

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.

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Budget for 2010</b>	<b>Requested for 2011</b>	<b>Approved for 2011</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Average Net Funds Factor</b>
1 Conference Benevolences	2,357,748	2,442,674	2,442,674	3.6%	2.50%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,916,604	1,952,536	1,952,536	1.9%	2.00%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,058,400	1,094,400	1,094,400	3.4%	1.12%
4 Equitable Compensation	475,000	585,000	505,000	6.3%	0.52%
5 District Administration	773,000	790,000	790,000	2.2%	0.81%
6 Conference Administration	1,334,776	1,556,908	1,604,908	20.2%	1.64%
7 Camps & Retreat Ministries	354,411	354,411	354,411	0.0%	0.36%
8 Congregational Development	1,170,000	1,169,260	1,169,260	-0.1%	1.19%
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,338,214	1,338,214	1,338,214	0.0%	1.37%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	675,000	787,000	675,000	0.0%	0.69%
11 Campus Ministry	617,801	637,801	637,801	3.2%	0.65%
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	595,670	595,670	595,670	0.0%	0.61%
<b>Sub-total</b>	12,666,624	13,303,874	13,159,874	3.9%	
13 World Service **	2,141,929	2,130,731	2,130,731	-0.5%	2.18%
14 Episcopal Fund **	589,159	598,011	598,011	1.5%	0.61%
15 General Conference Administration **	232,081	232,506	232,506	0.2%	0.24%
16 Ministerial Education **	733,241	719,813	719,813	-1.8%	0.73%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	57,067	56,091	56,091	-1.7%	0.06%
18 Black College **	292,518	287,121	287,121	-1.8%	0.29%
19 Africa University **	65,468	64,260	64,260	-1.8%	0.07%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	170,187	170,187	170,187	0.0%	0.17%
<b>Sub-total</b>	4,281,650	4,258,720	4,258,720	-0.5%	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$16,948,274</b>	<b>\$17,562,594</b>	<b>\$17,418,594</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>17.81%*</b>

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

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

\* 17.81% of 2009 Conference Average Net Funds of \$97,829,924.70

Report No. 2

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

Fund	Budget for 2010	Requested Budget for 2011	Approved for 2011	% Change
<b>A. Connectional Ministries (formerly CCOM)</b>				
<b>1. Conference Advance Specials</b>				
Ministry Programs	175,000	175,000	175,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	34,000	34,000	34,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (1)</b>	<b>209,000</b>	<b>209,000</b>	<b>209,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2. Board/Agency Programs</b>				
District Councils		90,000	90,000	
The Board of Church and Society		20,000	20,000	
The Board of Education		7,000	7,000	
The Board of Evangelism		1,500	1,500	
The Board of Global Ministries		38,000	38,000	
The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries		4,000	4,000	
The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry		35,000	35,000	
The Board of Laity		12,000	12,000	
The Commission Religion and Race		1,000	1,000	
The Commission on Worship		7,000	7,000	
The Committee on ELCC		41,500	41,500	
The Committee on Pastoral Care & Counseling		8,000	8,000	
Division on Young People		35,000	35,000	
<b>Sub-totals (2)</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>3. Board/Agency Administration</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>4. Operations (100% guaranteed)</b>				
Salaries	776,058	843,281	843,281	8.7%
Employee Benefits	276,349	283,448	283,448	2.6%
Staff Housing Allowances	90,000	90,000	90,000	0.0%
Staff travel	120,000	120,000	120,000	0.0%
Office Rent	44,000	44,000	44,000	0.0%
Office Operations	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.0%
Equipment/Maintenance/Depreciation	11,000	11,000	11,000	0.0%
Staff Development	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Property Insurance	3,000	5,000	5,000	66.7%
Interpretation	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel Contingency	1,500	0	0	-100.0%
Contract Services	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (4)</b>	<b>1,365,407</b>	<b>1,440,229</b>	<b>1,440,229</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>5. Communications</b>				
Electronics	50,000	45,000	45,000	-10.0%
Resource Center	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	50,000	45,000	45,000	-10.0%
Advocate	139,000	155,000	140,000	0.7%
Committee Meetings	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (5)</b>	<b>275,500</b>	<b>281,500</b>	<b>266,500</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>2,224,907</b>	<b>2,305,729</b>	<b>2,290,729</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>B. Other Conference Agencies</b>				
Cabinet Emergency Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Archives & History				
1) Conference Archivist Contract	16,791	17,295	17,295	3.0%
2) Program & Administration	2,000	8,250	1,100	-45.0%
Ordained Ministry				
1) Operations	62,550	62,550	62,550	0.0%
2) Career Planning Programs	0	62,500	17,500	100.0%
3) Residency I	0	4,000	2,000	100.0%
<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>132,841</b>	<b>206,095</b>	<b>151,945</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$2,357,748</b>	<b>\$2,511,824</b>	<b>\$2,442,674</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

