

SECTION IV

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

Sunday, June 1 – Wednesday, June 4, 2008
Florence Civic Center
Florence, South Carolina

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Presiding

CONFERENCE THEME:
“Dare to Change the World”

The First Day – Sunday Afternoon

June 1, 2008

Lay Orientation. An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5:00 p.m. in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with an overview and welcome by Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader.

All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures and parliamentary process of the 2008 Annual **Conference**. Announcements were made concerning the ordination service, the Laity Luncheon and the Laity Convocation. An opportunity was provided for Lay Members to ask questions. Opening and closing hymns were sung. The session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Clergy Session. The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor at 5:00 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. The Reverend Patricia J. Parrish, Chairperson of the **Board of Ordained Ministry**, was recognized for an opening prayer. Rev. Parrish then briefly reviewed the work of the Board since the last session of Annual Conference. When all members of the session had received copies of the Business Questions, she called upon Reverend Ken Nelson to present the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson, Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the full written, distributed report. Reverend Nelson noted certain corrections to the report. **Business Questions** 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 41 – 45 and 53 were presented for information and moved to record, as no vote was required. Bishop Taylor reminded the clergy session that on Board of Ordained Ministry matters, only Deacons and Elders in full connection are eligible to vote. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 38, 39, 40, 47, 48, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63 – 65 (statistical data questions calculated after clergy session) was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by the Reverend Nelson as Motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was perfected and approved by more than two-thirds vote of the clergy session.

Motion 2, on the second page of the Clergy Session Memorandum, was approved, authorizing the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Coordinator of Clergy Services to make editorial changes to the business questions where necessary in preparing them for the Annual Conference Journal. It was further noted in the written report that questions 66 and 82 pertaining to certification in specialized ministry for diaconal ministers will require a vote by the full session of the Annual Conference where necessary.

The clergy session acted to approve each of the following Business Questions separately: 18b, 21, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, and 83.

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

Reverend Parrish asked Reverend Mike Alexander to come to report on behalf of the **Administrative Review Committee**. Rev. Alexander reported that after reviewing the records of the actions regarding Gerald Lord and Ronald Lucas, the committee concluded that the correct process had been followed in each case, and that the actions of the Executive Committee were proper in these matters.

Reverend Parrish then asked Reverend Frank Griffith (outgoing chair of the Order of Elders) and Reverend Kathy James (outgoing chair of the order of Deacons) to stand and be recognized for their outstanding work throughout the past quadrennium in leading their respective Orders. Reverend Parrish then recognized Reverend Len Ripley (outgoing chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members) and thanked him for his work over the past four years as chairman of the Fellowship.

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Reverend Parrish next presented the nominee to serve as Chairperson of the Order of Deacons in the new quadrennium. There being no further nominations, Bishop Taylor called for a vote. The deacons present voted to elect **Bobbie Opal Taylor to serve as Chairperson of the Order of Deacons**. Reverend Parrish then presented the nominee to serve as Chairperson of the Order of Elders in the new quadrennium. There being no further nominations, Bishop Taylor called for a vote. The Elders voted to elect **Larry Hays to serve as Chairperson of the Order of Elders**.

Bishop Taylor asked if there were nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. The name of John Cribb was offered. There being no further nominations, Bishop Taylor called for the vote, and **John Cribb was elected to serve as Chairperson of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members**.

Bishop Taylor invited Reverend Patricia Parrish to come forward to be recognized for her eight years as Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and to present her with a certificate of appreciation. The clergy session expressed its gratitude for her work on their behalf.

There being no further business, several announcements were made, Bishop Taylor reminded the members of the evening worship session, thanked them for their presence and participation, and declared the clergy session adjourned.

The First Day – Sunday Evening

June 1, 2008

Opening Service of Celebration and Holy Communion. The service was held in the Civic Center Arena at 7:30pm. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presided and celebrated Holy Communion. Dr. Eddie H. Fox preached a sermon titled, "That the World May Know Jesus Christ," based on Colossians 1:15-20 and Luke 19:37-40. An offering was taken for the UMCOR Response for Kenya. The service began with an opening welcome by Bishop Taylor and singing of the traditional hymn to open Annual Conference, "*And Are We Yet Alive.*"

The liturgist in the service was the Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Joseph Heyward. Musicians included the First UMC Chancel Choir of Conway, the Advent UMC Celebration Ringers of Simpsonville and Billy Fallaw, Organist. The crucifer and acolytes were youth members of Central UMC, Florence and the Episcopal Banner Bearer was Mandy Taylor Young. The Communion servers were District Superintendents, Deacons, Conference Council on Connectional Ministries Director and Associate Directors.

The Second Day – Monday Morning

June 2, 2008

Organizational Session. The Conference was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor at 8:43 a.m. The Reverend Jeanette Cooper Dicks, Pastor of Cumberland UMC in Florence, brought greetings and welcomed Bishop Taylor and the members of the Annual Conference to Florence. Reverend Dicks then introduced Mr. Al Bradley, a member of the Florence County Council, who welcomed the Annual Conference to Florence County and quoted Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Mrs. Emily Cooper, new Editor of the *SC United Methodist Advocate* was welcomed and encouraged delegates to continue to support *The Advocate* in its "connection-making task."

The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary of the Annual Conference, offered various **organizational motions** for the Conference. The first motion was that the Tellers nominated by their District Superintendents for the 2008 Annual Conference session be elected as nominated without reading and their names be published in the *2008 Conference Journal*. The following clergy were nominated and elected: The Reverends Carlethea Benson, Wayne Pearce, Shawn Armstrong, Pattie E. Gordon, Lisa Hawkins, Richard Robinson, Jr., Harold Gordon, Kenneth Nelson, Bob Vincent, William H. McCown, III, Robert Huggins, Wanda D. Altman, Geneva Stafford, William H.D. Bowser, Jr., Michael Hayhurst, George Scott, Brenda Washington, Toni White, Thomas Byrd, Sandra Hatchell, David Bauknight, Raymond F. Cook, Jr., Patricia G. Warden, Charlie Thomas, Robert Malachi, Connie Barnes, Ray Smith, David Williamson, Debra Armstrong, Albert Murdaugh, Arthur Vick, Bill Dargan, John Williams, James Carter, Keith Sweat, Bill Farley, James Grant, David Fields, and Lara Byrd. The following laity were nominated and elected: Shirley Dallas, Pat Martin, Francis Hipp, Leon Love, Tommy Glenn, Cassie Watson, Laura Benson, Richard Thompson, Cynthia Williams, Azilee Dickey, Donna Pratt, Jo Ann Stone, Grace Carrowan, Catherine Cuneo, Tonie Gary, Sandra Gibson, Braber Spell, Barry Julian, Laurie Morris, Susan Pickney, Anthony Alford, Sandra Thomas, Bobby Sellars, Margaret Wolfe, Ruth Tate, Shirley Dibble, Mike Keziah, Alice Keziah, Daniel Buckner, Judy Bishop, Lakesha Barnes, Harry Bellinger, Jackie Givens, and Hugh Folk.

The other organizational motions were: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2008 Annual Conference Session; that the Conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials along with such scheduling adjustments and additions which the President and the Secretary have since made be adopted as the Agenda for the 2008 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session; that the seating areas on the floor of the Civic Center Arena, the seating in sections 209, 210, 211, 212, 313, 314, 315, and 316, together with any wheelchairs present on the floor or in the handicap area immediately behind sections 313 to 316, the platform and area surrounding the platform, and the sound and recording booth be designated the "bar of the conference" for all business sessions of the 2008 Annual Conference Session. All of these organizational motions were approved. The Reverend Rogers also explained the new Section Four of the Pre-Conference materials, which provided instructions for voting during the conference.

The Report of the **Committee on Standing Rules** was presented by Mr. Leon Love, chairperson, as presented in the registration materials. The committee recommended three changes. Rule 30d was to be amended by adding the phrase, "or upon nomination from the floor". The bishop called for a vote, and the amendment was approved. Rule 94 was to be amended to make Moving Day the Wednesday immediately preceding July 1st. Rule 94b was to be amended to make clear that the charge from which a minister is moved will pay their salary for the month of June, and the charge to which they are being moved will pay for the month of July. The bishop called for a vote on both amendments to Rule 94, and they were approved. The Standing Rules of the Annual Conference were then adopted as a whole.

