

SECTION VII

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

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Report No. 1

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

FUND	Budget for 2008	Requested for 2009	Recom- mended for 2009	% Change	Average Net Funds Factor
1 World Service **	2,174,147	2,082,716	2,082,716	-4.2%	0.023011
2 Conference Benevolences	2,337,612	2,427,272	2,527,272	8.1%	0.027923
3 Episcopal Fund **	568,584	565,726	565,726	-0.5%	0.006251
4 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,866,102	1,879,024	1,879,024	0.7%	0.020761
5 District Superintendents Salary	1,042,400	1,080,000	1,080,000	3.6%	0.011933
6 Equitable Compensation	540,000	570,000	540,000	0.0%	0.005966
7 District Administration	780,000	773,000	773,000	-0.9%	0.008541
8 Conference Administration	1,600,264	1,460,136	1,460,136	-8.8%	0.016133
9 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	166,023	170,187	170,187	2.5%	0.001880
10 General Conference Administration **	191,391	232,072	232,072	21.3%	0.002564
11 Senior College Scholarships	1,416,099	1,486,904	1,486,904	5.0%	0.016428
12 Spartanburg Methodist College	587,777	840,760	750,000	27.6%	0.008287
13 Campus Ministry	561,637	617,801	617,801	10.0%	0.006826
14 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,446	638,446	638,446	0.0%	0.007054
15 Camps & Retreat Ministries	368,798	379,862	379,862	3.0%	0.004197
16 Congregational Development	1,050,000	1,220,000	1,220,000	16.2%	0.013479
17 Ministerial Education **	706,605	720,339	720,339	1.9%	0.007959
18 Interdenominational Cooperation **	55,808	56,140	56,140	0.6%	0.000620
19 Black College **	281,367	287,371	287,371	2.1%	0.003175
20 Africa University **	62,134	64,316	64,316	3.5%	0.000711
TOTALS	\$16,995,194	\$17,552,072	\$17,531,312	3.2%	

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Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds.
Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Report No. 2

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

Fund	Budget for 2006	Budget for 2007	Budget for 2008	Requested Budget for 2009	Recom- mended for 2009	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries (formerly CCOM)						
1. Conference Advance Specials						
Ministry Programs	195,572	195,572	229,000	193,600	193,600	-15.5%
Special Salary Supplements	25,000	25,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	220,572	220,572	263,000	227,600	227,600	-13.5%
2. Board/Agency Programs	650,000	521,150	521,150	457,000	400,000	-23.2%
3. Board/Agency Administration	60,000	80,000	80,000	85,000	85,000	6.3%
4. Operations (100% guaranteed)						
Salaries	525,000	681,250	700,000	763,940	818,940	17.0%
Employee Benefits	200,000	220,000	226,000	228,995	243,995	8.0%
Staff Housing Allowances	60,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	90,000	20.0%
Staff travel	35,000	70,000	84,000	105,000	120,000	42.9%
Office Rent	56,688	56,688	45,000	47,500	47,500	5.6%
Office Operations	35,000	40,000	40,000	42,000	42,000	5.0%
Equipment/Maintenance/Depreciation	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.0%
Staff Development	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Insurance & Bond	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	66.7%
Interpretation	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Travel Contingency	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Contract Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (4)	937,188	1,169,438	1,196,500	1,290,935	1,390,935	16.3%

5. Communications						
Electronics	45,400	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	0.0%
Resource Center	25,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	48,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	0.0%
Advocate (moved from Conference Administration)		139,000	139,000	139,000		
Committee Meetings	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (5)	119,900	146,500	146,500	285,500	285,500	94.9%
Sub-totals (A)						
1,987,660	2,137,660	2,207,150	2,346,035	2,389,035		8.2%
B. Other Conference Agencies						
Cabinet Emergency Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Archives & History						
1) Conference Archivist Contract	14,633	15,218	15,827	16,302	16,302	3.0%
2) Program & Administration	7,285	7,375	7,885	7,885	7,885	0.0%
Board of the Ordained Ministry						
1) Operations	57,450	53,350	55,250	62,550	62,550	13.2%
2) Formation in Ministry Programs	5,300	5,000	0	0	0	
3) Career Planning Programs	2,500	0	0	0	0	
Sub-totals (B)	129,668	132,443	130,462	138,237	138,237	6.0%
Total Conference Benevolences						
\$2,117,328	\$2,270,103	\$2,337,612	\$2,484,272	\$2,527,272		8.1%

Report No. 3

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

Fund	Budget for 2007	Budget for 2008	Requested for 2009	Recom- mended for 2009	% Change
1 Advocate (moved to Conf Benevolences)	143,000	150,000	0	0	100.0%
2 Contingency Fund	325,000	325,000	300,000	300,000	-7.7%
3 Journal Publication	75,500	75,500	75,500	75,500	0.0%
4 Ministers Book	8,350	6,125	6,125	6,125	0.0%
5 Director of Administrative Services Office					
Salaries	348,844	366,150	388,068	388,068	6.0%
Benefits	106,525	115,283	112,813	112,813	-2.1%
Operations	155,540	149,185	135,075	135,075	-9.5%
(Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)	(80,000)	(80,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	25.0%
6 Print Media Services	78,000	78,000	80,300	80,300	2.9%
7 Conference Expense Fund	152,500	152,500	152,500	152,500	0.0%
8 Administrative Committees	3,800	2,750	2,750	2,750	0.0%
9 Conference Secretary	41,750	44,360	44,360	44,360	0.0%
10 Methodist Center Trustees	25,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
11 Coordinator of Clergy Services	166,193	169,411	176,645	176,645	4.3%
12 General Conference Delegates	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	0.0%
13 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
TOTALS	\$1,566,002	\$1,600,264	\$1,460,136	\$1,460,136	-8.8%

Report No. 4

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2009 will be set at \$90,000.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$13,500) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2009 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
 - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
 - 2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
 - 3) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$3,500 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 15,000. The schedule for 2008 will be as follows:

	Membership	Amount
Anderson	15,408	\$3,500
Charleston	25,064	\$4,500
Columbia	31,602	\$5,200
Florence	19,559	\$4,000
Greenville	20,871	\$4,200
Greenwood	16,681	\$3,700
Hartsville	20,109	\$4,000
Marion	22,314	\$4,200
Orangeburg	18,810	\$3,900
Rock Hill	16,682	\$3,700
Spartanburg	16,935	\$3,700
Walterboro	15,715	\$3,600

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$144,000 for the total of all districts. This will be set at \$12,000 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$144,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is set at \$264,000 (\$22,000 per district), and continuing education at \$500 per superintendent.
 - 5) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved by the District Committee on Continuing Education prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.
- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.
- E. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund:

Recommended for 2009

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	% of District Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	\$10,000	\$46,000	\$56,000	0.009039
Charleston	15,000	15,000	30,000	0.003428
Columbia	7,000	37,000	44,000	0.003235
Florence	15,000	35,000	50,000	0.007575
Greenville	15,000	27,500	42,500	0.004618
Greenwood	15,000	15,000	30,000	0.004576
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	0.007248
Marion	50,000	30,000	80,000	0.008399
Orangeburg	8,000	36,000	44,000	0.007595
Rock Hill	10,000	27,000	37,000	0.005626
Spartanburg	20,000	25,000	45,000	0.006541
Walterboro	<u>15,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	0.010263
	\$165,000	\$336,000	\$557,500	

Report No. 5

- A. We call attention to the "Special Days" designated by the *Book of Discipline* and recommend that they be observed with appropriate free-will offerings and that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church.
- Human Relations Day – January 18, 2009
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 1, 2009
 - One Great Hour of Sharing – March 22, 2009
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 26, 2009
 - Peace with Justice Sunday – June 7, 2009
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 10, 2009
 - Work Day – September 13, 2009
 - Church school offering first Sunday each month
 - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 9, 2009
 - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 20, 2009
(youth offering)
 - World Communion Sunday – October 4, 2009
 - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 1, 2009
 - United Methodist Student Day – November 29, 2009
 - Global AIDS Awareness Sunday – December 6, 2009
- B. An offering may be taken to support the Bessie Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund as a part of the observance of Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 8, 2009.
- C. We offer the following recommendations:
- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.).
 - 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage.
 - 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in

the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate for 2009 when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$4.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for the evening meal.

- 4) That each charge place in its budget an amount of at least \$500 per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund, and that if the full amount is not used in a given year, the unused portion may be carried forward from year to year during the tenure of a pastor, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's continuing education allowance. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when there is a change of pastor. It is also recommended that the health insurance premium be paid by the local church directly to the Office of Ministerial Affairs; if it is done on a salary reduction basis, the amount must be included in the charge conference worksheet which itemizes compensation and benefits for 2009.
- 5) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 6) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 7) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2009 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. When a church has declined for two consecutive years in "net funds," the term "average net funds" shall mean the average of the last two years only; the first year net funds increases, a three-year average will be used, and the following year the normal four-year average. Newly organized churches will be treated in the same manner as other churches of the conference. A four-year average of net funds will be used, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero.
- 8) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 64 through 72 (inclusive) of Table II.
- 9) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table II statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table II reports for use in future year calculations.
- 10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 14, Report No. 1) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 11, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin College; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 15, Report No. 1) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.
- 11) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts up to \$7,500 from the Conference Contingency Fund to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 12) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of the Conference Council on Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

- 14) That the budgets of the Resource Center, Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 15) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference. The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2009, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 16) That local churches of the conference incorporate, as recommended in *The Discipline*. A packet of materials prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available from the district office to assist in this process. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

Report No. 6

A major reconstruction/repair project for the dam at Lake Junaluska was approved by the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and has been undertaken by the SEJ Council on Finance and Administration. By action of the SEJ, each member conference has been asked to raise \$.50 per member over a four year period. South Carolina's share would be approximately \$121,000, or \$30,250 per year. We ask each church within the South Carolina Conference to contribute \$.125 per member during 2009, based on the membership as reported in the 2005 Report to the Annual Conference (statistical report).

Report No. 7

Following is a listing of the 2007 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of 2008 apportionments.

District	2007	District	2007
Anderson	6,195,480	Hartsville	6,760,408
Charleston	8,750,465	Marion	9,525,409
Columbia	13,599,946	Orangeburg	5,793,338
Florence	6,601,072	Rock Hill	6,576,081
Greenville	9,203,028	Spartanburg	6,879,574
Greenwood	6,555,423	Walterboro	3,897,338

H. Samuel Johnson, President
D. Mitchell Houston, Vice-President
Paul Wood, Secretary
James H. Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer

Funds Summary

Conference Benevolences #500									
	Authorized Appointed Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
150 Archives & History/Administrative	2,320	2,320	2,570		1,123	1,197	7,579	0	9,026
152 Archives & History/Archivist	15,218	15,218	13,254		15,218	0	0	1,964	0
154 Archives & History/Program	3,508	3,508	3,853		1,867	1,641	5,513	0	7,499
225 Cabinet Emergency Fund	24,000	24,000	26,137	7,500	27,446	(3,446)	7,842	0	14,033
260 Board of Ministry (Operations)	42,680	45,960	46,480		47,862	(1,902)	9,147	0	7,765
262 Board of Ministry (Formation in Ministry)	4,000	4,000	4,355		3,292	708	10,951	0	12,014
264 Career Planning (Programs)	0	2,000	0		136	1,864	13,279	0	13,143
270 Committee on Episcopacy	1,200	1,200	1,307		846	354	2,447	0	2,908
272 Episcopal Residence	8,000	18,000	8,709	10,000	21,910	(3,910)	43,552	0	40,351
274 Bishop's Discretionary Fund	8,000	8,000	8,709		3,873	4,127	7,308	0	12,144
500 Council on Ministries (Operations I)	1,124,438	1,124,438	982,410		1,103,430	21,008	0	121,020	0
502 Council on Ministries (Operations II)	35,200	35,200	36,461		33,948	1,252	0	(2,513)	0
504 Communications/Electronics	44,000	44,000	47,918		39,177	4,823	59,838	0	68,579
505 CM Program Administration	64,000	64,000	69,701		51,118	12,882	1,933	0	20,516
510 Resource Center	28,000	36,000	30,496	8,679	32,132	3,868	4,382	0	11,425
515 Committee on Communications	1,200	1,200	1,307		233	967	2,061	(3,135)	0
517 Public & Media Relations	44,000	44,000	47,918	3,135	54,571	(10,571)	25,351	0	21,833
520 Church & Society/Program	3,500	3,500	3,810		885	2,615	0	(2,925)	0
525 CUIC/Program	1,088	1,088	1,184		85	1,003	0	(1,099)	0
530 Education/Program	32,728	32,728	33,347	4,100	23,479	9,249	0	(13,968)	0
535 Ethnic Local Church Concerns/Program	64,600	64,600	70,354	33	59,660	4,940	0	(10,727)	0
540 Evangelism/Program	3,536	3,536	3,849		4,710	(1,174)	0	861	0
545 Health & Welfare Ministries/Program	6,800	6,800	7,243		6,067	733	0	(1,176)	0
550 Laity/Program	11,108	11,108	11,360		8,011	3,097	0	(3,349)	0
555 Pastoral Care & Counseling/Program	17,000	17,000	18,514		10,628	6,372	0	(7,886)	0
560 Religion & Race/Program	1,360	1,360	1,479		0	1,360	0	(1,479)	0
565 Global Ministries/Program	210,760	210,760	230,793		209,210	1,550	0	(21,583)	0
570 Status & Role of Women/Program	2,040	2,040	2,220		1,319	721	0	(901)	0
575 Worship/Program	10,580	10,580	12,554		9,451	1,129	0	(3,103)	0
580 Disaster Response Committee	0	0	0		2,801	199	3,000	0	199
585 Youth Council/Program	32,516	32,516	34,890	67,636	119,711	(87,195)	0	17,185	0
591 Higher Ed & Campus Ministry/Program	7,769	7,769	8,458		7,738	31	0	(720)	0
595 Emerging Ministries	0	224,000	0		84,504		223,950	101,886	241,332
620 Conference Advance Specials	176,457	176,457	192,172	16,756	204,153	(27,696)	12,493	0	17,268
	\$2,031,606	\$2,281,886	\$1,963,812	\$101,083	\$2,190,594	(\$20,508)	\$440,626	\$168,362	\$500,035

Administration Fund #550 -

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
80 Advocate	143,000	143,000	121,060	0	121,060	21,940	0	0	0
101 Conference Expense Fund	152,500	160,000	129,037	5,400	171,808	(11,808)	77,044	0	39,673
103 Contingency Fund	325,000	325,000	274,965	237,465	35,837	289,163	100,000	(235,656)	340,937
105 Administrative Services	530,909	530,909	449,042	0	552,552	(21,643)	410,035	23,510	330,035
107 Council on Finance & Administration	2,500	2,500	2,309	0	1,279	1,221	1,023	0	2,053
110 Conference Secretary	41,750	41,750	35,353	0	35,691	6,059	0	338	0
112 Journal Publication	75,500	80,500	63,889	4,492	55,041	25,459	(10,895)	0	2,445
114 Minister's Book	8,350	9,850	7,010	488	391	9,459	37,599	0	44,706
116 Nominating Committee	500	500	419	0	0	500	2,137	0	2,556
118 Standing Rules	250	250	210	0	627	(377)	2,319	0	1,902
120 Conference Staff Relations Committee	240	240	244	0	1,431	(1,191)	4,303	0	3,116
120 Staff Relations Committee	300	300	253	0	499	(199)	3,117	0	2,871
135 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	5,600	5,600	5,877	0	0	5,600	25,739	0	31,616
140 General Conference Delegates	8,000	8,000	7,556	0	4,345	3,655	6,674	0	9,885
160 Methodist Center Trustees	20,000	169,700	21,189	149,533	173,993	(4,293)	70,659	0	67,388
180 Print Media Services	60,000	306,750	65,987	214,971	274,043	32,707	12,480	0	19,395
210 Coordinator of Clergy Services	168,000	168,000	140,633	0	158,575	9,425	0	17,942	0
	\$1,542,399	\$1,952,849	\$1,325,033	\$612,349	\$1,587,172	\$365,677	\$742,234	(\$193,866)	\$898,578

Other Apportioned Funds - January 18, 2008

	Authorized Apportioned Budget	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Appt Income	Other Income	Actual Expense	Variance to Budget	Beginning balance	Transfers	Current balance
District Administration	780,000	714,000	706,926	0	630,715	83,285	177,467	0	253,678
Campus Ministry	454,250	454,250	437,086	0	427,167	27,083	12,087	0	22,006
Equitable Compensation	275,000	425,000	258,356	21,816	542,225	-117,225	415,661	0	153,608
Dist. Supt's Salary	1,012,000	1,012,000	958,634	0	1,029,516	-17,516	0	70,882	0
Pension Fund	97,036	5,637,990	88,588	5,276,955	5,331,587	306,343	114,431	0	148,367
Health Insurance	2,005,456	9,984,665	1,830,450	7,703,467	9,000,000	984,665	252,153	0	786,070
Congregational Development		(allocated from 2006)							
Office Operations	253,111	253,111	206,611	0	209,585	43,526	38,842	0	35,868
Existing Churches			121,398	0	0	0	644	-122,000	42
Allocated			0	0	890,504	0	540,474	789,664	439,634
New Congregations			242,796	0	0	0	192,321	-327,669	107,448
Land Acquisition			133,567	0	0	0	469,463	-352,164	250,866
			704,372	0	1,100,089	43,526	1,241,744	-12,169	833,858

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS ON FUNDS BY DISTRICT**

COMPARISON THROUGH JANUARY 18, 2008 --

District	Total Apportioned	Total Paid	% Paid	Special Giving	% Pd of Askings
Rock Hill	\$1,233,780	\$1,202,872	97.5%	\$112,705	52.1%
Marion	1,689,312	1,588,485	94.0%	206,482	56.6%
Orangeburg	1,106,677	1,029,115	93.0%	98,670	38.0%
Columbia	2,519,489	2,275,250	90.3%	271,302	35.6%
Greenville	1,737,645	1,532,878	88.2%	119,879	34.6%
Greenwood	1,222,218	1,033,455	84.6%	132,270	40.7%
Hartsville	1,289,290	1,087,810	84.4%	115,143	40.3%
Anderson	1,216,683	1,015,995	83.5%	111,022	35.7%
Walterboro	733,842	608,034	82.9%	86,128	47.3%
Spartanburg	1,339,821	1,088,964	81.3%	68,885	42.6%
Charleston	1,627,906	1,285,059	78.9%	163,432	42.9%
Florence	1,263,928	991,033	78.4%	103,558	33.7%
Totals	\$16,980,591	\$14,738,950	86.8%	\$1,589,476	40.6%

COMPARISON THROUGH JANUARY 18, 2007 --

District	Total Apportioned	Total Paid	% Paid	Special Giving
Rock Hill	\$1,271,275	\$1,229,346	96.7%	\$87,755
Marion	1,647,183	1,527,955	92.8%	148,187
Greenville	1,802,506	1,591,853	88.3%	103,379
Orangeburg	1,130,289	984,043	87.1%	84,180
Columbia	2,562,461	2,229,050	87.0%	285,823
Charleston	1,624,109	1,383,646	85.2%	138,941
Greenwood	1,242,488	1,055,597	85.0%	96,474
Florence	1,249,751	1,039,210	83.2%	77,074
Spartanburg	1,389,162	1,149,474	82.7%	48,214
Hartsville	1,316,974	1,074,343	81.6%	98,308
Walterboro	738,557	589,947	79.9%	44,613
Anderson	1,268,873	980,777	77.3%	91,343
Totals	\$17,243,628	\$14,835,241	86.0%	\$1,304,291

*Jim Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer
January 18, 2008*

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS ON APPORTIONED FUNDS**

Comparison for the period January 17, 2007 through January 18, 2008

BUDGET --

No.	FUND	2006 BUDGETED	2006 PAID	%	2007 BUDGETED	2007 PAID	%	CHANGE
585	World Service	1,975,790	1,704,138	86.3%	2,055,145	1,783,509	86.8%	0.5%
500	Conference Benevolences	2,117,328	1,809,340	85.5%	2,268,957	1,968,058	86.7%	1.2%
210	Episcopal Fund	503,643	469,634	93.2%	529,256	497,230	93.9%	0.7%
220	District Superintendent's Salary	1,012,000	944,676	93.3%	1,011,010	945,650	93.5%	0.2%
240	Equitable Salary Fund	300,000	275,457	91.8%	274,706	255,205	92.9%	1.1%
255	Pens & Ins. Admin/Retiree Health	2,433,061	2,174,165	89.4%	2,100,357	1,885,258	89.8%	0.4%
100	District Administration	830,000	745,398	89.8%	779,192	699,637	89.8%	0.0%
111	District Parsonage/Office	432,000	375,711	87.0%	472,473	422,561	89.4%	2.4%
310	Senior College Scholarship Fund	1,374,825	1,133,301	82.4%	1,374,436	1,136,326	82.7%	0.3%
325	Spartanburg Methodist College	534,343	447,412	83.7%	533,821	452,972	84.9%	1.2%
330	Campus Ministry	511,637	428,145	83.7%	511,135	433,799	84.9%	1.2%
350	Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	638,446	534,604	83.7%	638,306	533,683	83.6%	-0.1%
375	Camps & Retreat Ministries	368,798	305,594	82.9%	368,675	311,735	84.6%	1.7%
385	Congregational Development	1,050,000	856,578	81.6%	1,049,732	872,236	83.1%	1.5%
550	Conference Administration Fund	1,342,218	1,101,812	82.1%	1,564,901	1,314,603	84.0%	1.9%
575	Jurisdictional Mission & Ministry	166,023	138,825	83.6%	165,921	140,876	84.9%	1.3%
590	General Conference Administration	173,549	145,229	83.7%	178,010	151,424	85.1%	1.4%
600	Ministerial Education	714,044	591,271	82.8%	708,025	593,688	83.9	1.1%
670	Interdenominational Cooperation	55,497	46,711	84.2%	54,818	46,801	85.4%	1.2%
710	Black College Fund	284,809	236,783	83.1%	282,091	237,799	84.3%	1.2%
715	Africa University Fund	63,754	55,777	87.5%	62,299	55,120	88.5%	1.0%
	TOTAL	\$16,881,765	\$14,520,561	86.0%	\$16,983,266	\$14,738,170	86.8%	0.8%

OTHER ASKINGS --

099	UM Center Addition		314,558	78.6%	400,000	367,366	91.8%	13.2%
576	Lake Junaluska Dam	400,000			30,210	22,466	74.4%	
	TOTAL	\$17,281,765	\$14,835,119	85.8%	\$17,413,476	\$15,128,002	86.9%	1.1%

*Jim Knowles-Tuell, Treasurer
January 18, 2008*

THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

It is indeed a time for celebration of the many accomplishments made during this 2004-2008 Quadrennium. We are proud of the Congregational Specialists who are working in the various districts, listening to churches express their excitement of having someone from the conference listen to their concerns and provide needed assistance. The chairpersons of boards and agencies are accepting greater responsibility for planning and implementing programs to assist local churches.

This quadrennium began with our desire to strengthen lay-clergy partnership in ministry. Therefore, the members of Connectional Ministries participated in a book study and discussion, "Reclaiming the Great Commission" by Bishop Claude E. Payne and Hamilton Beazley. For one year the members were encouraged to emphasize Bible Study, Prayer and discernment. This study provided us with a frame of reference to clarify our vision and mission statement of our annual conference.

Vision:

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

Purpose:

"to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God."

The Book of Discipline 2004 Page 351, p. 601

Process:

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

We welcomed Bishop Taylor as she shared her excitement about our ministries and the strength of our churches in the connection. She emphasized the need to do what ever we can to strengthen our connection by doing all things to God's glory.

The "Program Review Committee" has been restructured to include only the staff and executive committee to evaluate all programs, events, awards, line items and advanced specials.

Chairpersons of boards and agencies have been given more responsibilities in planning and providing ministry opportunities for local churches. These persons will receive training or information about their responsibilities as chairpersons.

The Grant Funding Committee has been very effective in being good stewards of our gifts by utilizing the internet and conference calls to complete its work. Funding requests are being made according to specific needs and if that need ceases to exist, those funds are reverted back to the general fund. Any funds not used at the end of the year are rolled into emerging ministries funds.

All grants that are available in the annual conference are listed on the web site with criteria and person to contact.

A position of Director of Communications was established to improve communications in our conference.

The districts are being provided training to assist local churches in developing "Safe Sanctuary Policy." Each local church is to have a policy by December 31, 2008.

As we prayerfully reflect on these accomplishments we look forward to continuing our restructuring process that will strengthen our local churches, encourage lay-clergy partnership and to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Earline Haywood-Ulmer, Chairperson

Report 2 – Part I Special Days for 2009

A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 18
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 25
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2009
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 1
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 8
Women's History Month	March 2009
World Day of Prayer	March 6
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 8
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 22
Religion in American Life Month (Worship)	April 2009
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 26
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2009
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2009
National Day of Prayer	May 7
Christian Family Week	May 4-10
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 24
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	June 7
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 4
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 18
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance in cooperation with the Children's Defense Fund	October 9-11
World Community Day (UMW)	November 6
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 8
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 29
World AIDS Day	December 6

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

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 15
Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 8
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 10
United Methodist Men's Day	June 21
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	August 9
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	September 13
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 20
SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday	November 1

Resources for 2009 Special Day Observances

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

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

Women in the Pulpit Sunday – The Commission on the Status and Role of Women publishes annually a *Women in the Pulpit Sunday* newsletter.

Mother's Day and Work Day for Epworth – Epworth Children's Home provides materials for this special day.

Golden Cross Sunday – Supports the work of health and welfare ministries in the annual conference, including nursing scholarships and emergency medical care scholarships.

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday – The Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries provides materials upon request for this special day.