**Report No. 3**

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 6, Report No. 1) shall be divided as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Budget for 2010</b>	<b>Requested for 2011</b>	<b>Approved for 2011</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1 Contingency Fund	255,000	255,000	255,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	25,000	25,000	25,000	0.0%
3 Ministers Book	6,125	6,125	6,125	0.0%
4 Director of Administrative Services Office				
Salaries	386,268	434,850	434,850	12.6%
Benefits	109,900	128,800	128,800	17.2%
Operations	123,950	164,100	164,100	32.4%
(Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	0.0%
5 Print Media Services	80,300	80,300	80,300	0.0%
6 Conference Expense Fund	152,500	192,000	240,000	57.4%
7 Administrative Committees	2,750	3,000	3,000	9.1%
8 Conference Secretary	44,360	44,360	44,360	0.0%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	174,623	182,373	182,373	4.4%
11 General Conference Delegates	6,000	6,000	6,000	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	8,000	75,000	75,000	837.5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,334,776</b>	<b>\$1,556,908</b>	<b>\$1,604,908</b>	<b>20.2%</b>

**Report No. 4**

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2011 will be set at \$91,200. CF&A reaffirms the formula approved by the annual conference in 2004 setting the district superintendents' compensation at 140% of CAC. This \$91,200 amount is a mid-way move toward full implementation of the formula in 2012. (DS compensation for 2009 was \$90,000 and for 2010 is \$88,200.)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$13,680) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2011 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 2011 will be as follows:

	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Anderson	15,239.00	3,500.00
Charleston	24,790.00	4,500.00
Columbia	32,404.00	5,200.00
Florence	18,798.00	3,900.00
Greenville	20,542.00	4,100.00
Greenwood	16,477.00	3,600.00
Hartsville	19,917.00	4,000.00
Marion	22,181.00	4,200.00
Orangeburg	18,832.00	3,900.00
Rock Hill	16,688.00	3,700.00
Spartanburg	16,680.00	3,700.00
Walterboro	15,216.00	3,500.00

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$138,000 for the total of all districts, plus \$6,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$11,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a

total of \$138,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is set at \$300,000 (\$25,000 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 2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>Parsonage</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of District Avg. Net Funds</b>
Anderson	\$16,000	\$40,000	\$56,000	0.008570525
Charleston	23,000	46,000	69,000	0.007178004
Columbia	5,000	45,000	50,000	0.003324138
Florence	15,000	37,000	52,000	0.007492266
Greenville	26,000	30,000	56,000	0.005670826
Greenwood	20,000	15,000	35,000	0.004923838
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	0.006704458
Marion	50,000	25,000	75,000	0.007386662
Orangeburg	15,000	45,000	60,000	0.009630567
Rock Hill	10,000	30,000	40,000	0.005448484
Spartanburg	22,000	25,000	47,000	0.006398417
Walterboro	<u>15,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	0.009220878
	\$234,000	\$395,500	\$629,000	

**Report No. 5**

- A. We recommend that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church and that appropriate free-will offerings be received.
- Human Relations Day – January 16, 2011
  - Golden Cross Sunday – February 6, 2011
  - One Great Hour of Sharing – April 3, 2011
  - Native American Awareness Sunday – May 8, 2011
  - Peace with Justice Sunday – June 19, 2011
  - Epworth Children's Home
    - Mothers' Day – May 8, 2011
    - Work Day – September 11, 2011
    - Church school offering first Sunday each month
  - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 7, 2011
  - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 18, 2011  
(youth offering)
  - World Communion Sunday – October 2, 2011
  - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 6, 2011
  - United Methodist Student Day – November 27, 2011
  - World AIDS Day – December 1 or 4, 2011
- 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 6, 2011.
- C. We offer the following guidelines:
- 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 2011 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 2011.
- 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 2011 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. 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 53 through 62 (inclusive) of Table 2.
- 9) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2 reports for use in future year calculations.
- 10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 12, 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 9, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claffin College; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 7, 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 Conference Connectional 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 Director of Administrative Services, the 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 2011, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 16) That local churches of the conference incorporate. (See ¶¶ 2506, 2507, 2528.1 of the 2008 Book of Discipline.) A brochure 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 was undertaken by the SEJ Council on Finance and Administration. By action of the SEJ, each member conference had been asked to raise \$.50 per member over a four year period. In 2008, the SEJ extended this request for another four years, due to cost overruns in the project. South Carolina's share was approximately \$121,000, or \$30,250 per year. We ask each church within the South Carolina Conference to contribute \$.125 per member during 2011, based on the membership as reported in the 2005 Report to the Annual Conference (statistical report).

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

The recommended apportioned budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund have been maintained at the same level as in the 2010 budget. These causes are significant ministries. Therefore, we ask those churches with sufficient resources to continue in 2011 to contribute what was

apportioned for these funds in 2009. An additional voluntary asking calculated on this difference will be indicated on the bottom of the conference apportionment form.

**Report No. 8**

The Council on Finance and Administration nominates Anthony C. Prestipino, Jr., as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services for the remainder of the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

**Report No. 9**

Following is a listing of the 2009 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of 2011 apportionments.

