South Carolina General Assembly through a resolution introduced by Representative Laurie Slade Funderburk. The resolution was co-sponsored by members of the Women's Caucus and other legislative friends of the College. The resolution recognized Columbia College and The Alliance for Women and their longstanding commitment to improving the status of women in South Carolina.

Columbia College welcomed Jennifer "Buffy" Murphy, the 2007 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, in November. Widely known for her innovative approach to teaching, Murphy is participating in a yearlong residency at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and represents South Carolina's 50,000 teachers.

## Religious Life

In the area of religious life, Rev. Valerie Mireb, an elder in the North Texas Annual conference, began as Columbia College's new Chaplain in June of 2006. Rev. Mireb is the regular preacher for chapel services. The wonderful Columbia College Choir, Heavenly Creations Gospel Choir, and Praise and Worship Choir bring exceptional music and a variety of religious traditions to the Chapel program. Attendance at chapel has increased and special highlights included:

Convocation was an extraordinary day, with 364 attendees who came to celebrate with alumna Elizabeth Patterson '61, the first woman from South Carolina to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Founder's Day was day of great celebration and reflection as the Reverend R. Wright Spears, *president emeritus*, returned to speak to a standing room only audience at College Place UMC. His topic was "Columbia College: A Source of Hope."

The Staley Lecturer, Rev. John Thornburg, brought us stories and songs from his current writing of the United Methodist hymnbook for Cameroon. Rev. Thornburg conducted a Continuing Education event for pastors and other church leaders entitled "From Entertainment to Empowerment."

A special thank you to Rev. Wiley Cooper, the staff and the members of College Place United Methodist Church, for their support and sharing of their building.

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

As a college committed to educating not only for lifelong learning but also for social justice, monthly community service projects were offered throughout the academic year. Our annual Community Service Day during Fall Orientation was another success. The entire entering class dispersed throughout Columbia to work at 15 different sites and experience first-hand the relationship of learning to service and leadership.

In addition, Rev. Mireb co-chairs the Diversity Committee, provides guidance to the Service Learning program, is currently working with students to create a non-proselytizing policy, and other administrative duties.

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

*Dr. Caroline Whitson, President*

## WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College's Main Building was constructed in troubled antebellum times, but with faith that learning and service could make the church, state and nation more humane. Major renovations in 1902 and 1961 kept the building functional as Wofford prepared its graduates for a time of dazzling technological, social, economic, and political change. A decade ago, Wofford initiated an effort to transform "Old Main" for a fourth time. The goal was not to create a seldom-visited shrine or administration building, but to keep Main Building serving as it was designed to be in 1854, the college's one indispensable place for learning and reflection. Realizing an investment of more than \$8 million by 1200 alumni and friends, Main Building reopened in 2006 as a powerful symbolic statement that Wofford is what it always has been, a true liberal arts college, still growing and serving in the United Methodist tradition of higher education. Concluding with a dedicatory prayer by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, impressive reopening ceremonies were held on February 20, 2007.

At the foundation of the transformed Old Main is a new campus ministry center, which includes Mickel Chapel and the headquarters of several busy service learning programs. These new facilities will continue to make Wofford a benchmark college for the church, as reflected in Prothro-Perkins Chaplain Ron Robinson's election as presiding chaplain for the National Project for Excellence in Chaplaincy for United Methodist Colleges and Universities. This project grew out of a realization that the UM chaplains play a role that differs from denominational

campus ministers at public universities. "A good church-related college sends out a welcome to people of all faiths, and to peoples of no faith," Robinson explains. Chaplains also bear the major responsibility to interpret the church relationship for faculties and staffs. "The tensions sometimes inherent in the relationship between church and academy will be greatly lessened if chaplains consistently strive to restrain narrow sectarianism in all its forms," he says.

In 2006, Wofford also strengthened its department of religion. Dr. Byron McCane, chair of the department, was appointed as the Albert C. Outler Professor, and a fourth full-time teaching faculty member was added. Now available are a number of new offerings in world religions that will prepare Wofford graduates to play a greater role on a shrinking planet. Majors in religion, such as junior Matt Watts of Lugoff, SC, continue to represent the college well. In 2006, he received a prestigious Lilly Fellowship for undergraduates pursuing a career in ministry. He also has completed mission work and studied abroad in Kenya.

In 2006, Wofford named its first Bauknight Scholar, junior Stephen Harris of Cayce, SC. He is exploring vocation, leadership and service opportunities, and participating in a guided discernment process that includes spiritual direction, mentoring and internships. The Bauknight Family Endowed Scholarship celebrates the ministry of the late Rev. Heber Felder Bauknight '37, and his sons, the Rev. John Michael Bauknight '69, and the Rev. David Derrick Bauknight. Two other sons, the late Heber Felder Bauknight, Jr. '60 and Dow Napoleon Bauknight '71 were also graduates of Wofford.

Placing emphasis on making connections through service learning, studies abroad and understanding world cultures are only a few aspects of academic innovation at Wofford. Some other examples from 2006 include the rapidly developing program in Chinese language, which will become a major in the fall of 2007; the "War Year," a campus-wide learning community examining ethical issues of war and peace; the on-going "Cornbread and Sushi" exploration of Southern life and letters; the "Community of Scholars," a summer undergraduate research collaborative involving several dozen faculty and staff working on interesting projects; and the Success Initiative, a scholarship-based exercise in creativity involving real-world problem solving. The Wofford Village has created a "new urban" neighborhood on the northern border of the campus. Almost 80 seniors have been living in the new community since late September 2006, and another 105 beds will be added by the fall semester 2007.

Wofford's trustees understand that a program of managed enrollment growth will necessitate even more effective programs of financial assistance for deserving students. For example, a survey of 220 Methodist students shows that they are receiving \$4.6 million in aid of all types. The Senior College Fund of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church remains as critical as ever to the success of that endeavor.

*Benjamin B. Dunlap, President*

## **CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

Charleston Wesley Foundation continues to live our mission statement as we "watch over the Charleston college student in love". We presently have an alumnus who is serving a church in the South Carolina Conference. Aaron Meadows, we are so proud of you! We have another alumnus who is in her first year at Candler School of Theology. Mallory Forte, we are delighted with your progress! Time marches on!

We have thriving groups on the four campuses we are blessed to serve. Bethel UMC-Charleston continues to graciously host and feed the College of Charleston group on Wednesday nights. Your Christian hospitality and selflessness are a Godsend! The Charleston Southern University group is growing also. All of those students are in the CSU Gospel choir so I am often there to be blessed and well as to be a blessing. Thank you, Wesley UMC- Ladson for being a church home away from home for these students. They love you, Pastor Hunter! The group at Medical University of South Carolina continues to increase in number and differing levels of Biblical knowledge. Rev. Cate of John Wesley UMC, your wonderful, inviting approach makes all feel welcomed and valued. We are blessed to have you. Mrs. Mary Ann Gilkeson of Bethel UMC, your assistance with MUSC and C of C programs is invaluable. Thank you for your tireless love of the college student. Citadel continues to be our largest group. They are the most active of the Charleston Wesley Foundation groups on the state level. At the SCUMSM spring retreat, Chase Hurst, Citadel cadet, was elected as vice chairperson for the year 2007-

2008. Matt Williams was elected co-parliamentarian for the 2007-2008 year. Charleston Wesley Foundation students continue to be state-level leaders. Your prayers are working.

We had another successful Mission weekend in the fall with Winthrop Wesley Foundation students at the United Methodist Relief center. We sponsored two adolescents in the HALOS angel tree event.

We are planning to join the other Wesley Foundations in May on a mission trip to New Orleans. Charleston Wesley Foundation students continue to put their faith into action.

To the beloved churches of the Charleston district, thank you for your unwavering support in gifts of food, time and finances. Trinity UMC, you are our backbone in your selfless giving of physical space and office support. Our grateful hearts seem so inadequate but please know that we are deeply appreciative of your continuing Christian action. The ministry of Charleston Wesley Foundation would not be flourishing and innovative without the guidance, prayers and support of the dedicated Charleston Wesley Foundation Board of Directors. We are so grateful to all of the prayerful, generous churches of the South Carolina conference for your unceasing prayers and unwavering support. God bless each of you.

*Lisa C. Hawkins, Campus Minister*

### **CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

As my sixth year as Director of the Clemson Wesley Foundation comes to a close, I am beginning to see the Spirit move in some exciting ways, both on the campus of Clemson and on other campuses across the South Carolina Conference.

Clemson, the town and university, is a very Christian-friendly place, at least to the casual observer. Since first arriving I noticed that while there were many who claim the name "Christian" here, there were a pitiable number of folks who seemed cognizant of the implications associated with following the One who met his death on a cross. For most of my time in Clemson, for example, the two most common topics that I have been asked to address have been (1) the role of women in ministry and (2) the proper timing and mode for baptism. I have been praying for several years now for the day when our campus would begin wrestling with the important topics of our day and their generation – the wars throughout our world, the lack of educational opportunities for so many in our state, the widening gap between the wealthy and the poor in our world, and the responsibility of the Christian community to promote more faithful stewardship of God's creation.

In recent months, it has been exciting to sense the wind of the Spirit blowing in new ways. I have speculated that this new wind is attributed to an elevated social consciousness brought to the surface by the ravages of Katrina and the prolonged wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Whatever the root causes might be, real change is happening in our community. More and more students (and non-students) are engaging in serious Christian conversation far removed from the "cheap grace" religiosity that has pervaded our campus in previous years. Only God knows where this new Spirit will lead us, but it is exciting to dream of what a large, Christian-friendly campus turned outward toward our suffering world, broken state and world might be able to accomplish for the Kingdom.

In the midst of these changes, the CW community continues to mature, evolve and grow in its presence and reach throughout the greater Clemson community. With the assistance of four Program Staffers (Nicole Keen, Rachel Mollica, Steven Spangler and Ryan Spurrier – all upperclassmen who serve in a peer ministry role), the ministry continues to reach out to students through a variety of Worship, Mission, Small Group, Retreat and Social opportunities. Well over 400 students are active participants in the life of Clemson UMC and/or CW, and dozens of students are involved in small group Bible Studies, many of which are student-led. This spring we expect to graduate another five dozen or more seniors to serve the Church and world in the years to come through lay and, in a few cases, full-time ministry.

Each year I am reminded of how little we could accomplish without the help of God and God's people. Special thanks to the staff and members of Clemson UMC who do so much to support CW's ministry and me personally, and to all the other "people called Methodists" throughout the South Carolina Conference who support CW through their prayers, apportionments and other gifts. We are humbled and forever grateful by your faithfulness.

*Rev. C. Lane Glaze, Campus Minister*

## **WESLEY FOUNDATION AT USC - METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK**

What can a group of students and teachers do on a university campus if they open themselves to the Spirit of God? One needs only to look at the beginnings of the Methodist church on the campus of Oxford, England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to find a “campus ministry” that gave impetus to the movement now known to us as the United Methodist Church. That combination of faith, students and university life still exists today and is empowering a new generation of students to become the church’s new leaders. With the largest number of students ever on our campuses what an amazing opportunity we have for mission and ministry. Many new and para-churches are raising great sums of money to be on campus. Sadly, there is not the level of support from the United Methodist Church to properly fund and equip campus ministry to do all the work, yet we have been faithful with what we have been given. What has our ministry been this year? How have we been faithful?

The Wesley Foundation at USC (Methodist Student Network) was named the outstanding student organization at the university for service. Five or six times a week students go into the community to serve at a soup kitchen, an after school mentoring program, Habitat-for-Humanity and a newly begun Hispanic outreach ministry to high and middle school students.

Methodist Student Network has been to New Orleans on three occasions to be in service to and solidarity with its battered residents.

We took a team of 22 to Venezuela to work in a poor community and provided ministry with the young people, a VBS, worked on several building projects and provided a health clinic for the community.

On campus we provided many opportunities for study and worship and support. Though various small groups, a program evening and Quiet-time, students can be spiritually grounded and transformed.

Sunday evening worship is a reconciling and unifying adventure as students of various nationalities, cultures, races and faith traditions discover a oneness in Christ that is real.

The faith community and Center provide hospitality and a place where life long friendships are formed and life/faith issues can be explored.

Thanks to all the students who live out their faith and lead in ministry at MSN. Thanks to faithful friends and supporters who believe in the mission of the Wesley Foundation. Thanks to all those UMWs and Circles and Sunday School classes who have given money and food to sustain students on their faith journey. What a joy it is to accompany these students.

*Tom Wall-Director, Campus Minister*

## **FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION**

The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion continues to grow and strengthen as our ministry to students increases. In 2006, we made contact with over 200 students. We have a total over sixty students involved in the campus ministry with an average attendance last semester of 41 at our main weekly worship celebration. Less quantifiable, but still indicative of growth, our student leadership continues to flourish, take initiative and even leadership roles on the Conference level through the South Carolina United Methodist Student Movement. At present, the Wesley Foundation is the fastest growing campus ministry group at Francis Marion University.

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

Students traveled to several different churches to share what God is doing in our campus ministry

Several local mission projects including painting and making repairs on homes in our community

Participated in a New Orleans Mission trip (formerly Sea Islands Mission) with other Wesley Foundations from around the state.

Launched our Wesley Foundation quarterly newsletter, which is sent to 400

addresses.

Co-sponsored a campus-wide event with Baptist Collegiate Ministries to collect canned goods and raise awareness about homelessness—65 students slept in cardboard boxes in the middle of campus

Brought renowned speaker Lauren Winner (Author of *Girl Meets God* and *Real Sex: The Naked Truth about Chastity*) to Francis Marion for a campus-wide event.

Used and lived into the theme, *The Next Level*, for our spring 2006 semester—in an effort to take our faith, service, commitment, discipleship and the Wesley Foundation as a whole to the next level.