The Reverend H. Eddie Fox led the Annual Conference in **Bible Study followed by Holy Communion** celebrated by The Reverend Roberta Josey. The Annual Conference was in adjournment until 10:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., the Conference returned from recess with the report of the **Board of Ordained Ministry** led by The Reverend Patricia Parrish, Chair, reading names of candidates approved by the Clergy session on Sunday afternoon as new Probationary Deacons and Elders, together with those newly elected as Full Deacons and Full Elders. Also Ms. Donna J. Poston, who is employed at St. Mark UMC, Seneca, was recognized as completing the requirements for Professional Certification in Youth Ministry. The Reverend Parrish then guided the Annual Conference through the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry found in the registration materials on pages 80 – 83. Reverend Parrish presented the proposed amendments to the Policy Guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The amendment to guideline XXII. A. was approved. The amendment to guidelines XX. C. 5, 6, 7 and 8 to remove references to rewrites for materials presented to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry was presented. The Reverend Parrish explained the rationale for the change. Questions were raised by members of the Conference. This amendment was passed. Amendments to XX.C.4., III. B., and XXIII were presented and approved. Amendments to the “Policy on Pastoral Ineffectiveness” were offered to bring the policy into compliance with Judicial Council rulings. The amendments were approved. The Reverend Parrish answered Business Question number seventeen related to the standing and character of clergy members. The Annual Conference received the whole report of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Election of the Conference Officers for the Quadrennium 2008 – 2012 followed. The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson, Chair, Council on Finance and Administration, nominated The Reverend James Knowles-Tuell as Treasurer/Statistician for the Conference, and nominated the firm of Derrick, Stubbs and Stith to serve as auditor. Both were elected. Bishop Taylor nominated Mr. Jeff Barham as the Conference Chancellor. He was elected. The Parliamentarian, Dr. W. Timothy McClendon, was also nominated by Bishop Taylor. He was elected. The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, was nominated by Bishop Taylor and the Cabinet to serve as Secretary of the Conference. Bishop Taylor asked if there were any other nominations for Conference Secretary. There being none, Rev. Rogers was elected. The Reverend Rogers nominated as Assistant Conference Secretaries: The Reverends David C. Surratt, James C. Lane and Kristen Richardson-Frick. They were elected. The Reverend Rogers nominated as Conference Recorder The Reverend Cec Jenkins. The Reverend Jenkins was elected. The Reverend Rogers made announcements concerning upcoming worship services for the day.

The Report of the **Committee on Nominations** was presented for review by the Reverend Carlton McClam, Chairperson. The main report was provided in pages 85 – 96 of the registration materials. A printed addendum to the report was distributed by the tellers. Reverend McClam requested that editorial corrections be submitted in writing. Reverend McClam pointed out vacancies remaining to be filled. Some nominations were offered from the floor to fill vacancies in the report of the Committee on Nominations. There were no nominations from the floor for any position for which the Committee on Nominations had already offered a name. An editorial change was made to the Committee on the Annual Conference to reflect new District Superintendents. The report of the Committee on Nominations was presented to the conference for information only, and was to be acted upon by the Conference on the fourth day, Wednesday morning. The final report of the Committee on Nominations, reflecting the officers elected by the Annual Conference, including any amendments to the report made on the floor, will be printed in final form in the Conference Journal.

The Report of the **Conference Council on Finance and Administration**, found on pages 1 – 10 of the pre-conference materials, was presented for information by The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson, Chairperson of the Council. Reverend Johnson highlighted certain changes from last year in the report. All communications budget items have been placed together in Report Number Two, Item A. 5. Report Number Four included the compensation and expenses for the District Superintendents, which included a salary of 90,000. This reflected an increase of slightly above three percent which was less than the amount that would have been recommended under the formula (adopted several years ago) for setting superintendents' salaries. A significant increase was recommended for Spartanburg Methodist College in

recognition of the fact that the apportionment support of SMC had not been increased for many years until 2008. The Council was attempting to restore their level of funding to prior levels, and also made this recommendation in recognition of the financial challenges faced by the students who attend Spartanburg Methodist College.

Other editorial changes were highlighted by The Reverend Johnson who also announced the Wednesday morning meeting of the Council to allow for questions from Conference members. Salaries for new church starts will now be shared between Equitable Compensation and Congregational Development according to an agreement between those two offices.

The Reverend John Culp requested information as to when the 24 hour timing for amendments to the CF&A report would apply. The Reverend Mitch Houston, CF&A Vice-Chairman, indicated that if an increase is proposed, then 12 hours notice is required. Decreases require no such time. Reverend Culp moved to amend the report of the Council on Finance and Administration by adding \$100,000 to the 2009 Annual Conference budget for the support of the Epworth Children's Home Early Intervention Center; and that this one-year support be funded from the permanent reserve fund of the Conference. The Reverend Willie Teague offered a motion to refer the Culp Motion to the Council on Finance and Administration for consideration by the Council, and that any debate be deferred until the report of the Council. The motion to refer was seconded and approved. The entire report of the Council was presented to the Conference for information prior to being acted upon on the final day of the Conference session.

Bishop Taylor announced that the Conference would be recognizing June Willson for her many years of service to the youth ministry program. An offering was received at the doorways as members of the annual conference were leaving for lunch. Several announcements were made, including recognition of Reverend Dr. Walter Kimbrough, Pastor in Residence of Gammon Theological Seminary President, the speaker for the African-American Clergywomen's Luncheon. Certain instructions were also given for the Ordination and Memorial Services. The session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The Second Day – Monday Afternoon

June 2, 2008

At 2:00 p.m. the Annual Conference Memorial Service was held. The preacher for the service was the Reverend Ernest Etheridge. His sermon was titled, "Example of Faithfulness", and was based on Hebrews:12:1-2. Liturgists were Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and The Reverend Frank Lybrand. The opening hymn was "*For All the Saints*" and the closing selection was "*Marching to Zion.*" Special music was provided by the Clergy Choir with Director, Toni Hollingsworth. Mr. Billy Fallaw was organist.

The following deceased ministers, spouses, and others were remembered during the Memorial Service: Retired Ministers remembered were Ralph Alston Cannon, James Chadwick Davis, Joseph Claude Evans, Henry Franklin Flowers, Duncan LeRoy Floyd, Willis Timothy Goodwin, John Thomas Hayes, David Wilson Holder, Denver Steedley Lee, Walter Edwin McDaniel, Jr., John Frederick Norwood, Buford Hayes Robertson, Sr., Amos Nathaniel Rogers, William Fletcher Rogers, Jr., Lewis Ramey Sherard, and John David Williams. Spouses remembered were Dorothy Hemker Gamble, Eura Vernelle Gavalas, James William Jenkins, Audrey Novella Woodard McNeill, Dorothy King Pittman, Roselyn Craig Pridgen and Martha Bayne Mallary Taylor. Surviving Spouses remembered were Susie Burns Bedenbaugh, Pauline Adams Boggs, Clara Burnett Bolt, Rosa Rumph Cunningham, Sara Vickery Black Emory, Maxilla Everett Evans, Laura Elizabeth Hewyard Gregg, Eliza Blake Nelson, Alberta "Bert" Swinnie Parker, Grace Nunn Poston, Patricia Ann Gullis Price and Violent Fenters Tyler. Also remembered was Emeline Ruth Meadows, a child of the parsonage home. At the close of the service, the session was in recess for 30 minutes.

Dr. Thomas Bowman of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**, directed the attention of the Conference to the Report of the Committee on pages 71 of the pre-conference

materials, announced the meeting of the Committee to consider those Resolutions that had been submitted and the deadline for presentation of all resolutions and appeals. Three additional resolutions were distributed to the Conference delegates by the tellers. Those resolutions concerned: Epworth Children's Home, the Confederate Flag, and Divestiture from the Government of Sudan. In addition, a Statement Concerning the Relationship Between the Annual Conference and Epworth Children's Home was also distributed. All of these were presented for information only, to be acted upon at a later time.

The Reverend Timothy Rogers then explained the process of the **Consent Calendar on pages 71-72 of the Pre-Conference materials**, and the manner in which items might be removed from the Consent Calendar for individual action. The Consent Calendar and any items removed were scheduled for consideration on Tuesday morning.

The Reverend Mary V. Teasley presented highlights of the report on **Hispanic/Latino Ministry**, found on page 58 of the pre-conference materials, together with a video presentation. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor asked for a vote to accept the report and the video presentation, and it was done.

The report of **Connectional Ministries** was presented by the Chairperson, Mrs. Earline Ulmer, who began by introducing a presentation by representatives of the Division of Youth Ministries, the Young Adult Network and the Youth Worker Movement: Angela Johnson, Kayla Mullins and James Grubb.