Report 2 — Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2009

- Alston Wilkes Society:** *Provides offenders, former offenders, others, and their families the tools to become productive citizens.* Anne Walker, CCE, Executive Director, 3519 Medical Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 799-2490 Fax (803) 540-7223 www.alstonwilkessociety.org
sanneewalker@alstonwilkessociety.org
- Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** *Provides programs and resources for strengthening the Black Church.* Rev. Stephen Love, Director, P.O. Box 397, Bennettsville, SC 29512, (843) 479-4895 or (843) 479-8889, or (843) 862-5166, Fax (843) 479-2752, bcacm@localnet.com
- Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia:** *Provides a safe, nurturing, and Christ-driven program for children and their families.* Lena B. Stevenson, Executive Director, P.O. Box 4186, (2500 Elmwood Avenue) Columbia, SC 29240, (803) 254-8385 Fax (803) 254-4719
- Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg:** *Strengthens families physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, educationally, and intellectually.* Paula V. Wiggs, MSW, Executive Director, P.O. Box 3501, 397 Highland Ave., Spartanburg, SC 29304, (864) 582-7158, Fax (864) 582-0695, bcadm58@bellsouth.net
- Cooperative Ministry:** *Provides a way for religious congregations to respond to the needs of needy local and transient people.* Rev. Art Collier, Executive Director, 3821 West Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29204, (803) 799-3853 Fax (803) 252-8621, www.cooperativeministry.org
- Crisis Ministries-Anderson:** *Provides 24-hour crisis intervention and suicide prevention.* Al Watson, LISW, Executive Director, P.O. Box 1925, Anderson, SC 29622, (864) 226-0297 1-800-868-4878, www.crisisministriesprovidencecenter.org
- Grand Strand Leisure/Crisis Ministries:**
- Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center:** Strengthens individuals and families through counseling, programs, and consultations., Kathy T. Heustess, (843) 448-4820
 - Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach:** *Provides assistance to those in need in our communities.* Adrian Weatherwax, (843) 448-8451
 - North Strand Helping Hand:** *Provides assistance to those in need in our communities.* Ray Silcox, (843)399-0862
 - South Strand Helping Hand:** *Provides assistance to those in need in our communities.* Brad Thompson, (843) 238-4594
- Interfaith Community Services, Inc.:** *Provides training and technical assistance to organizations to respond to the needs of children.* Joanne T. Emerson. Director, P.O. Box 11570, 819 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC 29211-1570, (803) 252-8390 Fax (803) 799-1572
- Killingsworth:** *Provides a supportive community for women who have experienced crisis in their lives.* Rev. Diane Moseley, Executive Director, 1831 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 771-6359 Fax (803), 779-6473, corrie6359@aol.com, www.killingsworthhome.org
- Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry:** *Meets the religious and social needs of families visiting the Grand Strand.* Ron Carpenter, Coordinator, P.O. Box 1367 Myrtle Beach, SC 29578, (843) 448-7164
- Oliver Gospel Mission:** *Seeks to rescue men from bondage and to rebuild them to live fruitful lives.* Wayne Fields, Executive Director, 1100 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 7791, Columbia SC 29202, (803) 254-6470, Fax (803) 254-0590, ogm@oliverm.com, www.olivergospelmission.org
- Rural Mission, Inc.:** *Serves the Sea Islanders with children's programs, crisis assistance, and home repairs or new construction.* Linda D. Gadson, Executive Director, P.O. Box 235, Camp Care Road, Johns Island, SC 29457, Site Location: 3429 Camp Care Road, (843) 768-1720, lindagadson@aol.com, www.ruralmission.org
- South Carolina Christian Action Council:** *Various groups & congregations of the council focus their ministry together for a just and loving society.* Brenda L. Kneece, Executive

Minister, P.O. Drawer 3248, 4201 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29230-3248, (803) 786-7115, Fax (803) 786-7116, bkneece@sccouncil.net, www.sccouncil.net

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow): *Serving children's bodies, minds, and spirits.* Mary Lou Edens, Executive Director, PO Box 606, Abbeville, SC 29620, (864) 366-8517, Fax: (864) 366-4637, marylouumd@wctel.net

United Methodist Relief Center-Mount Pleasant: *Addresses housing needs of very low income families in the community.* Agency of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Ms. Pat Goss, Executive Director, 690 Coleman Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, (843) 884-4860, www.umrc.org

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission: *Serves the needs of communities around the world through short term missions.* Rev. Tony Rowell, Chairperson, 255 Beechwoods Drive, Lexington, SC 29072, (803) 359-2354, lolobobo@alltel.net

United Ministries of Greenville: *Provides life changing opportunities through employment, education, financial help, and case management.* Mr. Keith Trout, Director, 606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC 29601, (864) 232-6463, director@united-ministries.org, www.united-ministries.org

Wallace Family Life Center: *Enriches the lives of people in the Wallace community through educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs.* Maxzine Johnson, Director, P.O. Box 367, Old Wire Road, Bennettsville, SC 29512, (843) 479-7991

**For more detailed information,
please visit our website at www.umcsc.org.**

THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

One of the scripture verses displayed inside the entrance of The United Methodist Church Building on Capitol Hill comes from the book of the prophet Micah: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God" (6:8). This verse provides guidance for the ministries of your Board of Church and Society as we seek to serve in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize the need for those of us who are disciples of Jesus to speak prophetically on issues of church and society in our world today. While we cannot address every pertinent issue, we can speak forth the mind of God on those issues He impresses upon us.

We continue to be concerned with the predatory lending industry. While claiming to serve the needs of those persons with special economic conditions, we believe this industry exasperates the financial realities of those who are its customers. The interest rates charged by predatory lenders are unreasonably high and disastrous for those who take their loans. Therefore, we ask that you continue to follow through with the directives of the resolution adopted at our Annual Conference last year by contacting your representatives to let your voice be heard.

Our board has decided to spend this year focusing on the educational needs of the children of South Carolina. We are currently involved in some initiatives that we hope to present at Annual Conference. We are encouraged by all the ways that United Methodists in South Carolina are helping to ensure that our children receive not just a minimally adequate, but a quality education. Our board would appreciate your proposals of models for ministry local congregations can undertake with local schools. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children. Additionally, by our willingness to serve others without asking anything in return we advance the cause of Christ by enhancing opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Speaking out on social justice issues and evangelizing the lost are both necessary components of our ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ. When we actively work to alleviate the suffering in our world, our message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is more aptly received by those who need to hear the Gospel.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as the chair of this board for the last six years. I have done my best to guide this board to be prophetic without using pejorative language or being partisan or unnecessarily confrontational.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Scott H. Wachter, Chairperson

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Conference Board of Education's Vision is: To be a vital resource for churches in the South Carolina Conference, to bring fresh, workable, and enabling ideas and challenges to equip churches to be places of learning, spiritual growth, and service in our world, while celebrating and fostering diversity and inclusiveness in support of making disciples for the world.

Throughout the year the Board of Education has attempted to adjust to the transition from activities led by conference staff with participation by Board of Education members toward a working board with minimal support from conference staff. Youth and young adult ministries were removed from the board's purview prior to the August board meeting, leaving the board with the Children's Council, eChristianEd, Ministries with Families, Older Adult Council, and Singles Council. As indicated later, the Singles Council members chose to resign and disband the council prior to the February Board of Education meeting, and the Board of Education has declared the Singles Council defunct. Sentiment of continuing board members is that a singles ministry is needed and that a new board should undertake to reorganize the Singles Council or similar singles ministry.

The board provided scholarships equal to 80 percent of the registration fee for Bible study training offered by Upper Room Ministries (Companions in Christ) and Cokesbury (Disciple, Christian Believer, etc.). It also facilitated obtaining the site for one of those training events.

Board members also participated in planning for implementation of the Safe Sanctuaries resolution. That effort was spearheaded and fully supported by Willie Teague and the Council on Connectional Ministries.

The Board of Education heard reports from the Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries at each meeting and commended the board for its stewardship and plans for the future. The BOE also approved the nominees to the Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries.

A board that meets only twice a year with members mainly outside Richland County will continue to struggle so long as adequate conference staff resources are not provided. At a time when Cokesbury has reduced its training events and Christian education is so important in the local church, we believe that the board should be in a better position to be a leader in knowing, understanding, and informing local churches and district superintendents about effective Christian education materials and teaching methods at all age levels, and with the present resources available to the board, that is extremely challenging if not impossible.

A new quadrennium will bring new members, a new chairperson, and a fresh approach to dealing with the responsibilities of the Board of Education.

We thank all members of the Board of Education for their faithful work this year and single out for special thanks the leaders of the councils: Dawn Compton, Ruth Arant, Will Malambri, Bart Sistare, Betty Shuler, and Vicki O'Brien, our congregational specialist Kathy James, our vice-chairperson Kevin Dalton, and our recording secretary Carol Singletary.

We thank and praise God for the extensive and effective efforts of the council chairpersons and their colleagues that made so many ministries and programs so successful this year. We are optimistic that the Board of Education indeed will be effective as it moves forward through the transition.

J. William Click, Chairperson

THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This year has been a year of reorganization, refocus, and rededication for Council on Children's Ministries. Our council had not been active for a few years. This year the Chairperson approached the District Superintendents for guidance in securing new district representatives to serve on the council in addition to the few members at large who were still willing to serve. We are still working on locating representatives for some of the districts and are aware that a primary focus for additional representatives needs to be locating minority representatives and male representatives. We hope that in the upcoming year we will be able to fill all Children's Council positions with a diverse group of people who love children and are working together to help local churches in their ministry with children.

In our reorganization, the council decided to focus on two main issues this year. The first

focus area was **Vacation Bible School Training**. We scheduled six trainings throughout the conference. After publicity began on these, we learned of a seventh training in Orangeburg that the district was hosting and we offered our support for that training and intend to include the people working there in any Vacation Bible School trainings offered next year. We believe this was a good place to start in meeting the needs of local congregations. Our focus was on the *Beach Party* theme from Cokesbury, and we realize that we did not address any training in the multicultural Vacation Bible School literature from Cokesbury. We intend to continue discussion about this in the upcoming year so that we can be more inclusive in any upcoming training events.

The second focus area was that of communicating **resources local churches can use** in their children's ministries. We worked on creating a listing of websites, books and other resources that churches might find helpful. We are working on turning this list into a brochure the Congregational Specialists will be able to distribute as well as posting the information on the Conference website. We intend to constantly add to this list as we learn of helpful new resources in children's ministries as well as finding new ways to share this information with local churches.

The Conference Children's Council is made up of people who love children and desire for all children to know God's love. In the work of the council, we are dedicated to finding ways to help local congregations in their ministry with children. We are dedicated to living out Jesus' instruction: "*Let the little children come to me...*" (Luke 18:16)

Dawn Compton, Chairperson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP

The South Carolina Chapter of the Christian Educators Fellowship continues to be an active support group for Christian educators in the conference, providing resources, nurture, training, and a network of persons serving in the areas of Christian education. Continuing education programs are planned twice a year, and persons attending both events receive 1 CEU.

In January 2007 Dr. Don Jones, Associate Chair of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina, spoke on Gnosticism in the New Testament followed by a discussion of its influence on the religious culture of today. In August 2007 Christian educators met to explore children's ministry resources with a presentation by Dawn Compton on the cultural influences on children's curriculum. The Milk and Honey Cooking School, led by three CEFers, helped us learn about biblical history through cooking and eating. What a great way to learn the history of the Bible! CEF also cosponsored storyteller Tracey Radosavic on the topic of Communicating at All Ages, using technology in Christian Education.

In October 2007 the South Carolina, North Georgia, and South Georgia CEF Chapters teamed up for a retreat at Camp Glisson in Dahlonaga, Georgia. Rev. James H. Ritchie Jr., Ed.D., pastor, educator, musician, and writer, led the Christian educators in exploring the sacredness of our calling in the ordinary life. It was a great time of personal and spiritual renewal.

For more information about the SC chapter, refer to the Web site at www.trinityanderson.com and click on U Methodist Church and then on SC CEF.

Ruth Arant, President

eChristianEd™

The eChristianEd web based online Christian education course continues to grow in South Carolina. For the year 2007, 40 students were enrolled in the courses. Of the 40, 26 were Columbia College students and 14 were persons working in churches. Students taking the courses who also are working in local churches are seeking more knowledge in the area of Christian education.

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church has approved this program, which is designed for anyone interested in biblical, theological, and

practical training in Christian education. By completing all six courses, students may receive certification at a Para-professional in Christian education. The courses include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2 Foundational Courses: | Biblical and Theological Foundations for Ministry
Foundations for Christian Education |
| 4 Advanced Courses: | Children's Ministries
Youth Ministries
Adult Ministries
Family Ministries |

At the 2007 Annual Conference, three students received certification as Para-professionals: Meg Jiunnies of Central UMC, Florence; Lou Jordan of St. Paul UMC, Florence; and Dianna Flake, St. Andrews Parish, North Charleston.

Please spread the word about this great educational program! Your churches will benefit from the education your staff will receive. For more information, go to www.eChristianEd.com.

Ruth H. Arant, S.C. Liaison

THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES

This is a banner year for the Council on Ministries with Families. For nearly five years we have been laying the foundation for what we believe will be a new day for ministry with families in our Annual Conference. Led by Dr. Roland Martinson, we have developed four comprehensive areas that will offer support to the congregations who invite in our Local Church Facilitators. These facilitators will begin their training this year as they prepare to enter congregations with discerning spirits and faithful leadership. The facilitators will not impose any preconceived program. Rather, they will listen to the congregation's concerns, celebrate their successes, and offer tailored support for that particular context. The support will be born out of the four areas of emphasis: Storytelling, Interacting with Integrity, Healing and Restoration, and The Baptismal Journey.

The year 2007 was significant in getting us to this point, as we concluded our fourth training with Dr. Martinson (Baptismal Journey) and began developing the concept of Local Church Facilitators. We also set the stage for the March 1, 2008, comprehensive event with Dr. Martinson that will review the four areas of emphasis and begin the training process for the facilitators.

The Council on Ministries with Families is excited to have grown to this point and we are eager to empower and employ Local Church Facilitators into action. All who would like to be part of the Council, to be trained as a facilitator, or would like their congregation to be supported by a facilitator, should contact one of the Council members. Council members include: Ms. Rubielee Addison, Rev. Steve Brown, Ms. Fran Elrod, Mr. Francis Hipp, Ms. Kathy James, Ms. Robin Landers, Rev. Will Malambri, Ms. Doris Seals, Ms. Carol Singletary, and Rev. Bart Sistare.

Rev. Will Malambri and Rev. Bart Sistare, Conveners

THE COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

Providing opportunities for older adults to be in ministry together is one facet of the purpose of the Council on Older Adult Ministries. As an advocate for all older adults in the South Carolina Conference, we plan activities designed to inspire, enrich, and equip older adults to be in ministry with one another as they serve God through serving their fellow beings.

The Spiritual Life Retreat serves as a time of renewal, inspiration, and Christian fellowship. Dr. George Mathison, pastor of Auburn UMC in Auburn, Alabama, was the leader in 2008. "Victorious Living" was the retreat's theme and Dr. Mathison's messages revitalized our enthusiasm, assisted us in recognizing the fears that inhibit, revealed the keys that lead to victorious living, and emphasized the importance of prayer in a victorious life. Three hundred thirty-eight older adults attended the retreat.

A special Ash Wednesday Service was led by Rev. A.V. Huff, one of our Council members. The participants enjoyed music and recreational activities. Scholarships are available to those who need assistance to attend the retreat.

In keeping with the focus on the local church, we sponsor a **Mission Event** each year. In 2007 our mission was with the small membership churches on the Orange Circuit in Orangeburg District. Nineteen older adults from across the Conference worked together with older adults from those churches to paint, lay linoleum, install cabinets, lavatories, counter tops, install handicapped commodes, and build ramps to make the sanctuaries accessible to everyone. While many of these tasks required skill, any of us could do tasks like sweeping and light cleaning. Friendships were developed as we worked for and with these church members to make needed repairs to their buildings.

Participation in the **Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength Program** is in recession since the close of the Duke Endowment Caring Communities Grant. However, materials are available and the Council will assist any churches who wish to begin this program. Eleven pairs of churches have completed the program and several groups still meet at various times.

The Council consists of two persons from each district, six at-large members, and seven ex officio members, including representatives from the four retirement communities.

We are grateful for the support of the South Carolina Conference in making it possible for our older adults to be a viable group in the Conference.

Betty C. Shuler, Chairperson

THE DIVISION ON MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Division on Ministries with Young People began its year with a group of youth, young adults, and adults attending the first ever Global Gathering of the Division on Ministries with Youth People in Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition to Worship experiences and plenary sessions, the group toured Aids facilities, Nelson Mandela's home and the museum that shares the story of Africa and the struggle for independence.

Youth Network

The Youth Network began its 2007 year with retreats...1 at Lake Junaluska and 4 at Springmaid Beach. These Spiritual Life Retreats continue to be a highlight in the life of the youth across the South Carolina Conference. Each year hundreds of youth and adult workers attend these retreats that move youth beyond youth ministry on the local church level to being a part of the Connectional Church.

The next event was the Basketball Tournament held in Columbia in 2007. W. Timothy McClendon was the preacher for the Sunday morning service and the Spirit Singers provided the music leadership for the Worship Service. Basketball Teams from across South Carolina were a part of this tournament.

The Washington Seminar with the theme on Immigration was another highlight of the year. Forty-six persons were a part of this seminar. These forty-six persons were an inclusive group representing the SC Conference. A lively discussion on the Immigration topic was held. The Worship experiences in the Chapel were exceptional.

An early morning visit to the Day Workers site in Maryland was deeply appreciated by the group. This was the second time a seminar group from SC had visited this group and were greatly impressed with the extent of work that had been done to make sure these workers were treated fairly and had good positions when they left the site. The first visit that the SC group made was in a parking lot. It was wonderful to see the building and the workers at the new site.

The Spirit Singers continue to be a blessing to this Conference. This group of 32 persons sang throughout the Conference. And in 2008, this group will be on a Mission Trip to Italy singing in different sites in Italy. Under the direction of Kathy Jo Long, Accompanist, Beth Lewallen, and the Deans, Scott and Liz Smith, this group continues to grow in their faith and in their witness.

Youth Annual Conference was held at Spartanburg Methodist College in 2007. What a delightful group to work with on the SMC campus. The youth network group for 2007-2008 were selected during interviews. Selected as Co- Chair persons were: Kayla Mullins and Detwain Scott; selected to serve on the Leadership Team were: Ariel Snow, Benji Spivey, Bryan Tucker, Chris Suggs, Detwain Scott, Elizabeth Sharpe, Hannah Williams, John Garrison, Katherine Haselden, Kayla Mullins, Kelcy McCray, Kelsey Taylor, Meredith Kidd, Tevin Johnson, and Wyatt Minton, IV. This group has been faithful in leading the youth of the South Carolina Conference during 2007-2008.

A Leadership group from the SC Conference was a part of Youth 2007 held in Greensboro in July of 2007. This was a faith forming event in all of our lives.

The Mission Possible Team of 12 from South Carolina worked with the children in Rio with the leading of Marion and Anita Way. Marion and Anita Way are retired missionaries from the SC Conference. The youth from Brazil spent two weeks in the South Carolina Conference. The team was led by Sonia Ortigoza and Lee McMillan.

The Youth Network group spent a weekend at Ashland UMC putting together the program for the coming year. During the weekend, the Youth Network wrote scripts to be made into videos for Lifted and Spiritual Life Retreats. Our thanks to the Media Bunch for giving their time and expertise to the SC youth to film these videos.

The Youth Network Group ended the year with two Spiritual Life Retreats at Springmaid Beach. They were challenged by both speakers, Bill Gravel and Tom Tufts, to live their faith in a world that is in need of persons to live as Jesus lived.

*Kayla Mullins, Co-Chair
Detwain Scott, Co-Chair*

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Are you between the ages of 18 to 30 years old? Do you feel that you have a place to belong in your local church? Can you remember the days when you went to church each Sunday and enjoyed the ministry that was being offered?

I can remember attending church and loving my Sunday school teacher. I appreciated and received so much from the lessons she taught. As I went through my teen years, I enjoyed church because it gave me an opportunity to go church, see friends, and most importantly, grow spiritually with Christ.

As I college student, I attended various churches around the state of South Carolina. I do recall attending many churches and not having a place to belong. The churches were very welcoming but did not relate to my age group or me. Many churches had ministries that focused on children, older adults, and adults that were over 30 years old.

Young adults (between the ages of 18-30) are yearning for a place to belong in church.

It is young adults who go to church all their lives and just one day decide they are too old to be a part of youth group, but too young for "senior" adult Sunday school" or other ministries.

It is young adults who just graduated from high school or college and need ministries and programs that teach how to handle finances, the workforce, how to be a young adult in church.

The young adult ministry has multiple categories where ministries are needed. After a recent meeting and survey, young adults would like to see ministries on prayer life, belonging in local churches, and how to worship as young adults.

Young adult ministry has such a broad age range from 18-30. There are young adults that further their education and those who go straight into the workforce. Many young adults are single, in serious relationships, or are married with children.

The wants and needs for young adults are going to be different as we grow in our walk with Christ.

The Division on Ministries with Young People has a young adult council (YAM net) for all young adults across the state. Our vision is to help young adults stay in their local churches and find ways to help our churches grow.

The YAM net is starting a model in the Columbia and Rock Hill districts that focus on young adults. The Columbia District will hold socials and meetings starting in September 2008, January, March, and June of 2009. For more information concerning young adult ministry in the Columbia district contact Joel McMakin at Joel.Mcmakin@unionunitedmethodist.org.

The Rock Hill District young adult ministry is being conducted by the Rev. Narcie Jeter, contact her at winthropwesley@gmail.com

It is true that the youth people are the future. We must start now so we may continue to have growth and spread the love of God for young adults. We are working on starting a young adult movement in the state of South Carolina. For more information, contact Angela Johnson, chairperson of YAMnet at angelarenee.johnson@gmail.com

Angela Renee Johnson, Chair

THE SINGLES COUNCIL

The last three standing members of the Singles Council have discussed the future of the Singles Council and have concluded that the three of us do not have the energy to revive the council. The restructure of Conference staff seems to have left us without any support from the Conference. Therefore, we are tendering our resignations.

The chairperson joined the Council in 1987 when the Council received no financial or leadership support from the Conference. Eventually, with the help of Bishop Bethea and a member of the Finance Committee, we were brought under the financial sponsorship of the Conference. For years, we received valuable leadership support from June Willson and later Sidelle Derrick. Sidelle brought renewed energy to the council and we were able gain ground at planning programs ahead of the budget cycle. The chairperson realizes that the thinking is that the council should be able to be run with a minimum of support from the Conference, but in the "real world" that is hard to do when all the members have families, full time jobs, and local church obligations. Plus, members of the council live in different sections of the state. Conference staff also has information about speakers and music leaders that most lay members do not possess. Having a Conference staff member at most meetings reiterates to the council members that their work on the council is important to the Conference.

The three of us hope that the Singles Council will be revived at some point because we have each experienced how much good can be accomplished through the programs. Please feel free to contact us if you need any information about the council.

Vicki O'Brien, Convener

YOUTH WORKER MOVEMENT

The South Carolina YouthWorker Movement is a membership organization of adults who work in youth ministry. It provides a statewide conference network that connects people for the purpose of supporting their ministries in youth work and improving congregational youth ministry in the United Methodist Church.

In line with the new Division on Ministries with Young People, the group serves as the Adult Network Group of adults who work with youth and young adults. We are affectionately known as the AdNet (Adult Network), working with the YNet (Youth Net), and YAMNet (Young Adult Network).

At our by-monthly resource meetings, program topics for the year have included several areas of interest.

- (1) "How Can YouthWorkers Set Personal and Professional Boundaries?" This program was led by Dr. Alison Evans, Licensed Professional Counselor, member of St. Luke UMC in Hartsville, South Carolina.
- (2) "South Carolina Camps and Retreats Ministry." This program was led by Rev. Jody Oates, South Carolina's new Camps and Retreats Director.
- (3) "CyberSafety in Ministry." This program was led by Rev. Shelly Holder and Suzy Speas and gave practical information to youth workers regarding the safe sanctuary aspect of the internet in ministry.

As well, many South Carolina United Methodist Youth Workers from around the Annual Conference have put in numerous volunteer hours for the variety of programs our conference does with the Division on Ministries with Young People. These programs include Youth Annual Conference, 6 Spiritual Life Retreats (both at Myrtle Beach and Lake Junaluska), Mission Possible, Washington Seminar, Conference Youth Choir, Young Adult events, among others.

As we continue the work of youth ministry in the South Carolina Annual Conference, know that United Methodist youth in our Annual Conference are being transformed and trained through the events of this Annual Conference.

Shelly Holder, Chair

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board strives to be a source and provider of information regarding resources for local churches in South Carolina regarding programs and ideas in the area of evangelism. As a part of the review process in considering programs currently offered, the Board received some factual information early in the year about Natural Church Development. The booklet, "ABC's of Natural Church Development" outlines eight identified characteristics. One of these characteristics is "need-based evangelism." An insert was placed in the *United Methodist Advocate* by the Council on Ministries about "NCD Helps Churches to Focus" in January, 2007 – *Connx*).

The Board proposed to continue the Five-Star Award and the Denman Evangelism Recognition this year. Each year one clergy and one lay person are selected from the applications for the Denman Recognition. The recipients in 2007 were The Reverend H. John Cribb, Clergy; and Mr. John Willis, Jr. from St. James UMC, Sumter, SC, Laity. In 2007, there were 27 recipients of the Five-Star Award. Recipients this year will be announced during the 2008 session of the Annual Conference as well as at the breakfast held in honor of these accomplishments.

Each year the Board continues to strive to project budgetary needs accurately and prudently. The Board intentionally set out to find creative ways to disseminate information as inexpensively as possible. Cards were mailed announcing the deadlines for awards and recognitions and the applications and forms were placed online for those who have internet access. Those needing forms to be mailed could certainly request that option also.

The Bishop's B.A.S.H. was held at Lexington United Methodist Church on March 15, 2008. This is quite an informative day for the confirmands, parents, chaperones, and youth leaders. It provides an opportunity for confirmands to meet with and get to know Bishop Taylor as well as learn about The United Methodist Church.