<b>District</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2009</b>
Anderson	6,534,021.75	Hartsville	7,308,570.00
Charleston	9,612,700.21	Marion	10,153,435.33
Columbia	15,041,494.33	Orangeburg	6,230,162.48
Florence	6,940,490.25	Rock Hill	7,341,491.34
Greenville	9,875,104.25	Spartanburg	7,345,567.42
Greenwood	7,108,275.50	Walterboro	<u>4,337,981.83</u>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>97,829,294.70</b>

*Edward McDowell, Jr., President*  
*David Surrett, Vice-President*  
*Dora Gafford, Secretary*  
*Anthony C. Prestipino, Jr., Treasurer*

**THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

The Conference Council on Connectional Ministries is optimistic about the progress that has been made as we work to realize the vision, purpose and process set for us by the 2007 annual conference.

**Vision:**

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

**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

Connectional Ministries is pleased to report that significant progress has been made in our efforts to shift the emphasis from programming to equipping and connecting local churches for ministry. Congregational Specialists have been the primary means by which this has been accomplished. They have assisted nearly 75% of our congregations. Our Specialists have been trained in Natural Church Development (NCD), coaching and conflict mediation.

Over three hundred of our local congregations have been involved in the NCD process by taking the survey at least one time, fifty have taken the survey two times and a few churches have taken the survey three times. It is obvious that those churches that have followed the NCD process have shown the kinds of increases in their characteristics as was anticipated. We have trained and certified 50 NCD coaches to assist the specialists with churches who seek coaching for the NCD process.

To further address the needs of local churches the extended cabinet and staff were trained by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Conflict Mediation in order to help local churches deal with conflict. This training has already begun to show results in the life of churches in our districts.

Our next step in the process of focusing on equipping and connecting congregations for ministry is to change the organizational structure of Connectional Ministries in order to more efficiently fulfill our vision and purpose. As a result of focusing on this for the past year we have come to several conclusions: the shift in staff structure is working well, district level events are more effective than annual conference events, the closer to the local church assistance is offered the better the response, and some conference events and programs are helpful – Youth events, Salkehatchie, UMWIM, UMW, Epworth.

We propose a structure that strengthens our equipping and connecting ministry at the district level and more narrowly focuses our ministry at the annual conference level.

This is to be accomplished by establishing in each district a District Council of Connectional Ministries and changing the structure of the Conference Council of Connectional Ministries. We therefore offer the following:

**A Resolution to Restructure Connectional Ministries at the  
Conference and District Levels**

**Resolved,**

1. That there will be in each district a District Council of Connectional Ministries (DCCM) structured to comply with paragraph 660 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline* and organized into four ministry areas of 6 to 10 members each: discipleship, advocacy, outreach, lay leadership. The members will be named by the district superintendent, district congregational specialist and the district lay leader. The congregational specialist in consultation with the district superintendent will give oversight to the DCCM. Local church needs are to be addressed at the district level and those that cannot be addressed there are to be passed on to the Conference Council of Connectional Ministries. Funding will be a portion of the conference Connectional Ministries budget. And further,
2. That there will be a Conference Council of Connectional Ministries (CCCM) structured to comply with paragraph 610 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline* and organized into four ministry areas of 24 to 30 members each: discipleship, advocacy, outreach, lay leadership. Membership shall consist of two persons from each district, named from District Councils of Connectional Ministries by the district council in consultation with the District Superintendent, Congregational Specialist, and District Lay Leader. Each CCCM ministry area may add to its membership up to six additional members to ensure inclusiveness. The Conference Council on Connectional Ministries shall receive from the District Councils of Connectional Ministries those local church concerns that cannot be met at the district level. The CCCM shall address annual conference and general conference concerns and shall be responsible to establish strong connections among local churches, districts, the annual conference and the general church. Persons may serve for one but no more than two quadrennia, after which they shall be ineligible to serve on a ministry area for a quadrennium. And further,
3. That the implementation will take two years. The DCCMs will be established to begin their ministry during the 2010/11 Annual Conference year. During the year a transition team will be established by the current CCCM and present to the 2011 annual conference for implementation by January 1, 2012, a detailed restructuring plan that will comply with the Book of Discipline and relevant judicial counsel rulings. They will work with the Committee on Standing Rules to present all changes to our standing rules necessary to facilitate the establishment of the newly organized Conference Council of Connectional Ministries.