South Carolina United Methodist Student Movement retreats and convocations.

Two new student-led, small group Bible studies

Small fundraisers

Invited guest speakers and preachers from churches in the Florence area.

Many fun/fellowship outings

*Michael A. Turner, Campus Minister*

### **FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**

“I believe that if you give these kids the problem of world hunger, they would have it solved in a month.” (Tommy Moore, Wesley Fellowship Board Chairman) The Church should be very excited about the leadership that is forming in our campus ministries. These young adults are not the future of the church, but are part the strongest leadership currently in the church. I find that these students are capable of leading in ways beyond our wildest expectations. My continued amazement was peaked at the beginning of the school year when the Wesley student leadership spent two weeks in planning for the year. Our powerful student leadership team encouraged by our board spent their planning time designing a newsletter, developing fundraising strategies, as well as outreach strategies to the incoming freshmen. A few years ago the whole group could be considered a small group by itself, but we felt the need to develop new small groups this year that extended to a group directed at the specific needs of freshmen.

Our Bible studies and school break mission trips continue to thrive and grow in participation. We have extended out mission work to helping run a local thrift store owned by Monaghan UMC. The students help stock, organize, and run the store every other weekend.

Our theme this year in programming has been on tending inward. The students have been encouraged to take as much care in the study of their souls as they do in the class room. We have focused on modeling our disciplined lives around the life of John Wesley and his followers.

Our goals for next school year are to continue to reach out to the other local United Methodist churches in order to be in ministry together, start looking at a facility that can house our ministry, and continue to be a presence of Christ on Furman’s campus.

*Rev. Jo Anna McGehee, Director*

### **UNITED METHODIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AT LANDER UNIVERSITY**

April 31, 2007, concludes the first year of the United Methodist Student Fellowship (UMSF) at Lander University, Greenwood, SC. The purpose of the UMSF is to provide a Christian environment to UMC students (and students of other Christian persuasions) working on a university degree at Lander University.

This first year has focused on laying a foundation for the program. UMSF facilities are provided by Main Street UMC of Greenwood which is conveniently located near the Lander campus. Though small in number, our current UMSF students spent the year painting and remodeling as time would allow the lower floor of Main Street’s Suzanna Wesley House. The facilities provided consist of office space, reception and kitchen area, a room for study and programs, and a room for relaxation and discussion. Students have also participated in fund raising projects, and have added about \$1,600 to help with this year’s expenses. The UMSF

has received contributions from numerous Sunday School classes and local churches in addition to the financial support of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Student programming of the UMSF facility has been delayed somewhat due to the remodeling activities and security complications. While the building is locked when not in use, thieves were able to steal a new \$900 television set the students had purchased for use in the relaxation and discussion room. The UMSF decided to await better security measures before opening the center for regularly scheduled hourly use. The center has been wired for high speed internet and cable TV access by students. In addition, there is also free telephone service from the center that includes local and long distance service within the USA. Plans are underway for free use of laundry facilities within the center and will be ready by the Fall 2007 academic year.

During this year, the students have been treated to dinner without cost to them in the Wednesday Evening Gatherings at Main Street UMC. These weekly fellowships have enabled our small group of twelve to meet for planning, scheduling, and fellowship.

Dr. Philip Shuler, ordained UMC minister and Lander Adjunct Professor, has served as Chaplain of the UMSF. Student leadership has included Ms. Jessica Morris (nursing student at Piedmont Tech), Ms. Lindsey Arant (early childhood major at Lander University), and Charlie Wolfe (Spanish major at Lander). This year's faculty representative for the UMSF has been Dr. Anita Coffey, professor of Spanish. Dr. Jon Bassett, professor in the Department of Psychology, will serve as next year's faculty representative. Dr. Shuler has tendered his resignation and the UMSF has enthusiastically decided to move aggressively with next year's program.

There is considerable positive anticipation for the opportunities and challenges during the coming year on both the Lander University and Piedmont Tech campuses even as we give thanks for the progress the USF has made during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

*Philip L. Shuler, Chaplain*

## ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

In the book, **We Gave This Ministry: The Heart of the Pastor's Vocation**, Samuel D. Proctor and Gardner C. Taylor write, "Theology never comes alive in abstract debate. It is best understood when it is lived. A great good pastor will take the time to show the people how life should be lived, given such a great God as we are privileged to know, and given how marvelously we are made." For Proctor and Gardner, Theology and the gospel must not only be rationalized and articulated, rather, they must become incarnated and embedded in our lives and lived experientially. There is a need for them to become concrete in our lives and shared in community.

One of the tasks and roles of the Campus Minister and the Wesley Foundation Ministry is to make available and provide a nurturing environment so that theology and the gospel can be experienced and lived experientially in the lives of the students, staff, faculty, and administration at Claflin and South Carolina State Universities. Our ministries seek to enable Theology and the Gospel to become authentic, alive and active in the lives of the community so that the gospel is no longer abstract or void, rather full of grace, glory, and honor.

A **Disciples Talent Show** was held on campus with the participation of students, faculty, and staff. Our talent show allowed the community to "live out its theology" through an array of talents, music, poetry, drama, dance, and speech. God's spirit and ways are revelatory. God manifests His word through many expressions and utilization of our talents. A **Jamming for Jesus** event was co-sponsored by the university and us. Christian music was played, food served, and bible trivia games were played. Participants were afforded the opportunity to test their biblical knowledge through a series of questions, and prizes were given.

Several students traveled to New Orleans for a week and assisted with the clean up as a result of Hurricane Katrina. This was a life-changing experience for our students. Students shared stories about the devastation of New Orleans. The water literally moved houses into the streets; many homes/ areas have not been touched. Pictures were taken, students interacted with residents, and lived in the fellowship hall of a church.

Finally, this report delineates the ministries that are transformational in nature for transforming God's people. Listed is a synopsis of ministries we utilized as enablers in bringing about a change in the lives of God's people.



- Disciples Talent Show
- Melt Down
- Faculty Bible Study, Wednesday noon
- Freshman worship August '06
- Jolley Acres Nursing Home Ministry
- Thanksgiving Worship
- Thanksgiving food basket for the needy
- Movie night
- Counseling for students
- Adviser to S.C.U.M.S.M
- UMSM Retreat, Winnsboro, SC
- Prayerfully,
- Participation on Claflin's Religious Life Committee
- Student Bible Study, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Worship - Wednesday night
- Hurricane Katrina Mission Trip
- Exploration '06 – Jackson, Fla.
- Religious Emphasis Week/ Revival
- Christmas Worship
- Summer Investment Program
- Serve on SCSU's Religious Life Council
- UMSM Forum, Adrian, Michigan
- Advise Students on Path to Seminary

*Dr. Jimmy J. Montgomery, Campus Minister*

### **WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION**

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has provided a spiritual home for students at Winthrop University since 1932. So yes, you guessed it – this is our 75<sup>th</sup> year in ministry! How amazing! Adjacent to the campus, the Winthrop Wesley Foundation is not just a building, but a community of faith and support as students and young adults grapple with questions of vocation, identity, faith, and all of the twists, turns, and intricacies of life in the midst of the rigors of the academy. Students are challenged here, nurtured here, and loved here.

What does this look like during the week???

Wednesday night Dinner and Program - We are thankful to local United Methodist Churches for providing our home-cooked meals each Wednesday night. Our programs range from vocational discernment to prayer to fellowship nights to social justice concerns like The Corridor of Shame to conflict management and much more.

Monday One Anothering Bible Study – Each Monday we gather for lunch and sharing of our highs and lows of the week followed by Bible Study. During the Fall semester we looked at the *nooma* DVD series and during the Spring semester we have been studying the book of Mark.

Sunday Night CROSSFIRE Worship Service – Open to college students and young adults in the Rock Hill area, this informal worship service is a chance to worship and find renewal through prayer, Word, and song.

Some highlights of the year:

Wesley is active in the world and surrounding communities in a variety of ways: The Charleston-Winthrop Mission Weekend at the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant; organizing and leading a 24 hour homeless simulation and hunger vigil during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week; the Rock Hill Homeless Count; the Souper Bowl of Caring; the Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run; a Hurricane Relief Trip to D'Iberville, Mississippi where 15 students were able to work and repair homes over Spring Break; Relay for Life; and volunteering with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our special outreach is the York County CROPWALK, which is housed at The Wesley Foundation. This year's walk was dedicated to the memory of Risher Brabham, our beloved campus minister here for 27 years and the walk's founder, and we raised our highest total in the history of the walk - \$34,753.87!

Students are also given opportunities to grow in their identity, their faith, and their world view through opportunities such as our Fall Rafting and Spiritual Life Retreat at Asbury Hills, the MLK Lecture with Winthrop Cooperative Campus Ministries, a time of renewal and nature on our Camp Out to Crowder's Mountain, and by three of our students participating in this year's Exploration.

One of the great things about college life is getting to know each other, and fellowship events are an important part of Wesley as we went to a Charlotte Knights

baseball game, played laser tag with one another, enjoyed movie nights and game nights at Wesley, and celebrated Christmas and Easter dinners at the Jeter house. On our snow day students even spontaneously gathered at Wesley to play games, eat pizza, and watch movies together on their day off!

This year we have had a large group of freshman enter the campus ministry and their enthusiasm and vision has been exciting to witness. We have also started our first servant ministry team where our student leaders are taking an active role in the planning and implementing of our ministry. Campus ministry provides such a rich and meaningful fellow journeyer to these young adults and we thank all of our partners in ministry around our community, the district, and the conference. May the church discover anew the vision of campus ministry – its importance and indeed necessity – as we encounter the realities and possibilities of our present and future church!

*Narcie M. Jeter, Campus Minister*

## THE BOARD OF LAITY

The Conference Board of Laity welcomed several new members and thanked others for their service since the 2006 Annual Conference. Mr. Mike McKain replaced Mrs. Brenda Hook as chairperson of the Stewardship Task Group, Mrs. Dona Easterling (Columbia), Dr. Robert T. Barrett (Florence) and Mr. John Allgood (Walterboro) were appointed as District Lay Leaders for their respective districts and Mr. Lou Addison, because of health reasons, resigned as chairperson of the Leadership Development Task Force. These persons, along with many others provided excellent leadership for this conference. We, however, mourned the loss of Mr. John Gass, the Columbia District Lay Leader who died in January 2007.

The Conference Lay Leader continues to be an active participant with the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders on both the jurisdictional and national levels. As a member of the Extended Cabinet, the Conference Lay Leader kept the Cabinet abreast of plans and opportunities being offered, planned or developed by the Board. District Lay Leaders assisted in training of Lay Delegates to Annual Conference and offered orientation sessions where appropriate.

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

**Laity Convocation (Robert Scarborough)**- The 2006 S.C. Laity Convocation, themed "Love God AND Love Your Neighbor" was held July 14-16, 2006 at Lake Junaluska, N.C. and featured Rev. Tony Compolo, Professor Emeritus at Eastern University in St. David's, PA. The Convocation was promoted as "A Weekend of Personal Spiritual Growth for Local Church Leaders and Practical Ideas for Your Church" and featured approximately 25 workshops dealing with church leadership, lay speaking ministries, safe sanctuaries, family ministries and many other topics. These workshops gave the attendees practical and understandable information about how United Methodist laity can serve Christ through the local church.

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor served as Celebrant for Holy Communion during the opening Worship Service with the assistance of The Cabinet. The Laity Convocation concluded on Sunday at the Lake Junaluska Worship Service with the Rev. Ross Anthony John Olivier, Lead Pastor, Galloway United Methodist of Jackson, Mississippi. Rev. Tony Compolo also led a Bible Study during the Convocation. Traditions continued with the Lake Junaluska Singers in concert and the Convocation Watermelon Cutting. A new tradition, begun in 2005, matured as the Porch Fellowships allow all attendees an opportunity to meet and speak with conference officers and leaders from United Methodist institutions.

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

The 2007 S.C. Laity Convocation, themed "The Family of Christ" will be held July 13-15, 2007 at Lake Junaluska, N.C. and will feature Bishop Marcus Matthews, Bishop of the Philadelphia Episcopal Area. Bishop Matthews, a South Carolina native, was nurtured at Cumberland United Methodist Church in Florence, SC. Bishop Will Willimon, Bishop of the North Alabama Conference, and also a South Carolina native, will lead a breakout session on Saturday morning entitled "Exploring the Different Images of Family in the Bible". Dr. Paul Chilcote, Visiting Professor at Duke Divinity School and President of the Charles Wesley Society will preach at the concluding Worship Service on Sunday morning.

For the first time, a number of breakout sessions will be offered Friday afternoon. They will be designed to appeal to all participants but some will have a special attraction to Music Directors and Organists. The goal is two-fold, to lengthen the Laity Convocation by ½ day and reach out to a new group of United Methodists who could benefit by coming to the event. Overall, there will be approximately 30 breakout sessions from which to choose.

Rev. Tony Compolo, is scheduled to return in 2008.

**Lay Speaking Ministries (Michael Cheatham)**- Lay Speaking Ministries is a vital tool in equipping the laity of the South Carolina Conference to be effective leaders in the local church, in the districts, at the conference level and beyond. Lay Speaking Ministries offers classes in every district. Many districts offer multiple schools each year. Lay Speaking Ministries offers courses in leadership, communications, and caring. Lay Speakers are developing many ministries across the conference, in addition to providing pulpit supply when requested. Lay Speakers lead prayer groups, prison ministries, Bible studies, homeless ministries through local soup kitchens and food banks, ministries for women, and many more. Lay Speakers serve their local church in leadership of church committees, as well as worship leaders and liturgists, choir members, ushers and greeters. Lay Speakers communicate their faith in words and in their daily lives. Lay Speakers participate in care giving ministries in retirement, assisted living, and nursing homes, and through hospital and membership visitation programs.