The Board is deeply grateful to Bishop Taylor, the Cabinet, the Reverend Jim Arant and Frank Deese for their support and assistance throughout the year.

*Rufus Foster, Chairperson
Sandra Stevens Poirel, Secretary*

THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Conference Board of Global Ministries has gone through a year of great change as we have continued to work with the Connectional Ministries in equipping our local churches for mission and ministry in the world. We have restructured the Board, developing standing committees for mission education, promotion of Advance Special Ministries, promotion of and education about the grant funding areas of CBGM (the James M. Belin Trust, Church Extension Partnership, and Hungrief), volunteer support ministries, and promotion of special ministries (e.g. Spartanburg Methodist College). We have formed task groups to help our conference increase support of Hungrief/Hunger Ministries, Church Extension Partnership, and Advance Special Ministries.

The CBGM also participated in the Bishop's "Great Day of Service" at Annual Conference.

Following the action of the 2007 Annual Conference, the District Mission Secretaries from each district are now part of the CBGM in an advisory role. (Current membership of the CBGM is 38.) Training for the DMS's was held in the fall. Further training is being planned for the fall of 2008.

The CBGM will be planning 4 area mission fair weekends in the Fall of 2008 and Winter of 2009. These will be designed to help local churches see the connection between our worship and our mission work.

During the year, the CBGM made the following grants:

From the James M. Belin Trust-

Ebenezer UMC, Hartsville District- \$5,000 for a senior adult program

United Methodist Relief Center-Georgetown, Marion District- \$15,000 for a housing program

Landrum UMC, Spartanburg District- \$10,000 for a community meals program

Dunean UMC, Greenville District- \$6,000 for an after-school tutoring program

Toxaway UMC/Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT, Anderson District- \$5,000
St. Paul UMC, Florence District- \$5,000
St. Paul UMC, Hartsville District- \$3,500
St. James UMC, Marion District- \$10,560
Mt. Nebo UMC, Orangeburg District- \$5,000
Mt. Carmel UMC, Orangeburg District- \$2,000

From Hungrief Funds-

God's Helpers, Camden, Hartsville District- \$1,277 for food for senior citizens
Wallace Family Life Center, Bennettsville, Marion District- \$1,277 for breakfast and lunch programs
Eau Claire After-School program, Columbia, Columbia District- \$800 for afternoon meals for students
Mt. Zion UMC, Florence District- \$1,400
Dunean UMC, Greenville District- \$500
Orangeburg Circuit UMC, Orangeburg District- \$900

From Church Extension Partnership-

Mt. Sinai UMC, Anderson District (Advent Call, 2006)- \$4,600
New Hope UMC, Hartsville District (Lenten Call)-\$5,000
Sandy Grove UMC, Hartsville District (Conference Call)-\$3,348

From the Renfro Trust (SEJ)-

St. John UMC, Florence District- \$1,500 for church repair
St. Luke UMC, Greenville District- \$3,000 for church repair

Guidelines and applications for the Belin Trust, Hungrief, and Church Extension Partnership may be found online at www.umcsc.org, and for the Renfro Trust by writing Renfro Trust Fund, P.O. Box 237, Lake Junaluska NC 28745

We would like to thank Margie Wilkie, Mary Lou Edens, Joseph Lloyd, Willie Key, Carolyn Little, and Angelin Simmons for their work on the CBGM. Especially we would like to thank Margie Wilkie and Mary Lou Edens for their leadership of the CBGM over the past few years. We would also like to thank Ms. Millie Nelson, Ms. Tammy Fulmer, and the Rev. Willie Teague for their invaluable help over the past year.

We invite any persons in the annual conference who may be interested in helping to develop our Hungrief/Hunger Ministries to contact the Reverend Ellis White, Jr. (122 Durham Creek Court, Columbia, SC 29229, office phone-803/776-8977, e-mail- EWhite7748@aol.com).

Michael B. Henderson, Chair

THE COMMUNITIES OF SHALOM

The Communities of Shalom initiative began as a response to the conditions that impelled, and the aftermath of, the Los Angeles rioting in 1992. An original Community of Shalom was created in Los Angeles. The model has been replicated throughout the United States and around the world.

The Biblical understanding of shalom (Hebrew word for peace), is not merely the absence of conflict but everything that makes for people's highest good. It works toward hope and wholeness in which people, individually and collectively, experience health, prosperity, security, oneness with nature, and spiritual renewal. In John 14:27, *Jesus, in one of his final moments with his disciples, offers peace....not as the world gives but as God gives* (NRSV). Shalom is the transforming power of God at work through the church in individuals and the community.

Through the power of God, Communities of Shalom works for spiritual renewal, community economic development, and healthy communities. The prophet Jeremiah said: "*Seek the shalom of the community for it is in its shalom that you will find your shalom.*" Jeremiah 29:7 (NRSV)

The model has been replicated throughout the United States and around the world. The Shalom movement is on the loose and training for Communities of Shalom has taken place in more than forty annual conferences, as well as Central Conferences and autonomous church locations in Southern and West Africa. Communities of Shalom are committed to:

- Renewing the spirit of God in communities and congregations
- Developing the prosperity and economies of communities

- Strengthening relationships among neighbors
- Improving community health care and coordination of services

On October 23, 2007, it was announced that the Communities of Shalom would be housed at Drew University Theological School Madison, New Jersey. Drew will support and develop Shalom as a national network, and Global Ministries will continue as a partner.

The South Carolina Annual Conference has thirty-one Communities of Shalom sites. These sites represent the ethos and ingenuity of what makes Shalom important and impactful throughout the state of South Carolina. They demonstrate what is possible when the will of the people converge with the opportunity to create change with God's help: transformation takes place. Whether tutoring youth and children or assisting the elderly, from rehabilitating homes or empowering lives through job training and computer training, health care awareness and initiatives, Communities of Shalom are doing great things in challenging times.

We celebrated our 13th Annual Communities of Shalom Celebration, February 29- March 1, 2008 in Columbia, under the theme, **"The Power of Touch."** The Reverend Rudy Rasmus of St. John's Downtown United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas was the guest speaker. Dr. Michael Christensen, National Director of Communities of Shalom, was present and shared with us the partnership and direction of Shalom. Touch shops were held covering the following topics: Parenting, Faith Based Health Outreach, Angel Food Ministry, Grant Writing, South Carolina Respite Coalition and for the Youth, Gang Awareness and Prevention. We were truly "touched" by God and one another.

We give thanks to Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and the South Carolina Annual Conference for the continued support of the largest group of Communities of Shalom in the world. South Carolina's finest. To God be the glory!

Ellis White, Chairperson

SHALOM LITERACY MINISTRY

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

This outreach ministry has brought many children outside their community to participate in learning experiences at United Methodist colleges, youth rallies, and special events. We have worked with parents so that they can become self-sustainable through GED and ESL programs.

Grant opportunities and technical support for after-school programming have continued through this office providing funds and assistance to local churches and United Methodist institutions. The conference was awarded for its outstanding efforts in after-school programming by the SC AfterSchool Alliance.

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



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

Robin P. Landers, Program Coordinator

THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

"Get Ready for Anything, Anywhere, and Any Time"

The South Carolina Annual Conference's Disaster Response Committee seeks to empower the local and district settings to prepare themselves for disasters yet to come. Preparation continues to be the key for surviving the various storms and other disastrous events that may arise. There is no such thing as being "too prepared". The American Red Cross reminds us that we must "get ready for anything, anytime, anywhere".

District and local church Disaster Response Coordinators are reminded to stay abreast of disaster response trainings in their areas and to take advantage of all training events. It is also urgent to build connections with the local town, city, and county disaster response teams. These counterparts will be significant and essential resources for our local churches and communities.

The Conference Disaster Response Committee is presently updating the Disaster Response Plan. Leaders have met throughout the past months to improve the Plan, and will be meeting in the near future to review the document. We are grateful for the **Team Effort Covenant** that has been established between UMCOR and UMVIM in this regard. With the renewed Covenant, both of these groups can more effectively serve the people who are impacted by disasters.

The Covenant was established by UMCOR and UMVIM on February 7, 2007 at Mt. Sequoyah (Fayetteville, Ar). "The goal of this consultation is to clarify the roles of the perspective disciplines of UMCOR and UMVIM, and of the Disaster Response Coordinators of the annual conferences; and to develop collaboration in responding to requests for assistance in disaster areas".

As the work of the South Carolina Annual Conference's Disaster Response Committee continues to update the Plan, all churches are reminded to support the **One Great Hour of Sharing** held in March of each year. Funds received from this special offering are used to assist communities at the beginning of a disaster. As we continue to prepare ourselves to do the ministry to which we have been called, let us call each other for support and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee C. Bines, Chair

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Spartanburg Methodist College and the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church continue to work in partnership together as we carry out our mission and ministry in higher education. The College is most grateful for the financial support we receive from the Conference through apportionment giving. This support is used in two very important ways: First, Conference support is distributed to worthy and qualified students in the form of scholarships; and second, Conference resources are allocated to support our religious life program. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Candice Sloan, uses her budget to support a wide variety of religious life programs, to make it possible for students to participate in service teams in the local community, to provide worship opportunities, and to enable students to participate in mission trips during the spring semester. The College is very grateful for the Conference's investment in our mission and your prayers of support for our work.

The lifeblood of colleges and universities resides in student enrollment. When the Reverend Dr. David English Camak, founder of Textile Industrial Institute, the forerunner of Spartanburg Methodist College, opened the Institute in 1911, he did so with great anticipation

that many students would eagerly enroll. However, at the appointed time when the Institute began, only one student came to enroll, and he did not return the next day. For most persons, this would be sufficient reason to cast away the dream of starting an institution to educate workers on the mill-hills in Spartanburg County. With the patience of Job and the determination to make a positive difference in the lives of those in his church and in the mill hill communities, Dr. Camak pressed forward and enrollment soon began to grow. Although there have been years with low enrollment and years with high enrollment, the College has continued its mission as if divinely ordained by God. Our motto testifies to this very point: *Deus Providet* (God provides). Indeed, God has provided for the College when all external indicators pointed to failure. As my colleagues and I continue to carry out the mission of the College, the spirit of Dr. Camak continues to inspire us. Today, we are at a high point in enrollment as the 2007 fall semester opened with 797 students.

One of the hallmarks of Spartanburg Methodist College is the historic tradition to admit qualified students even if they do not have sufficient financial resources to pay for their education. Financial resources come from many sources to assist students with their financial obligations, including: Federal financial resources (such as the PELL Grant) and federal loan programs (such as the Stafford Loan program); State financial resources (such as the LIFE Scholarship, the Tuition Grants Award, and the Lottery Scholarship); gifts from friends of the College who establish endowed scholarships; resources from the College's endowment; and the support we receive from the apportionment gifts from churches throughout the South Carolina Annual Conference. Because we are a mission institution, we are the only United Methodist College in South Carolina that reports to the Annual Conference through the Board of Global Ministries. This uniqueness is a reflection of our mission, a mission that finds ways to support qualified students who do not have sufficient financial resources to pursue their academic goals at the collegiate level.

Another hallmark of Spartanburg Methodist College is our commitment to leadership and service. On their first full day on campus each fall, the freshman class is divided into service teams and assigned to various service projects throughout the greater Spartanburg area. Members of the faculty, staff, administration, and volunteers from the community are assigned to student teams to participate in this ministry of service to those in need. Upon returning to the campus, the teams eat lunch together and talk about their experiences. The Freshman Day of Service teams stay together in our SMC 101 Freshman Year Experience class. Often the students bond into a small community that supports one another academically and socially. The College uses the Freshman Day of Service experience to promote leadership skills among students. With no competition from juniors and seniors, our students can immediately assume positions of leadership under the guidance of faculty and/or staff sponsors. Opportunities to serve in leadership positions at Spartanburg Methodist College come in diverse ways, including: the Student Government Association, the College Ambassadors, choral groups, athletic teams, Residence Hall Assistants, and religious organizations. We take this component of our mission very seriously because the student leaders of today will soon become adult leaders in the 21st Century.

The College is in the final stages of developing a ten-year Strategic Plan. The Plan will enable the College systematically to review our mission statement and, if necessary, amend it. The Plan will include a concise Strategic Statement to guide all institutional planning. It will assist us as we develop annual and long-range Institutional Goals. The Strategic Plan will assist the College to develop a "brand" identity, provide guidelines for future capital campaigns, focus our energy on the recruitment and retention of qualified students, and give us the opportunity to allocate our limited resources in ways that will promote student growth and development. Students are and will continue to be at the center of our mission in higher education.

As the only two-year regionally accredited institution in South Carolina, we take great care to educate and nurture the mind, body, spirit, and soul of our students. We shall continue to journey hand-in-hand with our students in our common pilgrimage of faith. Indeed, the need is great, our mission is solid, and our future is bright. As we approach our 100th Anniversary in 2011, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the South Carolina Annual Conference as we serve students entrusted to us for an education.

Charles Teague, President

THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

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

Cora Taylor chairs the sub-committee on Golden Cross. One of our goals is to make Golden Cross a more visible ministry to our churches. Because of your gifts to Golden Cross, we were able to award four health care scholarships in the amount of \$4,000. We awarded three grants for medical assistance in the amount of \$3,600. We received \$20,894 for the year 2007 and \$2,297 for January and February 2008, from local churches in the conference for Golden Cross. We also received \$1,441.86 from the Williams-Walker Trust Fund. We encourage all of our churches to remember Golden Cross Sunday, the first Sunday in February. It is through your donations that we are able to give assistance to those who are in need.

Rev. John P. Thomas chairs the programs sub-committee. Through the programs offered by our board, we awarded one grant in the amount of \$425 to eliminate architectural barriers. We awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,678 to Trinity UMC in Spartanburg. The purpose of this grant is to give Trinity support and assistance in piloting a program to serve as a role model for other churches in their endeavor to better serve the deaf community. Plans are to develop a step by step manual to assist other churches in this ministry.

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

Rev. Athon Arant chairs the homes sub-committee. We continue to work for a strong positive relationship we share with each of the homes. We commend the splendid leadership provided by each home. As chair of the Board of Health and Welfare, I delegated the following board members as representatives of the Board of Health and Welfare, to the following institutions: Wesley Commons, Bayard Lindell; Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee, Cora Taylor; Methodist Oaks, Alice Pickney; Epworth Children's Home. Rev. Joyce Chiles; Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry, Rev. Harry Stullenbarger

At present, there are nine housing units for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, which are occupied, one at the Pee Dee Manor, which is occupied, and four at Wesley Commons, two occupied and two vacant. We have worked together with the three homes, and have agreed to a more unified plan for filling the retired clergy units. As of December 31, 2008, there was a balance of \$89,720.62 in the Elma Hill Endowment Fund. The interest from this fund helps maintain the retired clergy units. \$4,600 was granted this past year for maintenance.

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

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

Athon M. Arant, Sr., Chairperson

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry continues to make strides in the development of Christian homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Again this year, our focus was on educating the public, disseminating information about our ministry and fundraising. Of special significance is the fact that we broke ground on two homes.

Blessings flowed in August and September as construction began on our first home for males on The Oaks campus, followed by construction of our first home for females on the Epworth campus. As with any building process, there have been a few "bumps in the road", but our faith continues to carry us through these. Because the homes must be licensed by DHEC,

we must meet their stringent building and safety codes. These have caused a significant increase in the construction cost. Our board, friends and, most importantly, churches have been extremely supportive of our efforts. We applied for several grants, had the senior members of the Orangeburg Prep Tennis Team volunteer to sponsor a weekend tennis tournament and cookout fundraiser and had friends of a board member sponsor a birthday party fundraiser for her son. We continue to encourage individuals to become an "Aldersgate Angel" by committing to \$24 a month. Our board continues to research and identify other means of financial support.

In an effort to educate communities, board members have spoken to various groups and churches, exhibited at the state Downs Syndrome Conference and the annual conference. We were also fortunate to have nametags donated for annual conference. Our development committee is presently working on updated brochures that more accurately detail the ministry and where we are today. There has been communication with some churches and individuals regarding land which could be used to build homes in the future.

Six women have been chosen to live in the home on Epworth Campus that the Columbia Home Builders Association is partnering with us to build. These women are extremely excited about their new home. The admissions committee is in the process of reviewing applications for the home for men at the Oaks. It is our hope that both homes will open the first of the summer.

Our board feels very blessed to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to help provide Christian homes for these very special adults. Our sincere gratitude goes to all who have so generously supported Aldersgate this year. We ask that you continue to keep us in your hearts and prayers and encourage each church to participate in Aldersgate Sunday on August 10, 2008.

May God's blessings be with you.

Judy Weathers, Chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 112 years of providing residential care for South Carolina children who cannot remain in their own homes.

The primary goal of this annual conference mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, faith centered residential environment, where children who are not able to remain in their homes, receive the best possible care, and are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Began year two of training all staff members who relate to residential work in the CARE (Children And Residential Experiences: creating conditions for change) model developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principles or beliefs that form good residential group care. The CARE training is funded through the Duke Endowment.
- II. Averaged 81 children per day in the residential population plus four college students who live off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Center served 18 children per week in a pre-school day program. This program serves children who are developmentally delayed because of conditions such as autism and Downs Syndrome. This program also served 41 families on a regular basis through its home based component.
- III. Continued to strengthen the ties between Epworth Children's Home and the United Methodist congregations in South Carolina through the training of Local Church Representatives, speakers and educational materials.
- IV. Completed a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of moving from the current average giving level of \$4.38 per church member to an average of \$6.00 per member, and moving from the present 70% church participation to 100% participation.
- V. Adopted a financial policy that reduces the amount that can be drawn from the Epworth endowment each year in order to maintain the long-term financial security of Epworth.
- VI. Adopted a budget of \$4,530,656 for the fiscal year 10-1-07 through 9-30-08.

The Epworth Board of Trustees after careful study voted in a cost saving move to close the campus school in June 2008. The cost of operating the campus school is \$600,000 per year. While the school offers educational advantages, it is one part of Epworth's program where there is a viable alternative for the children's education experiences. The Epworth campus is located in a good public school setting. Children who need help will continue to receive that assistance from both paid and volunteer tutors.

Other costs saving measures adopted include asking the Epworth Early Intervention Center to generate \$113,000 annually in order to cover the cost of operating this program and requiring the Epworth Health Center to generate at least 15% of its expenses through Medicaid revenue.

Less than 8% of Epworth's income is generated from a combination of state and federal money, and fees for services payments. It is largely through the generosity of South Carolina United Methodists that during this conference year Epworth Children's Home was able to provide over four million dollars in subsidized services to children and families in South Carolina.

John E. Holler, Jr., President

THE METHODIST OAKS

The past conference year 2007-2008, has been an exciting year of new possibilities and possibilities fulfilled. The Oaks continues to take a leadership role in the ministry of caring for seniors, both on our very beautiful campus of 700 acres, and in the larger Orangeburg and surrounding communities.

- **PACE** – perhaps our proudest accomplishment this year is the full licensing of our PACE site in Orangeburg. The Program for the All-inclusive Care for the Elderly is a federal program that uses both Medicare and Medicaid to care for the most frail and poorest of seniors who are still living in their own homes. Qualified seniors receive free transportation to and from a day-care site that provides nourishing meals, medical care, physical and occupational therapy, and socialization and community. *Our PACE site will serve up to 150 seniors when it is full, and is only one of 15 sites in the nation, to receive the federal grant to make the site possible. The Methodist Oaks is the ONLY CCRC to receive the grant and one of only two faith based sites awarded.*
- **Academic Partnership Programs** – The Oaks has partnered with Clafin University to provide a scholarship to a rising senior who will be working in the senior services field, and an internship to one student who is majoring in a social service field and intends to work in a senior services occupation. The Oaks presented its first scholarship at the Clafin matriculation, and has received its first intern. The Oaks has also partnered with Orangeburg/Calhoun Technical College to be the classroom and clinical setting for their Certified Nurse Assistant program. This will help provide qualified nurse assistants for Orangeburg and the surrounding area.
- **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry** – The Oaks is one of the sites for this wonderful new ministry of the SC Conference. The house is now complete and ready for the first residents.
- **Capital Campaign for New Wellness Center and Community Life Center** – The capital campaign continues to go very well, with half of our \$2 million goal already pledged. When completed, the expanded spaces will provide much needed venues for our overflowing Campus Life and Wellness Programs. Already, more than 60% of our independent residents and 15% of our employees are active in the Wellness program. Our heated, enclosed swimming pool is getting extensive use by campus residents and community members of our *Passport to the Oaks* program.
- **CPE Program** – The Oak's CPE program has graduated its first 2 classes of CPE Participants. The six participants in each unit of CPE spend one day a week on the campus for Didactics and another day each week during the Unit providing pastoral care in the Skilled Nursing Facility. The Methodist Oaks contracts with Palmetto

Baptist Pastoral Services to provide this fully accredited CPE program of our Pastors. The Methodist Oaks is the **only** United Methodist CPE program in South Carolina.

- **Financial Assistance** – The Oaks continues its mission of caring for the elderly by providing more than \$500,000 in addition to the conference apportionments for those who have outlived their resources. We are committed to this mission.

While the Oaks has turned the corner from the financial difficulties of past years, the current economy is taking its toll on our ability to fill the Oaks to its total capacity. Slow home sales plus people's desire to live in their own home as long as possible have slowed move-ins. The Oaks is responding to this challenge with new programs that provide home health care on campus and concierge services to persons in their own homes, both on campus and in the Orangeburg community.

The board of trustees continues to support the Oaks commitment to providing quality care to seniors. We thank the Conference for its continued support of this vital ministry.

Robert Cox, Chair

THE METHODIST MANOR OF THE PEE DEE

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, the Methodist Manor held a service of worship to name the chapel at the Manor the Ingram Chapel in memory of Mary Alice C. Ingram. Mary Alice C. Ingram was the lead contributor in providing the funding for the building of the Methodist Manor. Her leadership inspired others to contribute to the establishment of the Manor. After the initial funding was put in place to provide for the building and opening of the retirement home, Mrs. Ingram provided additional funding for the building of the chapel.

The past year has seen an expansion of new patio homes in the Asbury Village community of the Manor. Asbury Village has grown from 22 patio homes to 31 in the last year with 3 more under construction. The capital to construct these homes is paid into the Manor by their occupants. The program to finance these homes provides that when an occupant vacates a home a portion of the capital contribution can be refunded from a capital payment made by the next occupant.

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

The Manor is serving about 210 residents with an operating budget of approximately \$6 million. The operating budget is funded primarily by service fees paid by the residents. The service fees are based on the level of service received by the residents. The Manor has a bonded indebtedness of \$12.5 million as of December 31, 2007. Debt service payments on the bonded indebtedness are included in the annual operating budget of the Manor.

In the last year the South Caroling Methodist Conference contributed \$80,732.00 to the residence assistance fund at the Manor. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are not left adequate to meet their monthly service fees. There are currently three residents receiving assistance from this fund. The Manor also received \$1,511.73 last year as its portion of the distribution from the South Carolina Methodist Conference Foundation and received \$546.68 from the restricted endowment fund of the South Carolina Methodist Foundation which is held exclusively for the benefit of the Manor.

The Manor will continue to assess how its facilities and programs can be improved to meet the needs of its residents.

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

WESLEY COMMONS

Fiscal Year 2007 marked another year of continued accomplishments for Wesley Commons. Our Ministry of Care and Vision of the Future remains vibrant and solid. To document the evolution of our Ministry, the Board of Trustees recently adopted a new Mission Statement which exemplifies our focus to *enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles*.

Wesley Commons continues to be a blessed organization as evidenced by our growth of programs, stewardship and support. For the past ten years, Wesley Commons has completed a cycle of planning, building and growing our campus into a regionally recognized leader in retirement living. While we are very proud of our accomplishments, we find ourselves, once again, on the precipice of a new journey.

Our short term plans encompass visions of service not only on our current campus, but also the community beyond. While these plans are bold and dramatic; our planning remains well grounded and realistic. We take our charge of stewardship seriously and are committed to ensuring our gifts are used to benefit a majority of beneficiaries.

Currently, Wesley Commons is home to over 430 residents across our campus who are served by over 260 employees. The impact of this family of 690 individuals is not only evident on our campus, but across the greater community of Greenwood. Members of Wesley Commons can be found supporting organizations such as Lander University, Piedmont Technical College, Chamber of Commerce, Humane Society of Greenwood, and HospiceCare of the Piedmont to name a few. We are also working to better serve local youth through programs such as BEST, a mentoring program in our local elementary schools. Our campus is an impressive collection of caring and compassionate individuals who add great value to our local community.

The waiting list for many of our neighborhoods is impressive and our memberships for our wellness programs have proven to be very attractive to individuals living in the Greater Greenwood area. With more than two-thirds of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from all areas of the Southeast, we have re-engineered our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Close involvement with our Resident Committees allows us to continuously fine tune the scope of our offerings.

While 2007 continued to show improvement in our operations, it also showed advancements in our programming. Our advancements have not come easy. This year has been laden with many challenges which have tested our resolve. Yet, through determination, ingenuity, and keeping our focus on our core Mission, we have stayed the course. The negative indicators of our economy in both the financial and housing markets have had an impact on our Future Residents. In some cases individuals had to pass up their available position on our waiting list to move into Wesley Commons as a result of such issues. To assist our Future Residents and to enable better protection from the pain of this turn down, we continue to design and implement new options to enable them to make the right choice.

We remain humbled and honored to be reminded of our most important asset and blessing: our employees. God is good and has provided Wesley Commons with a wonderful team of dedicated and Mission oriented individuals, who pleasantly and compassionately serve our residents day in and day out. Currently, we have begun an awesome task of preparing our employees for our next major advancement in our Mission. It is our desire to retool and rethink how we deliver exceptional services to our current and future customers. We envision a campus which is based upon delivering much more individually focused service and support in a residential setting, as opposed to the current institutional standard prevalent in our Country. Noting a shift in consumer demand for various services, we have embarked on a mission to not only redesign certain accommodations in our neighborhoods, but we are redesigning our entire delivery of Health Services.