Mrs. Ulmer then recognized Ms. June Willson, Congregational Specialist, for her 38 years of ministry with the youth of the South Carolina Conference. The Reverend Willie S. Teague, Director of Connectional Ministries, presented Ms. Willson with flowers and announced that the offering in her honor was over \$ 5,000. This offering would be presented to the family that the Willson family sponsors. Reverend Teague asked that everyone who had their life impacted through her ministry to stand. The Conference expressed its appreciation for her years of ministry.

Mrs. Ulmer directed the Conference to turn to page 11 in the pre-conference materials. She highlighted the work of the Congregational Specialists, and focused on a renewed emphasis on communication and better use of audio-visual technology at Annual Conference. Pages 79-80 of the registration packet included the report of the African-American Committee, including the request for a full time Congregational Specialist for African American Ministries. Mrs. Ulmer moved adoption of the recommendation to create the full-time position for African-American Ministries, and it was approved. Mrs. Ulmer then moved adoption of the complete Connectional Ministries report, and it was done.

Mrs. Ulmer then directed the attention of the Conference to the report of the **Committee To Determine The Use of Funds From The Bequest Of The Estate Of William Norman Bobo, Jr.**, found on page 84 of the registration materials. The Reverend Dawn Compton, great niece of Mr. Bobo, presented the report and offered a brief presentation about Mr. Bobo. The special committee, created by the 2007 Annual Conference, recommended that the \$558,347 (value at December 31, 2007) left to the Conference by Mr. Bobo be used to fund leadership development in the conference. Mrs. Ulmer moved the adoption of the report and its recommendations. Bishop Taylor called for a vote, and the report was adopted.

The Reverend Willie S. Teague presented the report of the **Ministry Advisory Team**, found on page 83 of the registration materials. Listening sessions had been held around the Annual Conference (24 in number) and additional dialogue will take place in the future. The Ministry Advisory Team will use the information gleaned from the listening sessions to determine how the conference might be better organized to support the work of local congregations.

The Reverend Robert Cannon asked The Reverend Teague concerning the status of a full time Hispanic Ministries Staff Person in Connectional Ministries. The Reverend Teague stated that Connectional Ministries did not choose to bring a recommendation to create a full-time position at this time, but that it was still under consideration. Discussion followed concerning the staff position for Hispanic Ministries and related procedural matters. The conference received the report of the Ministry Advisory Team.

The Reverend Michael Hood moved that the Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries become a full-time Connectional Ministries staff position beginning January 1, 2009. Motion seconded. The Reverend Willie Teague asked if this motion needed to follow procedures for remaining before the Conference for 12 hours. Bishop Taylor clarified that Standing Rule 21 requires that discussion and approval must take place presently, and if the motion is approved it must lie on the table for 12 hours. After twelve hours have passed, the motion must be considered again with specific attention to the financial ramifications at that time. Discussions for and against the motion followed.

The Reverend Milton McGuirt moved to refer the Hispanic Ministry Staff position to the Ministry Advisory Team. The motion was seconded. The Reverend Robert Cannon questioned if the position needed to be referred to Conference Staff Relations Committee in consultation with Connectional Ministries and Conference Council on Finance and Administration. The Reverend McGuirt accepted the amendment. A second was received. Questions and statements in support and against the motion followed. The referral was approved.

The report of the **Board of Camps and Retreats** by Joe Clark, Chair-elect of the Board. He introduced the new Director of Camps and Retreats, the Reverend Jody Oates. In addition, he highlighted the conservation easement recently granted at Asbury Hills and the funds received for that easement. He also reviewed the temporary suspension of operations at Sewee Coastal Retreat Center, and the work being done to resume that ministry as soon as possible.

Reverend Oates spoke about the plans to expand facilities and programs at Asbury Hills. This includes replacing cabins which have been in use for over 40 years, as well as remodeling of many buildings. Reverend Oates also discussed the plans for resuming ministry at Sewee Coastal retreat Center. A full time Director of Development will be hired for Camps and Retreats this fall. The report of the Board of Camps and Retreats was received by the conference.

The Reverend Charles Hutchins moved to extend the time of the afternoon session by 15 minutes. It was approved.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation report, found on pages 47-52 of the pre-Conference materials, was presented by The Reverend Joseph James. Reverend James directed the attention of the Conference to Section A.2 of Report No. 2 on page 48 – the schedule of total minimum compensation. Barry McFadden and Wiley Cooper asked questions concerning the Commission's report. The report as a whole was approved.

Bishop Taylor introduced the report of **The Committee on Congregational Development**, which was presented in the form of a video. Following the video presentation, The Reverend Rusty Taylor, Director of Congregational Development, expressed appreciation to outgoing Committee Chairman, Reverend Dan Bradley, for his work with the committee over the past eight years. The Conference received the report, and the Annual Conference stood in adjournment.

The Second Day – Monday Evening

June 2, 2008

The Service of Ordination, Commissioning and Licensing was held at 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Center Arena. Bishop Robert Fannin, Retired, currently serving as President of the World Methodist Council, preached on "Footprints of Transforming Ministry", based on Romans 10: 11-15. An offering was received for the Bethlehem Bible College, located in Bethlehem, Israel. Music was provided by the Simpsonville UMC Chancel Choir. The organist was Billy Fallaw.

In addition to Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and Bishop Fannin, the following persons participated in the service: Reverend H. Eddie Fox, Reverend Karen Radcliffe, Reverend Katherine C. James, Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Reverend Patricia Parish, Reverend Leonard C. Ripley, Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson, Reverend Frank J. Griffith, Jr., Reverend Alice Elaine MacKiel, Reverend Howard D. Addis, Reverend Mary Louise Johnson, Ms. Millie Nelson, Ms.

Julie Songer, and Mr. William A. Faulkenberry. The Extended Cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and clergy sponsors participated in the procession.

The following persons were licensed as Local Pastors: Ronald Lemuel Brewer, Bryant Allen Burden, Weston Campbell Cheatham, James Henry Counts, Jr., Angela Marie Etheredge-Manly, Jason Daniel Everson, David Lloyd Fields, Michael Terrence Fleming, Joseph Christopher Greene, Jerry Harrison, Jr., Kathy Priest Hudson, Ronald Craig Jones, Stewart Dean Lollis, Elizabeth Ashley Lowder, Alpha Pauling, David Norris Phillips, Frances Lee Roper, Scott Walter Smoak, Billy Keith Stewart, Keith Robert Taylor, Jon P. Ward, and Reginald Darlington Wilson, Jr.

The following person was commissioned as a Probationary Deacon: Karen Trogdon Kluever.

The following persons were commissioned as Probationary Elders: Daniel Seay Burbage, William Thomas Dargan, Sheila Lamar Elliott, Pattie Elaine Gordon, Mary Louise Johnson, Steven Paul Keck, Christopher Matthew Lollis, Billy Lee Lynch, Jr., Dwight Arnold Nelson, Marie Elizabeth Ray, Richard Wilson Waldrep, Erin Elizabeth Walley, Matthew Larry Yon, and Amanda Carrie Taylor Young.

The following persons were ordained as Deacons: Traci Smith Bennett, Jeffrey Weldon Childress, and Alice Elaine MacKeil. William Grover Putnam, who had been elected as a Full Deacon, had his ordination from another denomination recognized.

The following persons were ordained as Elders: Emmanuel Bruce Adams, Christopher Edward Arries, Mollie Louise Bame, Constance Nelson Barnes, Lara Caulder Byrd, Mary Kathryn Boyd Griffin, Narcie McClendon Jeter, Cathy Delphine Mitchell, Anne Richardson Parrott, Gayle Minor Summey, Mae Francis Taylor, and Thurmond Kemzy Thomas. Rebecca Joyner Shirley was also ordained as an Elder, transferring from Full Deacon to Full Elder. Howard Donald Addis, who had been elected as a Full Elder, had his ordination from another denomination recognized.

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

The Third Day – Tuesday Morning

June 3, 2008

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor called the session to order at 8:30 a.m. Dr. H. Eddie Fox led the Conference in **Bible Study** and The Reverend Joe Cate then celebrated **Holy Communion**.

The Business Session began with a video presentation sponsored by the **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry** which highlighted the four United Methodist colleges in the South Carolina Conference: Claflin University, Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College, and Columbia College.

Bishop Taylor then invited Bishop Fannin to preside. Bishop Fannin's first order of business was to invite Mr. Dante Brown to the podium to speak on behalf of the the **Black College Fund**.