Sixteen representatives from South Carolina attended the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries Education Convocation in Nashville, TN in January 2007. Conference director Michael Cheatham and Frances Gilliam from the Anderson District were program presenters. Our conference director also serves on the executive committee of the association as chair of the Communications Committee and also serves as the webmaster for the association's website, [layspeakingministries.org](http://layspeakingministries.org). He will also complete his term as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries in June.

Our conference continues to lead Lay Speaking Ministries in the training of qualified instructors. Each August, nearly 100 certified lay speakers attend the annual Instructor Institute in Columbia. Conference Director Michael Cheatham taught the first instructor training class in the Virginia Conference in February.

**Lay Speaking Ministries – Equipping United Methodists for all facets of Lay Ministry  
It's not just filling empty pulpits.**

**Leader Development Task Group (Louis Addison)**- The task group continues to review possible opportunities to offer to church leaders in the form of leadership development. One such model is Leadership UMC which is an initiative of the North Georgia Conference as well as offerings from the jurisdiction. Mr. Lou Addison, due to health reasons, has resigned as leader of the task group and a replacement will be named.

**Spiritual Formation Task Group (Kathryn Scarborough)**- Eighty-six people attended the one-day event, "Moving Beyond Business as Usual - Transforming Church Boards", held on April 29, 2006. Evaluation responses were used in planning a follow-up event. "Choosing Spiritual Leaders – Transforming Church Boards II", will be held on **April 28, 2007**. Rev. Larry Hays will be the workshop leader.

Three events, "Multiplying your Ministry: How to Recruit, Train, Develop, and Sustain Volunteers", were held in the fall of 2006. These were held in three areas of the state, and were led by Church Volunteer Central (Group Magazine Ministries).

We will sponsor **two spiritual formation workshops at the 2007 Laity Convocation**: Jan Johnston will do workshops on prayer on Saturday, and Rev. Marjorie Thompson, Director for Pathways Center for Spiritual Leadership with the Upper Room, will have a session on Sunday morning. The task group is supporting **Natural Church Development**, with special emphasis on the area of "Passionate Spirituality" and has started the planning process to sponsor a **5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation in SC in 2008**. God is continuing to reveal to us

opportunities for working with the Local Church in this process of Spiritual Formation.

**Stewardship (Mike McKain)**- The Stewardship Task Group began the year under the leadership of Mrs. Brenda Hook and we thank her for her leadership. Stewardship was a presence in most of the districts during District Laity Orientation events. Persons from local churches requested and received the services of the Stewardship Task Group. Lay Speakers who have successfully taken the "Lay Speakers Lead in Stewardship" course will be asked to provide assistance to the Task Group.

Mike McKain began leadership at the end of 2006 and the task group continues to provide leadership and support in the conference. The task group has also established several goals that will be the main focus during 2007. They are as follows: (1) To establish the Stewardship link to the Conference web site and maintain and update the link as needed. The manual **Gifted To Give: Stewardship Alive** will be loaded on the site; (2) To train leaders within our Task Group and others to lead local churches in stewardship programs; (3) To develop and maintain a resource list of companies and individuals who lead capital and stewardship campaigns as information to share with local churches; (4) To develop and maintain a list of local churches that have undergone recent campaigns that we can share with other local churches; and (5) To update the stewardship manual **Gifted To Give: Stewardship Alive** to include a chapter on "Year 'Round" giving.

*Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader*

## **THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

The South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry began the 2006-2007 conference year with two major concerns: seminary education for South Carolina Candidates for ordained ministry and the instrument the conference uses for pastoral evaluation. The University Senate of The United Methodist Church removed Erskine and Gordon Conwell seminaries from their list of approved schools and universities beginning in July 2007. The reasons for their removal have been reported to the seminary, but are not public knowledge and cannot be shared with any individual or body by the University Senate. Both of these non-United Methodist seminaries have provided opportunities for South Carolina's ministerial candidates to obtain a sound seminary education. In its November meeting the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry established a committee to review the impact of this decision of The University Senate on seminary education for South Carolina students and to explore additional opportunities for seminary education within our region. This committee has begun its work which will continue throughout the next conference year.

The 2006 Annual Conference approved an instrument for pastoral evaluation but requested continued exploration of this subject. The chair appointed a committee for this purpose at the November meeting of The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. There are many instruments available for evaluation from both the secular and sacred realm, which were reviewed by the committee. Emerging from these discussions is a document whose purpose is to guide Committees on Staff/Pastor Parish Relations in an ongoing dialogue about the nature and role of the clergy among the people of God and the performance of specific ministerial duties within that context. We are not prepared to present that document for a vote this year, but would ask your permission to utilize this emerging process in the fall/winter of 2007. This would permit the board and the cabinet to receive feedback from pastors and committees before presenting the final instrument at the 2008 annual conference.

The Board has reviewed several new initiatives this year. The Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, joining the College of Bishops, has launched an initiative titled Tending the Flame. The purpose of this initiative is to provide encouragement and support to young people who are being called to leadership and service within the church. The Conference Board committed \$5,000.00 from her contingency funds to this initiative.

The Bishop and Cabinet requested financial support through the Conference Ministerial Education Fund for a trip to the Holy Land (civil situation permitting) for each of our newly received full members of The Annual Conference. The Board approved a \$700.00 grant for each newly received full member in 2007 for a trip in 2008. The Board requested that a joint team from The Board and Cabinet explore this possibility for future years.

Last year the Annual Conference adopted a policy on Pastoral Ineffectiveness. The Board

and the Cabinet are beginning to explore ways in which we, as a conference, can intervene and address the issues of pastoral effectiveness through continuing education, clergy support, and vocational counseling. We are currently reviewing other conferences' methods of intervention and hope to develop a plan that facilitates supporting all pastors as they seek to fulfill God's call to ministry effectively.

The ongoing work of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry is to recommend persons for candidacy in ministry, and to recommend persons for licensed, commissioned, and ordained ministry and for Professional Certification in specific areas of ministry. In addition the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry makes recommendations for change in status for each of these areas of servant leadership. The report of that work is made to the Clergy Session and from that body the Annual Conference has received the recommendations for conference membership.

We would like to recognize the following persons for professional/para-professional certification:

Murial Jordan - Para-professional certification in Christian Education

Dianna Flake - Para-professional certification in Youth Ministry

Jillianne Davis - Professional certification in Christian Education and Youth Ministry

This year marks the tenth year of the Ordination of Deacons. The Reverend Kathy James will lead us in a celebration of the role and the service of the Deacons among us.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of The Board of Ordained Ministry who so faithfully serve this Annual Conference. Service on this Board requires a huge commitment of personal and professional time. These members have served you graciously and honorably.

*Patricia J. Parrish, Chair*

## **THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

### **PENSION SECTION**

#### **Report Number One**

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix \$614 per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made that will give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund) \$4,955,645 for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled

Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2007 and 2008 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

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

D. For 2008, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal \$468 per month for Full Time Equivalent for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding. **The South Carolina Board of Pension and Health Benefits will bill for those clergy at the charge level beginning in the calendar year 2008.** Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2008, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister in appointment is current.

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

a. Full time appointments are assumed to be full time in service. Defined Plan

Compensation cannot be less than the 2008 CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$33,626. There is no classification for a three quarter (3/4) time local pastor; it is either full time or part time. Student local pastors are less than full time, but study and compensation requirements have to be met on an annual basis.

- b. Three Quarter time (3/4) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (the CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$33,626). Service time is no less than 35 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to three weeks annually.
  - c. One half time (1/2) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 40% of the DAC, service time of no less than 28 hours per week with paid vacation time limited to two weeks annually.
  - d. One quarter (1/4) time for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 20% of the DAC (\$11,209). Service time of no less than 15 hours per week, with paid vacation time is limited to one week annually.
  - e. Part-time local pastor (1/2) means Plan Compensation is no less than 30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation (\$18,087). Half time local pastor means service can be no less than 20 hours per week with two weeks paid vacation.
  - f. Part-time local pastor (1/4) means Plan Compensation is less than \$18,087 (30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation). Service time can be less than 20 hours per week with one week paid vacation.
- E. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- F. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time grant within 90 days of first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

## Report Two 2008 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

### Estimated Requirement

Past Service Payment	
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit Amount	3,451,478.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,219,012.00
CRSP CPP (3%)	1,111,808.00
Clergy Transition*	89,856.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>5,902,154.00</b>

### Estimated Income

**UM Publishing House	0
Investment Income-Permanent Funds	450,000.00
Institutional Payments	376,653.00
Apportionment*	119,856.00
Direct Bill Payments	4,955,645.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>5,902,154.00</b>

### \*Amount to be apportioned

Clergy Transition*	89,856.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS</b>	<b>119,856.00</b>

\* To be apportioned

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

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

The 2007 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$590, or 0.99% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The Conference intends to maintain the Past Service Rate around 1% of CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by an average of about 4.058% per year, and we not expect that pattern to continue. Therefore, we expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of about 4% per year.

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

Current Plan Funding	\$89,548,946
Supplement One Liability	<u>(63,442,489)</u>
A PSR Increase of 4.0%	
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2005	\$26,106,457
Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table	

*David V. Braddon, Chairperson*  
*Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

**THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**  
**GROUP INSURANCE SECTION**  
**Report Number One**

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

1. Those fully employed and funded by a local church either as Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Probationary Elders, Probationary Deacons, Probationary Deacons/1992, Diaconal ministers and Student Local Pastors related to and serving a local church within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Student local pastors appointed to and funded by a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference and actively at work.
5. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
6. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
7. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
8. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of



Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses.

9. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2004 Book of Discipline.
10. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the annual conference on the current advanced premium.
11. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and shall be based on the following schedule:
 

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

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

### **Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits**

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

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

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

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2007. If an active participant completes their annual wellness exam and the health risk appraisal offered through WebMD via Healthflex; that covered person will receive a \$100 premium credit during the first quarter of 2008. The church will receive a corresponding \$100 credit for 2008. In order for the credit to be issued the South Carolina Annual Conference will have to meet the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits qualifying guidelines of 40% participation in completion of the health risk appraisal and 50% participation in having a wellness exam.

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

### **Report Number Three Medicare Benefits**

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

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

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

### **Report Number Four Administrative Procedures**

Enrollment in HealthFlex, the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference must be made within the first thirty days of eligibility or the first day actively at work. Late enrollment or enrollment for January 1<sup>st</sup> of any year must be completed with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> of the preceding year.

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

**Billing:** At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send premium statements to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and to participants with Flexible Spending Accounts. Payments for group health premiums and Flexible Spending Accounts premiums shall be made on a monthly basis.

**Cancellation of Coverage:** It is imperative that each participant in the Conference Insurance Program keeps his/her premium payments current. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has instructed the benefits administrator to cancel the insurance coverage or the Flexible Spending Account of any participant who does not pay his/her premium by the end of the month for which he/she has been billed.

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

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, P.O. Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230. The change enrollment form must be completed and in the hands of the benefits administrator within 30 days from the date of eligibility. If not, the applicant will be ineligible until the next following enrollment period.

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

**Report Number Five**  
**Group Health Insurance 2008 Operating Budget**

**Estimated Requirements**

Active Group	
Single	2,332,275.00
Family	4,765,128.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,097,403.00
Retired Group	
Medicare Eligible Sub Group	
Participant	861,698.00
Participant +1	1,291,970.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	13,536.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,167,204.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	9,264,607.00
Other*	
Incapacitation/Transition	188,544.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	85,000.00
Total Estimated Other	273,544.00

**Total Estimated Requirement** **\$9,538,151.00**  
**Estimated Income**

Billing to salary Paying Units	4,977,904.00
Apportioned to Churches**	1,746,246.00
From Insured	2,129,221.00
From Medicare Participants	433,440.00
From Institutional Payments	251,340.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$9,538,151.00</b>

**Amount to be Apportioned**

Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	188,544.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,733,764.00
LESS: Investment Income	(176,062.00)
<b>Total</b>	

**Report Number Six**  
**2008 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2007 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,229,244 be billed to the local church **charges** and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,746,246 and Investment Income of \$176,062.00 to be used as follows:
  - a. \$ 188,544.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
  - b. \$1,733,764.00 for retiree Group Medicare Supplement.
3. That participant premium payments be set as follows:
  - a. Personal group insurance premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
    1. Effective January 1, 2008, the single premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$169.00 per month.
    2. Effective January 1, 2008, the family premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$422.00 per month.
  - b. Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be 20% of the rate; this 20% is expected to be \$70.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2008.
4. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall

have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One, item 11.

5. Active participants attained age 65, serving salary paying units that would otherwise qualify for a Small Employer Medicare Secondary Payer Exemption, and their eligible dependents, shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premium limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule in Report One, item 11.
6. The estimated 2008 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full time Diaconal Ministers and full time Lay Employees of local churches, are expected to be: \$561.00 monthly (\$6,732.00 yearly) for single coverage and \$1,404.00 monthly (\$16,848.00 yearly) for family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2008.

*David V. Braddon, Chairperson  
Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

## **THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

We are pleased to announce that we have had another successful year. I would personally like to thank the members of the commission for their assistance as I assume the role of chairperson.

### **PON-PON CELEBRATION**

John Wesley's 1737 visit to the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease will be remembered on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. The celebration will begin with an outdoor worship service at 11 am. This service will be followed by a picnic on the grounds and the day will conclude with another brief service. All are welcomed to attend.

**Please bring chairs and a picnic lunch to be shared with fellow worshippers.**

The Pon Pon Chapel is located about three miles from Jacksonboro off of the Walterboro Road. Signs will be posted to assist in directions to the site.

This event is sponsored by the Old Jacksonboro Historic District, the SC Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Walterboro District of the SC Conference and the St. Jude Episcopal Church.

### **LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN TRAINING**

Two informative workshops for local church historians were held in April, 2007.