Through the generosity of our donors we have completed the first portions of this plan. We have completed advancements in our Wellness and Culinary environments and we are now researching how best to modify areas of our residential living and health services into a more homogeneous and less disruptive experience.

We recognize the fact and accept the charge to lead Wesley Commons into a new day of advanced services and offerings which remain highly regarded and conservatively priced. In doing so, we hope for a day which our vision of care and service can spread to others seeking a better way.

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our elders continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. The support of the Methodist Homes Support Fund and other Private Supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide subsidies to many residents across our campus. In 2007, Wesley Commons provided over \$1,000,000 of subsidized services. With the Methodist Conference providing just over \$179,347, Wesley Commons' Operational funds made up the difference of that subsidy to those unable to pay for their care.

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

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

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

This will be my final report as the Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, having served an 8 year term. It has been a joy and privilege to be a part of this vital ministry, and I urge you to read the exciting reports from our campus ministers and college presidents. I am grateful to God and to the S.C. Conference for the opportunity to work with such life-changing, disciple-making experiences. On behalf of the Board, I express deep appreciation to the local churches for generous support of the Senior College Scholarship Apportionment and the Campus Ministry Apportionment. Your prayers and financial gifts have enabled us to expand ministry and shape students as leaders and disciples who will transform the world.

This past year has been one of growth in campus ministry, as we have achieved several goals that were a part of our long-range dreams. Effective February 1, 2008, Rev. Jo Anna Fallaw was appointed to the newly created full-time position of Francis Marion Campus Minister & Central UMC Associate Pastor. Previously, Francis Marion Campus Minister was a part time position, but a nearly full-time program. Our next goal is to move the Furman Wesley Campus Minister position from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to full-time. Furman Wesley is thriving with strong student leaders, inspiring worship, and a commitment to missions. An increase in our Campus Ministry budget will help us expand at Furman. While we have expanded ministry at Francis Marion and Furman, our next growing program is Lander Wesley. We have seen growth in spirit and in numbers, with the capable leadership of Glenn Williams, a lay person who is the part-time Lander Wesley Director. Our more established Wesley programs (Winthrop, Clemson, Charleston, Claflin/SC State, and USC) continue to flourish with weekly Bible studies and programs, service projects, engaging worship, and international mission trips.

In a declining economy, it is critical to continue supporting the colleges, Claflin University, Wofford College, Columbia College, and Spartanburg Methodist. The Senior College Scholarship Apportionment enables the 3 senior colleges to offer financial support to students. Students need scholarships more than ever in this troubled economy. We can be proud that our Annual Conference supports 4 colleges, and each serves a unique niche of students. The stellar academic reputation, coupled with small student-faculty ratios, makes our Methodist colleges places where transformation occurs. We are not just about the business of education, but rather shaping students to be ethical, faithful, empowered leaders who can change the world. Read the college presidents' reports, and you will see the "fruits of our labors."

Let me close my report by sharing a concern on behalf of the Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry. Our Board studied the survey that was conducted about the location of Annual Conference. We noted the question related to the importance of holding Annual Conference on our college campuses. The total response (clergy and laity) for the two categories of "Very Important" and "Somewhat Important" was 465. While this is a significant number, we realize that nearly as many indicated "Of Little Importance." This disheartens those of us who are passionate about the ministry of higher education. The survey results indicate the need for even *more* promotion of our colleges. We hope the Annual Conference lay and clergy

delegates would consider these issues every year during the discussion and vote about the location of Annual Conference.

May God bless the "ties that bind" church and college in the ministry of making disciples.
In Christ,

Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chair

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Having built upon the significant progress and achievements of 2006, Claflin University is pleased to provide an account of the 2007 academic year in which the institution acquired further notable national rankings, additional scholastic recognitions and was the recipient of outstanding awards. It was a year in which the University continued its successful global outreach and expansion while sustaining our vocation to educate, regardless of race, gender or religious opinion.

The University's student population remains steady with approximately 1,800 students enrolled. They come from 44 South Carolina counties and 23 states. Sixteen countries are represented through our international students; an increase in countries from which our international students come. The University's liberal arts and science curriculum is increasing the number of degree courses offered. In the fall 2008 semester, we will add Criminal Justice and Digital Design bringing the number of undergraduate majors to 35.

There is an international component to the third addition to our academic program. Claflin University's School of Business now offers an MBA at the London Institute of Technology, in London, England. We hope to attract students from Asia, Africa and Europe. We are excited about this innovative international venture which takes us into the arena of preparing graduate students to pursue careers in global business markets.

In addition to being included for the 10th consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report*, as one of "America's Best Colleges," ranked number 10 in the Top Tier among Baccalaureate Colleges in the South and number three for Highest Graduation Rate, we were also ranked number seven in the inaugural issue of "America's Best Black Colleges," again by *U. S. News and World Report*. Other ranking recognitions were bestowed upon Claflin this past year. We were included in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* rankings of HBCUs based on retention rates. Among "Very Selective HBCUs" the University was listed as having the second highest retention rate. Similar recognition came from *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* which rated Claflin second for its graduation rate. Another well known publication, *Consumers Digest*, surveying private colleges and universities nationally, ranked Claflin number three in its "Top Five Best Value" category.

Our recognition for academic excellence has been in tandem with our enhanced global visibility where our faculty has been in the spotlight. Claflin professors made headlines throughout India as they successfully introduced and implemented the U.S. government-funded HIV/AIDS prevention project. This culturally sensitive curriculum has been well received even in small rural communities. Continuing our role on the global stage, members of the Claflin University Concert Choir will be in China in June performing as part of a pre-Olympics concert tour. Students will travel and give concerts not only in Beijing, but in other locations throughout China including Shanghai.

This was also a year of academic firsts. The Master of Science in Biotechnology was awarded to the first class of candidates. The University also awarded its first degree in Master of Education in Educational Studies and its first Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degrees. The University's Continuing Education and Professional Studies program expanded. We now offer a degree program in Organizational Management and also a degree program in Sociology/Criminal Justice at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia.

With our strong and committed tradition of building character and instilling humanitarian values in each of our students, we take great pride in the outstanding community service achievements of our entire student body. For the 2007 Fall Semester, our students completed close to 15,500 community hours. For the second consecutive year, students were awarded first place by the National Kidney Foundation for sponsoring the most walkers in the annual Kidney Walk. As a result of the outstanding community service achievements and hours rendered to the community, Claflin University students became members of the President's

Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Inclusion into the Honor Roll is for recognition of innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. We hope this is the first of many such inclusions.

Two inspiring awards were presented to the Office of the President for leadership. We received the CASE District III Executive Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and service in support of education. We were also honored to accept the Milliken Medal of Quality Award which was presented for demonstrated leadership, innovation and outstanding achievement in the implementation of quality systems in an organization.

We at Claffin University are encouraged and motivated by one of our very best years in making strides in academic achievements, faculty and student achievements and for being able to re-invest ourselves in sustaining and upholding our mission and goals by preparing students for leadership and service in a global and technological society.

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Enrollment

The fall semester saw record-breaking enrollment at Columbia College with the number of students in all programs surpassing 1,500 for the first time. In 2003 we had adopted a strategic plan which called for a cap on fulltime women's college enrollment at 900 by 2012, and we reached that goal five years ahead of schedule!

Campus News

- As a part of the Staley Lecture Series, Joy Fisher Pollard will speak at Columbia College on Wednesday, January 30, on "Queen Esther: A Woman of Promise in a Postmodern Age." A music therapist, she has worked with persons of all ages and disabilities, using the Psalms of David. She will also conduct a spiritual gifts workshop and conduct Bible study.
- Columbia College will celebrate Founder's Day on February 13. Bishop Taylor will speak and members of the R. Wright Spears Legacy Society will be honored guests.
- Columbia College Student Health Services has achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). This is third consecutive AAAHC accreditation for the campus health services department, granted for a three year term.
- Columbia College will add softball as its fifth intercollegiate sport, in addition to women's basketball, soccer, tennis, and volleyball. The new softball program will compete at the club level in 2008-2009; the team will begin intercollegiate play in 2009-2010.
- At the Medallion Dinner and awards ceremony on Thursday, November 1, Catherine and Gene Eaker of Columbia and Marshall L. Meadors Jr. of Anderson were awarded the Columbia College Medallion. The Medallion is presented annually to those individuals whom the College wishes to recognize for exceptional accomplishments, leadership, and service.
- Senator Hillary Clinton, a graduate of a women's college and also a lifelong Methodist, visited Columbia College during a campaign stop in South Carolina on Sunday, January 13. A town-hall style meeting was held in the Godbold gymnasium.

Building Projects

This fall we completed renovation of the Edens Library and Goodall Art Gallery. In February we will start a field house, softball field, and parking lots at the athletic complex. We are working on a project with the Eau Claire Development Corporation to develop a combination of townhouses and retail space on the land we own on North Main Street and Columbia College Drive.

Trustees

As I reported in the fall, our trustees have established a new Committee on Trusteeship to help recruit and orient future trustees and to support current trustees in being most effective and engaged in their service to the college. They will suggest topics for board retreats and lead the board in an annual self-audit process.

Caroline Whitson, President

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Tramaine Brown has a good idea what it takes for children at Spartanburg's Cleveland Elementary School to succeed. He attended the school as a youngster, graduated with honors from Spartanburg High School, and is now a Gates Millennium Scholar at Wofford College. As a Wofford sophomore, Brown set out to help the students following in his footsteps at the inner city school, and, following his example, more than 50 Wofford students and professors tutored Cleveland students one-on-one in mathematics this academic year. "We know that these Wofford scholars are showing to our students the spirit of community service," says Cleveland's principal, Dr. Audrey Grant. "The children will remember the time when college students took the time and made the effort to help them. This is sowing the seeds for higher education among kids who may have never known what college is like." The Institute for Responsible Citizenship recently recognized Tramaine Brown as one of 24 young men to participate in its summer leadership program in Washington, D.C. He was chosen from hundreds of applicants from universities all over the country to be part of the sixth class of the Institute.

In the fall of 2007, Wofford signed on as a ONE Campus, part of a national campaign among colleges across the country to raise awareness about global hunger, poverty, disease, and efforts to combat these issues in developing countries (see www.one.org). This year has also seen the college move forward in issues related to environmental stewardship, to include the development of an Environmental Studies program centered in the nearby Glendale community on Lawson's Fork Creek. In addition, the college is participating in the national "Recyclemania" project, enhancing its program of recycling paper, aluminum, and plastics, and is working in concert with others in the Spartanburg community to create a culture more conducive to bicycling. In the fall, 30 bicycles were purchased inexpensively to be used by students in an honor system to use around campus and the city. So far, it has proved enormously popular, and is influencing other students in significant numbers to bring their own bicycles to the campus.

The college's campus ministry has 24 students participating in its ELI Project under the direction of Dr. Ron Robinson, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion. Designed to identify and equip leaders for the church, these students participate in six areas of exploration: (1) Spiritual Direction - meaningfully connecting the vocational discernment process with one's spiritual and/or religious development; (2) Self-Awareness - experiences and assessments that enhance understanding of personal strengths, values and interests; (3) Service - opportunities to develop an awareness of broader global and local needs and an understanding of how one can respond; (4) Ministry Inquiry - opportunities for mentoring, internships and "hands on" learning; (5) Vocational Discernment - an intentional process of discovery involving listening to one's life and identifying a sense of call; (6) Theological Education - connect and collaborate with divinity schools and theological seminaries.

Wofford enrolled 243 United Methodist students in the fall of 2007, and they received more than \$5.1 million in financial aid. The Wesley Fellowship recently participated in a semester log study of the writings of C.S. Lewis. Their service projects included working with the March of Dimes. They joined the United Methodist Student Movement in a campus-wide "Nothing But Nets" project that raised funds to purchase mosquito nets to be sent to areas where malaria is a deadly problem. The UM Student Fellowship hosted the United Methodist Student Day on campus, and sponsored a campus-wide study break during the exam period. They also co-sponsor a weekly prayer group.

The Campus Ministry Center sponsors two weekly services of worship. A student-led service on Tuesday evenings, called *United*, attracts 80-100 worshippers. Each Thursday at noon Holy Communion is served, and is followed by *A Simple Meal*, which usually consists of homemade bread and soup, and features lively conversation. In the true ecumenical spirit of United Methodism, the college hosts weekly mass for Catholic students, and in an effort to promote positive inter-faith relationships, is in conversation with Muslim students about offering space for their prayer needs. Eight faith groups function as official campus organizations.

These examples of "thinking globally, acting locally" indicate Wofford College's continuing commitment to founder Benjamin Wofford's purpose in creating one of America's best liberal arts colleges, and John Wesley's vision for Methodism. The support of the South Carolina Conference in providing financial aid for deserving students continues to make the college a place where young people of diverse backgrounds are nourished academically and spiritually.

Benjamin B. Dunlap, President

CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation has had a year of growth and grace. As our alumni base grows the internet is becoming an essential method of keeping in touch. We are now the proud grandparent to three beautiful children born to alumni: Michael to Michael McPherson, Citadel alumnus, Makayla to Anthony Reynolds, Citadel alumnus and Emeline to Aaron Meadows, Citadel alumnus. Our hearts go out to Christy and Aaron Meadows on the passing of Emeline this fall. Rest in the assurance that Jesus has a big rocking chair and Emeline is resting in the arms of our Divine Parent.

Mallory Forte is now in her second year at Candler School of Theology. Mallory, you make us so proud. Aaron Meadows is now a commissioned probationary elder in this fine conference. Aaron, we are delighted with your progress. Bill Houpt and Christopher Waldrop are serving in the armed forces in Iraq. Brandon Kirch is now a certified Navy Seal. Vaya con Dios!

The groups on the four campuses we are blessed to serve continue to flourish. Bethel UMC- Charleston continues to be the home for our College of Charleston programming. Thank you for continuing to make ministry to the college students a priority. The Charleston Southern University group continues to grow despite graduations. God is gracious. The CSU gospel choir continues to bless me and others. This winter I was fortunate enough to attend the Fifth Annual Concert of Worship and Praise at Northwoods Baptist Church, featuring the CSU Wind Ensemble. What a night of praise, prayer and worship we experienced there. Thank you, Keisha Wilkins and Wade Hurst for using your magnificent musical gifts to glorify God and edify the Church Universal.

Wesley UMC- Ladson, once again thank you for being the church home to many of the Wesley Foundation CSU students. The group at Medical University of South Carolina continues to be the most diverse of the groups; students, staff and faculty enrich our discussions and time together. Rev. Joe Cate of Point Hope UMC and Mary Ann Gilkeson, you truly are the wind beneath our wings. Your dedication, love and gifts continue to be the driving force behind Wesley at MUSC - or as it called TGIF (Thank God Its Friday). The Wesley Foundation group at Citadel is both active and growing. At the SCUMSM spring retreat Chase Hurst, Citadel cadet, was re-elected as the Vice Chairperson for year 2008-2009. He will be representing Charleston Wesley Foundation at the National Student Forum in Washington DC this summer.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had another successful year. We sponsored two adolescents in the HALOS angel tree event. Our annual Mission weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at the United Methodist Relief Center was a time of Christian action, reflection and fellowship for all. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge John Wesley UMC's generous and selfless financial underwriting of this weekend.

Because of your answer to God's call students who would not have been financially able to attend gave of themselves to help those even less fortunate. Moreover, your generous Christian act allowed Charleston Wesley Foundation to meet the UMRC financial need as well as their need for human hands and feet. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. The United Methodist connection is alive and well!

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

Lisa C. Hawkins, Campus Minister

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

What does it mean to say, "I'm United Methodist"? As a Campus Minister nearing the end of my seventh year in Clemson, I find myself having to answer this question more and more. Sometimes the question comes from a student, sometimes it comes from within. To serve in a place like Clemson is to meet UM students who would answer this question in many different ways, usually depending on their ethnicity or geographic origin. When this diversity of

perspective is combined with the vast array of other traditions and theologies present on any college campus today, many students find themselves struggling with a spiritual identity crisis. If I say that I am Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Reformed or even a participant in a house church, what does that mean exactly and how might such a label infringe upon my calling “simply” to be a disciple of Jesus? These are common concerns on college campuses today, with many churches choosing to drop any hint of their theological roots from their official name.

While I cannot speak for other traditions (as much as I might treasure the special place that they hold in the history and ongoing life of the universal Church), it is incumbent upon me as an ordained elder in the UMC to articulate an answer to what it means to say “I’m United Methodist.” I thought that you, members of the Annual Conference and therefore supporters of our ministry, deserved to know more about the approach that we take here in our ministry with and to students in the greater Clemson area.

In large part, through the combined efforts of Clemson Wesley and Clemson UMC, we seek to preach, teach and put into practice an understanding of the Christian faith, rooted and shaped by the Wesleyan-Methodist movement, which could be summarized with the following affirmations that seek to clarify some of our distinctives:

- **We believe that we are part of the Church but not exclusively THE Church.** To be UM is to understand and appreciate that God has been and will continue to do great things through other communities of faith and traditions, and hopefully through ours too! Therefore, UMs have always been highly ecumenical and cooperative, seeking to work closely with other Christians who claim the same “essentials” of the faith that we do.
- **We are apostolically rooted but also Spirit-led.** To be UM is to cherish the historic roots of the Church and to understand that any and all new and reform movements inspired by the Spirit are connected to the “great cloud of witnesses” that have preceded us. While treasuring our heritage and giving thanks for the faithful witness of the saints through the centuries, we also understand that the Spirit is always at work, doing new things in new places (sometimes, we hope and pray, even in and through us). For this reason, we seek to steer clear of “sacred cows” that over time become idols to worship rather than important rites, rituals and practices that point us to the only One worthy of our worship.
- **We believe both that God is sovereign and that humans are free.** To be UM is to hold in paradox two views that are often taught in opposition on today’s campuses: God’s sovereignty and the freedom of the will. While UMs believe that God is “in control” and that God and the forces of good will ultimately defeat the forces of darkness and evil, we also affirm that we as human beings have the freedom to choose daily between a path that leads to life or one that leads to death. Thus, much of the heartache that we experience in this world is a result of sin, not a part of God’s good, pleasing and perfect will. Of course, we see salvation as a great gift from God offered to all who, with God’s leading, say “yes” to God’s invitation in Jesus Christ.
- **We are both evangelistic and socially conscious in our core theology.** UMs have long proclaimed that God in Jesus Christ has the power to not only transform lives and hearts, but to transform the world as well. The “Good News” in Jesus Christ, however, should never lead us to feel spiritually superior or better than others. For UMs, a true response to God’s amazing grace leads us into the streets and into the world – working for and serving those who have no voice, no status, and no value in our culture. And a true response also leads us, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to advocate for peace, to work for justice, and to seek to tear down the walls of hostility that continue to separate us within the Body of Christ and throughout the world. While God’s grace is always free, it is also always costly.
- **We believe that we are saved by faith, but that faith without works is really no faith at all.** Arguably, the “yes” that we say to God in Jesus Christ is to be affirmed each and every day through our actions. UMs believe that simply saying “Lord, Lord” is not enough. In the end, Jesus will claim to know those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the prisoners, and greeted the stranger – indeed, those who cared for the forgotten of our world. UMs, unlike others, extend a helping hand to whomever has need, not just those within the community of faith. The UM student ministry in Clemson is most distinctive in this way.
- **We believe that loving God with our minds is just as important as loving God**

with our hearts. In the UMC, we do not ask folks to check in their brains at the door of the sanctuary. Instead, we see our minds and our reason as great gifts from God that, if used faithfully, can help us better understand how to discern God's will for the world. UMs have always sought to hold together two ideas that have long been "disjoined" – the pursuit of knowledge and vital piety.

- **We believe in the dignity of all persons.** UMs seek to extend God's love to all people because we believe that Christ died for all and that all people are made in God's image. We affirm that one of most important marks of the Christian community is how it cares and shows respect for those on the fringes of our society. UMs believe that a woman's voice and role in the life of the Church is just as important as a man's.
- **We believe that a life lived for God is the only life worth living.** UMs believe that following Jesus will require us to deny ourselves and live in cruciform ways as we seek to love God by loving others. Ideally, this is lived out in community where *agape* love and true *koinonia* is the goal. While we all know that cross-bearing is painful and never easy, UMs also affirm that the way of Jesus is, well, the way. True and everlasting life, therefore, begins when we start living our lives in service to God and God's world, with the support and nurture of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

To summarize, we preach and teach that to be UM is to be a Christian, to be someone who, with God's help, is seeking to follow faithfully in Jesus' footsteps. With hearts full of gratitude for his work as Savior on the cross, we seek to celebrate his Lordship in all things by how we live daily. Renouncing the ways of the world, UMs seek to emulate God's nature by practicing hospitality, forgiveness, mercy and generosity in tangible ways. Generally, it is our tendency to leave fruitless, dogmatic arguments to others, preferring instead to err on the side of gracious living.

This is a glimpse of the Gospel that we seek to share with the nearly 1,000 students that call CW and/or CUMC home each year. We give God thanks for the hundreds of graduates over the years who continue to serve God and the Church through full-time, ordained, and lay ministry.

To all the individuals, pastors, youth ministers, Sunday School classes, women's and men's groups and local churches who support this ministry through your apportionments or other special gifts – may God bless you all in your desire to reach today's generation of young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

C. Lane Glaze, Campus Minister

COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION-METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

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

- The Wesley Foundation at USC (Methodist Student Network) puts its faith into action. Seven times a week students go into the community to serve at a soup kitchen, an after school mentoring program, Habitat –for-Humanity, an evening community children's program and a newly begun ESL program for Latino women in the West Columbia area.
- Methodist Student Network has been to New Orleans on three occasions to be in service to and solidarity with its battered residents.
- We took a team of 31 to Peru to work with street children and provided ministry with the young people, a VBS, helped to build the village for street children and provided a health clinic for the community.

- On campus we provided many opportunities for study and worship and support. Through various small groups, a program evening tackling tough issues of faith and life and Quiet-time, students can be spiritually grounded and transformed.
- Sunday evening worship is a reconciling and unifying adventure as students of various nationalities, cultures, races and faith traditions discover a oneness in Christ that is real.
- The faith community and Center provide hospitality and a place where life long friendships are formed and life/faith issues can be explored.
- Three students have been admitted to seminary to begin studies for ordained ministry.

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

Tom Wall-Director, Campus Minister

FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Francis Marion Wesley Foundation has been in a state of change this year. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry approved in 2007 to move the position of campus minister from a stipend position connected to a two point charge to a full time position in conjunction with Central United Methodist Church in Florence. The hope was to have someone in the position by June, but a qualified candidate was not found until January. The Wesley Foundation had an interim in the fall, and the Reverend Jo Anna Fallaw was appointed starting in February. This new partnership with Central is providing the much needed support for this ministry. This year has been a year of change and adaptation. We are excited about getting on a new routine starting in the fall with a large freshmen outreach movement, retreat opportunities, mission projects over the breaks, bible study, and engaging programs. We covet your prayers as the Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University moves into this new life together.

Jo Anna Fallaw, Campus Minister

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

The Furman Wesley Fellowship is a thriving community. The outreach to the freshmen this fall proved to be extremely fruitful. These new freshmen have outstanding leadership skills; they've already assimilated to the community, and will be a major asset to the future of Wesley at Furman. The group continues in their mission work over semester breaks with a majority of the group participating. What has been accomplished with this group is what most ministers hope for in a group. They are self-sufficient. The group has leadership in place that plans and implements the programs of the group. In addition, every student is part of one of these leadership teams having ownership of the ministry. For example, a senior who helps lead the worship team realized that almost the whole team was graduating this year, so he took it upon himself to gather in a few freshmen and offer weekly lessons helping secure a music team for the fall. These kinds of stories abound with this fantastic group of young adults. Any church would be blessed to have one of these students as a member and leader in their congregation. The group is currently in a time of transition with campus ministers. The desire is that by conference the search committee will have found a full time replacement for the Reverend Jo Anna Fallaw who is now serving Francis Marion University. This will be the first time that Furman Wesley Fellowship will have had a full time campus minister. Praise God for the growth of the program and the Conference's willingness to support this change.

Jo Anna Fallaw, Outgoing Campus Minister

THE UNITED METHODIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AT LANDER UNIVERSITY AND PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

This year has been a year of building on a firm foundation that was laid last year by a dedicated board of directors following the lead of the Holy Spirit. Their mission and purpose was and continues to be: provide a safe, nurturing Christian environment for any and all students at Lander University and Piedmont Technical College.

Glenn Williams was hired in September to be the director/chaplain of UMSF. With most of the previous year's students graduating, recruiting was a priority. Our president, Lindsey Arant, along with Emily Burch, and Lander faculty representative, Dr. Jon Bassett, worked hard to promote UMSF on the Lander campus. We also participated in an activities fair at Piedmont Tech with faculty representative, Kit Adkins. Conference pastors were also very helpful in providing the names of students from their churches. Through these efforts, God brought together a small, diverse group of students and we began to grow in our faith together.

Presently, we meet on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study at 6 o'clock. On Sunday nights at 8 o'clock we get together and watch a movie. All movies are screened and have Christian themes. On Tuesdays we meet for lunch at a local "fast food" restaurant. All of these activities include devotion and prayer and wonderful fellowship. The students participate in fund raising with "Belk Charity Day" and cooking a meal for the Main Street UMC family night dinner. Three of our students attended the SCUMSM retreat at White Oak in February, and our own Juliet Hawkins was elected president of SCUMSM for '08. As a mission we plan to join Main Street UMC in the fall with a Child Evangelism Fellowship "Good News Club" in a local elementary school.

Main Street United Methodist Church in Greenwood continues to provide, at no cost, a wonderful student center very convenient to the Lander campus. The center has wireless internet, TV, game room, study room, and washer and dryer. The church also pays all utilities and maintenance.