Awards, presentations and recognitions of the various boards, agencies and institutions were guided and announced by Mr. Brandon Taylor, former staff member at First UMC in Clover and now with Channel Thirteen Television, WBTW in Myrtle Beach. Bishop Taylor and Bishop Fannin greeted each award recipient as they came on stage. The Herbert Hucks Awards were presented to The Reverend Dr. Theodore R. Morton, Jr. and Pisgah Church - Aynor, Washington Street Church - Columbia, Bethel Church - Spartanburg and Mountain View Church - Taylors. Centennial and Bicentennial Churches were Calhoun Falls UMC, Allen View UMC, Dalzell UMC, Livingston UMC, Bethel Park UMC, Gramling UMC, Estill

UMC, Rizer Chapel UMC, Smyrna UMC, First UMC, Winnsboro, Dials UMC, Millers UMC, Green Pond UMC. Leaders and youth/young adults involved in Salkehatchie Summer Service, Mission Possible and the Summer Investment Program were introduced and greeted by Bishop Taylor.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Award Recipients of the Dr. Michael C. Watson Awards were Mr. R.B. "Bud" Antley and and The Reverend George Strait. The Josph B. Bethea Award was presented to James H. Salley. The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award was given to Bridge Builders Mission of Hartsville. The Reverend Lee C. Bines was recognized for his many years of service to the conference as Disaster Coordinator. The Francis Asbury Award was presented to Dr. Jimmy J. Montgomery. Graduates of the eChristian Education/Certification Training Program at Columbia College and sponsored by the Board of Education were honored. The individual graduates were Connie Borgianini, April Buddin, Karen Denny, Thomas Jones, Jr., Velma Pruitt, Kevin Reinke, Amy Utley, and Ashley Walker. Scholarship recipients provided through the Board of Ordained Ministry including the Bessie B. Parker Memorial Scholarship (Judith Ann Knox), the T. Dennie Smith Scholarship (Brian James Arant, Michelle Dellinger Cockcroft and Linda Lee McDaniels Guthrie) and the Seminary Students' Scholarship (Emily Elizabeth Scales). South Carolina Merit Scholarships were presented to Kristian Dukes and Christian Buff and the Janie Robinson Thomas Memorial Scholarship to Fuller Walker.

The Bishop's Awards of Excellence in Scouting was presented to Pack and Troop 476 of St. Paul Church - Florence, Troop 502 of First UMC - Isle of Palms, Troop 750 of Stallville UMC - Summerville, Troop 507 of Lexington UMC - Lexington, Pack 77 of Bethel Park UMC - Denmark, and Pack and Troop 190 both of Trinity UMC - Orangeburg. The G. Ross Freeman Award, given by the United Methodist Men, was presented to The Reverend Darren C. Hook. The Denman Evangelism Award is presented by the Foundation for Evangelism. The lay recipient was Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough of Bethel UMC, Pelion Charge. The clergy recipient was The Reverend Sandra Stevens-Poirel of Trinity UMC, Andrews.

The Bishop's Five Star Award of Excellence was presented to Aldersgate UMC - Greenwood, Bethany UMC - Charleston, Asbury Memorial UMC - Columbia, Bethel UMC - Winnsboro, Chapin UMC - Chapin, Covenant UMC - Greer, Dunean UMC - Greenville, First UMC - Clover, First UMC - Isle of Palms, Francis Asbury UMC - Greenville, Good Shepherd UMC - Rock Hill, Grace UMC - Abbeville, Grace UMC - Charleston, Jeremiah UMC - Hemingway, Lamar UMC - Lamar, Landrum UMC - Landrum, Leesville UMC - Leesville, Lexington UMC - Lexington, Little River UMC - Little River, Loris UMC - Loris, Mauldin UMC - Mauldin, Mount Horeb UMC - Lexington, Point Hope UMC - Mount Pleasant, Saint Paul UMC - Ninety Six, Shandon UMC - Columbia, Trinity UMC - Blythewood, Trinity UMC - Andrews, Trinity UMC - York, and Zoar UMC - Cheraw. Bishop Taylor expressed appreciation to Brandon Taylor for his efforts in the presentation, and congratulated all of the awards recipients for their great and various ministries in the service of Jesus Christ, and invited the conference to express their appreciation to them all.

The Report of the **Board of Laity** was presented by Dr. Joseph Heyward, Conference Lay Leader. Dr. Heyward highlighted the work of the laity in preparing their churches for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Dr. Carolyn Briscoe presented Report No. 2 of the Board of the Laity, to re-nominate Dr. Heyward for another term as Conference Lay Leader, Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough as Associate Lay Leader, and Mrs. Jane Scott as Secretary of the Board of Laity. Bishop Fannin called for a vote, and the Conference duly elected the officers for the Board of Laity for the following quadrennium.

The Reverend Tim Rogers moved the adoption of the **Consent Calendar** except for two items which had been lifted from the calendar: the report of the Board of Laity, which had just been presented, and the report of Epworth Children's Home. The report from Epworth Children's Home was to be presented at a later time. With those two exceptions, the Consent Calendar was adopted as presented.

Bishop Fannin expressed appreciation to Bishop Taylor for the invitation to be present, preach, assist in ordination and preside. He was excused to return to Florida following the death of a colleague. A video was next presented on the **Methodist Homes** by the Conference

Board of Health and Welfare Ministries and its Chair, The Reverend Athon Arant. Following the video, the Conference was in brief recess.

Bishop Taylor called the Session to order at 11:30 a.m. and the Conference re-convened for the **Retirement Recognition Service**. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor served as liturgist. The following clergy and their spouses were recognized upon the occasion of their entering the retired relation: Gene Sarvis Ammons, Rudolph Counts Barnes, Jr., Washington Webster Belangia, IV, Barry Lewis Brown, Gary Bruce Byrd, Hugh Carroll Cash, Ada Armstrong Charles, Wiley Barrow Cooper, Karin Bascom Culp, Eugene Lowry Curry, Gerald Edwin Davis, Cynthia Hodell Dyer, John Mitchell Freeman, Frank Julius Griffith, Jr. Charles Reed Inabinet, James Wallace Ivey, Ruth Ann Ivey, Mark Reagan Long, Grace Lewellyn Lovell, John Teague Miller, Grady Watson Mills, II, Arthur Wesley Murphy, Kenneth William Phelps, Charles Stewart Shaw, Walter Tart, Van Buren Thomas, Jr., W. Gordon Thomas, Michael Loy Vandiver, Philip Nicholas Watry, Diana Calvert Westerkam and Grover DeVere Williams. A video presentation recalling the ministry and thoughts of the retiring class was presented. The Reverend Frank Griffith represented the retiring class, and the Reverend Mollie Bame represented the entering class during "The Passing of the Mantle". Mr. Billy Fallaw served as organist for the service, and at the conclusion Bishop Taylor sent the Annual Conference forth into the Florence community for a "**Great Day of Service**". The Conference stood in adjournment.

The Third Day – Tuesday Afternoon

June 3, 2008

THE GREAT DAY OF SERVICE TO FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE PEE DEE REGION

The Third Day – Tuesday Evening

June 3, 2008

The Great Day of Service Celebration began at 7:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music and the anthem were provided by the Salem United Methodist Church Mass Choir of Florence. A sermon, entitled "*The Mission is Possible with Jesus*" was offered by The Reverend Luronne Jennings based on the scripture Matthew 28:11-20. An offering was received for South Carolina Volunteers in Mission. While the offering was being received, the Conference watched a video describing the work of SC UMWIM. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and The Reverend Christine Matthews served as liturgists for the service. . Ms. Tracey Mahaffey provided signing for the deaf in this service, as she did for services throughout the Conference.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Morning

June 4, 2008

Bishop Taylor called the session to order at 8:30 a.m. The day began with **Bible Study**, led by Dr. H. Eddie Fox, and **Holy Communion** celebrated by Reverend Miyoung Paik.

Bishop Taylor began the business portion of the morning by introducing a video summary of the work done the prior afternoon during the Great Day of Service.

David Braddon, President of the **Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**, was then invited to make the report of the board to Annual Conference. Both the pension and the health benefits programs were reported to be in good shape with a slight upward drift in costs. Reports were basically the same as in 2007 so Mr. Braddon only offered highlights from each report. Mr. Braddon noted certain editorial changes to the reports. The Pension Section, which included Reports Number One, Two and Three on pages 37 – 40 of the pre-Conference reports, was approved by the Annual Conference upon voice vote.

The Group Insurance Section, found on pages 40 – 43 of the pre-Conference materials, was reviewed by Mr. Braddon next. Questions were offered. All five reports were approved. The special report on page 44 was highlighted. Mr. Braddon explained that the report shows the plans of the board to develop recommendations for ways to deal with the unfunded liability related to retiree health benefits. Those recommendations will be brought to the 2009 Annual Conference. The special report was received as information only by the Annual Conference.