*Earline Haywood-Ulmer, Chairperson*

**Report 2 – Part I  
Special Days for 2011**

**A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 16
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 23
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2011
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 6
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 13
Women's History Month	March 2011
World Day of Prayer	March 4
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 13
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	April 3
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2010
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2010
National Day of Prayer	May 5
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	May 8
Christian Family Week	May 2-8
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 22
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	June 19
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 2
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance in cooperation with the Children's Defense Fund	October 7-9
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 16
World Community Day (UMW)	November 4
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 13
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 27
World AIDS Day	December 1

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

Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 6
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 20
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 8
United Methodist Men's Day	June 19
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	August 7

## Report 2 — Part II

### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2011

- Alston Wilkes Society:** Since 1962, the Society has been in the business of rebuilding lives and providing second chances. It creates and supports opportunities statewide to help adult and juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, homeless veterans and other homeless people, emotionally- and behaviorally-disturbed children, and the families of these groups of people to become responsible and productive through employment, mediation, life skills, rehabilitation, prevention, volunteerism, and transitional housing services.
- Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** This ministry's purpose is to strengthen the local churches in their ministry, and to minister to all of the people in its geographical area by a program of activities which can best be realized through the cooperation of the churches within the parish. The services provided are: Joint Worship, Bible Study, Activities for Children and Youth, Leadership Training in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission (ex. distribution of food commodities, health fair, mission fair, blood drive, clothes closet and relief kits.), Tutorial Program (K-12) In-School and After-School, Vacation Bible School, Transportation, Newsletter and Shalom Zone (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Emergency Medical and Inadequate Housing), Shalom Literacy and Congregational Resource Center for Strengthening the Black Church.
- Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia:** The mission of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment where children and youth are nurtured through activities and programs that address their educational, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. Additionally, the Center seeks to empower women and families to enhance their quality of life by providing assistance and services with special attention to the concerns of justice and advocacy. Since its inception in 1945, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center continues to service the residents of the Waverly-Edgewood and surrounding communities. It provides a variety of programs to include a lab for Computer Literacy Technology, Pre-GED classes, After-School Enrichment and Tutorial Program, Summer Reading Activities, Vacation Bible School, Emergency Food Distribution, Community Forums, Internship Opportunities, and Parenting Classes. The Center's facility is available for utilization by the community for programs, weddings, meetings, worship services and other activities.
- Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg:** The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's day care facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of two and five. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts (dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults include Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.
- Church and Community Workers Field Share:** A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries and the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant— Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.
- Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center:** Provides counseling, pastoral psychotherapy, education and consultation to individuals and families who are facing mental health crises. The agency works hand-in-hand with local churches to reach out to people in need. Fees for services are adjusted according to a client's income and the Center is dependent upon generous donations and grants to supplement these low-fee or indigent clients.
- Interfaith Community Services, Inc.:** Addresses social challenges and meets community needs through advocacy, education, collaboration, research and services. Interfaith Community Services provides training and technical assistance to churches and other community groups working to meet critical social needs, sponsor and support local and state efforts which help people overcome the interrelated barriers of racism and poverty, and develop cooperative programs and resources which respond to the needs of children, young people and families. Current program areas include child care resources and referrals, faith-based community health initiatives and community development.
- Killingsworth:** This is a transition home for women in crisis. Our ministry is to support, empower, and advocate for women recovering from crisis within a safe, nurturing Christian environment. This includes: room and board, counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and community re-orientation.
- Rural Mission, Inc.:** This is an ecumenical organization that provides human, spiritual and social services to low-income Sea Island residents and migrant workers. Through education, advocacy and outreach, Rural Mission provides a lifting hand – spiritually, emotionally, physically, and economically – whatever the need, ministering to anyone on the S.C. Sea Islands. To better meet the needs of our migrant children and families, the mission collaborates with outside agencies by networking their local migrant task force, schools, health and social services, and governmental agencies, as well as farm workers' organizations and local churches.
- The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow):** This is an ecumenical Christian mission providing children with food for the body, mind and spirit. It serves children during the summer months at sites located in Abbeville and Anderson Counties. All services are free. For the children's bodies it provides SCDSS approved lunch's weekdays and physical activities at each site. For the mind it provides games, activities, speakers and field trips that the children would not experience without the program. It also provides back-to-school supplies to program children. For the spirit the sites are led by caring Christian people. Some sites have Bible Study and all sites say grace.



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

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

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

The newest program of the UMRC is the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. This construction programs enables low and very-low families to participate in home ownership through construction of their own homes in partnership with one another, building community while building homes. During this process, families learn decision-making skills, as well as construction skills, thus preparing them for the responsibilities of home ownership.

UMRC was born of devastation generated by Hurricane Hugo.

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

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

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

## THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Book of Discipline is herein used as a source of reference in stating the mission and purpose of The Board of Church and Society. Regarding this board, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church makes the statement as follows: "The conference board of church and society shall serve to connect the General Board of Church and Society, the district and local churches in relating the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to persons and structures of the communities, nation and world in which they live. Programs shall be developed that provide education and action on issues confronting the Church consistent with the Social Principles and the policies adopted by the General Conference" (From the United Methodist Church – 2008).

The Board of Church and Society continues work in an effort to help districts and local congregations better appreciate its role relative to Christian ministry. Its members are always ready upon invitation to provide presentations and workshops regarding the Social Principles. In addition, we welcome opportunities to help local congregations to activate and initiate programs in keeping with the mission and role of this Board. In too many instances, it has been felt that this Board has been misunderstood. Thus, many of our churches have not been inclined to appoint chair persons or develop ministries around the Board of Church and Society.