A third workshop is scheduled for October 2007 in the Orangeburg district.

**For more details please contact Darien Pickens, 13 Valerie Drive, Greenville, SC 29615 or [hbodarien@charter.net](mailto:hbodarien@charter.net) or Frank Buie, 209 Jabay Drive, Columbia, SC, 29229 or [fbuie@sc.rr.com](mailto:fbuie@sc.rr.com).**

### **GRAVE MARKERS**

The Commission is pleased to provide grave markers for deceased clergy. This is a gift of appreciation from the Annual Conference to all who served as itinerant pastors. They are capable to be attached to stone or metal markers. They are available in each district office.

### **CHURCH CELEBRATIONS**

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

Jerusalem UMC, Harleyville Parish, Harleyville, Walterboro District

Marshall Memorial UMC, South Anderson Charge, Anderson, Anderson District

Ware Shoals UMC, Ware Shoals- Harmony Charge, Ware Shoals, Greenwood District

Williams UMC, Adnah- Williams Charge, Ruffin, Walterboro District

The **Bicentennial** church is St. John's UMC, Batesburg, Greenwood District.

## HUCKS AWARDS

All churches of the Conference are encouraged to celebrate their heritage with this award. This year we are pleased to present this award to the following congregation:

Mountain View United Methodist Church in Taylors, SC. This is the second year that Mrs. Frieda Anne Liston and the history committee have submitted such an excellent historical record of this beloved congregation.

The Herbert Hucks, Jr., Individual Award for Preservation and Interpretation is presented to Mrs. Harriet Anderson Mays. Mrs. Mays' qualifications are numerous. She most recently served as the editor of The Mark, the newsletter of the South Carolina Conference Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

## 2008 Award Application and Criteria

### 2008 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2008 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2008 Conference Session. If your church qualifies, or if you know of someone who has furthered the interpretation and preservation of United Methodist Heritage in South Carolina, please send the name with answers to the questions below. Please include your name, the name of the church, and how to contact the pastor by name. Mail your application to **Rev. Lisa Hawkins, 273 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401.**

### APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2008

#### Local Church Qualifications

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

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

#### Individual Qualifications

Nominees for this singular recognition should be someone who during his or her life, or in some special way recently, has contributed significantly to the preservation or interpretation of United Methodist history/heritage **beyond the local church**. Please describe in a few paragraphs the contributions made by this person.

One individual recognition may be awarded annually; re-nominations are welcome any time.

**Deadline:** February 1, 2008. The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions on February 9, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa C. Hawkins, Chairperson*

## **THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS**

The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is charged with the mandate to “interpret, advocate and work for the unity of the Christian Church in every aspect of the life of the conference and its churches, and to encourage dialogue and cooperation with persons of other living faiths.” This Commission also works “to stimulate understanding and conversations with all Christian bodies, to encourage continuing dialogue with Jewish and other living-faith communities, and to encourage an openness of mind toward an understanding of other major world religions.”

We must diligently work to create opportunities where local and community faith groups can dialogue and strive for unity and understanding. We hope that we can meet this opportunity by teaching our local congregations, providing workshops with open dialogue, and attending interfaith events. By living in a global community, we have not done all that we can to expand our horizons to reach for unity. The challenge may be daunting, but it can be accomplished.

We hope and pray to be a visible and active presence on a local church, district, and conference level. We are grateful to the United Methodist Church for opening the door for dialogue between faith communities. We will be faithful in the task and ask that we continue to receive your love, prayers, and support.

*Morris Waymer, Jr., Chairperson*

## **THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS**

The Conference Year 2006-2007 has been an exciting year for communications. We continue to increase the functionality and resources of the website. For the first time the Journal is available online, and the online calendar is continuously updated.

The resource center has updated its resources and the entire catalog is now available online at their new website: [www.umcsc.org/resourcecenter](http://www.umcsc.org/resourcecenter).

*Connx* the online and print publication that comes as an insert in the Advocate remains a strong communications tool that helps to fill our connection with the local churches. However, we hope that with the proposed changes in the Advocate, *Connx* will no longer be necessary.

The Communications Director, Matt Brodie, has been working hard producing videos for different boards and agencies of the Annual Conference, and designing the new logos for Connectional Ministries, The South Carolina Communities of Shalom and the Annual Conference logo “to serve the present age” as well as some billboards in Florence to be shown during Annual Conference. He has also made sure the Conference website is maintained and has created several websites for groups in the Conference including Shalom Literacy, The Youth Workers Movement, COSROW, and the Fatherhood Initiative. He also worked with a mission team to create a photo Calendar called “Under the Zimbabwe Sun” that was sold around the world to raise funds and awareness for the water project at The Old Mutare Mission in Zimbabwe.

Jim Crews, the Director of Information Technology, worked with Clergy Services, the Conference Secretary and the Print Shop to create a system that allows much of the information in Section XII of the Journal to be automatically uploaded from the Clergy Services database. As the Treasurer’s Office moved to a new accounting system, Jim Crews, with input from Jim Knowles-Tuell, updated the apportionment and remittance pieces of the online system. Additionally, Jim Crews outfitted congregational specialists with computers, blackberry devices, and other technology equipment to assist them in their work and help provide effective mobile offices.

While communications has had a great year, we know we have much more work to do to bring the conference where it needs to be in regards to how we communicate to the local churches and to the secular world. We will continue to take steps forward and strengthen the communications of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

*Harry Bright, Chairperson*

## THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

### Report Number 1

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

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of full-time clergy and students serving as pastors in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the Commission has been guided by The United Methodist Book of Discipline; the latest version states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for clergy support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on clergy support to district superintendents and Committees on Pastor-Parish Relations." (*The Book of Discipline, 2004*, Paragraph 624.2) The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation responds to the ministry needs adopted by the annual conference. The Commission has administered funds to be used for clergy in new church situations and with clergy in ministry with the state's growing Hispanic population. In earlier years, the pace of starting these new ministry situations and administration of those funds was slower. The Annual Conference's 10 churches by 2010 mandate and the growing need for Hispanic ministry shifts the commission's primary role to the newer, larger task of assisting other conference agencies in administering funds for these ministries.

The Commission members hope that our ongoing dialogue with other conference agencies will enable the annual conference to meet growing ministry needs in a way that is rapid, responsive, and effective. Even as our ministry tasks grow, the commission remains committed to its primary responsibility to clergy and local churches which is to interpret compensation standards and administer the Equitable Compensation Fund.

#### B. Total Compensation for Clergy

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

### Report Number 2

#### A.1. Budget Request for 2008

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$540,000** be made to fund the estimated **\$605,000** Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2008. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

#### A.2. Schedule of Total Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving in the South Carolina Annual Conference

In accord with the mandate of the Discipline, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2008, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

Category	Amount
1. Clergy in full connection	\$38,100
2. Probationary, Commissioned and Associate Members	\$34,100
3. Local Pastors	\$31,900

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

Clergy who depend on the pastoral support package for medical insurance have experienced several years of consecutive insurance premium increases. Staff- or Pastor-Parish Relations Committees are asked to adjust the clergy compensation package so that a cash salary increase is possible if it appears that the health insurance premium increase will result in a reduction of cash salary, year-to-year.

The commission on equitable compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expenses through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "O." and "P." below, entitled "Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses" and "Reimbursement as Administrative Cost."

**B. For Student Appointments**

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

**C. For Deacons in Full Connection**

Those persons who have responded to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments and are full-time ordained deacons in accordance with Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the Annual Conference in accordance with Paragraph 331.14(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2004*. Deacons who are employed by the congregation, charge, or cooperative parish less than full time shall be compensated proportional to the percentage of time being served. (Half time would receive not less than half the minimum salary.) Deacons not employed by a congregation, charge, cooperative ministry, or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.14(c) are not affected.

**D. Experience Merit**

A clergyperson who has served for 5 or more years full time service or the equivalent thereof in the South Carolina Annual Conference, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service.

Example: Year 6: equitable compensation base plus \$875.00;  
 Year 7: equitable compensation base plus \$1050.00;  
 Year 8: equitable compensation base plus \$1225.00;  
 Year 9: equitable compensation base plus \$1400.00;  
 Year 10: equitable compensation base plus \$1575.00;  
 Years 11+: equitable compensation base plus \$1750.00.

**E. Housing Allowances**

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

**F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance**

The District Superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the June through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through May compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the district superintendent, indicating income from all sources.



**G. Cross Racial Appointments**

If the Bishop and Cabinet, in making a cross-racial appointment, find it necessary to request an equitable compensation supplement, special consideration will be given on an individual basis. Guidelines listed under Report 3 will apply.

**H. Cooperative Parish Ministries**

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

**I. Disbursement of Supplements**

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

**J. Utilities Allowance**

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service.

**K. Investment of Reserve Fund**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account.

**L. Interpretation**

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

**M. Compensation Guidance**

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

**N. Ineligibility**

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

**O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses**

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties. Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 48.5 cents per mile). The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with the pastor(s) (and the district superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastor(s) and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

**P. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost**

The Commission recommends that the reimbursement for travel and professional

expenses be a part of the administrative cost of each local church and not considered or reported as part of the pastor's compensation.

#### **Q. Vacation Policy**

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

##### **Total Years of Service/Number of Weeks**

Less than 5 years a minimum of 2 (including Sundays)

5 years - 10 years a minimum of 3 (including Sundays)

More than 10 years a minimum of 4 (including Sundays)

In addition to the above it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week.

"Years of Service" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge.

"Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

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

### **Report Number 3 Mission Situations**

#### **A. Definition**

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

#### **B. Eligibility**

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

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

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

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

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

**C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation**

1. If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.
2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st.

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

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

**E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations**

**Part 1.**

**Schedule for New Churches Initiated Prior to January 2008**

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

First Year and a Half: As the sole salary paying unit, the Commission of Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's compensation and the direct bill for pensions and health benefits.

After One and A Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by one-fourth for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

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

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

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

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

First year and a half: up to \$4,000.00 annually

Second full year: up to \$3,000.00 annually

Third full year: up to \$2,000.00 annually

Fourth full year: up to \$1,000.00 annually

**Part 2.**

**2008 Schedule for New Church Starts**

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.

**Part 3.**

**Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Report Number 4  
Category Summaries of Recent Disbursements**

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

	Dec. 2003		Dec. 2004		Dec. 2005		Dec. 2006	
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1. New church	2	57,906	2	31,630	2	18,315	4	97,908
2. Minimum	14	91,801	16	132,892	9	64,408	14	61,364
3. "Special"	3	48,050	1	4,950	1	3,000	1	3,000

4. Cross-Racial Appointments	0		0		0		0	
5. Low Income direct billing costs:	2	57,200	2	57,525	1	27,090	2	42,140
				\$54,310		\$18,917		39,000
TOTALS	21	254,957	21	281,307	13	131,730	20	243,412

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

	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2005	Jan. 2006	Jan. 2007
1. Effective Members	11	9	8	10
2. Probationary Members (Full Time)	4	6	3	1
3. Probationary Members (Not Full Time)	0	0	0	0
4. Associate Members	0	0	0	0
5. Local Pastors (Full Time) 5	0	5	2	4
6. Student Local Pastors	0	0	0	0
7. Other	1	1	0	1
TOTALS:	18	21	13	16

*Joseph R. James, Chairperson*

### THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Remarkably Jesus our Lord had us on His heart with great desire before His own suffering. Jesus' compassionate, zealous prayer to God for us believers was that we be present with Him and behold His glory which God had given Him in God's love for Jesus.

Such glorious love in Christ Jesus propels us. The Holy Spirit provides a well-spring of resources dwelling in us all with ethnic richness and diversity as God's children. The Spirit fosters, and brings out benefits from, our particular ethnic gifts and qualities. So, let us as a church family be led by God earnestly to open up to God's guidance in putting into place persons embodying racial diversity for servant-leadership. Local churches, and all ministry teams, are thanked for honoring this important work of placing diverse people in positions of service and leadership.

Religion and Race's role (2004 *Discipline*, ¶ 642) is to enable, monitor, advocate, sensitize, empower, counsel, and investigate racial concerns in the Annual Conference.

We stand in solidarity with Connectional Ministries' newly energized emphasis on working together personally on site with persons all across South Carolina in Christian ministry. Please note the names and addresses of commission members so you may call upon us to come and be personally involved with you in your location as part of Christ's Church.

Friendship Church in Nesmith suffered the desecration of church property by racial vandalism done by two individuals in February of 2007. Friendship Church members' godly grace and amazing forgiveness toward the two individuals inspires consecration of our lives. Religion and Race is blessed to have experienced fellowship and Bible study with the congregation.

Ongoing and new priorities in 2007 and beyond include:

1. Annual Conference monitoring of racial and gender participation using Jurisdictional Monitoring Forms for Religion and Race and for The Commission on the Status and Role of Women.
2. Presenting awards of The Joseph Benjamin Betha Service Award, and The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award.
3. A Plan for Inclusiveness to be developed with the Bishop, cabinet, and Annual Conference.
4. Utilizing findings of the 2002 Conference Audit, and 2003 On-Site Review by the General Commission on Religion and Race.
5. Studying and sharing with the Conference a study already done on The

Effects of Merger.

6. Receiving from the General Commission for implementation a protocol for responding to hate crimes.

Thanks for their commitment and creativity are expressed to all commission members and to our previous Chairperson, Ellen Younker. We rejoice over racial richness while seeking dutifully to work at fair, wise, unselfish, and exciting inclusion.