Mrs. Betty Moss McGuirt, member of the Board of **The United Methodist Publishing House**, brought the annual check from the Publishing House, and made a brief presentation concerning new resources and services of Cokesbury/Publishing House. Cokesbury will provide one million dollars for pension benefits worldwide and an additional one million dollars to resource ministries across the church. This year's check to South Carolina was for \$ 15,814.94 which is being directed by our Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the Central Conferences Pension Initiative. A video explaining the pension initiative was then shown.

Dr. James Salley presented a report and video describing the work being done on the **Old Mutare Water Project** in Zimbabwe. This was an update on a project undertaken by the Conference in 2006, and an opportunity for the Conference members to see the progress that has been made toward providing clean water to that community.

The Reverend Quay Adams, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the Report of the Cabinet. The Reverend Adams was elated to report signs of good news, of hope, vibrant and vital ministries, signs of reclamation and transformation of life. However, there are also some troubling indicators. Numbers are declining including professions of faith, members restored by affirmation. Many of our buildings are tired and in poor locations with shrinking population. Too many congregations are content with where they are, even though the primary vision of the church is to make disciples and transform the world for Jesus Christ. Local churches need to reflect on whether they want authentic visions. From the Cabinet's perspective, matters which need attention in South Carolina Methodism include: 1. New church development; 2. Cross racial appointments; 3. Training for laity and clergy, and encouragement for persons to seriously consider calls to ministry; 4. Restructuring of charge lines for vibrant ministry; 5. Direct billing is positive but creates fear; and 6. development and implementation of Safe Sanctuaries policies in our local churches. The Cabinet is committed to engender passion and renewed vision in the life of the Conference. The Report was received by the Annual Conference.

The Report of the Committee on Nominations, having been presented to the Conference for information earlier in the week, was brought back to the Annual Conference session for action. Another printed supplemental report was distributed by the tellers. The Conference spent time perfecting the report. The Reverend Paul Wood moved to suspend Standing Rule 19 for the purpose of receiving a nomination for COSROW. Bishop Taylor said that is non-debatable and required a 2/3 vote. The rule was suspended. The Reverend Wood nominated David Murrell of the Charleston District. More than one person was nominated for a single position on the Committee on Standing Rules, and more than one person was nominated for the same seat on the Committee on the Episcopacy. A written ballot was taken for each of these two positions. Final action on the Report of the Committee on Nominations was deferred until the Tellers could count the ballots cast.

The Reverend John E. Holler briefly presented the report on **Epworth Children's Home**, and the additional report titled, "Epworth Update." Questions and answers followed his presentation. The report was received as information.

Ms. Betty Walker, Chair of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**, presented the report of the committee. The resolution on Epworth Children's Home which was distributed on Monday was presented. The committee voted non-concurrence. Speeches pro and con followed the report including a comment from the Conference Chancellor. Bishop Taylor called for a vote, and the recommendation of the committee was not supported. The resolution was adopted as follows:

**A Resolution to Form a Committee to Make Recommendations
Concerning the Financial**

Relationship Between the South Carolina Annual Conference and Epworth Children's Home

Whereas, Epworth Children's Home was established by the Methodist people of South Carolina during the Annual Conference of 1895 and chartered as "Epworth Orphanage" by the South Carolina General Assembly that same year; and

Whereas, Epworth Children's Home has been a vital ministry of South Carolina Methodists to children since January of 1896; and

Whereas, Epworth Children's Home has since that date provided shelter, support, supervision and guidance in the name of Christ to thousands of children who needed a place of refuge; and

Whereas, Epworth Children's Home continues to provide the highest quality of care to the children in South Carolina who need it the most; and

Whereas, Epworth Children's Home stands alone among the South Carolina United Methodist related homes and colleges in that it receives no direct financial support from the South Carolina Annual Conference; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the presiding bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference appoint a committee comprised of eight individuals; the purpose of which shall be to make recommendations to the 2009 Annual Conference:

1. Whether or not it is in the best interest of Epworth Children's Home and the South Carolina Annual Conference for Epworth Children's Home to become an apportioned item.
2. Ways in which the South Carolina Annual Conference and its leadership can be supportive of efforts to increase the level of financial support from the churches of this Annual Conference. And be it further

Resolved, That the committee shall consist of eight members and shall include: a representative from: CF&A, the cabinet, the president of Epworth Children's Home and two Epworth Local Church Representatives among its members.

Ms. Walker then presented the resolution concerning the government of Sudan. The committee voted to concur with the resolution. Liz Patterson offered two technical amendments: to correct the spelling of Governor Sanford's name, and to change the resolution to request that the governor "sign", rather than "pass", the legislation. The maker of the motion and the committee accepted these corrections. Discussion followed. The recommendation was approved, and the resolution was approved as follows:

A Resolution on Divestiture from the Government of Sudan

Whereas, The Government of Sudan continues its campaign of genocide against the people of Darfur; and

Whereas, The genocide is funded through oil revenues paid to the Government of Sudan by Chinese oil companies which are underwritten by investment companies, mutual funds and state retirement funds in the US; and

Whereas, The Government of Sudan does not have sufficient economic capital or infrastructure to process oil, it would be unable to raise oil revenues to fund the genocide if Chinese oil companies were

to stop purchasing Sudanese oil (approx. 3% of total Chinese oil purchase); and

Whereas, The State Senate and House of South Carolina have passed S241, a targeted divestment bill to protect SC retirement system funds from investments in companies that fund the genocide in Darfur; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church urges Governor Sanford to sign S241 to divest the state of South Carolina and send a message to the Government of Sudan that South Carolina will not fund genocide.

The resolution on the Confederate Flag was presented next. An amended version was distributed on Monday. The Committee dealt with the amended resolution. The Committee voted for non-concurrence. Discussion followed for and against the committee recommendation. Bishop Taylor called for a vote, and the recommendation of non-concurrence by the Committee was affirmed by the Annual Conference. The resolution was defeated. The full report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals was completed and accepted.

Reverend Carlton McClam was invited to return to complete the report of the **Committee on Nominations**. Reverend Rogers, Conference Secretary, reported that Jack Shingler had received the most votes and was made the nominee for the position on the Committee on the Episcopacy, and that Martha Swinton had received the most votes and was made the nominee for the position on the Committee on Standing Rules. Reverend McClam stated that with the announcement of those two names, the entire slate of nominations was complete, and offered the slate for election by the Conference. Bishop Taylor put the question to the house, inviting the Conference to vote in Russian, responding with a “da” for “yes”, or a “nyet” for “no”. The “da” votes were in the majority, and the nominees were elected. Reverend McClam, who was completing his term as chairman of the Committee on Nominations, took the opportunity to invite Reverend Mel Arant, Reverend Mike Bowers, and Reverend Curtis Young to come to the podium. He expressed his gratitude to the Conference for the opportunity to serve as chairman of the committee, and expressed special thanks to Reverend Arant for his work as Vice-chairman of the Committee. He also expressed his appreciation for Reverend Bowers, the newly elected chairman of the committee, and Reverend Young, the newly elected vice-chairman.

Assistant Secretary J.C. Lane made closing announcements at the end of the morning session, including informing the Conference of the deaths of Mildred Abram (wife of Reverend Joseph Abram, Jr.) and Abraham Lane, Jr, (the brother of Reverend Jerry Lane). Bishop Taylor then dismissed the Conference for the lunch recess.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Afternoon

June 4, 2008

At 2:06 p.m. Bishop Taylor called the Annual Conference back to order. **The Report of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration** was presented for final action. The Reverend H. Samuel Johnson, chairperson of the Council, directed the attention of the Conference to pages 1 – 10 of the pre-Conference materials, and announced several changes to the report. On page one, line two, the recommended amount of the Conference Benevolences should be 2,527,272 instead of the previously printed amount. (This is the result of action taken Monday creating the position of Congregational Specialist for African American Ministries.) The total recommended amount on page one is now \$17,531,312. On page two, under item A.4, Recommended for 2009, Salaries should now be \$ 818,940; Benefits should be \$ 243,995; Staff Housing should now be \$ 90,000, and Staff Travel should now be \$120,000. The subtotal should be \$ 1,390,935. Total Conference Benevolences should now be \$2,527,272. Those were the only adjustments the Council on Finance and Administration was proposing to the budget.