Incorporated in this report is a word about the Peace With Justice Initiative. Rev. Dr. Michael L. Vandiver is the Peace With Justice Coordinator for the South Carolina Annual Conference. He is a member of the Board of Church and Society. Even though the Discipline does not require, Dr. Vandiver has asked that all programs of ministry and all funds distributed under Peace With Justice be approved by our Board of Church and Society. During the past year, Peace With Justice funds were appropriated to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peace Conference held at Lake Junaluska and to pay for the expenses of the Coordinator to attend that Conference. Funds were also allocated for a member of The Board of Church and Society to attend a conference on racism.

Although the General Conference has designated the first Sunday in June as "Peace With Justice" Sunday, local churches can designate any Sunday as the day when Peace With Justice can be emphasized – Materials are available on line ([http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJKqF/b.2808967/k.B565/PeaceWith\\_Justice.htm](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJKqF/b.2808967/k.B565/PeaceWith_Justice.htm)) which can be used to educate persons about the different ways Peace With Justice funds are used. One half of the total amount given on Peace With Justice Sunday remains in the Annual Conference.

The Third Annual Peace Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska on September 19-21, 2010. The focus for the Conference will be "Peace For The World's Children." The featured speaker will be Dr. Marian Wright Edelman. Information about the Conference can be found on the website ([www.lakejunaluska.com/Peace/](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/Peace/)). Persons interested in working for peace in the world are urged to attend.

Since the Annual Conference 2009, two meetings were held by the Board of Church and Society on dates as follows: August 22, 2009 and January 9, 2010. Advocacy has continued to evolve around issues as follows: quality education for the children of South Carolina; payday lending; and human trafficking. Solutions to the problems represented by each of these issues have yet to be fully realized. We have much more work to do.

In the August 22, 2009 meeting of Church and Society, Dr. Mike Vandiver provided some sobering information regarding a

matter of life and death, HIV/AIDS statistics. Every local congregation in the South Carolina Conference would be alarmed to know the impact of HIV/AIDS on our State. Statistics provided by the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council are presented as follows:

- South Carolina ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the rate of new AIDS cases annually.
- Our capital, Columbia, ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
- For three years running, the SC HIV Testing Reports show the age group 20-29 with the highest percentage of newly diagnosed HIV positive people in South Carolina. Our youth are our future. What will you do?
- South Carolina currently ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in the percentage of cumulative cases.
- Among South Carolinians newly diagnosed with HIV who identify their risk factors, the modes of transmission are: Men who have sex with men = 50%, Heterosexual = 40%, Injecting drug users = 9%.

The Board of Church and Society would have us to know this is not an activist issue, it is a matter of life and death. No family among us is immune. As an example, local congregational Boards of Church and Society can work in conjunction with Health and Welfare around this issue of epidemic potential in our state.

The homeless population in America remains with us. Every state in our great country has within its borders a percentage of this population. Given its severity as a major social problem, the Board of Church and Society will facilitate a workshop regarding this issue in 2011. Dr. Michael L. Vandiver will serve as a principal agent in helping to plan this event.

Spartanburg Methodist College has in place an endowment entitled "Halls of Distinction Scholars Program." It was developed in response to years of neglect and inadequate funding for public education in a section of South Carolina referred to as a "Corridor of Shame." The Board of Church and Society is a viable advocate in support of funding for this endowment.

In conclusion, we call upon all local churches to establish and implement active programs in your communities. Seek out a member of your congregation to chair the committee entitled Church and Society. You will be glad you did.

*Augustus Rodgers, Vice Chairman*

## **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 become more of a more hands on committee as we transition from activities led by conference staff with participation by Board of Education members toward a working board with minimal support from conference staff. The current board consists of the Children's Council, eChristianEd, Ministries with Families, and Older Adult Council.

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 Board of Education also approved the nominees to the Board of Camps and Retreats Ministries.

A board which meets only twice a year with members from around the state will continue to struggle so long as adequate conference staff resources are not provided. Christian education is so vitally important within the local church, especially today; we believe that the Board of Education should be one of the main resources for helping churches to become stronger and her leaders in knowing, understanding, and informing their people about effective Christian education materials and teaching resources and/or methods available for all age levels, and with the present resources available to the board, that is extremely challenging if not impossible.

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, Betty Shuler, and Judson King, our congregational specialist Cathy Joens, our vice-chairperson Rhonda Jones, and our recording secretary Carol Singletary.

We thank and praise God for the spirit led 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 become a more effective resource as it moves forward.

*Rev. Kevin F. Dalton, Chairperson*

## **THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

Our Council has been working for the past few years on providing Vacation Bible School training throughout the Conference. This year we attempted to provide 12 different trainings, the most we have ever done. We planned on 6 trainings on Galactic Blast, this year's literature from Cokesbury, and 6 trainings on Praise Party, another VBS literature from Cokesbury. Winter weather caused us to cancel two of the trainings and combining two trainings due to the leaders from the upstate not being able to travel on wintery roads. Those trainings that did happen were very successful. The participants seemed very excited about the two different pieces of literature and appreciated the time the leaders spent exploring and explaining the literatures. Through these trainings and by working with Cokesbury, we were able to offer all training participants 20% discount on all CBS orders placed at the trainings. Through doing these trainings as a Council now for three years, we have learned that communication is a key. We are working hard at getting the word out about our training in the most economical way possible. We also realize that we still have a long way to go to accurately reflect the diversity reflected by the congregations in our Conference. We are striving to do a better job at involving people from all parts of the state and meeting the needs of the various congregations.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the Conference Council on Children's Ministries to work on to help your local congregation, please contact any member of the Council or myself. We welcome your input.