*Fred McDaniel, Acting Chairperson*

## **THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN**

COSROW has used this past year to begin planning for the future. Our emphasis in COSROW has been focused for many years in the Newsletter, and Women in the Pulpit - encouraging church people to support women by giving them space to speak this one Sunday out of the year. We have arrived at the place that we have many women who are speaking in the pulpit every Sunday – ordained clergy, local pastors, and lay speakers. Thus our focus is moving towards becoming more visible through three different avenues:

1. We will continue to need the newsletter, to open minds in how to support women in all walks of life throughout the year and to give space for women to share their story. We also intend for the newsletter to become a vessel for resources created by the women of our conference. This Newsletter will be distributed in registration packets.
2. Domestic Violence continues to be a concern. We are presently preparing a resource to be available to all churches in this area of ministry. Representatives from SCCADVASA will be present at a booth at annual conference to discuss and offer information on Domestic Violence. We are discussing how we may offer resources for churches, pastors and laity desiring to have training in responding to Domestic Violence in their communities.
3. How to nurture our Methodist Women in all areas of leadership remains a priority. We are working towards planning an annual Day of Nurture for United Methodist Women, a day when women throughout the conference may join together in fellowship and worship.

We continue to strive towards becoming a strong and vital ministry in the South Carolina Conference.

*Rebecca McPherson Wilkins, Chair*

## **THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP**

The Commission on Worship has been very busy this past year as we have re-examined our purpose and role in the conference. We are taking on new challenges as we continue in some of our old, such as working with our bishop and the conference liturgist for annual conference.

We have tightened our relationship with the SC Fellowship of United Methodists in Music, Worship and Other Arts (FUMWOA). We now have a liaison with FUMWOA and our chair has also been named to their board. We look forward to a deeper and fruitful relationship in the future.

We have re-edited our basic guide for parishes, 'The Nuts and Bolts of Worship, the People Places and Paraphernalia That Make Worship Work'. 'Nuts and Bolts' will be distributed, at no cost, to every pastor and every congregation. We are also working on two companion publications—a video and an annotated glossary.

We are working on developing a guideline statement for the conference on copyright laws that is perhaps more easily understood. We hope this will help clarify issues and responsibilities each parish has when copying lyrics and liturgies for programs and projection screens or when recording live worship.

We partnered with the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, and United Methodist Publishing House to bring a national level training event to the Bishop's School of Ministry in the fall of 2006.

We hope to partner with the Conference Resource Center to provide a portable cloth labyrinth for local congregations or conference agencies to use in this ancient meditation technique.

We have begun to plan for a 'We Worship 2008' event that will be a conference wide workshop focused on the skills and styles of worship.

*The Reverend Gary Phillips and Frank Deese*

## **THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on October 20, 2006, to evaluate the 2006 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2007 Annual Conference. The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2006 Annual Conference and considered the agenda for the 2007 Annual Conference.

In reviewing the over-all experience of Conference, the committee agreed that less time should be devoted to informational reports, recognitions, and awards, and more time should be devoted to substantive matters that require a decision by the Annual Conference. The Committee considered several methods to re-allocate time, including making all awards and recognitions presentations at one time in a single session of Conference.

A discussion of the over-all structure of Conference focused on the possibilities of holding ordination on some evening other than Tuesday. Sunday evening ordination will allow families and churches to attend the service on a weekend, and will allow those who are newly ordained to participate in voting when Conference opens on Monday morning.

The committee agreed to devote one afternoon to community service, similar to programs followed by other annual conferences. Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to various forms of ministry throughout the Florence community. All Conference participants are invited to take part, both lay and clergy. On the evening following there will be a celebration service.

The Committee voted to approve three motions: 1) To prohibit secular political campaigning at Conference; 2) To limit Exhibitors to those already on the list of exhibitors; entities of the SC Conference, SEJ, or General Conference; and others specifically allowed by the Executive Committee; and 3) To require that Conference members vote for the specified number of delegates on each ballot for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The Committee recommends that the 2008 Annual Conference be held again at the Florence Civic Center in Florence. Following the 2007 Conference, committee members will have the experience to allow them to compare other locations to the Florence location. An informed decision, based on the experience of the 2007 Conference, can then be brought to the 2008 Session concerning future Conference locations.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to Central United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2007 Session. Their gracious spirit and genuine enthusiasm over the opportunity to host Annual Conference - shared by many individuals and congregations around Florence - have been crucial to the success of this Conference in a new location.

*Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson  
Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary*

## **THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL**

The Committee on the Conference Journal continues to meet on a regular basis to provide oversight for the publications it is responsible for.

The Committee still has a large number of volumes of the 2001 edition of *United Methodist Ministers in South Carolina*. The Committee has reduced the price of the volume from \$14.00 to \$10.00 each, and will make a special effort to sell them at the upcoming Annual Conference for \$5.00 each.

Volumes I and II of the 2006 Conference Journal were mailed together in February of this year. This was a more timely completion of the Journal, as Volume I of the 2005 Journal was not mailed until April of 2006. The Committee is hopeful that progress can continue to be made in producing the Journal more quickly.

For the first time, the Journal is now available on the Conference web-site. The Committee is very pleased with this progress. Information is provided to the members of the Annual Conference more quickly, and in a very usable format. The on-line Journal can be searched by

word or phrase, which allows for specific information to be located in the Journal more easily.

Related to this advance, the office of the Conference Secretary no longer asks clergy to submit corrections to their appointments and contact information. The Record of Ministerial Service is now data-base driven. The Committee is hopeful that this will increase both the accuracy of this section and the speed with which it can be prepared each year.

The Committee noted that there had been no increase in the price of the Journal for ten years, and voted to increase the price of Journals to \$20.00 each, beginning in 2007. However, after the Office of the Conference Secretary has retained sufficient copies for archival purposes, those Journals older than two years may be given away.

The Committee has approved the practice of giving a copy of the most recent spiral-bound Pictorial Directory to all new clergy each year, as long as copies are available.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Sylvia Hulbert, secretary to the Conference Secretary, for her invaluable work on so many different projects, and Pat Mack and the staff in the Print Media Center, for their work in producing both volumes of the journal as well as all of the pre-conference and conference registration materials.

*Rev. Velma M. Haywood, Chairperson*

### **THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Conference Staff Relations Committee has been busy this year in fulfilling its personnel responsibilities. Following the decision of the 2006 Annual Conference to deploy six district congregational specialists, it has been the responsibility of the Committee to give oversight to the transition. The committee approved the specific details of the plan, including new job descriptions, plans for supervision and evaluation, training in coaching, and district assignments for these staff positions. Also, the Committee developed a process to fill the additional specialist position and approved the final selection. With the deployment of the specialists, some reorganization of administrative staff and their responsibilities has been necessary. Finally, working within the budget parameters set by the annual conference, the Committee established staff salary recommendations for 2007 and submitted budget requests to the Council on Finance and Administration.

The dedication and commitment of our conference staff to the work of Christ and His church is unmistakable. They continue to be eager to serve and strengthen the ministry of our local churches. The Committee deeply appreciates their flexibility as we have worked together in this year of transition.

*Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson*

### **THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES**

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services is to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to clergy licensing, ordination and status.

I am indebted to Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services. Her organizational abilities and knowledge of the clergy database that we maintain continue to be crucial to the efficient working of this office. Her gentle spirit is a calming influence for numerous candidates as they find their way through an increasingly complex process leading to licensing or ordination. I am also grateful to the twelve district secretaries for their outstanding work in the areas of certification and licensing. In addition, it is a pleasure to work with our Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to attempt to support them as they work to identify, nurture, and instruct new clergy for our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues to fulfill its role in evaluating and approving new clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. The importance of this work cannot be overstated, as the future health of our churches is, in many ways, directly related to the quality of leadership provided by our clergy. The Rev. Patricia Parrish has spent untold hours guiding the Board through another year in which Board members contributed many days and even weeks to this work. It has been a privilege to assist the Board.



During the past year this office has helped organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisted in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; organized a pre-retirement seminar in cooperation with the office of Conference Benefits Office; and provided support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry, and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. I have also participated in NCD coaches training; attended the manager's meetings for the Course of Study Schools at Duke and Candler; attended the "Do No Harm" national training event; offered training for four District Committees on Ordained Ministry; took part in visits with our students at three seminaries; attended the SEJ mid-quadrennium BOM meeting; attended the annual BOM Staff Network Meeting; and convened the Cabinet Hispanic Ministries Task Force. In addition, I have responded to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference, and have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas.

It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry, and I look forward to the coming year.

*Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services*

## **THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

As we anticipate the gathering of our Annual Conference in Florence there is some good news to report. Our new church starts in Rock Hill and Beaufort are making progress in the establishment of two new congregations. Waters Edge United Methodist Church has been meeting since January of this year in the movie theater on Lady's Island. It seems that since we have launched this new faith community that doors have continued to open. It is exciting to see what God is going to do in that beautiful place in our state. Mel Arant is offering courageous service and with the help of a dedicated team of lay people is building up a dynamic body of believers.

Randy Madsen is developing a launch team for what will become Grace Community United Methodist Church. Because of the lack of available meeting space this group of believers has been meeting in the Lancaster County Community Center in the Indian Land Community on Highway 521. Again, possibilities abound and there are some very exciting options that have recently been identified. The work, interest, and support of the Reverend Sara White and Dr. Ernest Etheredge have been invaluable as we go through the process of establishing these two churches. This has been a team effort for which our conference can be proud.

This year we anticipate the appointment of new church planters in Bluffton in the Walterboro District and the Clemson Road area of the Columbia District. Dr. Tim McClendon and Dr. Etheredge have offered their insight and wisdom into identifying these two new church sites.

One of the realities of starting new churches is that it requires our Annual Conference to make a significant financial commitment. In 2006, \$856,578 was given by our churches for Congregational Development. While this is a very generous amount it will not allow us keep up with what we must do in starting new churches in those areas of our state that are exploding with growth. For us to meet the need to have more United Methodist pews in those fast growing communities we will need to make every effort to fully fund the \$1,050,000 that is budgeted for Congregational Development.

Another aspect of the work of Congregational Development is the shared partnership with Connectional Ministries in Natural Church Development. Laura Hill, the administrative assistant for Congregational Development, has processed 131 surveys. Churches across the conference are working on what it takes to be healthy.

This summer we will train 24 persons to be certified coaches through Coachnet. Dr. Bob Logan will lead the training event. Those 24 will then offer Coachnet certification for others who desire to serve as coaches in our conference. We are already beginning to see the fruit of how coaching will positively affect our churches.

As we continue to grow in our understanding of Natural Church Development and how the Eight Quality Characteristics are so important in the life of the church, we will experience the "All By Itself Growth" that occurs when our churches are healthy.

It is a great joy to serve in ministry with the United Methodists of South Carolina. May we continue to do our very best, and trust God to do the rest.

*Rusty Taylor, Director*

## **THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY**

The Episcopacy Committee met Monday, February 12, 2007, at the Methodist Center in Columbia.

The Committee felt it would be helpful to use dialogue with the Bishop as a framework to assist its understanding of the contributions and leadership provided by our Episcopal Leader.

The Bishop was able to share with us some significant ministries which have taken place in the past year. A major emphasis was fostering ways in which churches, clergy and laity could strengthen the connection within the church.

One of the ways the Bishop has strengthened the connection is by establishing district clergy meetings for the purpose of supporting and encouraging each other in ministry. Another emphasis has been strengthening the local church. Natural Church Development is proving to be an effective resource in this regard.

Further goals involve reaching out to the unchurched, nurturing members and enriching the spiritual life of our congregations.

The committee expressed appreciation to Bishop Taylor for her leadership. We discussed ways in which this group could be helpful to her in fulfilling her vision. This committee expects to meet again in the fall of 2007.

*George K. Howle, Chairperson*

## **THE ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

The United Methodist Church is racially, ethnically and culturally diverse. Some of our increased diversity is directly attributed to immigration. This diversity is a gift!

The gift of diversity sometimes offers challenges. ELCC's challenges include meeting the needs of ethnic minorities in the SC Conference United Methodist Churches, supporting and empowering via programming racial and ethnic minority congregations and people as well as being an advocate for ethnic issues.

The current ELCC sub-committees (Funding Committee, African American Committee, Hispanic/Latino Committee and Native American Committee) have been busy. Plans are being made to re-activate the Korean/Asian Committee. A Congregational Specialist has been assigned to this.

The initial ELCC Grant Application Form has been revised. In addition to this form, a second form was created for renewal funding. This form is very short and makes it easy to submit requests for additional funding for the original application. The forms, as well as the guidelines, are located in the forms section of the SC Conference's website.

ELCC continued its tradition in providing funding for: 1) local church ministries 2) Salkehatchie Scholarships 3) Harambee Scholarships 4) SEJANAM Scholarships 5) Youth Annual Conference Scholarships 6) Other Youth Scholarships 7) Granville Hicks Leadership Academy 8) Scholarships for Pastors 9) Scholarships for Laity.

It is ELCC's intent to extend its networking with Religion and Race. Also, ELCC hopes to network with two additional conference agencies (traditionally non-networking) in 2007-8.

Comprehensive Plans are being revised for all sub-committees. They should be completed soon.

ELCC trained 24 Grant Specialists in December. The Grant Specialists will assist congregations in the preparation of grant application forms.

Our new Congregational Specialist, Rev. Dr. George A. Ashford, has been given the African American Churches portfolio in addition to his other duties. He has been extremely busy and is working closely with the African American Committee as well as ELCC. We have seen some "fruits" of his labor.

There is still much work to be done. May God strengthen us to do His will.

*Charlotte A. Grooms, Chairperson*

## REPORT NO. 1

### AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE

The African American Committee's responsibilities were far reaching in 2006. There was much dialogue with the African American Congregation Specialist about redefining the role of the Committee.

Job descriptions, detailing the duties and responsibilities, were written. This committee will continue its relationship with BMCR. The committee will continue to support the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy.

A visioning session was held. A Safe Sanctuaries Workshop is being planned. There will be more dialogue with African American pastors and/or clergy.