Report Number Two was before the Conference, and Reverend Johnson asked if there were any questions. A period of discussion followed, including questions related to staffing, Superintendents' salaries and other matters. There being no further questions, Bishop Taylor called for the vote, and Report Number Two was approved. Reverend Johnson offered a motion to approve Report Number Three, and it was approved.

Report Number Four was before the Conference. The Reverend Wiley Cooper made an amendment to provide a 3.0% increase in salaries for District Superintendents, rather than a 3.6% increase. Discussion pro and con followed. A vote was called for, and the Cooper amendment failed. Report Number Four was approved as presented. Reports Number 5, 6, 7 and 1 were all adopted by the Annual Conference as well.

The Reverend Johnson recognized churches paying 100% of their apportionments and those improving as well. The United Methodist Center loan was also highlighted by The Reverend Johnson. He encouraged all churches to pay the full amount of their asking, and encouraged those churches who have already paid 100% to make additional payments as possible.

Reverend Johnson presented the response of the Council on Finance and Administration to the motion from John Culp that had been referred to them earlier in the week. Reverend Johnson offered a motion that the Conference authorize the Council on Finance and Administration to provide \$100,000 to the Early Intervention Program of Epworth Children's Home. This funding would come from the Permanent Reserve Fund of the Annual Conference, and would not be an apportionment item. Further, this funding is specifically for one year. There being no discussion, the vote was called for and the motion was approved.

Reverend Mitch Houston, as a member of the Council on Finance and Administration, asked for clarification as to when the funding should be made to Epworth Children's Home. Reverend John Holler, President of Epworth Children's Home, replied that the funding should be made January 1, 2009. Reverend John Culp then rose to thank the Conference for supporting Epworth, commended the staff of Epworth for the outstanding work that they perform, and asked that Bishop Taylor lead the Conference in a prayer for Epworth. The Conference consenting, Bishop Taylor led in prayer.

The Report of the Council on Finance and Administration was approved as a whole.

Preliminary totals from the offerings received during the Annual Conference session were announced: Bishop's Appeal for Kenya - \$15,787.54; Gift in Honor of June Willson - \$6,792.49; the Bethlehem Bible College in Israel - \$13,807.57; SC UMVIM - \$15,070.62. The total received for all offerings was \$46,458.22. Bishop Taylor thanked the members for their generosity in responding to these needs. The Reverend Lee Bryant asked that the Conference receive an offering for Epworth, and the offering was collected.

Mr. Ken Howle presented the report from the **Southeastern Jurisdiction** headquartered at Lake Junaluska via video from The Reverend Jimmy Carr.

Mr. Jeff Barham presented the **Chancellor's Report**, as found on pages 63-64 of the pre-Conference materials. He took the opportunity to thank Dr. James Leathrum for his work with the Conference Board of Trustees. He highlighted three major areas of concern for local churches: church cemeteries, insurance and termite bonds. His report was received. On behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees, he then presented the following resolution concerning Bordeaux Methodist Church, which was approved without discussion as follows:

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY
OF THE DISCONTINUED BORDEAUX METHODIST CHURCH
McCormick County, South Carolina
Greenwood District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, In 1940, the Upper South Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church, a predecessor annual conference of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"),

adopted a resolution (the "1940 Resolution") closing (discontinuing) Bordeaux Methodist Church ("Bordeaux Church") which was located in McCormick County, South Carolina, and part of the Greenwood District; and

Whereas, With regard to the property of the discontinued Bordeaux Church, the 1940 Resolution "placed the property under control of the Plum Branch quarterly conference" but did not direct the transfer or conveyance of the title to the property; and

Whereas, The history and disposition of the property of Bordeaux Church after its discontinuation, as reflected in the archives of the South Carolina Conference, is uncertain. It is unknown whether the Bordeaux Church was ever officially reopened; however, the Bordeaux Church reappears in the Conference journals in the years 1948-1951, where it is associated with the McCormick Charge for a time. After 1951, no entries are believed to appear in the Conference journals regarding the Bordeaux Church or the property associated with it; and

Whereas, A nonprofit group known as the Bordeaux Worship Center is currently occupying the real property of the discontinued Bordeaux Church, and the nonprofit group has requested that the South Carolina Conference convey the real property to it; and

Whereas, The sale or other transfer of the real and personal property (the "Property") of the discontinued Bordeaux Church is deemed to be in the best interest of the South Carolina Conference to the extent that the South Carolina Conference retains any interest in the property; and

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That any proceeds remaining from the sale of the Property, after the reimbursement of all expenses, shall be turned over to the South Carolina Conference.

The Chancellor then presented a resolution on behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees concerning Pointe Hope United Methodist Church. The resolution was approved without discussion, as follows:

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

Whereas, Point Hope United Methodist Church, Charleston District,

South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina and needs to convey the real property occupied by the church to the corporate entity known as Point Hope United Methodist Church, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Point Hope UMC"); and

Whereas, The title to the real property upon which the church is currently located had not previously been conveyed to the unincorporated local church by the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District which currently holds title to the real property; and

Whereas, The property at issue is more particularly described in the deed filed in Deed Book P430, Page 527, located in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Charleston County, South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"); and

Whereas, Point Hope UMC has requested that the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (the "South Carolina Conference") authorize the Board of Trustees of the Charleston District to convey the Property to Point Hope UMC; and

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

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

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

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

Mr. Barham presented the "Statement of Relationship Between the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and Epworth Children's Home", which had been distributed on Monday. He explained that the adoption of this statement once each quadrennium was necessary for Epworth to retain its accreditation. Mr. Barham then offered a motion that the statement be approved. The Conference voted to approve the statement, without debate, as follows:

**STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND
EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME**

PREAMBLE

The United Methodist Church has a history of Christian responsibility for service to people through the arm of its social welfare agencies, as evidenced in the ministry of this Home.

Since it's founding in 1895 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, three central values have driven this ministry:

- 1) God in Jesus Christ proclaims that every human being is of infinite value in God's sight; and therefore, those who know God respect the value of every person.

- 2) It is the plan of God's creation that human life come forth and receive nurture in families.
 - 3) Children need an atmosphere of love, acceptance and guidance that they may come to know God's purpose and joy.
- Out of these values arise our mission and the cooperative ministry between this Home and the South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME MISSION STATEMENT

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

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Epworth Children's Home and its services exist as the expression of the desire of the United Methodist people of South Carolina to serve their Lord and Master by providing, in a Christian manner, and to the extent of their resources and capabilities, childcare, counseling, and related services to families and children in the state of South Carolina.

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

With a rich heritage blessed by God, and faithfully supported by God's people, we now seek to clarify and strengthen the relationship between Epworth Children's Home, Inc. and the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church agrees to:

- 1.) receive nominations and elect members to the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, in keeping with the charter and by-laws of Epworth Children's Home;
- 2.) continue to provide benevolent support to Epworth Children's Home through channels such as Mother's Day, Work Day, and Back to School offerings, encouraging its people to make special gifts, and be supportive of the Home's programs of planned giving and fund development;
- 3.) permit Epworth Children's Home to use elements of the name and logo of the United Methodist Church and/or the Conference, including a reference to the relationship;
- 4.) cooperate with Epworth Children's Home in furthering the promotion and interpretation of Epworth Children's Home's mission and programs;
- 5.) communicate with Epworth Children's Home any changes in the rules and actions of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference which may affect Epworth Children's Home;
- 6.) receive an annual audited financial report from Epworth Children's Home;
- 7.) maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

Epworth Children's Home, Inc., agrees to:

- 1.) continue its tradition of offering quality services to children, youth and families, and to develop innovative concepts to help with their changing needs;
- 2.) submit an annual audited financial report to the Annual

- Conference;
- 3.) follow guidelines as approved by the Annual Conference, in matters of funding;
 - 4.) maintain membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
 - 5.) submit to the Annual Conference for approval any changes in Epworth Children's Home's Articles of Incorporation;
 - 6.) furnish an annual report to the Annual Conference;
 - 7.) maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

Neither Epworth Children's Home, Inc. nor the Annual Conference accepts any legal or financial responsibility for the operations of the other. Epworth Children's Home, Inc. and the Conference mutually agree to hold each other harmless for any liabilities arising out of their relationship.

This Statement of Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at least once during each quadrennium.

The offering for Epworth Children's Home was completed at this time and was brought forward to Bishop Taylor. She invited the Conference to sing the Doxology as the offering was placed at the communion table.

Bishop Taylor then recognized the **Administrative Assistant in her Episcopal Office, Ms. Bettye Rivers** for her faithful service to South Carolina United Methodism.