This year has been a blessing to all involved. God has truly nurtured these students, and they have grown closer to Him and to each other. Praise be to God!

Glenn Williams, Director

THE ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Campus Ministry of the Wesley Foundation at Claflin and South Carolina State Universities in Orangeburg is truly a "Church for All People." It's a place that welcomes and accepts all people, regardless of where they are in their personal journeys of faith. The Campus Ministry is part of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Ministry has touched the lives of countless individuals; it is also a Ministry through which God and the Holy Spirit prepare selected individuals for positions of discipleship and leadership in the Church.

The "Church for All People" Ministry, in cooperation with other ministries, was very active during the 2007-2008 conference year; listed below are some of the ways in which the lives of people in our community have been touched, through:

- Weekly Bible study for students and faculty
- Religious emphasis week, which included a number of worship services
- Students' mission trip to New Orleans
- Students' participation in the Summer Investment Program (SIP)
- Spiritual retreat
- Donation of Thanksgiving baskets to the needy
- Christmas tree lighting
- National student forum
- United Methodist Campus Ministry Association
- Nursing home ministry
- Food and clothing drive
- Weekly fellowship and discussions
- Student seminarian dialogue
- Disciple talent show

One of the blessings of this Ministry is that the lives of so many students have been transformed. Many young people come with scant experience in the pursuit of faith, and with little or no confidence in religious leaders or in the Church. As a result of their contact with the Ministry, many of them decide to make a serious commitment to the Church. It is among this group that we have found some of our most promising leaders. Thus we say, "To God Be the Glory."

We express our sincere gratitude to God Almighty for the blessings that He has bestowed on our Ministry, and to the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for their spiritual and financial support. We renew our dedication to making this ministry "A Church for All People."

Jimmy J. Montgomery, Director

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Relevant. Authentic. Open. Loving. Honest. Meaningful. Community. These are broad words that need unpacking, but their essence is clear. For the church to meet the needs of young people today, not just in the future, but today, we must step out of old paradigms and create our vision anew. I'm not one who thinks that we should pander to young people, feeding into the already too rampant consumer driven church. But, I'm also not one who thinks we can keep going about the status quo asking young adults to fit into ready-made boxes and expecting them to assimilate and dive right in because that's what previous generations have done. There's got to be some balance, some God-inspired way to address and support this unique and critical journey, while also being faithful to ministry with all of God's people in all the ways we can by all the means we can.

Some of this conversation came out of a Rock Hill District workshop where we discussed the challenges that go with providing young adult ministries or at the very least that catch-all Sunday School Class for college students, young adults, and those that don't seem to fit anywhere else. It's encouraging that our church both locally and within the general church is looking at these issues. In the latest *colleague*, put out by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the lead article focused on the shrinking numbers of young clergy. "In 2005 Dr. Lovett H. Weems Jr. reported that 850 of the 18,141 probationary or ordained elders in the United States were 35 years of age or younger. Only 4.69 percent of elders were in this age group—down from 15.05 percent of elders in 1985." Wow!

This isn't scientific by any means, but in talking with young adult clergy about what led to their calls to ministry, there were some common themes. Some say it was a mentor, whether a teacher, a pastor, or a trusted friend, others say it was mission work, whether Salkehatchie, the Summer Investment Program, or other mission trips with campus ministries or youth groups, and many, many others speak very deeply and passionately about both Camp and Retreat Ministries and Campus Ministries. These experiences challenge and inspire and help people to grow and stretch out of their comfort zones, not because ministry back home is not meeting their needs, but because these ministries are geared specifically for them and where they are.

At Wesley this semester one of our small groups is reading Donald Miller's *Blue Like Jazz*. Miller does a tremendous job of being very transparent and open within his story and incredibly real about his struggles with faith during this time in his life. There are many quotes that stand out and seem like touchstones for this generation, but one we discussed this past week, is a particular challenge to not only young people, but to all of us. He writes, "I have become an infomercial for God, and I don't even use the product."

Campus Ministries are not just infomercials for God. We use the product in faithful ways every day and we're challenging our students, this crazy but amazing generation of young adults, to use it and to live it faithfully as well. The world doesn't always notice our list of accolades, but it does note in a culture of slippery and shiny packaging, when something is "for real." Each of our programs comes from the brilliant minds of these students, and although the next couple of lines are sort of an infomercial, know that it comes from a passionate crew of God-lovers who are actively seeking to be the church in the world.

Weekly Gatherings: Sunday Night CROSSFIRE Communion & Worship Service; Wednesday Night Wesley Dinner, Praise & Program; Monday Small Group Lunch Study; Wednesday Girl's Lunch Study, Wednesday Prayer at the Pole.

Missions & Outreach: Mission Trip to the Center for Development in Central America in

Nicaragua December 2007; 30th Annual CROPWALK-highest total yet \$35,459.36; Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run; Interfaith Hospitality Network; Charleston-Winthrop Mission Weekend at The United Methodist Relief Center; collection for A Place for Hope; SIP Missioner, Renee Cave from Columbia, SC; 50 students SLEEP OUT on Dinkin's Lawn during Homeless Awareness Week, Candlelight Vigil and Homeless Count with Catawba Coalition.

Ecumenical: Orientation, Pancake Exam Breaks, Halloween Game Night, Thanksgiving Worship Service, Lectures

Fellowship: Rafting, Laser Tag, Movie Nights, Charlotte Knights Baseball, Winthrop Sporting Events, Camping Trips, Christmas and Easter Dinners at the Jeter's, South Carolina United Methodist Student Movement Retreat at White Oak.

Wesley House: There are 6 students living in The Wesley House, which is next door to The Wesley Foundation. We again extend a huge thanks to the churches that helped repair and donate to make the house a reality.

Connection: Quarterly Newsletter, Student-Created Website under construction, Wesley Sundays at local churches and UMW groups, led some District Youth Groups, hosted District Clergy Meeting.

We could not do this ministry without the support of the conference, district churches, and faithful prayer warriors throughout. A special thanks to those who provide our Wednesday night dinners and much-appreciated donations of supplies, as well as to the Rock Hill UMWIM who fixed our leaking roof! May God use this generation to shock all of our socks off as they shake, shape, charge, and change our world both making and living as faithful disciples for Jesus Christ.

Narcie M. Jeter, Campus Minister

THE BOARD OF LAITY

Report No. 1

The Conference **Board of Laity** experienced several changes in membership during the past year. We mourned the passing of Mr. Mike McKain who was appointed as the Director of Stewardship Task Group just prior to the 2007 Annual Conference. Mr. Donald Love accepted the role as Task Group leader for Stewardship. Mrs. Cynthia Williams was confirmed by the 2007 Annual conference as the Florence District Lay Leader replacing Dr. Robert T. Barrett who moved out of that District. We celebrate the work of several of our District Lay Leaders who will complete their term on the Board at this annual conference.

During the year the Conference Lay Leader was active in representing the Board as a participant with the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders on the jurisdictional and national levels. Meeting with the Extended Cabinet provided many opportunities to keep the Cabinet abreast of the workings of the laity in the conference. District Lay Leaders were active in the training of Lay Delegates to Annual Conference. The Conference Lay Leader and the Associate Lay Leader were elected as delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The Board worked to respond to the needs of congregations over the conference by providing workshops, special meetings and presentations, training of lay speakers, opportunities for spiritual formation, resources, and advocating unity among laity in our churches. Task Group leaders continued their work in areas to include (1) Laity Convocation, (2) Lay Speaking (3) Leadership Development, (4) Spiritual Formation, and (5) Stewardship. A summary of their activities follows:

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

For the first time, a number of breakout sessions were offered Friday afternoon. They were

designed to appeal to all participants but some had a special attraction to Music Directors and Organists. The goal is two-fold, to lengthen the Laity Convocation by ½ day and reach out to a new group of United Methodists who could benefit by coming to the event. Overall there were approximately 30 breakout sessions from which to choose.

For 2008, Rev. Tony Campolo, is scheduled to return. Rev. Campolo, Professor Emeritus at Eastern University in St. David's, PA was with us in 2006. The Convocation Task Force received an overwhelming number of requests to have him return. It is expected that he will again inspire us and confront us as he expresses what he believes the Scriptures are telling us.

The Convocation continues on the foundation of ***“A Weekend of Personal Spiritual Growth for Local Church Leaders and Practical Ideas for Your Church”*** and features numerous workshops dealing with church leadership, lay speaking ministries, safe sanctuaries, family ministries and many other topics. These workshops give the attendees practical and understandable information about how United Methodist laity can serve Christ through the local church. The dates for the 2008 SC Laity Convocation are July 11, 12, 13, 2008 at Lake Junaluska, NC.

Lay Speaking Ministries (Michael Cheatham) - remains a vital tool in the training and equipping of effective leaders in the laity of the South Carolina Conference. Local church leaders have taken courses to improve their leadership and communications skills. Local church and certified lay speakers are active in our local churches, and in the districts and at the conference level. Lay Speaking Ministries offers classes in every district. Many districts offer multiple schools each year. Lay Speaking Ministries offers courses in leadership, communications, and caring. Lay Speaking Ministries also equips the laity to be involved in ministry. Lay Speakers are developing many ministries across the conference as well as assisting our clergy. Lay Speakers lead prayer groups, prison ministries, Bible studies, homeless ministries through local soup kitchens and food banks, ministries for women, and many more. Lay Speakers serve their local church in every area of leadership, mission, and ministry.

Our conference director, Michael Cheatham, serves on the executive committee of the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries as chair of the Communications Committee. He also continues to serve as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries.

Lay Speaking Ministries – Equipping United Methodist Laity for Ministry It's not just filling empty pulpits.

Leadership Development (John Allgood) - the Task Group on Leadership Development is concentrating on two areas: building the clergy-laity partnership in ministry and discovering and devising ways to better equip the laity for leadership and ministry. We have worked with the Task Group on the Laity Convocation to address each area in the 2008 Laity Convocation. There will be a workshop on Discovering Leaders through Spiritual Gifts and there will be a forum/discussion between the bishop and the conference lay leader on the clergy-laity partnership.

We are exploring the use of video conferencing to make laity training available to laity throughout the conference at the same time. We are working on a basic leadership training handbook and are examining approaches to leader development used in other conferences.

The task group sees that we need to raise up a new generation of leaders in the church with a vision of servant leadership and kingdom living.

Spiritual Formation (Kathryn Scarborough) -Sixty-three people attended ***“Choosing Spiritual Leaders – Transforming Church Boards II”***, a one-day event held at Cayce UMC in April 2007. Evaluations were very good, and we will provide seed money to support having this event in three areas of the Conference during 2008.

We will again sponsor **two spiritual formation workshops at the 2008 Laity Convocation**: Mary Lou Redding and Tom Albin will be our workshop leaders.

We worked with the leadership team in planning for **The 5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation**, held April 13-18, 2008 at White Oak Conference Center. The theme was ***Disciplines for the Journey***, and faculty members were Liz Canham and Tom Albin.

God is continuing to reveal to us opportunities for working with the Local Church in this process of Spiritual Formation.

Stewardship (Donald Love) - Since accepting the role as chairperson, we are currently in the process of identifying and contacting members of the Task Group to establish a time and place for a meeting to review and evaluate the **primary goals for focus** that were previously established for 2007.

Work is continuing in the areas of these **primary goals** as we have made plans to load the manual *Gifted to Give: Stewardship Alive* to the Board of Laity Website. The **Lay Speakers Lead in Stewardship** course has been successfully offered in at least one of the District Lay Speaking Schools in 2007 for training leaders in the area of stewardship. Other districts will be encouraged to consider offering this course and the **Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts** Course in 2008 Lay Speaking Schools.

Also, a stewardship workshop **“How to Create a New Spirit of Giving”** was offered at the 2007 Laity Convocation in Lake Junaluska, NC.

The stewardship web page, when completed, will provide information on companies and individuals who lead capital and stewardship campaigns and will include a list of local churches that have successfully used specific campaigns and are willing to share their experiences with other local churches.

A listing of the Conference Resource Center's stewardship resources will also be included to help promote use of the information currently available.

The Stewardship Task Group will continue to promote the importance of Stewardship in our daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ by providing resources and training for individuals and churches to help reach our full potential as stewards of the mysteries and gifts of God.

Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader

Report No. 2

Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the South Carolina Annual Conference Standing Rule Number 30.h the Board of Laity Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for the Board of Laity.

Conference Lay Leader

Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, PO Box 384, Florence, SC 29503

Conference Associate Lay Leader

Mrs. Kathryn Scarborough, 278 Pen Branch Road, North, SC 29112

Secretary of the Board of Laity

Mrs. Jane Scott, 780 Charlotte Thompson Road, Camden, SC 29020

THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has diligently fulfilled her responsibilities to the South Carolina Annual Conference and to The United Methodist Church. This year the Board will recommend 12 candidates for probationary membership and 17 candidates for full membership in The South Carolina Annual Conference. These candidates have been nurtured through the candidacy process and through the three year Residency in Ministry Program. The Board is grateful to those clergy who have served and continue to serve as Mentors to our conference's candidates for Ordained and Licensed ministry. In addition, we extend our appreciation to Eddie Williams who coordinates our Licensing School. This school provides the basic training for those who will serve among us as Local Pastors. These pastors are a vital part of our ministry and their training is an important work of this Board. The ministries of our congregations are greatly enhanced by those who have been certified in ministry. Donna J. Poston has completed the requirements for Professional Certification in Youth Ministry. Donna is currently serving as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry at St. Mark UMC, Seneca. Her pastor is Reverend Steven D. Morgan.

The work of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is multifaceted as we care for conference relationships as they begin, as they change when pastors have need for leaves of varied sorts or sabbaticals, and through all the rich years of service until retirement. We are living into the concept of Orders as established by the 1996 Discipline through our Clergy Gatherings. We want to express appreciation to The Reverends Frank Griffith, Jr., Chair of

Order of Elder, The Reverend Kathy James, Chair of Order of Deacon, and the Reverend Len Ripley who Chairs The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. Their leadership has been a blessing to this Annual Conference and to the work of The Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board is always seeking ways to enhance the ministries of our clergy through continuing education and spiritual formation. This year, at the request of Bishop Taylor, The Board of Ordained Ministry helped through ME Funds, to send members of the 2007 Ordination Class to Israel. The Board received a report on behalf of the attendees at her April 17th meeting. The Board is committed to making this trip available to each new class of Full Members and will be planning for the ongoing funding of this opportunity in the year ahead.

In addition to these ongoing ministries, the Board of Ordained Ministry has spent some time researching the cost of seminary education and is seeking to establish a relationship with Hood Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina; the use(s) of Ministerial Education Funds; in conjunction with The Bishop and Cabinet prepared a new instrument for Pastoral Evaluation; worked on the issue(s) and the conference policy on pastoral ineffectiveness; and reviewed the requirements and guidelines for the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The Board of Ordained Ministry recommends the following changes to the Policy Guidelines (deletions are indicated by strikethroughs and additions are indicated by underlines):

Amend guideline XXII. A. by insertion:

- “A. Course of Study Schools Participants: Through the MEF, the Board provides partial scholarships for attendance at the Course of Study schools. The scholarship is paid directly to Duke or Candler. Local Pastors enrolled in The Advanced Course of Study who are working towards Full Membership as an Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference may apply for ME Funds for a maximum of three full seminary courses per year. The scholarship funds for Course of Study and Advanced Course of Study classes are to be paid directly to the seminary.”

Amend XX.C. 5.,6.,7 & 8 by removing the last sentence:

5. “Each year the Board's Committee on Proclamation and Preaching prepares instructions for the requirement of a written proclamation/sermon for applicants for Associate Membership (1992 *Discipline* Par. 420.9) or 2004 *Discipline* Par. 322.1(9)), Probationary Membership (1992 *Discipline* Par. 414.6)(Sermon (elder track) or a Contextual Project (deacon track), and Full Membership as Elders (Par. 424.5 1992 *Discipline*) or Par. 335(5) 2004 *Discipline*) and Full Membership as Deacons (Par. or Par. 330.3 2004 *Discipline*). These instructions are distributed by the Office of Clergy Services for the respective Division to all known applicants and become part of the requirements for that relationship. ~~Only one rewrite will be allowed.~~
6. Committee on Theology and Doctrine prepares instructions for the oral and written doctrinal questions in the current *Discipline* for Associate Membership (324.9.a-i), all Probationary Membership (324.9.a-i), Deacons in Full Connection (330.4a) and Elders in Full Connection (335.7a). The doctrinal questions with instructions are distributed by the Office of Clergy Services to the respective known applicants. The completed responses of the applicants are read and evaluated by the Committee on Theology and Doctrine. ~~Only one rewrite will be allowed.~~
7. Committee on Call and Disciplined life prepares instructions for the oral and written disciplinary questions concerning the applicant's call and disciplined life for candidates for Associate Membership (324.9.j-p), Probationary Membership (324.9.j-p), Deacons in Full Connection (330.4b) and Elders in Full Connection (335.7b). The call and disciplined life questions with instructions are distributed by the Office of Clergy Services to the respective known applicants. The completed responses of the applicants are read and evaluated by the Committee on Call and Disciplined Life. ~~Only one rewrite will be allowed.~~
8. Committee on Bible Study prepares instructions for presenting a plan and outline for teaching an assigned book of the Bible for the applicants for

Associate Member, Probationary Member, Elders in Full Connection; and prepares instructions for a Contextual Project for Deacons. These are distributed by the Office of Clergy Services. ~~Only one rewrite will be allowed.~~"

This will effect a change in that the Board of Ordained Ministry will no longer receive rewrites during the application process. All persons who submit the required materials on a timely basis will receive a complete evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of their submitted materials and will be scheduled to meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Amend XX. C. 4. by deletion:

- "4. Policies and Procedures for Academic Style and Intellectual Integrity
Standards for Academic Style:
All work submitted to the Board should be guided by standards of academic style commonly required by institutions of higher learning. Footnotes and bibliography should be done in accordance with the most recent edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate Turabian. ~~Failure to properly document sources will result in a re-write.~~"

This statement is part of the Academic Integrity Policy. When a candidate is thought to have failed in providing proper documentation of sources, the candidate will be notified about the concern before their meeting with the Board of Ordained Ministry and these concerns will be addressed during their oral interviews.

Amend III. B. by addition of a new sub-paragraph:

"6. To be certified as a candidate one must submit to the district Committee on Ordained Ministry documentation of the successful completion of the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education). This test may be taken at a county Adult Education Office in South Carolina. The cost of taking the TABE will be incurred by the candidate. "

Amend XXIII. by addition of a new sub-paragraph:

"H. An individual applying for membership in The South Carolina Annual Conference must submit a Statement of Disciplinary Compliance and Substance Abuse provided by the Office of Clergy Services on behalf of The Call and Disciplined Life Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry."

Add the "Policy on Pastoral Ineffectiveness" as amended below (previously found on page 230 of the 2006 Journal (Vol. I)) as XIII.D to the Policy Guidelines:

"Policy on Pastoral Ineffectiveness

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

Pastoral Ineffectiveness

I. Definition of Ineffective Pastor

An ineffective pastor is one whose frequent moves are characterized by one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. Unwillingness to focus on the work of the parish.
- b. Poor relational skills
- c. Indolence – sloth – "laziness"
- d. Failure to meet the pastoral care, worship or leadership (preaching) needs of the parish.

- II. Potential Reasons for Alleging Ineffectiveness:
 - a. Service record – frequent moves (for example, three consecutive appointments lasting only one or two years)
 - b. Evaluation covenant from the local church Committee on Pastor (Staff)-Relations.
 - c. Reports and reviews of district superintendents.
 - d. History of church's effectiveness before and after the "ineffective" pastor.
 - e. Pattern of ineffectiveness as defined in Section I above
- III. Recommendations for Responding to the Ineffective Pastor
 - a. Identify areas that need to be strengthened. The district superintendent will also share a copy of the policy on pastoral ineffectiveness with the pastor and have him or her initial the copy after reading.
 - b. Identify resources that offer the pastor opportunities to strengthen the areas, and develop a plan to strengthen ministerial skills.
 - c. ~~Warn the pastor that failure to make progress in strengthening these areas could lead to administrative action. (Par. 362.2, 2004 Discipline)~~
 - d. Continue to review at appropriate intervals and suggest appropriate consultations.
 - e. Document the reviews in detail and place in pastor's file.
 - f. ~~Document the reviews in detail and place in pastor's file.~~
 - g. ~~Continue to review at appropriate intervals and suggest appropriate consultations.~~
 - h. ~~Consider leave options as provided for in The Book of Discipline.~~
- IV. ~~If substantial progress is not made, the Cabinet will initiate appropriate action in keeping with the Discipline.~~

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

I have now completed my service as Chair of this Board. I express my deep appreciation to her members for their commitment to excellence in ministerial leadership. They have been diligent and compassionate servants of this Annual Conference and of The United Methodist Church.

Patricia J. Parrish, Chair

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

PENSION SECTION

Report Number One

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **\$650** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made that will give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$5,415,181** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- C. **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the South Carolina Annual Conference**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

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

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

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

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

D. For 2009, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal \$500 per month for Full Time Equivalent for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participants Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding. The South Carolina Board of Pension and Health Benefits will bill for those clergy at the charge level. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2009, or in advance for monthly crediting in

twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister in appointment is current.

- (1) For the purposes of this section, the Bishop and the Cabinet have established the following for guidelines as to the full or part time status of an appointment to determine FTE status by working quarters:
 - a. Full time appointments are assumed to be full time in service. Defined Plan Compensation cannot be less than the 2009 CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$34,936. There is no classification for a three quarter (3/4) time local pastor. Local pastors must be classified as full-time, half-time, or one-quarter time. Student local pastors are less than full time, but study and compensation requirements have to be met on an annual basis.
 - b. Three Quarter time (3/4) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (the CPP and HealthFlex threshold of \$34,936). Service time is no less than 35 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to three weeks annually.
 - c. One half time (1/2) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 40% (\$23,290) of the DAC, service time of no less than 28 hours per week with paid vacation time is limited to two weeks annually.
 - d. One quarter (1/4) time for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 20% of the DAC (\$11,645). Service time of no less than 15 hours per week, with paid vacation time is limited to one week annually.
 - e. Part-time local pastor (1/2) means Plan Compensation is no less than 30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation (\$17,468). Half time local pastor means service can be no less than 20 hours per week with two weeks paid vacation.
 - f. Part-time local pastor (1/4) means Plan Compensation is less than \$17,468 (30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation). Service time can be less than 20 hours per week with one week paid vacation.

Report Two

2008 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

Requirement	2008 Budgeted	2009 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	3,451,478.00	3,716,778.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,219,012.00	1,257,668.00
CRSP CPP (3%)	1,111,808.00	1,137,487.00
Clergy Transition*	89,856.00	99,072.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$5,902,154.00	\$6,241,005.00
Estimated Income		
**UM Publishing House	0	0
Investment Income-Permanent Funds	450,000.00	300,000.00
Institutional Payments	376,653.00	396,752.00
Apportionment*	119,856.00	129,072.00
Direct Bill Payments	4,955,645.00	5,415,181.00
Total Estimated Income	5,902,154.00	6,241,005.00
*Amount to be apportioned		
Clergy Transition*	89,856.00	99,072.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	119,856.00	\$129,072.00

- E. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- F. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time grant within 90 days of first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

* To be apportioned

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

Report Three
South Carolina Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan
As of January 1, 2008

The 2008 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$614, or 1.02% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The Conference intends to maintain the Past Service Rate around 1% of CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by an average of about 5.23% per year, and we expect that pattern to continue. Therefore, we expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of about 4% per year.

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

Current Plan Funding	\$93,197,590
Supplement One Liability	(72,822,832)
A PSR Increase of 4.0%	
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2006	\$20,374,560
Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table	

David V. Braddon, Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
GROUP INSURANCE SECTION

Report Number One

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

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

5. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
6. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
7. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference.
8. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses.
9. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2004 Book of Discipline.
10. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the annual conference on the current advanced premium.
11. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and shall be based on the following schedule:

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

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

Report Number Two

Major Medical Insurance Benefits

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

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

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

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2008. If an active participant completes their annual wellness exam and the health risk appraisal offered through WebMD via Healthflex; that covered person will receive a \$100 premium credit during the first quarter of 2009. The church will receive a corresponding \$100 credit for 2009.

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

Report Number Three

Medicare Benefits

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

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

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

Report Number Four

Administrative Procedures

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

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

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

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

Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries: It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the “institutional share” of the insured’s premium. This provision shall apply to the District Superintendents, Conference Staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined

payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the quarterly "Statement of Account". Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

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

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

Report Number Five Group Health Insurance Operating Budget

Requirements	2008 Budgeted	2009 Estimated
Active Group		
Participant Only	2,332,275.00	2,331,566.00
Participant + Spouse		1,489,320.00
Participant + Child		147,340.00
Participant + Children		164,260.00
Participant + Family	4,765,128.00	2,989,992.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,097,403.00	7,122,478.00
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Participant	861,698.00	1,006,980.00
Participant +1	1,291,970.00	1,545,480.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	13,536.00	10,016.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,167,204.00	2,562,476.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	9,264,607.00	9,684,954.00
Other*		
Incapacitation/Transition	188,544.00	206,219.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	85,000.00	225,992.00
Total Estimated Other	273,544.00	412,211.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$9,538,151.00	10,097,165.00
Estimated Income		
Billing to salary Paying Units	4,977,904.00	5,262,896.00
Apportioned to Churches**	1,746,246.00	1,749,952.00
From Insured	2,129,221.00	2,042,114.00
From Medicare Participants	433,440.00	768,743.00
From Institutional Payments	251,340.00	273,460.00
Total Estimated Income	\$9,538,151.00	10,097,165.00
Amount to be Apportioned		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	188,544.00	206,219.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,733,764.00	1,793,733.00
LESS: Investment Income	(176,062.00)	(250,000.00)
Total	\$1,746,246.00	1,749,952.00

Report Number Six
2008 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2008 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,080,364 be billed to the local church **charges** and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,749,952 and Investment Income of \$250,000.00 to be used as follows:
 - a. \$ 206,219.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - b. \$1,793,733.00 for retiree Group Medicare Supplement.
3. That participant premium payments be set as follows:
 - a. Personal group insurance premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
 1. Effective **January 1, 2009**, the **participant only** premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be **\$170.00** per month.
 2. Effective **January 1, 2009**, the **participant plus spouse** premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be **\$355.00** per month.
 3. Effective **January 1, 2009**, the **participant plus child** premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be **\$237.00** per month.
 4. Effective **January 1, 2009**, the **participant plus children** premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be **\$322.00** per month.
 5. Effective **January 1, 2009**, the **participant plus family** premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30 % is expected to be **\$473.00** per month.
 - b. **Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$110.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2009.**
4. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One, item 11.
5. Active participants attained age 65, serving salary paying units that would otherwise qualify for a Small Employer Medicare Secondary Payer Exemption, and their eligible dependents, shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premium limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule in Report One, item 11.
6. The estimated 2009 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full time Diaconal Ministers and full time Lay Employees of local churches, are expected to be: **\$563.00 monthly (\$6,756.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,182.00 monthly (\$14,184.00 yearly for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$789.00 monthly (\$9,468.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,071.00 monthly (\$12,852.00 yearly) for participant plus children coverage, and \$1,577.00 monthly (\$18,924.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage.** Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2009.