*Rev. Herbert Fogle, Chairperson*

## REPORT NO. 2

### HISPANIC/LATINO COMMITTEE

In the process of pioneering this ministry, significant impact has been made in the lives of so many Hispanic/Latinos by responding to their social, economic, legal and spiritual needs.

There are continuous concerns in this on-going ministry, far beyond our capabilities and possibilities to solve. That is holding us back from achieving the goals and strategies which we are committed to. Some of the most relevant are:

- 1) The local churches and Districts involvement in this ministry is far behind the needs and opportunities that are challenging us.
- 2) We feel the need of the Conference to have ownership of the Hispanic/Latino Ministry as a ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- 3) There is an on-going feeling of uncertainty regarding the funding of this ministry. This situation is contributing to undermining the stability and the heart for this ministry.
- 4) We believe that our Hispanic/Latino brothers and sisters are hereto stay, and so is our commitment to work alongside and worship with them, providing a space where they feel a spiritual connection.

#### Where are we heading?

We need to be intentional in defining whether the Hispanic/Latino ministry is a priority for the Conference. We also need to be intentional in visualizing the Hispanic/Latino Ministry with a structural personality within the Conference.

There are two basic challenges that we need to focus on:

- 1) **Immigration Laws:** While we recognize the complexity of the current immigration situation, we believe that our calling as people of God is to welcome the stranger and offer hospitality to the poor. This is a Jesus commandment that we must follow.

We, the Hispanic/Latino Committee join the General Board of Church and Society in advocating for comprehensive immigration reform that is not based on amnesty or open borders, but aims to:

Provide a path to citizenship  
Protect workers  
Reunite families

- 2) **A Call to Hospitality:** We need *"to raise awareness of our lack of hospitality to people who are different from us in our churches."*

What can we do as a Conference? How can we get involved in this process of **"our call to Hospitality"**? Being more intentional in our commitment, and continuous to raise awareness about the biblical mandate to be hospitable to people who are different from us in our churches and communities. Leviticus 19:33-34 (NCV) says, **"Do not mistreat foreigners living in your**

***land, but treat them just as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners as you love yourselves, because you were foreigners one time in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.***

*The Hispanic/Latino Committee*

### REPORT NO. 3

#### NATIVE AMERICAN COMMITTEE

***"It was the first time in my life that I felt proud to be both Native American and Christian. I felt accepted. The South Carolina United Methodist Church is true to its word—Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."***

These are the words from a South Carolina Native American, who has experienced how our conference outreaches to native peoples. Too often Indian people are told that they cannot be both Indian and Christian. Through this committee's outreach, a growing number of South Carolina Indian people are learning that they can be both. We are one body of Christ regardless of our race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or any other discriminatory factor. We need to maintain this as our focus as a church.

Once again, this has been a busy and a successful year with our committee. Yet, we still have a long way to go – *"Making the Invisible – Visible."* Our outreach is critical and we continue to struggle with recognition issues and self-esteem as a people.

In May, the chair and a committee member traveled to St. Louis, Missouri for the Native American Comprehensive Plan meeting. There were many conferences represented. We went to gain knowledge of where we need to go next – our future step. To our surprise, we became the role model for other conferences' Native American Committees. We were able to share our committee structure, how we manage our meetings and operations, our outreach to all South Carolina Indians, regardless of religious affiliation, Rocky Swamp Native American Ministries of Presence, our training of Native American Representatives, promoting Native American Ministries Sunday and other benchmarks from this conference.

A major area of concern was shared with us at this meeting that we want to lift up. **At the 2008 General Conference, a proposal will be made for the deletion of all Special Observance Sundays.** Much of our outreach and success has come from Native American Ministries Sunday. The loss of this special Sunday would severely damage and hamper our mission. Native American Ministries Sunday directly impacts a group of people who are members of this church. This Special Observance Sunday should be maintained. **We ask for your assistance in keeping this Sunday.** Please support all efforts to defeat this measure or at least amend it so that Native American Ministries Sunday is not deleted.

In June, our committee provided over \$3,000 in scholarships for South Carolina Indian people to attend the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency of Native Americans (SEJANAM) conference at Lake Junaluska. For many Indian people, they would not be able to attend without our assistance. This conference allows fellowship and worship of Indian people from throughout the southeast. It also provides educational workshops on concerns and issues impacting American Indians. In fact, we had two Santee Indians, Kiser and Jennifer Johnson, sing during the Gospel Singing service. Kizer wrote that one thing that Jennifer and he took away from the conference was, "God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it." Additionally, with their singing, they know they are "Called, Chosen and Equipped to Walk the Sacred Path." That was the theme of the conference. We plan to continue these scholarships this year.

In July, the chair and secretary traveled to Lawton, Oklahoma to assist with the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian Scouting Seminar. It was a special request to help with the local arrangements committee in setting up and running the seminar. The chair of the committee assisted us when the seminar came to South Carolina. We carried out this role and it was successful. In fact, the chair was elected to the Board of Directors.

The host tribe was the Comanche Nation – The Lord of the Plains. This provided a unique learning experience. The majority of the Comanche people are United Methodists. A United Methodist missionary, John Butterfield, brought Methodism to the Comanche people. Thus, we gained insight to both the positive and negative impacts of missionary experience. One of the elders stated, "At first, our traditions and culture were labeled as not of God. However, as

learning continued, we were accepted.” They used the symbol of the cross on their horses, cradle boards, and other objects long before the missionary arrived. It was easy to convert Comanche people because they were, in essence, Christian, before the arrival of the missionary. Like all Indian people, there was the belief in one God. More important, there were stories of the Great Flood and many other Biblical stories. The only thing that was missing was the written word (The Bible). Once again, it shows the connection of all people.

In July, under the leadership of Rev. Bart Sistare, the Native American Salkehatchie Camp had 31 young people and adults come together from across South Carolina to a remote section of Dillon County to repair homes belonging to members of the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina. Tribal Chief Carolyn Chavis-Bolton was happy to have the camp working with her tribe to show that someone outside of Dillon County cares about their community. One of the structures repaired was the former Indian School, which was more than 100 years old. The camp will return to Dillon this July. **If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Sistare at (803) 787-3058.**

Rocky Swamp Native American Ministries of Presence reports directly to the Native American Committee. This outreach ministry continues to grow and thrive. It is the only place of worship in our conference that follows traditional Indian ways as well as the structure of the United Methodist Church. It is unique in the fact that members travel from all over the state. Some travel more than four hours round trip just to worship every Sunday. Many Indian people are still cautious when it comes to organized religion. Yet, this ministry is meeting their needs, without reservations. Recently, 77 people worshipped on one Sunday. This year, the ministry had an educational day teaching native traditions and conducting a sweat lodge. Our committee assisted the church in \$1,500 in travel expenses in their outreach, on behalf of our committee, to all of the tribes of South Carolina.

For the second year, our committee has sponsored one major project – the Christmas Elder Comfort Baskets. Elders play an important role in Indian culture. However, many elders live in substandard conditions. They are often left out during this holiday season. We have asked churches to assist us with putting together the Elder Comfort Baskets. This year was our most successful. More churches helped than the previous year. After all the contributions were gathered, Rocky Swamp members were able to put together 78 Elder Baskets. Every tribe received at least six baskets. This is the best that we have done, but we would like to reach even more. We will continue this project for Christmas 2007 and we continue to need the support of the churches in this conference. We need small laundry baskets to be filled with non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish washing liquids, bath soaps, shampoos, hand/body lotions, toothpaste and brushes, toilet paper, tissues, health care products for men and women, facial care products, nail clippers and Christmas candy. **If your church can assist, please contact our vice chair, Cathy Nelson, at (843) 835-8589.** Our committee also handles cash donations for this project to cover pick up and/or delivery of the baskets.

We continue to participate at Annual Conference with a display table. We have also started a fundraiser. A Native-American Committee t-shirt has been developed. Our focus is on the front – *Making the Invisible, Visible*, and our logo is on the back. They were sold at the Native American Representative Training. We plan to sell them at Annual Conference, at the SEJANAM Conference and by orders. The projected price is \$17 per shirt. **If you would like to purchase one, contact Beckee Garris at (803) 325-4194.**

*The Discipline* requires the establishment of the Native American Committee and for each church to appoint, regardless of race, a Native American Representative. This representative helps support our outreach by providing information to his or her church about our mission, our special projects and Native American Ministries Sunday. We held our fifth training for representatives in February. A training manual was provided to all the participants. The Bishop and all district offices received a manual. A Power Point presentation and an orientation to traditional Native American worship were provided by Rocky Swamp Native American Ministries of Presence. The training focused on dispelling the myths and stereotypes about American Indians, key issues for Native Americans, South Carolina Indian history, the job of the representative, and the focus of our committee.

We had the most successful year to date with Native American Ministries Sunday. It is traditionally around the fourth Sunday in April. Our committee provides speakers for your sermon portion of the worship service and a list of worship materials from United Methodist resources. For the first presentation at a church, the chairperson typically provides the

message portion of the sermon. The message covers myths and stereotypes about SC American Indians from past to present, American Indian spirituality, our committee and our outreach. We have brochures, contact cards and a display board. Subsequent years may include traditional story telling or a presentation from a South Carolina tribe. At the end of the service, we present the church with a friendship necklace including a clay medallion made of Catawba clay by a Catawba Indian. Subsequent years will feature the presentation of a traditional Indian bead made by one of the tribes of South Carolina. We hope all churches will build their friendship necklaces.

There are only a few of us on this committee. Thus, the requests for speakers for this Sunday fill up fast. However, we are willing to work with a church and our calendars to provide the service at any time during the year. As a reminder. November is also popular since it is Native American Heritage Month, which is nationally observed. **To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact the chair, Zan Tracy Pender at (803) 905-5672.**

We continue to be good stewards of the monies provided through Native American Ministries Sunday. Many of our successes, like the ones listed, are not possible without this Sunday. Additionally, we continue to provide for cultural training and reestablishing our traditional ways by teaching Indian people, especially our youth. We assisted in repairs of a tribal office where the roof was leaking. Our budget is very small, but we try to serve as many needs as possible. Our comprehensive plan forms the foundation of our goals.

**One of John Wesley's major missions was outreach to the American Indians.** Please continue your strong support and acknowledgement of our vital outreach mission which is a part of this conference and all of our churches. We have only just begun.

*May the Great Spirit watch over you as long as the grass grows and the water flows.  
God Bless.*

*Zan Tracy Pender, Chairperson*

## **THE CONFERENCE GLOBAL AIDS COMMITTEE**

During the 2004 General Conference, the United Methodist Church initiated the UMCOR Global AIDS Fund with a resolve to battle the global pandemic HIV/AIDS presents by collecting \$1 for each UMC member. That goal is a minimum of \$8 million. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected within each Annual Conference are returned to that conference for ministry with those affected by this disease locally. If we are faithful to the goal, our conference would have \$60,000 with which to work.

During the 2006 session of the SC Annual Conference, as we considered a resolution presented by Rev. John Culp (member of the National Global AIDS Committee), the voice of the delegates was heard to say, "We want to participate. We want to be a part of this fight!" In December of 2006, with World AIDS Day celebrations ringing clear, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor formed a conference committee with a two task charge: 1) educate our conference about the Global AIDS fund and provide worship and teaching resources to this end; and 2) determine how the funds received by our conference would be distributed.

The committee is sponsoring a booth during this session of Annual Conference which provides this information. We are also delighted to have Dr. James Salley from Africa University preach during the Wednesday evening service of worship which the committee has designed. Future plans include presentations to clergy groups and the creation of an Advent Bible study.

If the minimum goal of \$60,000 is obtained by our conference, then each district within our conference will receive \$5000. As we are striving toward that goal, received funds will be distributed to the districts in order beginning with the district which has the greatest number of known HIV/AIDS cases until \$5000 is reached and until each district has received \$5000. Please prayerfully and financially support the UMCOR Global AIDS Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

*Emily Allen, Chairperson*

## THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The past year has been a time of progress for The Board of Trustees. Due to the work load, an Executive Committee was appointed. The Executive Committee has enabled the Board of Trustees to maintain continuity between semi-annual board meetings and has promoted a more efficient processing of actions. Abandoned and discontinued properties continue to be the main focus of all of our meetings. It is extremely time consuming to research and act on these properties, but the efforts of the Board are showing results. During the past year, action was taken to close the files on nine properties. Some of those involved transferring title to the property to other United Methodist Churches, or to other buyers. One of those transactions generated approximately \$114,000.00, which has been distributed by the Trustees to the appropriate annual conference and district committees. Also, included in the pre-conference materials are resolutions from the Board of Trustees authorizing the sale of two other discontinued or abandoned properties, as well as a resolution to authorize the transfer of title from a District Board of Trustees to a local church.

The Board of Trustees is privileged to be handling the funds of the William Bobo Estate. A report has been issued on the current status of the funds. The Board of Trustees is in the process of working on a proposal to The Annual Conference on the investment and use of the funds. With careful thought and use, this gift will provide many long lasting opportunities for the Conference.

The Board of Trustees has started to draft a proposed policy for the distribution of funds for discontinued and abandoned properties. The Executive Committee will look at the proposed resolution and will recommend any changes.

Attached to this report and incorporated by reference herein is an accounting of the funds of the Board of Trustees for this past year, along with a listing of all real property being overseen by the Board of Trustees, as required by ¶2512.6 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*.

Much work remains to be done. The Board of Trustees looks forward to many more accomplishments.