The report of the Board of Church and Society, chaired by The Reverend Scott Wachter, was presented. Reverend Wachter noted that an earlier resolution from the Board that had been distributed to some of the members of the Conference at pre-conference meetings, had been withdrawn by the Board. Reverend Wachter then presented a resolution, printed on page 74 of the pre-Conference materials, concerning the Hall of Distinction Scholars Program of Spartanburg Methodist College. The report was approved, without debate, as follows:

**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE
HALL OF DISTINCTION SCHOLARS PROGRAM
IN RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE SO-CALLED
"CORRIDOR OF SHAME" OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Whereas, Public schools across South Carolina and especially those along Interstate 95 in the area designated as the "Corridor of Shame" are woefully under-funded resulting in low high school graduation rates; and

Whereas, This inadequate funding and the resulting deplorable learning environments are projected to continue to adversely affect generations of youth; and

Whereas, Students who defy the odds and actually become graduates of these schools demonstrate, by their very survival to graduation, exceptional academic promise and personal determination to overcome obstacles to success, thereby distinguishing themselves as worthy of note and deserving of support; and

Whereas, The vast majority of these exceptional young people often have very limited financial means to pursue higher educational opportunities; and

Whereas, The vitality of public schools is in large part a product of the educational level of the citizens of the communities in which they are situated, and

Whereas, Spartanburg Methodist College has from its founding in 1911 by Dr. David E. Camak embraced the lofty goal of providing educational opportunity to worthy students regardless of their ability to pay; and

Whereas, Spartanburg Methodist College, as an institution related to the South Carolina United Methodist Conference through its Board of Global Ministries, is committed to serving the underserved by offering high quality programs of higher education through which students are equipped to become responsible citizens of their communities; and

Whereas, Spartanburg Methodist College, under the direction of its president The Reverend Dr. Charles P. Teague and with the support of its Board of Trustees, has established an endowed fund called "The Hall of Distinction Program Endowment" to be used for scholarships for qualified graduates of those public high schools located in economically depressed regions of SC such as the so-called "Corridor of Shame"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirm and support the initiative of Spartanburg Methodist College to equip and prepare young people graduating from under-funded high schools in South Carolina to become agents of transformation in their communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference join with other partners, public and private, individual and corporate, ecclesiastical and secular, to strengthen "The Hall of Distinction Program Endowment" with a minimum goal of \$1,000,000 from all sources by 31 December 2018; and be it further

Resolved, That the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference make known the availability of the "The Hall of Distinction Program Endowment" in the affected school districts and encourage recipients to pursue courses of study and careers that will equip them to become agents of positive change in their communities.

Bishop Taylor reported that according to the *Book of Discipline*, the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, through a process chaired by the Bishop, are required to offer names for a Jurisdictional pool of nominees. The Jurisdictional Conference will elect members to General and Jurisdictional bodies from these names. The *Book of Discipline* also requires that the Annual Conference approve the names to be submitted. There are 90 names on the list. The Annual Conference voted to approve the list of nominees for the SEJ pool without reading, trusting in the work of the delegation.

Dr. W. Timothy McClendon, Chairperson of the **General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**, reported on their work and the high percentage of participation by the delegation. A video report on General Conference was shown. A very conservative budget was approved by General Conference and the Nothing But Nets Campaign was highlighted. The Reverend Susan Henry-Crowe was elected president of the Judicial Council. Two petitions from the South Carolina Conference were passed at the General level. They focused on supporting the Black College Fund and Africa University. The report from the General Conference delegation was received by the Conference.

Immediately following that report, Dr. Carolyn Briscoe and Reverend Stephen Taylor highlighted the abilities and characteristics of Dr. Timothy McClendon, Episcopal candidate from the South Carolina Conference. The Annual Conference voted to endorse Dr. McClendon with a standing ovation.

Bishop Taylor reminded the Conference that the Order for the Day was now upon the Conference at 4:00 p.m., and the business of the Conference was not completed. Steve

McGahee of Lee Road UMC, Taylors, moved to extend the time for 30 minutes to finish the business of the Conference. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bishop Taylor announced that the dates for the 2009 session would be May 31 – June 3.

The Conference Secretary, The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, announced that the newly elected Committee on Investigation needs to organize immediately following the closing worship service. Reverend Rogers then presented the report of the **Committee on the Annual Conference**. Reverend Rogers presented the committee's recommendation to hold the 2009 Annual Conference again at the Florence Civic Center, based upon the experience of the members of the committee, and upon the more than 900 responses from last year's evaluation forms. The recommendation was approved.

The Bishop then called on The Reverend Dr. Timothy McClendon, the Secretary of the Cabinet, to present the **Charge Line Changes**. Reverend McClendon presented the Charge Line Changes, which were included in the pre-Conference materials on pages 106, and are included elsewhere in the Business Questions, for information. The Conference voted to receive them.

Reverend Dr. McClendon then presented **resolutions to discontinue** five churches. The resolutions were printed on pages 74 - 78 of the pre-Conference materials. The resolutions were to discontinue: Bethel UMC in the Greenwood District, Millers UMC in the Marion District, Arrington UMC in the Greenville District, Apalache UMC in the Greenville District and Trinity UMC in Spartanburg County and District. They were all approved. As each resolution was presented, Dr. McClendon invited delegates, or anyone related to these churches, to stand to be recognized by the Conference. The resolutions read as follows:

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

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church ("Bethel UMC") reported an average attendance of one in 2007, and the Church Local Conference of Bethel UMC has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 18, 2008; and

Whereas, The Reverend Mary Victoria Teasley, District Superintendent of the Greenwood District of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Bethel UMC of the Rehoboth-Bethel Charge, located in Greenwood County, South Carolina, be discontinued; and

Whereas, Rehoboth United Methodist Church ("Rehoboth UMC") has agreed to the transfer of the membership of Bethel UMC to Rehoboth UMC and to accept the conveyance and transfer of the property of Bethel UMC to Rehoboth UMC; and

Whereas, The trustees of the Rehoboth-Bethel Charge currently hold in trust the property which is known as the site of the former Mt. Vernon Methodist Church (discontinued in 1964), located in McCormick County, South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as the "Mt. Vernon Church Property"), and it is necessary and appropriate to direct a disposition of that property with the impending charge line changes and with the dissolution of the Rehoboth-Bethel Charge; and

Whereas, Rehoboth United Methodist Church ("Rehoboth UMC") has agreed to accept the conveyance of the Mt. Vernon Church Property to Rehoboth UMC; and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby discontinue Bethel UMC pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2004), effective June 18, 2008; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the title to all real and personal, tangible and intangible, property of Bethel UMC shall conveyed and transferred to Rehoboth UMC, with the costs related to the conveyance and transfer to be paid out of the funds of Bethel UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of Bethel UMC, any two officers of the trustees of Bethel UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to convey and transfer the property of Bethel UMC to Rehoboth UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the title to the Mt. Vernon Church Property shall be conveyed to Rehoboth UMC, with the costs related to the conveyance to be paid out of the funds of Bethel UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the Rehoboth-Bethel Charge, any two officers of the trustees of the Rehoboth-Bethel Charge are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to convey the Mt. Vernon Church Property to Rehoboth UMC; and be it further

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

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

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
MILLERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Marion County, South Carolina
Marion District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Reverend Quay W. Adams, District Superintendent of the Marion District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Millers United Methodist Church ("Millers UMC"), located in Marion County, South Carolina, be discontinued; and

Whereas, The members of Millers UMC have not yet determined where they will transfer their individual memberships but have agreed for the property of Millers UMC to be transferred and conveyed to Macedonia United Methodist Church ("Macedonia UMC"), Mullins, South Carolina, upon its discontinuance; and

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

Whereas, Consideration has been given to maintaining the property of Millers UMC as a preaching point after its discontinuance so long as doing so is feasible; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop and a majority of the District Superintendents have consented to the discontinuance; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby discontinue Millers UMC pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (2004) (the "*Discipline*"), effective June 18, 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered for over two hundred years (since April 1, 1808) by the members and pastors of Millers UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the title to all real and personal, tangible and intangible, property of Millers UMC shall be transferred and conveyed to Macedonia UMC, with the costs related to the transfer and conveyance to be paid out of the funds of Millers UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That all designated funds of the discontinued Millers UMC, including, but not limited to the cemetery fund, memorial fund, and building fund, shall be used by Macedonia UMC to support the maintenance, care, and uses of the building and cemetery of the discontinued Millers UMC consistent with the purposes of the designated funds; and be it further