David V. Braddon, Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary

**The Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Group Insurance Section
Special Report**

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits provides the following information to the South Carolina Annual Conference. The General Board has provided the following guidance to the South Carolina Annual Conference.

**South Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Retiree Healthcare Benefits
Summary of Results¹**

	December 31, 2006+	December 31, 2005
Expected postretirement benefit obligation		
Gross EPBO (total costs)	\$ 99,183,434	\$ 93,605,383
Retiree Contributions	(18,389,319)	(14,664,740)
EPBO (net Conference costs)	\$ 80,794,115	\$ 78,935,643
Accumulated post retirement benefits costs (APBO)		
Gross APBO (total costs)	\$ 77,226,865	\$ 70,778,627
Retiree Contributions	(13,952,026)	(10,272,719)
APBO (net Conference costs)	\$ 63,274,839	\$ 60,205,908
Participant counts		
Active participants	603	603
Active Dependents	483	482
Retired Participants and survivors	339	329
Dependents of retired participants	156	161
Totals	1,581	1,575
Key actuarial assumptions		
Valuation date	December 31, 2006	January 1, 2005
Discount rate	6.00%	5.75%
Valuation year medical trend	12.00%	12.00%
Ultimate medical trend	5.00%	5.00%
Ultimate medical trend reached in fiscal year	2014	2012

¹Watson-Wyatt, *Retiree Healthcare Benefits December 31, 2006 Report of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church*, 3.

The cover letter from the Managing actuary stated the following “The retiree medical valuation provides a financial snapshot, if you will, of the benefit program as of December 31, 2006. The expected postretirement benefit obligation (EPBO) is the liability you will be interested in from a long range funding perspective. In other words, the net EPBO represents the amount of money the conference would need to have had on hand on December 31, 2006, to consider its retiree healthcare benefit program “fully funded”.

The letter goes on to state that the conference “...use the results of this valuation to structure a sustainable funding plan addressing retiree medical liabilities.” It further states that the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests the South Carolina Annual Conference submit a DRAFT retiree medical funding plan by December 31, 2008 that demonstrates “...that the conference either has a sustainable funding plans or is devoting considerable effort toward creating one.”

In light of that request, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church has appointed a task force to address the development of a retiree medical funding plan. This task force will meet the requirements of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and report back to the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

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

THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

We are pleased to announce that we have had another successful year. I would personally like to thank the members of the commission for their assistance in all of the commission's endeavors.

PON-PON CELEBRATION

John Wesley's 1737 visit to the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease was remembered on April 22nd, 2007. The celebration began with an outdoor worship service at 11 am. This service was followed by a picnic on the grounds and the day concluded with another brief service. The Commission would like to extend a special thanks: to the Rev. Thom Jones for his wonderful portrayal of John Wesley, to the Spartanburg Methodist choir for their awe-inspiring music and our co-sponsors, the Old Jacksonboro Historic District, the Walterboro District of the SC Annual Conference and the St. Jude Episcopal Church.

LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN TRAINING

April 5, 2008- "Helping Historians Avoid Hysteria" Workshop will be held from 10:00-3:00 pm at St. Andrews UMC, Orangeburg. The \$20 registration includes materials and lunch. **Contact Dr. Roger Gramling, PO Box 212305, Columbia, SC 29221-1305 to register.**

SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Tennessee July 8-11, 2008. **Contact Rev. Frank Buie, 209 Jabay Drive, Columbia, SC, 29229 or fbuie@sc.rr.com for more information.**

GRAVE MARKERS

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

CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

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

First UMC, Winnsboro, Columbia District
Green Pond UMC, Ruffin, Smoaks Circuit, Walterboro District
Dials UMC, Gray Court, Dials- Shiloh Charge, Greenville District
Millers UMC, Mullins, Mullins Circuit, Marion District
Smyrna UMC, Lowndesville, Anderson District

The **Centennial** churches are:

Estill UMC, Hampton, Estill-Black Swamp charge, Waterboro District
Rizer Chapel UMC, Ehrhardt, Ebenezer- Rizer Chapel Charge, Walterboro District
Dalzell UMC, Sumter, Hartsville District
Calhoun Falls UMC, Calhoun Falls, Anderson District
Allen View UMC, Greenville, East Greenville Charge, Greenville District
Livingston UMC, Livingston, Livingston-Pinehill Charge, Orangeburg District
Bethel Park UMC, Denmark, Bethel Park-Main Street Charge, Orangeburg District
Gramling UMC, Gramling, Spartanburg District

Hucks Awards

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

Pisgah, Aynor

Pisgah's historian, Mrs. Judy Floyd, and her committee have made great strides this year in preserving their church's history. They have collected records documenting the church's history, have preserved many of the church's historic furnishings, have written historical sketches for church newsletters, and have established a history room to collect and display

their artifacts. They prepared a DVD recording of the church's history, with pictures, documents, and interviews, which they have shown at several events.

Washington Street, Columbia

Chronicling church history has become a part of Washington Street's culture. Thanks to a bequest from Ms. Mary Vann Raggio, the church produces a DVD each year that chronicles the events in the life of the church that year. The video is shared with members of the congregation, and copies become part of the permanent historical collection. Additionally, materials submitted for the annual report but not included in the DVD are added to the church archives.

Bethel, Spartanburg

Bethel, Spartanburg celebrated 150 years of ministry in Spartanburg during 2007. The church took this celebration as an opportunity to establish a history room, and members began the process of consolidating records into one location. Throughout the year, members of the church talked about different important events in the church's history, and the year concluded with a Heritage Sunday celebration. Church historian Dr. Phillip Stone and committee members are continuing the work of collecting and sharing the church's history.

Mountain View, Taylors

Mountain View's historian, Mrs. Frieda Anne Liston, has continued to lead the church in building a strong archives collection. Committee members continue to add materials to the archives, and members of the church continue to be active participants in sharing Methodist history with each other and with their community. Memories have been collected and shared, and history continues to be a central part of the church's life.

Individual Hucks Award recipient:

The Reverend Dr. Theodore R. Morton, Jr.

A Life Member of the South Carolina Conference Historical Society, the Reverend Dr. Theodore R. Morton, Jr., has distinguished himself in areas of service to the Church, the State, and the Nation many of which reveal a love for and appreciation of history and a desire to record, preserve, and recount significant historical events and locations. Included among these have been his service as Secretary of the South Carolina Annual Conference, Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference Historical Society, a Commissioner of the Cokesbury Historical and Recreational Commission responsible for the Cokesbury Conference School and community site, Treasurer of the Old Ninety Six District Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society, a Life Member of the Greenwood County Historical Society, National Trustee of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, and Chairman of Chapter Revitalization for the South Carolina Society of Sons of the American Revolution. He was for twenty-six years the chief executive officer of the Greenwood Methodist Home. His more recent service has included the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Board of Directors of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation. Dr. Morton is a "walking encyclopedia" of information and recollections on matters related to the last fifty years in the history of the South Carolina Conference and its institutions in addition to the many special projects and activities in which he has been involved over the years.

2009 Award Application and Criteria

2009 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2009 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2009 Conference Session. If your church qualifies or if you know of someone who has furthered the interpretation and preservation of United Methodist Heritage in South Carolina, please send the name with answers to the questions below. Please include your name, the name of the church and how to contact the pastor by name. Mail your application to **Carol Spencer, 245 Quail Hollow Lane, Walhalla, SC 29691.**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS February 1, 2009

Local Church Qualifications

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

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

Individual Qualifications

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

Deadline: February 1, 2009 The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions on February 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa C. Hawkins, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

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

We must diligently work to create opportunities where local and community faith groups can dialogue and strive for unity and understanding. Unity and understanding is accomplished when we faithfully dialogue with our ecumenical friends, attend workshops and worship services, and honestly listen to each other's conversation. By living in a global community, we have not done all that we can to expand our horizons to reach for unity. Our vision has become short-sighted because we may fear that the task is too daunting.

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

On a personal note, this conference ends my second term with CUIC. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as a member of this commission.

Morris Waymer, Jr., Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

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

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

B. Total Compensation for Clergy

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

Report Number 2

A.1. Budget Request for 2009

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$ 570,000** be made to fund the estimated **\$620,000** Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2009. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

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

In accord with the mandate of the Discipline, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2009, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

Category	Amount
1. Clergy in full connection	\$39,250*
2. Probationary, Commissioned and Associate Members	\$35,150*
3 Local Pastors	\$32,900*

*These recommendations represent a 3% increase rounded up to the nearest \$50 over the 2008 conference schedule for total minimum compensation.

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

Clergy who depend on the pastoral support package for medical insurance have experienced several years of consecutive insurance premium increases. Staff or Pastor-Parish Relations Committees are asked to adjust the clergy compensation package so

that a cash salary increase is possible if it appears that the health insurance premium increase will result in a reduction of cash salary, year-to-year. The commission on equitable compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expenses through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary.

Please see sections "O." and "P." below, entitled "Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses" and "Reimbursement as Administrative Cost."

B. For Student Appointments

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

C. For Deacons in Full Connection

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

D. Experience Merit

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

Example: Year 6: equitable compensation base plus \$875.00;

Year 7: equitable compensation base plus \$1050.00;

Year 8: equitable compensation base plus \$1225.00;

Year 9: equitable compensation base plus \$1400.00;

Year 10: equitable compensation base plus \$1575.00;

Years 11+: equitable compensation base plus \$1750.00.

E. Housing Allowances

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

F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance

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

G. Cross Racial Appointments

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

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

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

I. Disbursement of Supplements

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

J. Utilities Allowance

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

K. Investment of Reserve Fund

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

L. Interpretation

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

M. Compensation Guidance

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

N. Ineligibility

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support:

1. Retired supply pastors
2. Part-time local pastors
3. Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 98
4. Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of The United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1. a, b, c of the *The Book of Discipline 2004*.
5. Deacons as defined in Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2004*. (except as appointed under Report 3 of this report and Paragraph 624.4 of The Book of Discipline 2004).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties.

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

P. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

The Commission recommends that the reimbursement for travel and professional expenses be a part of the administrative cost of each local church and not considered or reported as part of the pastor's compensation.

Q. Vacation Policy

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

Total Years of Service/Number of Weeks

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

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

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

In addition to the above it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week. "Years of Service" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

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

Report Number 3 Mission Situations

A. Definition

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

B. Eligibility

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

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

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

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

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

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

1. If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.
2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference

Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st.

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

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

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

Part 1.

Schedule for New Churches Initiated Prior to January 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part 2.

2008 Schedule for New Church Starts

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

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

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

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

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

Part 3.

Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report Number 4

Category Summaries of Recent Disbursements

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

		Dec. 2004		Dec. 2005		Dec. 2006		Dec 2007	
		No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1.	New church	2	31,630	2	18,315	4	97,908	5	177,900
2.	Minimum	16	132,892	9	64,408	14	61,364	3	89,869
3.	"Special"	1	4,950	1	3,000	1	3,000	7	71,757
4.	Cross-Racial	0		0		0		0	
5.	Low Income	2	57,525	1	27,090	2	42,140	2	57,350
direct billing costs:			54,310		18,917		39,000		106,304
TOTALS		21	281,307	13	131,730	20	243,412	27	502,880

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

	Jan. 2005	Jan. 2006	Jan. 2007	Jan 2008	
1. Effective Members	9	8	10	20	
2. Probationary Members (Full Time)	6	3	1	3	
3. Probationary Members (Not Full Time)	0	0	0	0	
4. Associate Members	0	0	0	0	
5. Local Pastors (Full Time)	5	2	4	6	
6. Student Local Pastors	0	0	0	0	
7. Other	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
TOTALS:	21	13	16	30	

Joseph R. James, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Jesus Christ our Lord says "now" powerfully, just like He says powerfully everything else from His heart and lips. "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in Him God is glorified; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once. Little children...A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that also you love one another." (John 13)"

Like Jesus said when He accepted His cross, so the Spirit of Jesus says the same to us now. Putting confidence in the Lord, we seek to be faithful and completely obedient to Jesus in this love commandment concerning love for God and all our brothers and sisters. We affirm that the power and grace of Jesus energize us to serve. Gladly we accept the Book of Disciplines' mandate to lift up and to monitor the blessing of racial inclusion in our South Carolina conference.

Your commission is blessed to have embodied in its willing membership ethnicities of African American, Euro American, Hispanic American, and Native American: perhaps others of which we are not aware. Good and vast inclusion begins at home, so we encourage local charge conferences and districts to be sensitized to this at nomination time.

We are excited to report that from last year's 2007 annual conference one of our long time members who monitored stated that in terms of racial diversity it was the best she had ever witnessed. This healthy racial diversity took place especially in worship leadership and in preaching and teaching.

Five particular printed tools exist to help you and me. 1. "Conference Commission on Religion and Race Manual", 2000, Revised. 2. "On-Site Review Report", 2003, showing on paper the number facts of racial inclusion in South Carolina United Methodist bodies, with suggestions. 3. "The Ministry of Racial Reconciliation" booklet by former General Secretary Chester R. Jones. 4. "The Central Jurisdiction Recovery Project, Preserving our Past, Building Our Future". 5. "The Pros and Cons of Merger (Personal Insights) A History/Listening Project", 1992.

Within the last few years, great interest has been expressed in finding out how people feel about effectiveness of the merger of the "black" and "white" South Carolina conferences in 1972. Low and behold, such a study has been already compiled by many dedicated folk from 1990-1992. We affirm the importance and helpfulness of "The Pros and Cons" study.

God helps us realize work God has been doing in cultivating wonderful diversity in God's people's created and redeemed nature in this marvelous conference. At the same time, God helps us realize that we can too easily overlook appreciating and affirming others, and when that happens God's people suffer. Let us be faithful to God, and thereby 'right now' let God's Spirit lead: to learn from others of all ethnicities; to be humble before, and blessed by, the leadership of others; to boldly stand for all Christ Jesus says, not putting over until later, but now and always living in the Spirit.

Fred McDaniel, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women has used much of our time this year to begin planning what steps we need to take in order to be a more useful resource and support for the conference. We have moved from two scheduled meetings to three to help in our organizational structure and to give more space for brainstorming. We continue to work towards becoming more visible and viable through three different avenues:

1. Our Newsletter this year was a vessel to bring forth awareness of Domestic and Sexual Violence throughout our communities, state and the world. We offer it as a resource for Pastors and Laity.
2. This past year we invited the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to attend one of our meetings and share with us how the church may be in dialogue with them. SCCADVASA and Robin Griffeth gave us an enlightening presentation that brought us to the point of asking, "How do we offer this as a resource to our pastors and the laity?" As a result, we are looking into the future of offering a one day workshop/conference with the opportunity of receiving Continuing Education Credits. We are also purchasing two DVD's for resources in the Resource Center.
3. We are still concerned about the Nurture of our Women in all areas of Ministry. Our planning has not taken us to this area yet - maybe next year!

God is working with us as we strive towards becoming a healthy and effective ministry in the South Carolina Conference.

Rebecca McPherson, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

This past year has seen the conclusion of several projects and the inception of several others for the Conference Commission on Worship.

In the 2007-08 conference year we completed and distributed the first volume of the "Nuts and Bolts of Worship" books. We also prepared an updated brochure that detailed a "speakers bureau" of worship related seminars and presenters available here in the South Carolina Conference. Further, we formalized a long standing tradition of providing grants for local congregations to hold their own training events. An application (with rationale and procedure) was developed and a selection committee created. One copy of the materials was given to every pastor serving in a local congregation and one copy of the "Nuts and Bolts: Volume One" was given for every Chair of Worship (or counterpart) in every congregation in the conference. Many were distributed during the annual district set up meetings and others were given out at district monthly ministers meetings. We would like to thank the District Superintendents for their willingness for us to take that time. We also would like to remind the pastors to make sure that the books are passed along to the lay person that need them.

We continued to work with the Conference Liturgist (Bishop Taylor) and the appointed Celebrant to carry out the various worship experiences of the Annual Conference sessions. Our tasks include securing many of materials for the services, setting up for and cleaning up after communion, the recruitment and training of communion servers, arranging processions, and managing the ushers as well as others. Our intent in the 2008 – 09 year is to continue to plan ahead and create a manual for the work that we handle so that it will be easier in ensuing years.

We have had individual members that were asked and were able to present workshops at a few of the District Officer Training events. They seem to have been well received.

We further strengthened our relationship with the Fellowship of United Methodist in Music and Worship Arts by making the president an ex-officio member of the commission.

New or continuing projects for the coming year are: (1) To work with some of the more artistically talented persons across the conference to establish a worship environment and to secure the worship related items for the "All Saints" chapel within the Conference Building. Our hope is to also make it a library of current hymnals, older hymnals and books of worship and a repository of memorials for those beloved U.M. Congregations that have had to close their

doors for whatever reason. (2) To complete work on "Nuts and Bolts: Volume 2" and have it distributed in a similar fashion to Volume One. (3) To finish the work on filming and distributing the "Nuts and Bolts" Training Video. (4) To work with the Board of Global Ministries to prepare and present a series of five weekend worship and mission events entitled "We Worship / We Serve". (5) Develop "Nuts and Bolts: Volume Three". This volume will deal with all things musically related to worship. (6) To completely re-inventory all worship related materials owned by the Conference and kept in our care. (7) To work with the Conference Staff to establish a "Worship" page related to the conference web site to make all materials available on-line.

This proves to be an interesting coming year for the Commission on Worship in as much as there will be a significant turn-over (in relation to the new procedures for committee membership tenure) and as a result of other personnel issues. Between one-half and two-thirds of the members and all of the officers will be newly elected during the 2008 annual conference session. It is with regret that the energy and expertise of those departing members are lost to us. It is with anticipation that we await the new that comes our way.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Murdaugh, Chair

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on October 17, 2007, to evaluate the 2007 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2008 Annual Conference. The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2007 Annual Conference and specifically reviewed the results of the first-ever post-conference evaluation. The evaluation, directed by the 2007 annual conference, was mailed to all members of the clergy and all lay members of the annual conference. Over 900 responses were received. The committee was pleased to note that in every category, the ratings given to the various aspects of the conference were rated between acceptable and excellent by those responding.

In reviewing the over-all experience of Conference, the committee again agreed that less time should be devoted to informational reports, recognitions, and awards, and more time should be devoted to substantive matters that require a decision by the Annual Conference. This conclusion becomes even more important in 2008, since the Service Day was a successful addition to annual conference and will be included again. This means that there will not only be one less day, as conference returns to the normal Sunday to Wednesday format, but Tuesday afternoon will also be unavailable for business. As a result, almost all purely informational reports have been eliminated from the agenda, leaving more time for actions items. In addition, the new format for the presentation of awards and recognitions was judged to be a success and will be retained for 2008.

Following the 2007 Conference, committee members could consider their own experience from meeting in Florence, as well as the responses from the evaluations. In light of the favorable experience in Florence and the favorable responses of participants, the Committee recommends that the 2009 Annual Conference be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence.

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

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

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

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

The Committee still has a large number of volumes of the 2001 edition of *United Methodist Ministers in South Carolina*. The Committee has reduced the price of the volume from \$10.00 to

\$5.00 each, and will make a special effort to sell them at the upcoming Annual Conference.

In light of the large number of older Journals still retained in the conference center, the Committee has voted to give away any journals two years old or older, except those needed for archival purposes. The Committee also voted to give away copies of the 1991 Ministers Book, except those needed for archival purposes, as well as the 2003 and 2005 Ministers' Pictorial Directories.

The Committee has begun planning to have pictures taken at this Conference for a new Ministers' Pictorial Directory. The Committee has also begun initial planning for the next edition of the Ministers' Book, scheduled for 2011.

Volumes I and II of the 2007 Conference Journal were mailed together in January of this year. This was a more timely completion of the Journal, as Volume I of the 2005 Journal was not mailed until April of 2006, and both volumes of the 2006 Journal were mailed in February of 2007. The Committee is hopeful that progress can continue to be made in producing the Journal more quickly.

Both the 2006 and 2007 Journals are now available on the Conference web-site. The Committee is very pleased with this progress. Over time, the Committee expects to create a library of Journals available on-line.

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

Velma M. Haywood, Chairperson

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee continues to monitor the effectiveness and results of the deployment of district congregational specialists within our conference. These specialists have also received training to serve as coaches of the Natural Church Development process. Many positive reports have been received from local churches about the presence and helpfulness of the specialists. There does seem to be some concern for the workload they carry and the committee will keep this in mind as they continue to watch for changes that need to be made. Along with the transition came other necessary administrative staff repositioning and adjustments. A major task for the Conference Staff Relations Committee was the 2008 salary considerations to be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration, but in the end the committee presented a salary plan that worked within the budget guidelines.

The staff of this conference works well together and they love the Lord. We are grateful for their work and desire to help others along the way.

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The work of congregational development is focused around two major areas; the establishment of new faith communities and participation in Natural Church Development by our existing churches.

We are currently working on five new church starts. Point Hope in Mt. Pleasant is actually a restart and is showing great progress by now having over 100 in worship. Waters Edge in Beaufort has outgrown the movie theatre and is now preparing to move into a much larger school facility. They are now averaging 140 in worship. Grace Community in the Fort Mill area is having 100 worshipers on a regular basis and began their launch series on April 20. Journey Church in Northeast Columbia is meeting in a leased space on Clemson road and their average worship attendance is approaching 100. GracePoint in Bluffton is developing their launch team and having regular "Taste and See" events.

We are not planning to launch any new congregations at this Annual Conference. It does appear that we will be on track to launch three next year. One of the critical needs is for us to have strong, healthy churches who want to give birth to new congregations. Churches that have budget and people resources are needed to help plant our new faith communities. Helping to

identify these mother churches will be a priority for the next conference year. Our Discernment Academy will once again be held this fall as we seek to identify those pastors who have the gifts and graces to plant a new church.

Over 250 churches have engaged in the Natural Church Development process. We now have churches that are taking the survey for the second time. Those who have worked on the process are showing significant growth by addressing their minimum factor. We are continuing to develop our coaching network. We are working with CoachNet in training and certifying people to come alongside and coach our pastors.

It is also important that we recognize the service of Rev. Dan Bradley who has served as the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for the past eight years. Dan has served the conference in a significant way and he has advanced the cause of Congregational Development across South Carolina. Thanks Dan for your faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Taylor, Director

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Conference Committee on Episcopacy met in the spring and again on Monday, October 15, 2007, at the Methodist Center in Columbia.

The agenda was to summarize the results of an evaluation process recommended by the Council on Bishops to the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide input for the Bishops throughout the jurisdiction to assess areas in which they might better serve their Conferences.

The evaluation process began with a survey by the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, the Cabinet and leaders throughout the Conference. This enabled a broad and varied view from many perspectives. Results proved to be supportive, positive and also constructive. This led to a meaningful dialogue and provided helpful insight for our Bishop and the Committee.

One recommendation especially worth noting was addressing the need to provide assistance to the Bishop in carrying out the varied duties of her office. It came to our attention from the survey that the magnitude, demands and expectations of an Episcopal office are more than one person can realistically accomplish. A subcommittee has been formed to consider these needs and make recommendations.

Findings from this interaction have been forwarded to the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. As a result, Bishop Taylor has been unanimously asked to return for a second quadrennium. The Committee affirmed her work among us and is deeply appreciative of the leadership she provides.

George K. Howle, Chairperson

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Building and strengthening relationships across racial and cultural lines is a goal of ELCC. Churches are invited to grow in love and fellowship by studying, worshipping, praying and working together on projects with churches of different races.

We are charged with the ministry of reconciliation and inclusiveness. We need to embrace our uniqueness. Every ethnic group talents, gifts and graces should be recognized and valued. Toward this effort, a diversity (multi-cultural) event is being planned. This will be facilitated dialogue.

Some Concerns:

- 1) There is a great need and appeal for in depth leadership training for all church positions. Training in smaller groups (perhaps clusters) would be more effective and personalized.
- 2) Transportation is also a ministry issue, especially for the Hispanic/Latino and African-American communities. Budgetary restraints prohibits/limits outreach, evangelism, and youth ministry efforts.
- 3) Program Resources

Another goal of ELCC is to empower local ethnic churches to self-sufficiency. As the diversity population grows, we need to make sure that we are prepared for mission and witness. Three empowering events are planned:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| April 2008 | ELCC Grant Writing Workshop for persons interested in applying for ELCC funds |
| 2009 | Grant Writing Workshops for non-ELCC Grants (Conference Agencies. Other UM Church Grants, UM Loans, Federal/Other Grants for Ethnic Groups.) (Tri-Districts workshops are being considered to provide maximum attendance opportunity.) |
| 2009 | African-American Church Convocation |

The African-American Task Force, in cooperation with ELCC, Black Methodists for Church Renewal and Connectional Ministries (via Rev. Kenneth Nelson, Congregational Specialist for the African American Ministries) conducted eight (8) tri-district Listening Sessions for strengthening the ministry of the African-American congregations in the SC Annual Conference. An invitation was extended to all African American Clergy and Lay Leaders. The clergy and lay met separately. Purpose of listening sessions: to discern the needs and concerns of the local African American congregations. The data from these sessions is being compiled and summarized for the writing of the Comprehensive Plan for the African-American Church. This plan will be presented at the 2008 Annual Conference.