Blessings,

*Dr. Dawn Compton, Chairperson*



## THE DIVISION OF MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Division of Ministries with Young People has been very active since last Annual Conference, beginning with camp for the Spirit Singers on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Spirit Singers, a group comprised of 30 youth under the direction of Kathy Jo Long, spend a week at Spartanburg Methodist College learning a full service of music to perform on tour for the next four days in churches around the Conference. The Spirit Singers then continue to perform at various churches through out the year. Auditions were held in March in Summerville, Marion, Greenville, and Columbia. In 2009-10 the Spirit Singers performed at such places as the Methodist Oaks, Cokesbury UMC, St. Mark UMC/Charleston, Bethany UMC/Summerville, The Newberry Opera House, and several other United Methodist churches across the Conference.

July 2009 brought the Division of Ministries with Young People a new event called Breeze. Breeze is a week-long discipleship-making event held at Spartanburg Methodist College July 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Over 230 youth in grades 6-12 attended this awesome week of worship, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. The theme for the week was "Ruach" and the focus scripture was Job 33:4 which states, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life." The speaker for the week was Fred Whaples, who used the Fruits of the Spirit to show the teenagers how the breath of the Almighty gives us life.

During the week of Breeze, over fifty teenagers applied to be a part of the Connectional Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM). From that group, forty were selected to serve on the CCYM. The CCYM is a group of teenagers and adults that works to strengthen youth ministry in the South Carolina Conference. The teenagers and adults serve on one of six tables that plan youth ministry in the areas of: Worship, Mission, Communications, Outreach, Advocacy, and Leadership. The CCYM met four times throughout the year at Francis Burns UMC for their planning. The CCYM continues to work to connect and equip local churches for youth ministry.

In January 2010, the New Year began with a new spiritual life retreat in Columbia, SC. The first "Revolution" was held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, with over 2100 participants. The Robbie Seay Band led worship, with the Reverend Lowell McNanny giving the message. Several youth groups shared their talents through praise offerings during the weekend. Many of the teenagers committed or recommitted themselves to Christ, and over twenty were identified as having a call to vocational ministry. Over \$6,000 was collected to help with relief in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. The Division of Ministries with Young People wants to thank the Bishop and Cabinet for their support of this event. Bishop Taylor and members of the Cabinet shared in communion during the Sunday morning service. We look forward to another exciting Revolution next year, February 11-13, 2011, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual State Basketball Tournament was held the weekend of January 29-31 at Bethany United Methodist Church in Summerville, South Carolina. The Reverend Bob Howell led the communion worship service for the participating teams. Over 750 youth participated in the three day tournament with over 2,000 youth and adults in attendance to support their teams. The tournament also collected over \$6,000 for the Net 4 Nets campaign to help wipe out malaria in Africa.

The Youth Workers Movement, which is a group for both staff and volunteer youth workers to gather and connect with one another, met several times over the past year to resource and connect youth workers. In November 2009, the Youth Workers Movement met for a retreat at Asbury Hills to see the new renovations at the camp.

Finally, the Division of Ministries with Young People continues to look at ways the church can better connect and minister to young people between the ages of 18-35. Currently, we are in the process of forming a council for young adult ministries to address their needs. In 2010-11, we are looking to better connect and resource churches in the area of young adult ministries.

The Division of Ministries with Young People continues to strive to support and connect young people in the local church, district and Conference to accomplish the mission of Christ's church.

CCYM

*Judson King, Youth Ministries Specialist*

## THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism has been intent in pursuing its responsibilities according to the Book of Discipline. The Book of Discipline says the board is to plan and promote comprehensive ministry for evangelism for persons of all ages. In an effort to promote evangelism, the board continues to present the Bishop's 5-Star Awards and the Denman Awards for Evangelism each year at the South Carolina Annual Conference. At the 2009 Annual Conference, 35 churches received the Bishop's 5-Star Award. Bob Pettus and Reverend Marvin Taylor received Denman Evangelism Awards.

The Bishop's BASH on February 27, 2010 served as a means to extend an invitation to committed discipleship for this year's confirmands. In addition to learning of polity and women's and African American influence in Methodism, confirmands had the opportunity to spend time with Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor.

The Board of Evangelism continues an ongoing relationship with the Foundation for Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship. Rev. Kenneth Lambert, Director of Church Relations, serves as liaison for working together to prepare for future programming.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Dr. Kitty Cooper Holtzclaw*

## THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Conference Board of Global Ministries continues to work with the Connectional Ministries in equipping our local churches for mission and ministry in the world.