Resolved, That all sums remaining in the general funds of the discontinued Millers UMC, after the payment of any expenses related to the conveyance and transfer of the property or other outstanding expenses, shall be used by Macedonia UMC to support the maintenance, care, and uses of the building of the discontinued Millers UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of Millers UMC, any two officers of the Trustees of Millers UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to transfer and convey the property of Millers UMC to Macedonia UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference requests that Macedonia UMC give due consideration to the maintenance of the property of the discontinued Millers UMC as a preaching point so long as it is feasible to do so and that Macedonia UMC consider forming a committee to manage the preaching point which includes former members of Millers UMC among the membership of the committee; and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That the guidelines of the *Discipline* shall govern the procedures to be followed should a determination be made at some future time to reopen Millers UMC as a local church of The United Methodist Church.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
ARRINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Greenville County, South Carolina
Greenville District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Conference of Arrington United Methodist Church ("Arrington UMC") currently has 11 active members, and has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 18, 2008; and

Whereas, The Rev. Charles L. Johnson, Sr., District Superintendent of the Greenville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Arrington UMC, located in Greenville County, South Carolina be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Church Council of Piedmont Park United Methodist Church ("Piedmont Park UMC"), Greenville, South Carolina, has agreed to minister to the members of Arrington UMC; and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby discontinue Arrington UMC pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2004)*, effective June 18, 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Arrington UMC, beginning with its founding in 1917 as part of a union church, and continuing when it was established as an independent congregation in 1934; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Arrington UMC shall be transferred to Piedmont Park UMC of Greenville, South Carolina, and other churches as designated by the members; and be it further

Resolved, That all of the real and personal, tangible and intangible, property of Arrington UMC in existence as the time of this resolution shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference by the Trustees of Arrington UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Arrington UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the real and personal property of Arrington UMC to the South Carolina Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That real property conveyed and transferred by Arrington UMC to the South Carolina Conference shall be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference (the "Conference Board"); and be it further

Resolved, That the Conference Board is authorized to sell or otherwise dispose of the real property of the discontinued Arrington UMC and is directed to deliver the net proceeds, if any, resulting from the sale or other disposition of the real property to the Treasurer of the South Carolina Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That any two officers of the Conference Board or any two other members of the Conference Board are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the sale or other disposition of the property; and be it further

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

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

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
APALACHE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Spartanburg County, South Carolina
Greenville District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, Apalache United Methodist Church (“Apalache UMC”) currently has five active members, and the Church Conference of has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 18, 2008; and

Whereas, The Rev. Charles L. Johnson, Sr., District Superintendent of the Greenville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (“South Carolina Conference”), has recommended that Apalache UMC, located in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Church Council of Memorial United Methodist Church (“Memorial UMC”), Greer, South Carolina, has agreed to minister to the members of Apalache UMC; and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby discontinue Apalache UMC pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2004)*, effective June 18, 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Apalache UMC, beginning when the church was founded as part of a union church in 1902, continuing when the church became independent in 1906, and including their decision to pay 100% of their apportionments in 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Apalache UMC shall be transferred to Memorial UMC of Greer, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That all of the real and personal, tangible and intangible, property of Apalache UMC in existence as the time of this resolution shall be conveyed and transferred to Memorial UMC by the Trustees of Apalache UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That any two of the officers of the Board of Trustees of Apalache UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary

to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the real and personal property of Apalache UMC to Memorial UMC; and be it further Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Greenville District shall oversee the transfer of membership and the conveyance and transfer of property of Apalache UMC to ensure completion; and be it further

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

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Spartanburg County, South Carolina
Spartanburg District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Trinity United Methodist Church ("Trinity UMC") has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 18, 2008; and

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

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Trinity UMC discontinued pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2004)*, effective June 18, 2008; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of Trinity UMC shall be transferred to Chesnee United Methodist Church ("Chesnee UMC"); and be it further

Resolved, That the real property of Trinity UMC in existence at the time of this resolution, with the exception of the cemetery and access property (collectively referred to herein as the "cemetery property"), shall be sold; and be it further

Resolved, That the cemetery property shall be conveyed to Chesnee UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That all proceeds from the sale of any real property and all other funds belonging to Trinity UMC, less expenses related to the sale of any property and other costs associated with the discontinuation of Trinity UMC, shall be conveyed to Chesnee UMC with \$30,000 of the transferred proceeds (or the total amount of the transferred proceeds if the transferred proceeds should be less than \$30,000) designated for the maintenance and care of the cemetery property, provided, however, that the restriction on the funds for the maintenance and care of the cemetery property may be

modified by the action of any future annual conference; and be it further

Resolved, That any cost related to the discontinuance, including the transfer and conveyance of property, shall be paid out of the funds of the discontinued church; and be it further

Resolved, That all remaining personal property items belonging to Trinity UMC shall be transferred to Chesnee UMC; and be it further

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

Resolved, That, if any of the real property has not been sold by July 31, 2008, then the Board of Trustees of Trinity UMC shall then convey the real property to Chesnee UMC, and be it further

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

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers, are collected and deposited for permanent safekeeping with the commission on archives and history of the South Carolina Conference.

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

Concluding items. The Annual Conference Secretary expressed appreciation to those who assisted with Annual Conference, and was given permission to print a list of those persons in the *Journal*. Those persons are as follows: the Administration and Staff of the Florence Civic Center; The Reverend Janice Frederick-Watts and Ms. Margaret Smith in the Florence District Office, for all of their assistance; those who served as ushers throughout the week; those who served as volunteers for the district registration tables and our Information Booth, throughout the week; those who volunteered in the clergy picture taking sessions; The Reverend Thomas C. Pietila and Central United Methodist Church, our Host Church, for many services and acts of hospitality; the Reverend Cec G. Jenkin, our Conference Recorder; Mrs. Pat Mack and the staff of the Print Media Center, who printed and assembled the pre-conference and registration materials, prepared the name badges for registration, and printed Conference Program materials; Laura Hill, Walt and Bonnie Speas, and Bill and Sylvia Hulbert who assisted with special registration on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning; David Wood and GNTV who handled audio and video services for this Conference; Mrs. Tracy Mahaffey who "signed" our three evening services; Mrs. Millie Nelson, who organized the "Great Day of Service"; Rhonda Fought and Melanie Dotson for organizing and distributing the "Great Day of Service" donated items; The Reverend Nelson L. Stokes who coordinated the Exhibitors and worked on setting up the exhibit areas; the three Assistant Secretaries serving on the platform, The Reverend James C. Lane, The Reverend David C. Surrent, and The Reverend Kristen R. Richardson-Frick; Mrs. Bettye Rivers, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Taylor; Mrs. Judith Murdaugh and the Commission on Worship; the The Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray, the Conference Worship Coordinator; Mr. Billy Fallaw, our organist; The Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry who planned the Ordination Service; the choirs who added so much to our worship; all who offered special music for our services; our worship leaders and celebrants; Dr. H. Eddie Fox who led our Bible Study times; the preachers for our services, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, the Reverend Ernest Etheridge, Dr. Eddie Fox and the Reverend Luronne Jennings; our Parliamentarian, Dr. W. Timothy McClendon; our Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, who planned and led the Orientation Session for Lay Members on Sunday afternoon; our Tellers, sixty-five persons from across the Conference, who served

us during the week; and our bishop, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, who gave vision and direction to the planning and so ably presided over the Conference.

The Conference Secretary then made the following **omnibus motion**: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the final ballot, the Closing Worship and The Fixing of the Appointments this 2008 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*. The motion was seconded and approved by the Conference at 4:20 p.m.

Bishop Taylor then invited all Conference members to remain for the closing service, and announced a recess.

Service of Baptismal Renewal and The Fixing of the Appointments. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor led the Annual Conference in closing worship at 4:30 p.m. in the Florence Civic Center Arena including serving as celebrant for the Service of Baptismal Renewal. The appointments were distributed by the tellers during the worship service. Bishop Taylor preached on the topic of "Do We Dare." The District Superintendents and their spouses were invited to the platform to stand with the Bishop for the fixing of the appointments. New Superintendents and those concluding their appointments as Superintendents were recognized. Each Superintendent reviewed their appointments and made brief corrections as needed. Following the fixing of the appointments by Bishop Taylor for the coming Conference year, the congregation participated in The Affirming of the Appointments, and in the Service of Baptismal Renewal. Dr. Joseph Heyward, Conference Lay Leader, served as liturgist for the service. Mr. Billy Fallaw served as Organist. The opening hymn was "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us" and the closing hymn was "Precious Name." The service concluded and the 37th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference was adjourned *sine die* at 5:30 p.m.