The Hispanic-Latino Committee, led by Rev. Mary Teasley, completed its Comprehensive Plan. A report from the chairperson follows.

The Korean/Asian Task Force – Dialog has begun with clergy persons to reactivate this committee. It is hoped that the leadership of this Task Force will be identified by July, 2008.

The Native American Committee, led by Tracy Pender, activities were:

- 1) A continuation of its efforts of church visitations with Native American Ministries Sunday. It is hoped that every church in the SC Conference will celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday.
 - 2) Scholarships were provided for SC American Indian families to attend the 19th Annual Native American Summer Conference at Lake Junaluska.
 - 3) Involved in the exploration of starting a United Methodist Native American Church with a group of American Indians in Marlboro County.
 - 4) This committee has been very involved in the discussions about reorganization at the jurisdictional level.
 - 5) The Native American Comprehensive Plan has been completed.
 - 6) Native American Salkehatchie Camp
 - 7) Native American Representative Training
 - 8) Christmas Elder Baskets
- A report from the chairperson follows.

ELCC continues to provide leadership development of ethnic youth, laity and clergy via workshops, conferences, convocations, Harambee, YAC, Salkehatchie, and SEJANAM. Grants were awarded for community outreach, Christian Education, older adult ministries, youth/children Ministries and cultural activities.

Charlotte A. Grooms, Chairperson

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE

Over the last year, the African American Committee has been committed to addressing its primary mission of recognizing African Americans as people of God and developing, empowering, enhancing, and vitalizing African American ministries by making disciples of all. As is customary, in partnership with BMCR and ELCC, we have continued to support local church initiatives, programs, and personnel that have focused on making disciples in the local church, and that have helped congregations connect to ministries beyond themselves.

The most important work done by our committee this year, however, was a collaborative

venture between the African American Committee, the Connectional Ministries Office, Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) and Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) to discern and identify the needs of African American congregations in the South Carolina Annual Conference. With an eye toward the 2008 quadrennium, we raised the question, "What can we be doing to strengthen the ministry of African American congregations in the South Carolina Annual Conference?"

This identification of needs resulted from a series of 4 Tri-District listening sessions held with African American clergy and laity across the state. These listening sessions had two stated purposes:

First, to identify the needs of African American congregations in the South Carolina Annual Conference. Second, to solicit commentary for writing a comprehensive plan that would make recommendations about how these needs might best be addressed.

Our ultimate goal is to strengthen the ministry of African American congregations in making disciples and transforming the world around them. In strengthening these congregations, we strengthen the ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church in making disciples for Jesus Christ and transforming the world.

In the listening sessions held in February, we asked, "What are the kinds of things that the South Carolina Annual conference might do that would enable the ministry of your local church, and second, what are kinds of things that get in the way of that?" Generally speaking, the following issues were identified as priorities and pressures points within local African American congregations.

- The need to affirm, celebrate and preserve the African American presences, ministry, history, and heritage within United Methodism and within the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- The need to strengthen, equip, and resource local congregations for the work of making disciples and transforming the world.
- The needs for leadership development related to having a well educated and trained clergy, and equipped and empowered laity.
- The need for a conference level staff position dedicated to the purpose of strengthening and interpreting the ministry the African American Church to and on behalf of the Annual Conference
- The need for investigation of additional strategies (that are culturally and ethnically sensitive) in continuing new church starts in high growth areas and equally the need for revitalization of existing congregations.
- The need to address the precarious balance between funding the ministry needs of the local church and the desire and challenge of supporting the ministry needs of the greater connectional church.

For a more in-depth summary of these issues, one can read the full report entitled, **"Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century: the Comprehensive Plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference"**. (Located on the 2008 Annual Conference DVD)

By way of summary, the comprehensive plan begins with a narrative of the historical context of the African American presence in greater Methodism and the South Carolina Annual Conference. The report proceeds to the rationale for writing a comprehensive plan to strengthen the Black Church. The report identifies the issues raised in the state- wide listening sessions and also makes recommendations concerning each issue.

The issues section of the comprehensive plan attempts to do three things:

- 1) First, identify the most pressing issues identified by local congregations
- 2) Provide a rationale into factors related to the issues
- 3) Provide recommendations to conference boards, agencies, and personnel who might be a partner in addressing these concerns.

The majority of the recommendations raised in the report are specific to particular boards, agencies, and personnel of the annual conference. These recommendations do not require the action of the Annual Conference or of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and have been referred to the following boards and agencies: the Conference Staff Relations Committee, The Bishop & Cabinet, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, The African American Committee, and the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee.

There is one recommendation, however, that if acted upon favorably at this session of the

Annual Conference would provide significant impetus for achieving and implementing the remaining recommendations made in the report. That recommendation is as follows:

Recommendation: **The Congregational Specialist for the African American Church be made a full-time position without additional district responsibilities.**

This position's energies would be poured into three central areas:

- Advocacy and Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan on Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century in the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- Interpretation of this ministry to and on behalf of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- Equipping local African American congregations for the work of ministry

We recommend that the job description, salary, and accountability structure be referred to the Conference Staff Relations Committee in consultation with Connectional Ministries and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

In conclusion, we ask for the prayerful consideration of the Bishop, the Cabinet, the Connectional Ministries Office, CF & A, and the delegates to the 2008 South Carolina Annual Conference.

Rationale:

Since 1992, the General Conference and BMCR have been calling upon the church to devise strategies to strengthen the ministry of the Black Church for the 21st Century. As the South Carolina Annual Conference has amongst the largest presence of African Americans in Methodism, we thought it crucial that the South Carolina Annual Conference be trail blazers in any such initiatives of the General Church.

We believe that responding to this call is in keeping with the purpose of the Annual Conference of making disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God.

In 2005, the South Carolina Annual Conference responded to this call with the creation of a position for a Congregational Specialist whose area of specialization would be re-sourcing African American congregations.

As was true of all of the congregational specialist positions however, this position was tasked with caring for needs of churches in two districts in addition to work related to conference board and agencies. There are nearly 49,000 African American United Methodists in the state of South Carolina or 25% of the conference population. There are 278 African American United Methodist charges in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We believe that having a central clearing house, point person or agent to champion the needs and issues of this population on behalf of the Annual Conference would enable the Bishop, Cabinet, and Connectional Ministries to continue its mission to strengthen and resource local congregations. We believe that having a person in such a position would continue building on the strengths and diversity of this conference.

We believe that a position whose attentions were more focused on this particular task would further enable the SC Annual Conference to answer the call of the General Church and BMCR to strengthen the ministry of the Black Church for the 21 Century.

Respectfully submitted,

*Herbert Fogle, Chair, The African American Task Force
Kenneth L. Nelson, Congregational Specialist, African American Ministries*

THE COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES

A resolution passed by the 2007 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference brought this committee into being. Bishop Taylor named the members of the committee in accordance with the stipulations of the resolution, including persons from the previous task force, and

representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry, Congregational Development, Equitable Compensation, and the Cabinet. Members of the committee are: Rev. Juan Farjado, Rev. Megan Gray, Rev. Michael Hood, Rev. Robin Deese, Rev. Diana Westerkam, Rev. Robert Cannon, Rev. Rusty Taylor, Rev. Mary Teasley, Ms. Charlotte Grooms, Rev. Anthony Hodge, Ms. Sandra Hanelin, Rev. Cec Jenkin, Rev. Willie Teague, and Rev. Sonia Ortigoza.

The Committee has met over the course of the past year, evaluating the current ministries, and has begun to identify leadership and sources of funding within the Annual Conference and the General Church agencies.

The Annual Conference resolution also called for making “ministries with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority.” In order for this to happen, the Committee is in conversation with:

- The Ministry Advisory Team, requesting that the Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries become a full-time Connectional Ministries staff position;
- The Committee on Equitable Compensation, requesting the development of a policy which will include sustainable compensation for viable ministries with Hispanic/Latino persons.

Our goals for 2009 are to:

- Strengthen and resource current pastors and faith communities (identify and provide funding for training opportunities; develop a system of support and accountability)
- Identify and train non-Hispanic/Latino congregations that feel called and committed to work with Hispanic/Latino communities of faith.

While we are not asking for funding this year for Hispanic/Latino ministries, some of the requests that we are making will call for funding from Congregational Development, Connectional Ministries, the Committee on Equitable Compensation, and the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

We are excited about the variety of ministries already taking place within our Annual Conference, and look forward to the development of others. Our dream of being a church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors for all of God’s people is just beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary V. Teasley

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMITTEE

In 1st Thessalonians, Chapter 3, I am reminded of Timothy’s Encouraging Report. We are truly thankful to the people of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for your support and faith. You have uplifted us as a people, and we stand together, not as individuals or even races, but one body of people all united in the Blood of Christ. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts. Through Christ, all is possible.

As I begin my annual report, I bring you an encouraging report of progress and change. This year has been marked as one of the most successful years for our committee. Yes, we may have a long ways to travel on that Good Red Road, but we are traveling it together making positive steps with each step that we make together. As a church, we are making South Carolina native peoples “Visible” continuing our main goal of “Making the Invisible – Visible.”

One of the most successful outcomes of 2007 is the increase of churches inviting our committee members to present for Native American Ministries Sunday. We visited more churches this past year doubling the number from the previous year. From March through May, I was only home two weekends. The remainder of the time, I was traveling to another church. Combined with other committee members, we have spread the message. We are like traveling missionaries.

We hope to continue and increase the number of churches visited in 2008 with Native American Ministries Sunday. Please remember that we are not locked into that one date, April 6th, for Native American Ministries Sunday. Our committee is willing to travel throughout the year.

For the first presentation at a church, our chair typically provides the message portion of the sermon. The message covers myths and stereotypes about SC American Indians from past to present, American Indian spirituality, our committee and our outreach. We have brochures,

contact cards and a display board. Subsequent years may include traditional story telling or a presentation for a South Carolina tribe. At the end of the service, we present the church with a friendship necklace including a clay medallion made of Catawba clay by a Catawba Indian. Subsequent years will feature the presentation of a traditional Indian bead made by one of the tribes of South Carolina. We hope all churches will build their friendship necklaces. **To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact the chair, Zan Tracy Pender, 803 905-5672.**

I was humbled in the month of June at annual conference when I received the Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder's Award. It is truly an honor. I hope to continue to be a good servant and leader. Yet, I must thank God and the members of our committee for all of their hard work and effort.

In June, we spent over \$2,800 in scholarships sending South Carolina American Indian families to the annual Native American Conference at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. The experience of gathering as American Indians from throughout the Southeast to worship and learn from one another is priceless. While there, our delegation lead worship services, sang and even presented a workshop on Advocating for Native Americans in the School System. It was very successful. However, we can always use support in providing annual scholarships to this event.

We continue to be good stewards of the money provided to our committee. Other projects included assisting with purchasing traditional regalia, purchasing supplies to make traditional drums for worship services, supporting the American Indian Scouting Association, and repairing tribal buildings just to name a few. As a conference and a committee, we are rebuilding the traditions of our cultures which have been long dormant.

In July, under the leadership of Rev. Bart Sistare, the Native American Salkehatchie Camp finished our work with the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina. In 2008, we will move to the Wassamasaw tribe. This is one project that needs increased support and assistance. We are seeking volunteers to help with building and home repairs as well as donations of repair material and monetary support. The camp will be in the low country - probably in Berkeley County. **If you are interested in participating contact Rev. Sistare at 803 787-3058.**

We continue to work with Rocky Swamp American Indian Ministry. Our goal for this year is to finalize the formal plan with Rocky Swamp to make this outreach ministry a successful and productive Native American Ministry of Presence. Meanwhile, we are working on the possibility of establishing a Native American church in the Marion County area.

Our Christmas Elder Comfort Baskets had the most successful year to date. We saw a record level of donations of over \$1,000 dollars. Nineteen churches participated in the project this year. We increased our baskets from 78 to 154 provided to the various tribes across the state. We partnered with Keepers of the Word to make this a success. We have developed a power point presentation illustrating the success. We have designated funding to support this program as we start 2008. We will gather and make Elder Comfort Baskets throughout the year. We need small laundry baskets to be filled with non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish washing liquids, bath soaps, shampoos, hand/body lotions, toothpaste and brushes, toilet paper, tissues, health care products for men and women, facial care products, nail clippers, and Christmas candy. **If your church can assist, please contact our vice chair, Cathy Nelson, 843-835-8589.** Our committee also handles cash donations for this project that we use to cover gas expenses for pick up and/or delivery of the baskets.

In February, we held our 5th Native American Representative training. Once again, the event was a success. The morning featured educational learning including a power point presentation about South Carolina Indian history. Beckee Garris made a presentation about Catawba clay for their pottery and link with all of us being the potters of God's clay. Cathy Nelson presented the power point presentation on our Elder Basket success. After lunch, participants enjoyed an orientation and traditional American Indian worship. The service featured the drum of the Wassamasaw, which our committee helped to purchase. It was a true blessing. This year, we videoed our training, and we will soon be able to offer copies for the Bishop, the Cabinet, and District Office's at a minimum. We also hope to establish an email group or newsletter to keep all of our Native American Representatives up to date on happenings and needs.

Sarah Sanchez continues to process our newsletter. If you would like to receive a newsletter, please let me know, and I'll provide the information to Sarah. We are thankful to her for the job that she does.

Our final accomplishment for 2007 was the revision of our Native American Comprehensive Plan. This is our guide in our outreach ministry and assistance to the native peoples of South Carolina.

Yet, we have unfinished business. While we seek to increase the efforts already mentioned, we hope to conduct a training for our youth in the conference like we do for Native American Representatives. We want a Native and non-Native youth to join our committee. We hope to arrange or write a grant for a bus tour for our Native American Representatives to visit the tribes of the South Carolina. These are some of our tasks we are currently working on. Although we might not finish these this year, we will work until they become reality.

One of John Wesley's major missions was outreach to the American Indians. Please continue your strong support and acknowledgment of our vital outreach mission which is a part of this conference and all of our churches. We have only just begun to "Make the Invisible – Visible." Yet, as Timothy stated, we are providing an encouraging report of our progress. This is only possible through your efforts. For that, Thank You!

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

God Bless.

Zan Tracy Pender, Chair

THE COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

The Conference Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling, at its inception in 1967, began as a safe haven to assist clergy and their families with the mental health needs that may arise. In the years that have passed many persons have been helped through this Annual Conference program. In the past eight (8) years, specifically, there has been a concerted effort to streamline the Committee and help in providing a more constant and consistent degree of services to the clergy and their families of the South Carolina Conference. In the past two years the reorganization of the Council on Connectional Ministries has assisted in helping the focus to be providing quality services from contracting therapists. This was accomplished through the revising of the voucher system submitted by therapists and the updating of the credentials on a yearly basis. This has helped the Committee to be good stewards of the fiscal aspects and maintain a sense of accountability on the part of all parties concerned.

In this last year, 2007, the committee has worked hard to adhere to the following mandates set forth by the South Carolina Annual Conference for the Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Supplemental Program – Strengthen the personal and family life of ALL clergy and their families by supplementing the fees of licensed therapists, and maintaining an updated list of these therapists and their area of expertise, if any.

Wellness Program – "Prevention" through training in interpersonal and life skills as a part of total health care. This includes the biannual retreat 'A Time to Celebrate' offered to ALL clergy and their spouses in April, 2008 this year.

In 2007, a total of 272 persons were assisted through the fee supplement program as opposed to only 64 persons two years ago. The fee supplement was used to provide services to 171 clergy, 59 spouses, 34 children, 3 couples, and 5 families. At this time we have a total of 15 therapists who have provided 264 individual therapy sessions and 8 group sessions with total disbursements of \$10,628.00. Clergy and their families continue to receive services through the fee supplement plan.

With the growing needs in mental health, counseling, and like services, it is incumbent upon this committee to maintain and identify additional sources of funding, as well as increasing the level of accountability among service providers.

The Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling owes a great debt of gratitude to all of those who have gone before them and hopefully will leave a greater legacy for those who come after them. The mental and emotional care of clergy and their families remains the highest priority of this Committee.

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Tammy Fulmer and to Gail Corn in the

Connectional Ministries office for their support, guidance and gracious assistance in helping the Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling carry out their work during this past year.

Melvin W. Flail, Jr., Chairperson

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

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

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

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues to fulfill its role in evaluating and approving new clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. The importance of this work cannot be overstated, as the future health of our churches is, in many ways, directly related to the quality of leadership provided by our clergy. The Rev. Patricia Parrish is completing her eighth year as chair of the Board, providing outstanding leadership to the many Board members who contribute many days and even weeks to the multi-faceted work assigned to this group of servants. It has been a privilege to assist the Board.

During the past year this office has helped organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisted in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; and provided support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. During this year this office has also begun to standardize the information kept in files, eliminate files that no longer need to be retained, and experiment with saving files in a digital format. In addition, the web page for the Office of Clergy Services has undergone a major revision designed to make it easier to use. I have invested more energy this year in helping arrange cabinet visits to the six seminaries in our area that train the majority of our new clergy. I have also attended the manager's meetings for the Course of Study Schools at Duke and Candler; attended the annual BOM Staff Network Meeting; and participated in the first Holy Land trip for newly ordained clergy. Finally, I continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference, and have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas.

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

Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services

MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

REPORT TO THE 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Ministry Advisory Team was created by the 1998 special session of the Annual Conference. The purpose of the M.A.T. is to "facilitate conversation and interaction among the three ministry areas, while maintaining sensitivity to emerging issues that come before the annual conference." (page119, 1998 Journal)

We have met three times this year and conducted 24 listening sessions across the annual conference. These sessions were to help us discover the needs of our local congregations. We hoped to better understand how effectively our three ministry areas are focusing on our mission of equipping and connecting local churches for the ministry of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

During the sessions we heard from a variety of laity and clergy. A few of the most often identified concerns were the following:

- more and better leadership training for both laity and clergy;

- more effective communications (especially with laity);
- more attention to small membership churches;
- help with developing stronger Sunday school and youth ministries;
- long term appointments;
- more focus on NCD with emphasis on training laity;
- more visibility of conference leaders and staff; more accountability;
- competing claims upon local church finances;
- the congregational specialists need to have more time for local church consultation;
- more people need to read the *Advocate*.

While these are only a few of the concerns we heard, we have asked the congregational specialists to develop lists of all the concerns. These lists will be collated and passed on to the appropriate board or agency to become a part of their work for the next quadrennium.

They will also be used in our effort to develop a more effective way for the annual conference to respond to the needs of local churches. We hope to present the proposal to the annual conference next year.

We have begun a conversation about a better way to provide leadership development. We believe that a systematic approach to training is needed and that training must be on going and of a high quality.

Respectfully submitted;

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, chairperson of the Ministry Advisory Team
Willie S. Teague, Director of Connectional Ministries

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM NORMAN BOBO, JR.

The 2007 South Carolina Annual Conference created a committee to determine the use of funds from the estate of William Norman Bobo, Jr., and directed the committee to report to the 2008 Annual Conference. That committee was called by Bishop Taylor to meet on May 7, 2008. After discussion of the needs of the conference and the intent of the grantor as understood by the family representative, the committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That the funds received from the estate (valued at \$558,347.65 on December 31, 2007) be used to create an endowment for the purpose of funding clergy leadership and lay leadership within the conference;
- 2) That 25% of the income each year be added to the principal amount of the endowment, with the remainder being available for leadership development;
- 3) That 100% of the funds available from the endowment be used for programming rather than structure or bureaucracy;
- 4) That the Ministry Advisory Team be given the direction and oversight of the fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson
Quay Adams
Sam Johnson
Jane McGahee
John Quackenbush
Willie Teague
Earline Ulmer

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Board of Trustees continues to work on the proper disposition of properties of discontinued and abandoned churches. It is extremely time consuming to research and act on these properties, but the efforts of the Board continue to show results. The Executive Committee has proven to be a valuable addition to the Board, and has permitted work to be processed in a much more timely manner. During the past year, action was taken to deed the land and close the files on two properties.

The Trustees have devoted many hours to the property of the discontinued Asbury-Clark church, located in the Anderson District. A fence has been erected around the cemetery, and action is being taken to maintain the property. In addition, the property not included in the cemetery has been sold.

The Board of Trustees has continued to hold in trust the funds of the William Bobo Estate. The Trustees will invest and re-invest the funds until the Annual Conference directs their use.

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

Much work remains to be done. The Board of Trustees looks forward to its continued work on behalf of the Conference.

John Quackenbush, Chairman

Detail Accounting for UM Conference Trustees
December 31, 2007

Main Account

Beginning Balance	179,546.95
Income	
Rental Property (Spring Branch)	3,300.00
Sale of Property	<u>6,694.10</u>
Total Income	9,994.10
Expenses	
Property Insurance (Spring Branch)	214.42
Legal Expenses	20,006.72
Miscellaneous	0.00
Appraisal Expense	1,325.00
Meeting Expense (Travel)	<u>2,075.23</u>
Total Expenses	23,621.37
Ending Balance	165,919.68
Restricted funds retained from sale of property	<u>69,172.66</u>
Available Balance	96,747.02

Bobo Estate Fund

Beginning Balance	537,826.13
Interest Income	20,233.14
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	558,059.27

Real Properties Currently Being Overseen by the Board of Trustees:

Asbury Clark UMC cemetery (Anderson District)

Spring Branch UMC property (Marion District)

This property is being prepared for sale.

Sims Chapel UMC property proceeds (Spartanburg District)

This property has been sold. The Trustees are holding the proceeds pending distribution.

Solomon Temple UMC property (Charleston District)

This property has been deeded to Wesley UMC, pursuant to the intent of the 1990 Annual Conference resolution discontinuing Solomon Temple.

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

THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

The Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries continues its ministry of "providing quality ministry of Christian hospitality, intentional spiritual growth, and leadership development in year-round settings of natural beauty."

This is a time of great transition and change for your Camps and Retreat Ministries Board. In this past year we shifted many parts of our ministry, including: closing on a conservation easement, pausing operations at Sewee Coastal Retreat Center, welcoming new staff, forming a building committee for Asbury Hills and restructuring the operations.

In August of 2007, the Board welcomed Rev. Jody Oates as their new Executive Director of Camps & Retreat Ministries. His work is to oversee the ministry of the two camp and retreat ministry locations. He brings experience from a similar role in the West Ohio Conference and as a national consultant for camp and retreat centers. Rev. Oates now works out of a central administrative office in the Greenville area. In January 2008, Holly Cunningham was welcomed as the new Director of Asbury Hills Camp & Retreat Center. She brings a wealth of experience from camps in Arizona and Indiana. She is putting a fresh perspective on all parts of the operation.

In the fall of 2007, the board closed on a conservation easement at the Asbury Hills property. This land will forever be set aside from commercial development with this easement. The State Conservation Bank gave a substantial grant to the board for this easement and an anonymous donor gave an additional 200+ acres to be added to this property. The board has created a building committee to use these funds for new youth cabins, an adult retreat center, and refurbishing existing buildings at Asbury Hills. Construction will begin in the fall of 2008.

The board made a very difficult decision to pause operations at Sewee Coastal Retreat Center at the end of December 2007. The purpose for closing Sewee is for study and re-development. The board plans to develop, expand and re-open this facility as an adult retreat center serving the churches across South Carolina. The present challenges of this facility include the very limited amount of rooms on this property (eight), zoning issues, infrastructure concerns and the need to invest significant capital funds. The board is hopeful to work through all of these concerns to have a vital and viable operation at Sewee. The board will communicate progress and plans as they become available.

While change is always hard, the board believes the shifts that are being made now will provide an even more effective ministry for local churches as lives continue to be changed in our camp and retreat ministry!

John A. Redmond, Chair of the Board of Trustees

THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

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

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

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

1. Received and approved the final audit from the CPA firm of Webster Rogers LLP at the Board's February 15, 2008, meeting, per by-laws.
2. Continued using the financial management services of Smith Barney's Consulting Group (socially responsible investment management) and Webster Rogers LLP (CPA firm).
3. Made available to the Board of Global Ministries the sum of \$100,000 for missional grants for 2007.
4. Completed a review of the investment managers and also the asset allocation mix for the investment assets of the Trust. This review confirmed that the assets

were properly invested to meet the trust's investment goal of total return using a socially responsible approach.

5. Elected officers for 2008:

Chairperson:	Mr. James W. Moody, Jr.
Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs. Shirley C. Robinson
Secretary:	Rev. Leatha W. Brown
Treasurer:	Mr. J. Robert Mauney

James W. Moody, Jr., Chairperson

TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

It is with joyful acclamation that the *Advocate* Board of Trustees can report to you that we have a fulltime editor on board after almost four years without one due to the military activation of former editor, Davie Burgdorf. We hope that you have already noticed the presence of our new editor, Emily Cooper, wife of the Rev. Wiley Cooper, by the new and improved *Advocate*. Emily brings to the *Advocate* extensive experience in journalism and communication as well as a love and knowledge of the church.

The board listened to the Advocate Focus Groups meeting across the state in 2007 and adopted a new purpose statement: **The purpose of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate is to connect United Methodists by independently reporting news, engaging readers, and providing a forum for dialogue.** There is a new emphasis on local, district, and conference news coverage. There are stories that will encourage our readers to examine the Discipline and Social Principles. There are stories that will make us think about our theology. There are stories that will call you to respond.