*John Quackenbush, Chairman*

### Detail Accounting for UM Conference Trustees

December 31, 2006

#### Main account

Beginning balance		\$301,329.72
<b>Income</b>		
Rental property (Sims Chapel)		1,225.00
Loan repayment		
Print Media press		7,500.00
Greenville District		2,500.00
Anderson District		439.63
Other income (Anderson Dist.)		891.01
Total income		12,555.64
<b>Expenses</b>		
Property insurance (Saxon)		258.14
Legal expenses		15,350.03
Bobo legal		-3,473.75
Miscellaneous		
Bobo taxes and utilities		674.59
Transfer from Bobo fund		-674.59
Sims Chapel repairs		681.60
Asbury Clark fence		5,193.86
Appraisal expense		700.00
Meeting expense (travel)		796.71
Transfer of Saxon funds		
To Spartanburg District		74,663.25
To Cong. Devel.		40,168.57
Total expenses		134,338.41
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$179,546.95</b>

Bobo Estate Fund	
Income	
Proceeds of estate	539,347.65
Interest (3.0% rate while in Conference account)	<u>4,433.73</u>
Total Income	543,781.38
Expenses	
Taxes and utilities	674.59
Legal expense	<u>4,353.21</u>
Total expenses	5,027.80
Ending Balance	538,753.58
In BofA CD	530,000.00
In Conference account	8,753.58

**Real Properties Currently Being Overseen by the Board of Trustees:**

Asbury Clark UMC property (Anderson District)

-This property (less the cemetery) is being prepared for sale.

Spring Branch UMC property (Marion District)

-This property is being leased.

Sims Chapel UMC property (Spartanburg District)

-This property is being marketed for sale.

(As set forth previously in the report, the Board of Trustees has an ongoing effort to determine the status of a number of other properties throughout the various districts of the South Carolina Conference.)

**THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES**

2006 has been a year of challenges for your Camps and Retreats Board.

As you know we are operating at our maximum capacity given the physical facilities that we have at both sites. The summer camping program was filled. Our retreat ministry is hampered by the lack of appropriate accommodations and meeting space at both properties. In spite of the limited physical resources, our staff has done a stellar job of welcoming the folks who come to the sites to learn, to grow, and to appreciate the transforming experiences that are so abundant in these two beautiful places.

We had an extremely successful summer camping season. We operated at capacity almost every week of the season. We are committed to making sure that **any** young person who wants to attend summer camp has the opportunity to do so. With widespread support for our Campership program across the Annual Conference, we had funds available to underwrite about \$ 25,000 in assistance to enable children to come and experience the wonders of Asbury Hills and Sewee.

Our adult Retreat ministry will continue to suffer until we can address the need for adequate meeting, sleeping, and study spaces at both properties. However, working with what we have, we have been able to ensure that groups who do visit Asbury and Sewee have a rich transforming experience when they visit these special places.

We continue to be in negotiations with an anonymous donor for the gifting of the Skye Ranch property contiguous to our property at Asbury Hills and the related arrangements with The Nature Conservancy to guarantee the protection of the pristine environment at Asbury Hills. We are hopeful that these negotiations will come to fruition very soon.

Just at the end of the Conference year, our dear friend and Director of Camps and Retreats Ministries, Russell Davis, announced his decision to take a similar position in his home state of Georgia. After serving South Carolina for ten years, we certainly wish Russell well as



he goes to a new place of service. His leadership and creative vision have guided us well for a decade! We will miss him! We look forward to celebrating his time with us at Annual Conference in Florence.

The Board has established a Search Committee to find a new Director of Camps and Retreat Ministries. As this report goes to press, the Search Committee is in the interview stage.

*John A. Redmond, Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

## **THE REPORT OF JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST**

The Belin Board of Trust continues its contribution and commitment to mission projects in South Carolina. The Board retains its position of management and administration of the Belin Trust property and assets. Each year income earned by the Trust is allocated to the Board of Global Ministries to be used for one-time mission projects and programs.

It remains the policy of the Belin Trust that funds are to be provided for start-up projects and programs and not for funding where reoccurring grants would be required. It is anticipated that grants would conform to the spirit of the will of the Rev. James L. Belin.

The Board of Trust engaged in the following activities since its report to the last Annual Conference:

1. Received and approved the final audit from the CPA firm of Webster Rogers LLP at the Board's February 9, 2007, meeting, per by-laws.
2. Continued using the financial management services of Smith Barney's Consulting Group (socially responsible investment management) and Webster Rogers LLP (CPA firm).
3. Made available to the Board of Global Ministries the sum of \$100,000 for missional grants for 2006.
4. Completed a review of the investment managers and also the asset allocation mix for the investment assets of the Trust. This review confirmed that the assets were properly invested to meet the trust's investment goal of total return using a socially responsible approach.
5. Elected officers for 2007:

Chairperson:	Mr. J. Robert Mauney
Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs. Shirley C. Robinson
Secretary:	Dr. Vivia L. Fowler
Treasurer:	Mr. Jim Moody

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Robert Mauney, Chairperson*

## **THE TRUSTEES OF THE S.C. UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE** *CONNECTING METHODISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 1837*

In this 170<sup>th</sup> year of the oldest continuous published newspaper in Methodism, the Advocate Board of Trustees wants to ensure that the Advocate will be around to celebrate its Bicentennial in 2037. The 2007 Board commissioned Brodie Media to conduct United Methodist focus groups across the state and ask the question, "How do you want to get your religious news?" The answers to this question are helping the Board to plan, shape, and form a newspaper that will serve our readers in this high tech 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Advocate has been published since December 2003 without an editor, who has been on Active Duty; therefore, it has not been a possibility to do much else than get a basic paper out once a month with a staff of one full time and one part time employee. The Board is taking advantage of this interim period to evaluate the purpose and the policy of the Advocate. When an editor is back on board full time, the Conference will see the results of the focus groups in the form of a NEW Advocate.

Since the directive of the 2006 Annual Conference for the Commission on Communication and the Advocate Board of Trustees to share designated membership, there has been a renewed right relationship with the Conference. Both groups have benefited from the arrangement.

The Advocate has a rich tradition and history. It has always been an important and strong voice in South Carolina Methodism. It has been a weekly newspaper; it has been a bi-weekly newspaper; it has been a monthly newspaper. It has had a circulation of 35,000; it has had a circulation of 9,000. It was published in various sites until 1918 when the Advocate bought property at 1314 Lady Street, Columbia and is presently in only its second home since then. The Advocate has tenacity. A reader commented many years ago about when she got her Advocate that she opened it with "eagerness and anticipation". The present Board of Trustees is commented to once again producing a newspaper that will indeed be opened with "eagerness and anticipation".

*Marilyn Murphy, Chairperson  
Advocate Board of Trustees*

## **THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

During 2006, we received \$316,565 (79%) of the requested \$400,000 per year for five years that was authorized by the 2002 Annual Conference. These askings began with the 2003 conference year. At the present rate of payment of the askings as authorized by the 2002 annual conference, we will not be able to retire the loan within five years. The Bishop has been personally notified of the urgency of this matter, and the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Center considers that it is strictly the responsibility of the Annual Conference to address it. The UM Center Trustees have no plans whatsoever in place for continuation of UM Center mortgage payments when the five-year askings plan ends in 2007.

Respectfully,

*Franklin R. Garrett, Chairperson*

## **REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR**

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

Consistent with my work for the South Carolina Conference (the "Conference") over the past several years, a large part of my time has been devoted to assisting the Conference Board of Trustees (the "Conference Board") and the District Superintendents with property issues. In 2004, the Resident Bishop appointed the Conference Chancellor and Conference Secretary as staff liaisons to the Conference Board. Previously, the Conference Board had no direct linkage to the Conference staff. The Conference Board is charged by the *Discipline* with the responsibility for receiving and holding in trust for the benefit of the Conference any and all donations, bequests, and devises and, when directed by the annual conference, for receiving and holding in trust properties previously acquired by the Conference (paragraph 2512.3, the *Discipline*). The efforts of the Conference Board have been primarily devoted to addressing the properties of discontinued and abandoned local churches. Attempting to determine the status of properties of churches closed years ago (sometimes literally decades) and then effecting the disposition of those properties, when needed, has been a time consuming but rewarding process.

I would like to thank R. Phillip Stone, Ph.D., Conference Archivist, for his assistance to the Board of Trustees and me. Dr. Stone's knowledge of the history of the Conference and his research skills have been invaluable in determining the history and status of various properties. As in the past, the District Superintendents have provided considerable assistance to the Conference Board. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of The Reverend Quay W. Adams, Marion District, and The Reverend Dennis R. Lee, Spartanburg District, for their help in various property matters over the past year.

With regard to local church properties, one of the recurring problems that I have noticed in

my work is that some local churches have not taken steps to ensure that their properties are correctly titled in the proper names of their churches. This issue arises in several situations. When a church incorporates under state law, the property previously held by the unincorporated local church should be conveyed to the new corporate entity. Sometimes, a local church has assumed the responsibility for the care of property entrusted to it (usually by the Annual Conference), but no effort was made to convey the title to the property. In other instances, particularly in some older churches, the title to the property does not reflect the current name of the church. Occasionally, local churches occupy and use property that was never formally conveyed to them. Local churches are encouraged to check the titles to their properties (or properties believed to be their properties). As a reminder, all local church property, real or personal, is held in trust for our denomination. All deeds should contain the appropriate trust clause language from the *Discipline* (paragraph 2503, the *Discipline*).

During the past year, litigation or threatened litigation directly involving the Conference has been relatively light. The Staff-Parish Relations Committees of local churches are encouraged to review carefully the various provisions of the *Discipline* pertaining to their responsibilities. Adherence to the requirements for notice to pastors and staff under the *Discipline* should be carefully followed to avoid unnecessary controversy and potential labor/employment issues and other issues.

*R. Jeffords Barham, Chancellor*

## THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The purpose of the United Methodist Men is to help men *declare the centrality of Jesus Christ* in their lives. The organization of United Methodist Men of the SC Conference has had a good year.

We are doing a lot of work with communications, relationships, and the spiritual health of the individual man. It is through personal and spiritual interaction that we will strengthen the life of one man, then a small group of men, then a congregation of men, then the men of the United Methodist Church. We are exploring a variety of spiritual growth opportunities that will lead men to become Wesleyan Men.

We are involved in work that will benefit only our church, or only our community. But we are also involved in work that will benefit persons across the state and nation; many we do not know personally, but know they are children of God.

Prayer, Scouting, and Feeding the Hungry continue to be major focuses of the United Methodist Men of the SC Conference. The SC Annual Conference hosts more remotes and covenant prayer groups of the Upper Room Prayer Line than any other conference. We donated over \$2000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. The prayer line is routed to the SC Annual Conference during each year's session and calls are answered and prayers lifted up throughout the meeting. Training for this important ministry is always available. You are asked to be nothing more than a caring Christian on the other end of the phone line.

The Bishop's Awards of Excellence are presented to boy and girl scouts each year at Annual Conference. The United Methodist Church continues to lead all denominations in sponsoring scouting units.

Hunger relief with its potato drops and gleaning in various parts of the state is reaching out to those who are hungry, working through the Society of St. Andrew. If you would like to sponsor or participate in this program, please get in touch with one of the UMM Conference officers.

We presented the 2006 SEJ G. Ross Freeman Award, pastoral leadership award, to Rev. James Friday of John Wesley UMC in Greenville. This annual award recognizes a pastor who has shown outstanding devotion to men's ministry. If you think your pastor is worthy of this award, pursue it. Take the following steps:

Go to <http://www.ummsc.org/> on the web.

Look down the left side and click on G. Ross Freeman.

Review the criteria and print off an application.

Mark your calendar for the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> deadline each year.

If you have any questions, call the Conference President at 803-730-8577

Our Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach was again a very successful

event. Our Spiritual Life Coordinator, L. W. Smith of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia always does a great job planning. Four men, all active in United Methodist Men and having truly declared the centrality of Jesus Christ in their lives, answered the call of God and became United Methodist pastors. They were the Worship leaders along with the G. Ross Freeman Award winner. Their names are Rev. David Anderson, Rev. Robert Huggins, Rev. Richard Jayroe, Rev. Richard McClary, and Rev. James Friday. The Wesley UMC Male Choir of Moncks Corner and Sweet Spirit of Greer provided the music. 2008 dates are February 15, 16, 17, 2008. It's men in ministry and yes, you can bring your wife.

United Methodist Men of the SC Conference are well represented in the leadership of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and National Associations of Conference Presidents and the General Commission of UMM. L.W. Smith is the SEJ representative to the General Commission of UMM. Our SC Conference past president, Bill Smith, is secretary of the SEJ Conference Presidents organization and also serves as secretary of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

When a child or teenager is the first of the family to come to Christ, 17% of the time the entire family follows; when a mother or wife is the first of the family to come to Christ, 34 % of the time to entire family follows; when the father or husband is the first of the family to come to Christ, 93 % of the time to entire family follows. Great Influence – Great Responsibility.

*Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President*  
803-730-8577 [rscarborough@hughes.net](mailto:rscarborough@hughes.net)

## **THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

What an awesome God we serve. Just knowing Him and serving Him is the greatest blessing we have. This past year the United Methodist Women outdid themselves in their giving and their service to the church, the world and their communities. It is always good to come to the end of a year with the knowledge that much has been accomplished.

Our calendars are laid out a year in advance. So when we begin a new year with new leaders we have guidelines to help us get a good start. January sets the pace for the rest of the year. There are many committee meetings, events, conferences, annual meetings and training to begin again. But the most important task for us as United Methodist women is to be a group of women who know God and grow in His grace. This I believe is what keeps us committed to our task. We "let go and let God".

In the course of a year many prayers are being lifted across this conference as we strive to become whole persons in Christ, expand our mission priorities and develop creative, supportive fellowship with all our sisters and brothers in all parts of the world.

Mission is the priority of the United Methodist Women. I am proud to say that we do a very good job in this area. The women of South Carolina give wholeheartedly through their pledge to mission. Our total pledge equaled to more than a half million dollars. This figure does not include other gifts and commitments. We have the 5 mission projects in South Carolina that are supported by our women. Wallace Family Life Center is owned exclusively by South Carolina United Methodist Women. We have a very strong board in place there now and wonderful things are happening in the community because of the presence of the United Methodist Women.