During the year, the CBGM made the following grants:

From the James M. Belin Trust-

- Tracy Jackson GIFT - \$4000 to begin a new ministry addressing health and diet issues among underserved youth
- Columbia Bethlehem Center - \$21,100 to begin a new ministry serving children and families
- Kidz First Ministry at Camden First UMC - \$16,950 to begin a new afterschool ministry

- Monaghan UMC - \$5300 to begin new feeding program
- John Wesley UMC (Hartsville District) - \$15,000 to begin new afterschool ministry
- St. Paul UMC (Hartsville District) – \$15,000 to begin new outreach ministry
- Zion UMC – Greenwood District – \$5,700 to begin Upward basketball program

From Hungrieff Funds-

- Tracey Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.- \$400
- Mt. Carmel UMC, Charleston District - \$700
- Wallace Family Life Center, Marion District - \$700
- Monaghan UMC, Greenville District - \$700
- God's Helpers, Marion District- \$700
- Our Father's Pantry, Charleston District - \$700

From Church Extension Partnership-

- Trinity UMC, Smoaks (Walterboro District)-Lenten Call 2009-\$3,581
- Sandy Bluff UMC (Hartsville District) Advent Call 2009- still being collected

Guidelines and applications for the Belin Trust, Hungrieff, and Church Extension Partnership may be found online at [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org), and for the Renfro Trust by writing Renfro Trust Fund, P.O. Box 237, Lake Junaluska NC 28745.

In 2009 we collected 20,000 flood buckets that were taken to the UMCOR storage facility at Sager Brown.

A comprehensive Disaster Response Plan was developed by George Olive, our conference disaster response coordinator.

In order to enhance our hunger related ministries and Hungrieff offering, the dates of the offering will be moved to September and the ministry is being changed to a more encompassing program. It will help churches to get personally involved in hunger-related ministries in their local communities, in the state and nation, and around the world.

Applications were received from 13 Advanced Special Ministries asking for certification for 2011-12. These were all approved. They are

- Alston Wilkes Society
- Bennettsville Group Ministry
- Bethlehem Center/Columbia
- Bethlehem Center/Spartanburg
- Interfaith Community Services
- United Ministries/Greenville
- Killingsworth Home
- Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center
- Rural Missions, Inc.
- Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T.
- UM Relief Center/ Mt. Pleasant
- UMVIM
- Wallace Family Life Center

We would like to thank Ms. Millie Nelson, Ms. Tammy Fulmer, Ms. Gail Corn and the Rev. Willie Teague for their invaluable help over the past year.

*Michael B. Henderson, Chair*

## **THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

Let us first give thanks to God that we in South Carolina escaped the year with no significant disasters. The wildfire in the Myrtle Beach area was the biggest natural disaster in 2009, and, fortunately, resources from city, county, and state government agencies, as well as local volunteers, were sufficient to deal with the crisis. While the Disaster Response Coordinator monitored the event and kept in contact with the Horry County Emergency Management Operations Center, there was no need for either Early Response teams nor Recovery teams from our Conference.

As indicated in last year's report, efforts were begun to offer training to all local churches in the Annual Conference. A pilot program was offered in the Marion District on two consecutive Saturdays in November. While the attendance was less than hoped for, those in attendance seemed to appreciate the value of the training. It was also a valuable experience for the trainer. Negotiations are underway to set dates in two additional districts, and the goal is to offer the training in every district as quickly as possible. Being prepared in advance of a disaster is critical at the local church level. The risk to life and property is mitigated, and response and recovery efforts are much easier to initiate.

The Conference Disaster Coordinator continues to learn how best to perform his role and to create for the Conference an effective disaster response plan and infrastructure. He attended the 2009 Hurricane/Emergency Management Workshop conducted by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. In addition, he is active in the state VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) organization, and serves on the Executive Committee. The networking and training opportunities offered are invaluable.

We now have Disaster Response Coordinators in every District, and a meeting is being planned for the near future. Training needs will be identified, and plans will be developed to provide the training using sources such as UMCOR, VOAD, FEMA, the Red Cross, etc. Having qualified District Coordinators that can work together and support each other will enable us to finally realize the minimal infrastructure needed to respond effectively to disasters that may occur anywhere within our Conference.

Finally, let me thank the many churches across the Conference that responded overwhelmingly to the request for health kits in response to the earthquake in Haiti. Even as they were being gathered, there was an earthquake in Chile, mudslides in California, and floods in the Midwest. The need is great, and you stepped up. Totals are not available as kits were still coming in as this report was being prepared, but two trailer loads have been delivered, and a third will likely be required. Thanks to Tony Rowell and Lee McMillan for their invaluable assistance in managing the efforts at the Conference Center where the health kits were gathered and packaged.

*George Olive, Chairman*

## SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Ninety-nine years and counting down to our Centennial in 2011!! Ninety-nine years ago, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Rev. David English Camak began a partnership which has continued and grown in strength across the years through the General Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Global Ministries of the (now) South Carolina Annual Conference. Our name attests to the pride we at SMC take in working and studying at a college based on the traditional values of the church.