Besides the content you will have noticed the whiter, brighter paper and larger print. The color really looks like color. When stories have to be continued they are easier to find. There are more and better pictures. Have you been reading the coverage of the youth programs as well as older adults? You can now excess stories on-line at <http://umcsc.org> and clicking on South Carolina United Methodist Advocate. Readers are encouraged to tell us what they like and don't like so we can continue to improve. We will be producing a demographics survey that will tell us more about our readers. This survey will be valuable in also attracting advertisers to the *Advocate*. Subscriptions are being increased through many different campaigns. Equipment has been upgraded. The Annual Conference edition will now be combined with the July issue.

In last year's report we stated that we are committed to producing a newspaper that will be "opened with eagerness and anticipation". If we are not there yet, we will be.

Marilyn Murphy, Chairperson

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Over the five year period ending in January of 2008, churches of the conference contributed more than \$1.4 million to pay for the expansion and renovation of the UM Center. This equals 71.9% of the amount asked. The UM Center Board would like to thank those 627 churches that have paid their asking in full, and encourage the remaining 393 to make their outstanding contributions during this fiscal year.

Due to both the increase in interest rates during this five year period and the unexpectedly slow rate of payment by churches, the conference incurred significantly higher interest cost than anticipated. A balloon payment for the remaining balance of the construction loan will be due to the bank in February of 2009. We ask that even those churches that have paid their asking in full consider making a contribution over and above the original asking amount to help support the mission and ministry enabled and enhanced by the availability of a comfortable and updated Conference Center.

The Board would like to give our thanks and gratitude to the former chairperson of this Board, Clarence Gramling. He served this Board and this Conference well during his tenure, especially during the expansion and renovation of the UM Center.

Respectfully,

Franklin R. Garrett, Chairperson

THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

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

During the past year, I have been involved in assisting the Conference with various legal actions including those related to corporate governance, litigation, safe sanctuary, complaints under the *Discipline*, property issues, and other matters. Most of my work on property matters has been related to actions of the Conference Board of Trustees (the "Board"); however, property issues related to other entities such as Asbury Hills and local churches, particularly those under consideration for discontinuance, have also arisen from time to time.

With regard to the work of the Conference Board of Trustees (the "Board"), I assisted the Board with its efforts to address the proper disposition of properties of discontinued and abandoned local churches. Considerable work was devoted to the property of the discontinued Asbury Clark UMC ("Asbury Clark Property") located in Anderson County. This property was entrusted to the Board by a 1988 resolution of the Annual Conference and is somewhat representative of property issues faced by the Board. The Asbury Clark Property contains a cemetery which has been subjected to some vandalism in the past. As a countermeasure to further vandalism, the Board erected a fence around the cemetery. Since that time, the Board has taken action to sell off the remainder of the property to generate funds for the perpetual care of the cemetery and other funds to support the work of the South Carolina Conference. The Board hopes to find a local church in the Anderson District to act as the caretaker for the cemetery property now that sufficient funds have been generated to care for the cemetery. A small parcel of land adjacent to the cemetery might be suitable for the caretaker church to have a small recreation area. I appreciated the opportunity work with the Board on the various legal issues associated with this property.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Annual Conference that Dr. James F. Leathrum, Vice Chairperson of the Conference Trustees, has performed many selfless hours of service relating to the care and sale of the Asbury Clark Property. His efforts exceeded what is normally expected of a Conference trustee. Sometimes, Dr. Leathrum's work involved his own physical labor (e.g., removing weeds and debris from the cemetery) and was often done at his own expense. His spirit of volunteerism is truly exemplary and inspiring for other United Methodists.

Unfortunately, other properties containing cemeteries in the South Carolina Conference do not have the potential for generating funds for their care. Local churches should carefully consider the long term implications before establishing a church cemetery. The history of the South Carolina Conference shows that as local churches close provisions have often not been made for the future care of the cemeteries. The concept of a cemetery association for the care of a church is sometimes discussed, but the reality is that such an association is rarely feasible due to funding, corporate governance, and management issues.

On a final note, I would encourage local churches to review carefully their insurance program and termite bonds to ensure adequate coverages. Even if not statutorily required, I strongly recommend that workers' compensation coverage be considered because this insurance coverage may provide the best method for protecting the local church and caring for an employee in the event of an accident in the course and scope of employment. Directors and officers coverage should also be considered. With regard to termite bonds, local churches should be aware that "retreatment only" type bonds provide no coverage for repairs related to termite damage.

R. Jeffords Barham, Chancellor

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Making Jesus Christ the center of a man's life is the purpose of the United Methodist Men. The work in which the organization of United Methodist Men of the SC Conference is engaged has brought us closer to this goal during the past year.

Our spiritual well-being is a top priority. The good attendance at our Spiritual Retreat held in February at Springmaid Beach was an indication of the importance of our understanding the benefits of walking with Christ. Rev. Jeff Kersey and Rev. James C. Lane were the Retreat Speakers. In addition, there were breakout sessions on a variety of subjects and training for local church UMM officers. Thanks once again for an outstanding program organized by our Spiritual Life Coordinator, L. W. Smith of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia. 2009 will be another opportunity for the men at your church to connect with men across the conference. It's men in ministry and yes; you can bring your wife.

We had great success with a Man In the Mirror event on Saturday, December 1, 2007. We expected 65 men, but 115 showed up.

We expect great success with another Man In the Mirror event May 15, 16, 17, 2008. This report is being written prior to the event; therefore an update will be necessary to announce the results.

We continue to work with communications and relationships. It is through personal, spiritual interaction that we will strengthen the life of one man, then a small group of men, then a congregation of men, then the men of the United Methodist Church. We are using a variety of spiritual growth opportunities that will lead men to put Christ in the center of their lives.

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

Prayer, Scouting, and Feeding the Hungry continue to be major focuses of the United Methodist Men of the SC Conference. The SC Annual Conference hosts more remotes and covenant prayer groups of the Upper Room Prayer Line than any other conference. We donated over \$3000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. The prayer line is routed to the SC Annual Conference during each year's session and calls are answered and prayers lifted up throughout the meeting. Training for this important ministry is always available. You are asked to be nothing more than a caring Christian on the other end of the phone line.

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

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

We presented the 2007 SEJ G. Ross Freeman Award, a pastoral leadership award, to Rev. Jeff Kersey of Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington. This annual award recognizes a pastor who has shown outstanding devotion to men's ministry. If you think your pastor is worthy of this award, call the Conference President at 803-730-8577.

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

Let me repeat a statistic that I offered in last year's report. When a child or teenager is the first of the family to come to Christ, 17% of the time the entire family follows; when a mother or wife is the first of the family to come to Christ, 34 % of the time the entire family follows; when the father or husband is the first of the family to come to Christ, 93 % of the time the entire family follows. Great Influence – Great Responsibility.

Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

I have been opened to God's surprises as your leader and have been richly blessed. This opportunity has afforded me many wonderful ways to connect with women all over South Carolina. The many activities and special events remind me that we are truly a community of women whose purpose is to know God. We have had many opportunities to grow in South Carolina. You have inspired my spirits.

The Executive Committee met on February 10th at the Conference Center to make plans to sponsor programs and events to meet the needs of South Carolina United Methodist Women. We hope that these needs were met for those who took the opportunity to attend the scheduled activities and events.

March 6, 2007, our Legislative Day was held at the Clarion Hotel in Columbia. Two focus groups were presented: Funding for Our Schools – leaders, SC Superintendent of Education Dr. Jim Rex and Ashley Newton; Violence Against Women-leaders, Elizabeth Smith and Yolanda Brady. Our luncheon speaker was Sheila Gallagher, President of the SCEA. Tips were given for contacting and lobbying our elected officials.

April 9-12, 2007, 28 ladies journeyed to Beverly, Kentucky to Red Bird Mission. At the mission more than 14,000 people are served. The health clinic serves more than 600 persons. At the Mission School, along with academics, Christian education is taught to grades K-12. The trip to Red Bird Mission was a great opportunity to learn about where our mission dollars go.

Our Spiritual Growth Retreat was a great success. The Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown was our leader. Evaluations were very positive toward her leadership. Suggestions were for her to come again. She gave freely of herself and the audience responded. The theme was "Spiritual Genetics".

A time for fun and relaxation was shared at our "Come Together, Be Together" event on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at Silver Hill UMC in Spartanburg. Our featured speaker was one of our own, Sue Owens, WD Director. Evaluations for this event were also very positive.

Another highlight of the year was our participation at Annual Conference. Our Social Action Coordinator presented to the conference a resolution regarding sentencing and incarceration of juveniles. The resolution was adopted by the conference. We must now move from resolution to legislation. Wallace Family Life Center was made visible by the board chairperson giving her report of the many good things that have been happening at the center.

On the "Great Day of Service", United Methodist Women were asked to assemble hygiene kits and senior totes. The items were sent out to nursing homes, schools, shelters, and churches. There were 141 Kids Paks and 258 Senior Totes. What a tremendous show of support was shown on that day. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.

The South Carolina School of Christian Mission was held at Spartanburg Methodist College July 19-22. Our theme was "Sing Across the Walls". The spiritual growth study was "Mission and Music"; the geographical study was "Israel/ Palestine" and our globalization study was "Globalization: Its Impact on Our Lives". These studies presented opportunities to continue the legacy of justice and freedom. There were 285 participants. The Love Offering was \$1401 and the Craft Sale was \$1464.

We had two ladies to attend the National Seminar in August. This is an opportunity for women to explore God's actions in the current moment and dialogue about how we must respond. Highlights of this event were featured at our Annual Meeting.

We want to welcome the six new units that have been added to our roster of membership. May you be reminded that we are called to bring hope, peace, justice and love into the lives of women, children and youth. As we close this year, I want to say thanks to you for your support and I look forward to the new challenges and hopes that face us in the coming year.

Mary Johnson, President

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CONNECTIONAL TABLE

Greetings on behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table and our President, Bishop Lawrence McCleskey. I am pleased to report to the South Carolina Annual Conference on some of the actions and accomplishments at Lake Junaluska and in the jurisdiction.

We were excited to consecrate the Bethea Welcome Center at Lake Junaluska on July 9, 2007. There were United Methodist leaders from several general agencies, colleges and universities present for this historic event. We are happy to report that the building is in use and offers Christian hospitality to Lake Junaluska guests and visitors to Western North Carolina. We thank the South Carolina Conference for your financial commitment to make this symbol of reconciliation a reality.

Lake Junaluska grounds and facilities are a priority. We have completed the new Lake

Junaluska golf course clubhouse. This was supported by a number of individuals who use this part of Lake Junaluska's ministry of recreation.

As we prepare and plan for Lake Junaluska becoming a premier conference center for The United Methodist Church, we have a representative group from around the jurisdiction serving on the Lake Junaluska Campus and Stuart Center Design Group to recommend a master plan for the campus. We have Cornell University studying our operations and services to better serve The Church.

Along with looking at our facilities, we have reorganized our ministry area into the Ministry Event Development Office. Rev. Roger Dowdy is giving superb leadership in evaluating our ministries, establishing procedures, and developing partnerships to meet the needs of The United Methodist Church. An agreement has been made to establish Alban Institute at Lake Junaluska. We began to experience this partnership April 13-16, with *Healthy Congregations* seminar led by Alban Institute. The centerpiece of the partnership will be an Alban Institute seminar July 6-10, at the newly envisioned Ministry Summit (formerly the SEJ Minister's Conference). There is a new relationship between Ministry and Marketing at Lake Junaluska. Ken Howle and Roger Dowdy are leading us in considering new possibilities for the future, built on research of needs of The Church coupled with good business practices.

The Ministries with Young People continues to serve the largest numbers of United Methodists at Lake Junaluska. The summer youth events and winter ski retreats are being well attended this year.

An outstanding multi-cultural event, *Embracing God's Diversity*, was held in December. The leadership of the jurisdiction made this one of the most exciting and diverse groups that has ever met at Lake Junaluska.

Below are snapshots of the work of the seven southeastern jurisdiction agencies:

GULFSIDE ASSEMBLY

Mollie Stewart reports the Board feels good about the SEJ and thanks them. A draft of what the new campus might look like has been drawn. Two years after Katrina, during the week of August 13, we sensed a clear direction of hope and a future bright with promise. They began the relationship building in the community, began talking to officials in Waveland and the state and began building partnerships. They are considering senior housing on the gulf and won't be selling any more land but will utilize what they have. When the tax revenues go through, they will redeem 25 acres of previously owned land. They are not duplicating ministry but enhancing what they have. They have a house that is being used as an office and a place to stay when in the area. When the campus is completed, that house will be used for the director's home.

INTENTIONAL GROWTH CENTER

Larry Ousley reports that the Intentional Growth Center has been in business for 30 years and their area shows signs of health. They planned fifty seven (57) events this year. They drew on reserve funds each of the last three (3) years but this year have not and think they will break even at the end of the year. They trained over four hundred (400) interim ministers in this denomination. They are getting a good response from district superintendents all over the country with 1/3 from outside the jurisdiction. They helped with "heads in beds" in the Conference Center with \$175,000 of business. IGC is grateful for the Morgan Charitable Trust that will help as they move into the future. They are planning a major keynoting event in 2008 and look forward to working with the Lay Leaders.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES (SEJANAM)

Darlene Jacobs reports that SEJANAM became an agency in 1993 to strengthen Native American ministries. It provided advocacy, technical assistance in writing grants with \$250,000 representing almost one hundred (100) tribes and twenty three (23) churches and ministries, over six thousand (6,000) who are United Methodists. They work with churches in rural and urban areas and one of the largest Native American churches with one thousand (1,000) members. They have a platform for holy conferencing and going beyond the boards of the SEJ. They allow for modeling and growth. Programs have increased from 25 to 50% and one of the largest Native American events in The United Methodist Church is at Lake Junaluska. Through

mission trips we have erected homes and are establishing health clinics, water systems, and have two hundred fifty (250) team members for that mission project alone. They are in ministry in Mississippi with Choctaw and in Louisiana where Katrina struck. They have received \$100,000 for the Cummins endowment for the support of SEJANAM's program. They are raising money to name the Cummins and Queen room in the Bethea Welcome Center. Their agency is unique as it is the only one of its kind throughout all the jurisdictions. It gives presence, a voice and visibility in the jurisdiction. They deal with violence, health and other issues in the course of their work and appreciate the support of the SEJ.

SOUTHEASTERN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AGENCY FOR REHABILITATION, INC. (SEMAR)

Chryl Eure reports that SEMAR is the oldest agency – thirty eight (38) years old. The most defining moment in 2007 was the creation of the Laurels of Junaluska, affordable housing for the elderly. October 12 was the grand opening and the residents moved in November 15 to a safe and comfortable place. We appreciate the Western North Carolina Conference and Givens Estates making this a reality. SEMAR provides technical systems to annual conferences for persons with developmental disabilities. They have entered into a contract with Mike Dyson to run SEMAR. He will lead the Board in strategic planning and determine how SEMAR can continue to be effective for The United Methodist Church. They are seeking additional board members, interested people with a passion and desire to be involved with persons with development disabilities.

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (UMVIM)

Nick Elliott thanks all annual conferences for their support over the last thirty one (31) years. They began in the SEJ and are now national. In 2005, twenty six thousand (26,000) people went out in service and in 2006 it was thirty one thousand (31,000). Half of them responded to the hurricane disasters on the gulf coast. 80% of the Katrina relief people are faith based and United Methodist.

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

Clay Smith reports that the United Methodist Church has more local churches than there are US post offices. Rural communities are growing for the first time in one hundred (100) years. Hinton does consulting, provides training and builds effective ministries. Mollie Stewart and Clay spent four (4) days in the Virginia conference, three (3) days in the Florida conference and will spend every weekend to Easter next year working with small group congregations. They have a wonderful First Parrish Project for young clergy in small churches. Thirty five (35) came to Hinton for six (6) weeks during the last two years – ten (10) of whom are United Methodist. They work with affordable housing and substance abuse intervention. They have a conference and retreat center which brings in one thousand two hundred (1,200) people a year. At General Conference in April someone took trees from Gulfside Assembly, and is making furniture for general conference. The whole church is committed to Katrina relief and Gulfside Assembly.

ARCHIVES and HISTORY

Nell Thrift reports that Art Swarthout is the interim director of Archives & History and The Heritage Center. The main focus of The Commission is the Heritage Center, which acquires, organizes, preserves and makes available records of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. The Center provides training for confirmation classes from throughout the jurisdiction, with approximately one thousand three hundred (1,300) young people using the Center in 2007. The Museum is also part of the tour for youth groups meeting at the Lake. In addition, drop-in visitors, researchers, and mail, telephone and e-mail requests for information make the Heritage Center a vital and lively place. The Center has received several notable acquisitions this year. Anne Blanchard, widow of the Reverend Richard Blanchard, author of the hymn "Fill My Cup", continues to share manuscripts of his music as well as hymnals and other copies of his many songs. The family and friends of Bishop Ed Tullis have recently donated artifacts of his life and ministry, including photographs and diplomas. When you are at Lake Junaluska visit the Heritage Center in the lower level of the Harrell Center.

We were thrilled to host the United Methodist Council of Bishops and the Extended Cabinet in November. In July it will be our honor to welcome the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to Lake Junaluska. The SEJ Connectional Table appreciates the support we receive from annual conferences.

Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Our mission is to *educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. Candler is one of the thirteen official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and is one of nine schools at Emory, a top twenty research university, founded in memory of Methodist Bishop John Emory and his commitment to "mold both character and intellect."

Unlike other large research campuses, Emory is neither indifferent to nor embarrassed by religion. Rather, this university is eager to address an urgent need at home and abroad: helping different faith traditions cooperate rather than collide. Emory prides itself in being a destination university internationally recognized as an inquiry-driven, ethically engaged, and diverse community whose members work collaboratively for positive transformation in the world.

At Candler, we proclaim the Gospel and nurture students' growth in the Christian faith. A stellar faculty, a dedicated staff, and vibrant students form an active community of teaching and learning that prepares excellent leaders for Christian ministries. We carry out this mission, however, in an extraordinary university-based educational environment where hearts and minds engage across deeply held religious differences, preparing our students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

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

In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Twenty-two teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. The Rev. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program to include students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences. We also taught more than 250 United Methodist students in the Course of Study in 2006-2007.

This year, enrollment was 535, with 440 in the Master of Divinity program, 54 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 12 in the Master of Theology program, 10 in the Doctor of Theology program and 19 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 25 percent US ethnic minority, 11 percent international, and 52 percent women. Nearly 50 denominations are represented with 52 percent of MDiv students being United Methodist from 37 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of the Nazarene, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, and the Methodist Church of Korea. The average age of our students is now 31, with 57 percent under thirty. The median age of our MDiv students is 27.

Lots of wonderful new initiatives are underway. We will move into Phase I of our new building in early August 2008. It offers 65,000 square feet for classrooms, offices, and community life. We hope construction on Phase II will begin late in 2008. It will hold the Pitts Library and the Wesley Teaching Chapel. The first year of implementation of a new MDiv curriculum is nearly complete. This program deepens faculty roles in advising and mentoring and requires a course in a religion other than Christianity. A new director of lifelong learning should be in place by fall 2008 to initiate a renewed emphasis on programs that benefit congregations and their leaders in continuing

education. Designed to address the changing needs of church and society both at home and abroad, this program will work cooperatively with local churches, judicatory leaders, and denominational agencies to strengthen the church and its ministries.

At the center of our upcoming capital campaign is a program to boost financial support for students. This year, 76 percent of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 71 percent of tuition. Among these awards, more than \$2.4 million was provided to 198 United Methodist students. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more needs to be done. More than 60 percent of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

Thank you for your support of Candler. Candler exists to serve the church of Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church in particular. If you have insights on what we could do better to fulfill this service, please let me know.

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

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

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

Programs:

The Divinity School began work on two major initiatives in 2007 that build on previous efforts to partner with the church and other institutions to provide leadership in areas of great importance to congregations.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School \$12 million in the summer of 2007 to lead a wide-ranging effort that aims to assess, track and improve the health of every United Methodist pastor in North Carolina. The Divinity School is collaborating with the Western North Carolina Conference and the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on the project.

The initiative in clergy health, planned to last seven years, will include an initial health assessment of ministers followed by a longitudinal study of their physical, spiritual and mental health. Information gathering will focus on such issues as job satisfaction, spiritual practices, exercise, cultivating friendships and general well-being.

Also in 2007, the Divinity School began planning for an initiative in Christian leadership that will help Christian leaders combine theological insight with wise business practices to meet real-world challenges.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity will teach, coach and provide resources for leaders of key Christian institutions that support and sustain congregations and pastors. Its reach will extend from bishops and executive directors of denominations to senior leaders of seminaries and other organizations that serve congregations. Supported with a \$14 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the initiative will develop a variety of programs that focus on leading and managing Christian institutions. The initiative also will convene Christian leaders at Duke and across the country to address pivotal issues, and will develop a website where leaders of Christian institutions can interact to share resources and ideas.

Students:

We welcomed a superb and diverse group of new students to Duke Divinity School in the fall of 2007. Total enrollment remained steady at about 575 students representing 34 states and seven foreign countries. More than half of our Master of Divinity students are United Methodist, 14 percent are Baptist, and the others come from more than 30 different denominations in the Christian faith.

The median age of the entering Master of Divinity class continues to be low – this year it was approximately 24. The overall entering class has an ethnic minority enrollment of approximately 21 percent. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.61.

We also welcomed our second class of Doctor of Theology students. Eight outstanding students entered in this class, out of more than 50 applications.

Our field education program continues to provide important contextual learning for students. More than 180 of our students experienced summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 12 in our Teaching Congregations program, 6 in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, and 18 international placements in South Africa (5), Guatemala and El Salvador (4), Brazil (2), Canada (2), Peru (2), Uganda (2), and Kenya (1).

Events and Activities:

The Divinity School hosted "Charles Wesley at 300," a three-day conference in June 2007 celebrating Wesley's life and work. The school also sponsored our annual Summer Wesley Institute for scholars from around the world to gather for four weeks of study, research and conversation.

In August 2007 the Divinity School was well represented at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Studies, where eight faculty and one Th.D. student participated and several provided significant leadership.

The Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation convened a gathering of more than 40 Christian leaders in Africa in November 2006 and again in January 2008 to develop strategies for focusing the church's work in addressing issues and conflicts such as genocide, civil war and AIDS.

In February 2007, the Divinity School welcomed Archbishop Elias Chacour, a Palestinian-Israeli priest, educator, peacemaker and leader, for several days of lectures and conversation. And the Right Reverend George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke at the Divinity School the following month as a part of the efforts of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies.

The Divinity School hosted the Fund for Theological Education's summer conference for African-American doctoral students in June 2007. In addition, we hosted the Hispanic Summer Program, which brought to our campus Hispanic students and faculty for two weeks of coursework, worship and reflection.

Faculty:

Stephen Gunter became Associate Dean for Methodist Studies and Research Professor of Evangelism and Methodist Studies. Gunter taught at Candler School of Theology before serving as President of Young Harris College. This new position enables the Divinity School to build on strengths in Wesleyan Studies and further develop service and outreach to United Methodist constituencies.

Edgardo Colon-Emeric joined the Divinity School as director of our new Hispanic Studies Program and Assistant Research Professor of Theology and Hispanic Studies. We anticipate this program will enhance course offerings and field education for M.Div. students, while also addressing Course of Studies education and other workshops for practicing Hispanic pastors.

Lauren Winner, who had been serving as a visiting faculty member, joined the Divinity School in a full-time tenure-track capacity. A Ph.D. graduate of Columbia University, Winner is well-known for such books as "Girl Meets God" and "Mudhouse Sabbath." She also writes regularly and widely for such publications as Books and Culture, Christian Century, Christianity Today, and The New York Times Book Review.

Paul Griffiths, an internationally known scholar in the field of Catholic studies, was appointed as Duke Divinity School's first William K. Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology. Griffiths previously was the Schmitt Chair of Catholic studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Notable books published by our faculty in 2006-07 included "Early Methodist Spirituality" by Paul Chilcote; "Prophets, Sages, and Poets" by Jim Crenshaw; "Places of Redemption" by Mary McClintock Fulkerson; "Matthew" and "The State of the University" by Stanley Hauerwas; "Saving Women" by Lacey Warner; and "Power and Passion" by Sam Wells.

Honors & Achievements:

Richard Lischer, Duke Divinity School's James T. and Alice Mead Cleland professor of preaching, was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Academy of Homiletics.

Richard Heitzenrater, William Kellon Quick professor of church history and Wesley studies, was honored for his academic achievements in a special session of the American Society of Church History.

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

L. Gregory Jones, Dean

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of thirteen accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historically African American graduate theological school related to the United Methodist Church.

Gammon will celebrate its 125th year of founding this year during the annual Founders' Day and Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series, October 6-9, 2008. "Remembering Who We Are: Seeking New Pathways" is our theme for our 125th celebration. Bishop Violet Fisher will serve as our Founders' Day Worship Service Speaker and Bishop Gregory Palmer will serve as our guest lecturer for the Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series. A Founders' Day Banquet and Gala will be held during this event to honor the alumni who have matriculated at Gammon and served The United Methodist Church for the last 125 years. The Methodist Episcopal Church founded Gammon Theological Seminary in 1883. Bishop Gilbert Haven and the officers of the Freedmen's Aid Society had purchased nearly 500 acres of high land in the southern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon initially began as a Department of Theology at Clark University. Through the efforts of Bishop Henry White Warren and the gift of \$20,000 for endowment from the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, a Methodist minister of the Rock River (Illinois) Conference. The enthusiasm of these two men led to the construction of Gammon Hall. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was elected dean, and Gammon School of Theology was officially opened on October 3, 1883.

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. We offer a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and also offer a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service.

Students prepare for administration and leadership, counseling, teaching and preaching and a range of other spiritual and secular roles, with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry, merging theory with practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community. Degree programs offered are Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Christian Education; Master of Arts in Church Music; Dual Degrees and Doctor of Theology and Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty In Pastoral Counseling;

*Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni & Student Affairs Director
Dr. Walter H. Mckelvey, President*