Our leaders worked hard this year as usual to prepare programs that were educational and meaningful. Capitol Day shows us where we can step out of our comfort zones and make a difference in this world. Our schools are glad that so many of our United Methodist Women are volunteers doing various duties to help our students and teachers. We always look forward to our school of mission. The studies were Shalom-Peace-Salaam, Globalization: Its Impact in our lives and India and Pakistan. Our women work very hard to stay current with world events, changing geography as well as feeding our souls and growing spiritually. Our spiritual retreat was nothing short of wonder and amazement. Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton was our spiritual leader. The power of God's presence was electrifying during the course of the weekend at Lake Junaluska. All were blessed for having come to the Lake.

This was the year for our Assembly which was held in California. What an amazing time we had. The programs were excellent, the speakers the best and the entertainment the likes of which most of us had never seen. The beautiful liturgical dancer that opened the program was

magnificent. She was literally poetry in motion. That was the beginning and it just got better from that point. The blessings just kept coming.

Another highlight of the year was "Resurrection Women". A new program from women's division. Our women spent the weekend at Springmaid Beach studying women of the Bible and ways that we as women of today are empowered to go forth in faith and grow in Christ.

Amid all the good times we spent together last year, there were also times of sadness. Dr. Jan Love, our wonderful leader at the Women's Division, said goodbye to us. She had accepted a fantastic position for her (and other women) as she became the first woman to serve as Dean of the School of Theology at Candler. She served us well and it was with much love and gratitude that we bade her God speed. We had a wonderful luncheon for her to show our love and appreciation at the Cotton House in Irmo. She was only with us a short time but she was able to accomplish much for us.

So the history is now written for another year and we feel very good about what has taken place. But no time for the weary. A new year has begun and with the legacy left to all of us by past conference presidents the women of South Carolina are ready to continue our task.

May God continue to bless the United Methodist Women as we continue to lift Him up and do His work.

*Imogene Steele*

## **SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONNECTIONAL TABLE**

It is an honor to report to the South Carolina Annual Conference on behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and our President, Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey. We have worked diligently this past year to evaluate and make more effective the many offerings in the jurisdiction.

The Connectional Table has led in the study of our preferred future. Through the work of the Organizational Task Group, we have studied the entire ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. A report made at the annual meeting of the Connectional Table was passed. It called for a Transition Team that is presently working in preparation for our report and recommendations to the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference.

As we considered our organization for the future, there was an extensive study done by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency Task Group. Through meetings with the 7 agencies (Commission on Archives & History, Gulfside Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center, Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries, Southeastern Methodist Agency for Rehabilitation, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission), we evaluated their effectiveness and considered the relationship of the agencies to the jurisdiction as we move into the future. All of these groups are commended for their service to the members and leaders within the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

At Lake Junaluska we are planning for a great year as we welcome over 100,000 guests. We anticipate the Bishop Joseph and Mrs. Shirley Bethea Welcome Center being completed in the summer. A special word of thanks to your annual conference for committing resources to make this building a reality. As people come to Lake Junaluska they will be greeted in a hospitable manner in this building that has been built as a symbol of reconciliation.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction continues to offer opportunities for leader development as we do our part in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Southeastern Jurisdiction ministry staff has given leadership in thirteen of the Southeastern Jurisdiction annual conferences this past year. The Ministries with Young People have had record numbers of events this winter and is preparing for a great summer of retreats for youth and adults at Lake Junaluska. We plan to serve over 5,000 young people of the Southeastern Jurisdiction this year. The summer children's program is planned for daily study and activity, serving families that come to Lake Junaluska in the summer and children from the community.

This past year in Hispanic Ministries we have held events for small churches; a Module I training program for lay missionaries and pastor mentoring; and a course of study consultation. The Korean-Asian Ministry has provided consultation in nine of the annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and events: (1) Clergy Family Retreat; (2) Korean-American Pastors Continuing Education Program; (3) Lay Leadership Academy; and (4) Korean-Asian-American Youth Event.

We are working with leadership in the Jurisdiction to sponsor a multi-cultural event in December at Lake Junaluska. Our African American office is giving support to the design team along with all Southeastern Jurisdiction ethnic ministries. We were thrilled to co-sponsor the event "Our Call to Hospitality, A Biblical Response to Immigration" conference with the General Board of Church and Society in February.

Our guests continue to enjoy the recently renovated Terrace Hotel and the beautiful grounds. Work is being done to Stuart Auditorium anticipating renovations in the future. We have done \$2.7million dollars worth of renovations to the dam at Lake Junaluska. The work has allowed us to bring up to code the 93-year-old dam, assuring a beautiful lake as well as a safe structure. A special thanks goes to the annual conferences and local churches of the Southeastern Jurisdiction who are contributing to the special asking for dam reconstruction. Presently we have received \$395,960 from the special asking.

We provided leadership, staff support, and hospitality to SoulFeast, The Older Adult Event, Soul at Work, Choir Music Weekend, The Ministers' Conference, Pastors of Large Churches, and District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries.

The jurisdiction has been represented on the United Methodist Council of Bishops Committee on Katrina Church Development. All local churches and annual conferences are challenged to remember the local churches that are in desperate need of support. Along with the annual Katrina offering in the fall, partnerships with local churches are being sought throughout the church.

It is a pleasure to serve The United Methodist church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

*Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director*

### **CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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

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

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

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

This year, enrollment was 510, with 396 in the Master of Divinity program, 59 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 20 in the Master of Theology program, 9 in the Doctor of Theology program and 26 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of

students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 10% international, and 51% women. More than 50 denominations are represented with 56% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 34 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist and the Methodist Church of Korea.

Good things are happening as we develop and put into action a plan for the life-long learning of church leaders. A group of leaders in life-long learning, including a number of United Methodists, have given advice on enhancing our programs. Our Institute of Preaching and Pastoral Renewal led a group to the Holy Land after having taken a course in continuing education and funding for this program has been renewed for 2007. Information on upcoming events is available at [www.candler.emory.edu](http://www.candler.emory.edu).

Groundbreaking on Phase I of our new building is planned for spring 2007. Our full project—two buildings—will provide faculty and administrative offices, state-of-the-art classrooms, new library facilities, a teaching chapel, and space for the University's Ethics Center. The University plans to gather its rich religious resources within and near the Candler facilities to create a "religious complex" centered around Candler.

The faculty has begun to implement an inspiring strategic plan that calls for the facilities noted above, new faculty chairs, program support, and increases to our scholarship endowment. This year, 77% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 78% of tuition. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

I am honored to be Candler's dean as of January 2007. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Russell Richey in the previous six years and for his help in ensuring a smooth transition. I look forward to his continued, powerful presence at Candler as a leading scholar of Methodism, as a teacher, and as one who makes significant contributions to the life of the church. Thank you for your many expressions of welcome and for your support of Candler. I very much look forward to getting to know you all better in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely and with thanks,

*Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity  
and World Politics*

## **DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL**

Duke Divinity School prepares students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church, the academy and the world through its attention to spiritual formation and transforming ministry as well as to academic rigor. The school is an integral part of Duke University, and divinity students enjoy and contribute to the university's intellectual, spiritual and social resources.

### **Programs:**

Duke Divinity School welcomed its first class of Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) students in the fall of 2006. The Th.D. program is designed to match the rigor of the Ph.D. program and focuses explicitly on the ministries and practices of Christian communities. Following university approval in late 2005, the Association of Theological Schools gave preliminary approval to the Th.D. in January, 2006. This program will enhance the education and formation of men and women for Christian ministry and leadership both in church-related positions and theological schools.

The divinity school continues its major work on grants from Lilly Endowment, Inc., including coordinating the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program and our Advancing Pastoral Excellence initiative. In May of 2005, we hosted a major "Forum on Excellence in Ministry" in Indianapolis, which brought together 250 leaders from a variety of churches and church-related settings.

In early 2006 we launched a six-year program, "Thriving Rural Communities," in collaboration with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences of the

United Methodist Church and The Duke Endowment. This multi-pronged initiative is designed to help strengthen rural communities, especially by working with the churches and the leadership in those communities. The program will identify eight thriving United Methodist churches and provide grants to support initiatives in those churches; create full-tuition scholarships for Duke Divinity students who plan to go into rural ministry and support leadership development for rural clergy.

### **Events and Activities:**

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in Mississippi and Louisiana, Duke Divinity School faculty, staff and students sought to support our brothers and sisters there in meaningful ways. The school focused a period in the fall as "Autumn's Lent," a time when we had prayer, worship and fund-raising to support the recovery. In addition, we sent a group of faculty and staff, led by Bishop Kenneth Carder, to conduct a Sabbath-renewal continuing education event for Mississippi Annual Conference pastors in February, 2006. We also invited and financially supported pastors from both United Methodist conferences to come to Duke for one- to two-week study leaves for rest and renewal.

During 2005-06 the divinity school developed a strategic plan for the next five years. Entitled "Transformative Leadership," it seeks to sustain and strengthen the momentum we have built over the past five years. At the heart of our planning is the conviction that Duke Divinity School aims to be an agent of transformation for the church, the academy and the world. Our aspirations can be defined by four complementary measures: (1) academic research and teaching; (2) preparation of men and women for leadership in the church and other institutions, both through our degree programs and through lifelong learning; (3) engagement with major issues in church and society; and (4) our role in strengthening the broader academy, especially in theological education.

The divinity school continued its fundraising efforts related to Duke University's "Financial Aid Initiative," launched during the past year. Duke Divinity is pursuing a goal of \$10 million in endowment gifts for this three-year initiative (2006-08).

### **Students:**

In the fall of 2006, Duke Divinity enrolled a diverse body of 575 students from 40 states and seven foreign countries. Approximately 55 percent of the student body is United Methodist, 20 percent is Baptist, and the other students come from more than 30 different denominations in the Christian faith. The overall entering class had an ethnic minority enrollment of 21.8 percent, a slight increase over the previous year. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.55.

Our field education program continues to grow. More than 200 of our students experienced summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 16 in our Teaching Congregations program, five in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, and international placements in South Africa (7), Guatemala and El Salvador (4), Uganda (2), Sri Lanka (2) and Peru (1).

### **Faculty:**

We strengthened the faculty with the addition of two colleagues: Kavin Rowe joined us as assistant professor of New Testament, and Esther Acolatse became assistant professor of pastoral theology.

Professor Rowe's academic research focuses primarily on the historical particularity of the New Testament and its relation to the later Christian theological tradition. Professor Acolatse explores the intersection of psychology and Christian thought, with interests in gender and the experience of Christianity, methodological issues in the practice of theology of the Christian life, and the relevance of these themes in the global expression of Christianity.

Notable books published by our faculty in 2005-06 include the following: *God's Potters*, by emeritus professor Jackson Carroll; *Wondrous Depth*, by Ellen Davis; *Left Behind?* by James Efrid; *The Conversion of the Imagination*, by Richard Hays; *Resurrecting Excellence*, by L. Gregory Jones and Kevin Armstrong; *A Future for Africa*, by Emmanuel Katongole; *The End of Words*, by Richard Lischer; *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*, co-edited by Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen Westerfield Tucker; *Isaiah*, by Jo Bailey Wells; and *God's Companions*, by Sam Wells.



## **Honors & Achievements:**

David Steinmetz, Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of the history of Christianity, was elected to join the 2006 class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an international organization of the world's leading scholars, scientists, artists, business people and political leaders.

Timothy Tyson, visiting professor of American Christianity and Southern culture, won the prestigious Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his 2004 book "Blood Done Sign My Name."

The award is presented annually by the University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The divinity school's 53,000-square-foot addition and renovation project, dedicated in late 2005, garnered two awards for Hartman-Cox Architects: an award of merit in architecture from the American Institute of Architects and an International Religious Art and Architecture award from Faith and Form/ Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture.

We are thankful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

*L. Gregory Jones, Dean*

## **GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, President**

Gammon Theological Seminary was founded in 1883 in Atlanta, Georgia and shares its history as part of Clark University and was established by The Methodist Episcopal Church. Gammon is the only historical African-American Theological Seminary related to the United Methodist Church.

Gammon is The United Methodist Seminary affiliated with the consortium of The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, which includes, Johnson C. Smith Seminary, Morehouse School of Religion, Turner Theological Seminary, Charles H. Mason Seminary, and Phillips School of Theology.

Our mission is to recruit, support, and educate pastors and leaders for The United Methodist Church. We have earned a reputation for excellence in scholarship and service in our communities, the nation and internationally. The goal is to continue to impact ministry in The United Methodist Church, the church universal and the world at large.

Gammon's distinguished alumni serve as Episcopal leaders, college presidents, deans, professors, annual conference and general agency personnel, government officials, community leaders, chaplains, clinical pastoral counselors and pastors of local churches.

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

The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for ministry-merging theory and practice to equip the seminarian for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in their denomination and community.

Dual Degree Programs offered are: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Arts in Church Music, Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty in Pastoral Counseling, and the Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling.

Dual Degrees are offered in: Master of Arts in Christian Education /Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Church Music/Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Church Music/Master of Arts in Christian Education.

Joint Degrees that are also offered: Master of Divinity/Master of Public Policy and the Master of Divinity/Master of Science in Urban Policy Studies.

We have an exceptional faculty comprised of dedicated educators and they are noted for their vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and their significant contributions to research and publishing. Many are nationally recognized experts in their fields.

The seminarians that attend Gammon bring a variety of backgrounds to their theological experience. 45% of our seminarians are women. Our seminarians come from the United States, Caribbean, Africa and Asia. 100% of the student body at Gammon are United Methodist.

*Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni & Student Affairs Director*