From our humble beginnings in a mill house on the corner of Farley and Brawley Streets in Spartanburg to our 110-acre campus in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, SMC operates from a position of strength in its academic, athletic, and campus life programs. This academic year brought with it yet more strength:

- **Reaffirmation of Accreditation:** In recognition of our quality academic program, and commitment to ongoing assessment and evaluation, we were awarded a full 10-year reaffirmation of our accreditation, with no notations, by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- **University Senate:** Visitors from the University Senate of The United Methodist Church came to SMC in September for their accreditation visit. In February, we were notified that we met the required standards and our status as a United Methodist college was reaffirmed.
- **Enrollment:** We began the Fall 2009 semester on a very high note: we experienced our highest enrollment in two decades, with 808 headcount and 789.2 FTE (full-time equivalent)! Our enrollment efforts have been enhanced with a redesigned website (www.smcs.edu) and new admissions communication software that allows us to personalize our on-line presence for prospective students.
- **Retention:** Even more impressive than this record enrollment is our retention rate. We retained 63.6% of last year's freshman into their second year at SMC.
- **Academic Program:** Hand-in-hand with a focus on student retention is a new initiative that started this fall, the Pioneer Learning Community (PLC). The PLC offers a purposeful structuring of courses and activities that are designed to increase the chances for student success in personal, academic and professional arenas.
- **New Degree Program:** After approval by our regional accrediting body (SACS), a new degree program – the Associate Degree in Religious Studies – was launched this year and we awarded our first ARS degree in May 2010.
- **Faculty Updates:** Professor of History and Anthropology, Cole Cheek, successfully defended his dissertation at the University of Mississippi and has been awarded his Ph.D. Dr. Joseph Onger, Professor of Economics, published a book titled *Teaching Economics from a Learner-Centered Perspective: In Enhancing Student's Motivation for Learning and Achievement* (VDM Verlag, 2009). In addition, Dr. Onger authored a chapter titled, "The Effects of Race on Education and Prosperity: Lived Experiences of an African Man" in the recently published *Expanding What We Know Through Research Across the African Diaspora*. (Africana Research Center, Penn State University, 2009).
- **Athletics:** Pioneer athletes continue their winning traditions! In 2008-2009, eight of the College's 14 athletic teams advanced to national competitions. This accomplishment brought with it another national ranking for the Pioneers: SMC is now ranked in the Top 50 of the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) scholarship division programs. Thus far in 2009-2010, four teams have already competed in national events ... as of the printing of this journal, several other teams are still in season.
- **New Administrators:** Following the retirement of some beloved administrators, SMC welcomed its new President, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, a new Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Mr. Bob Fuzy, and a new Dean of Students, Mr. Ron Laffitte to the SMC family.
- **Commitment to Service and Worship:** The Chaplain of the College and Director of Church Relations, Rev. Candice Sloan, offers weekly worship services on campus, Bible studies, and coordinates service projects in the greater Spartanburg community for our students. Our annual Freshman Day of Service, in which more than 400 SMC students, faculty and staff participate, has garnered impressive media attention. Our commitment to providing meaningful worship experiences for young people has resulted in a new Thursday night service, called Overflow, which is student led and growing in popularity each week.
- **Welcoming Venue for Non-SMC Groups:** The College continues to welcome groups such as the Spirit Singers (the South Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist Student Choir), the Conference Board of Global Ministry, and the annual meeting of the School of Christian Ministry of the United Methodist Women in the South Carolina Annual Conference. Youth Annual Conference (now known as Breeze) will be meeting this year at Southern Wesleyan University, and we hope to welcome them back at some future date. Our campus is open and ready to offer hospitality to other groups as well.

**Things to watch for:** We will launch a "Centennial Year" celebration in September 2010 with the inauguration of SMC's 7<sup>th</sup> President, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith. From there, you can expect regular events on the SMC campus that celebrate our history, our present and our future, culminating in a Centennial birthday party in September 2011.

In her book, *Common Ties: A History of Textile Industrial Institute, Spartanburg Junior College and Spartanburg Methodist College* (Spartanburg, SC: Hub City Writers Project, 2007, p. 27), Dr. Katherine Davis Cann shares:

*"At the 1911 South Carolina Methodist Annual Conference, Bishop John C. Kilgo released English Camak from his pastoral duties and appointed him to Textile Industrial Institute, an appointment made continuously until 1924. At the same Annual Conference, the Board of Missions of the South Carolina Methodist Conference adopted the fledgling school, three months old with seven boarding students, as one of its projects ... The willingness of the Methodist Church to support the new school stemmed from a long-standing interest in education and a more recent commitment to social concerns and the Social Gospel ..."*

Those who have gone before each of us in this conference believed in the connection between SMC and this conference. SMC's covenant with you is to not only properly and faithfully steward the funds you provide for us, but also to celebrate and help further this connection and relationship. We look forward to our future together, and are blessed by your prayerful support of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D., President of the College

## THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Board of Health and Welfare (BHW) 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. This year, we focused on the mandate from the Annual Conference to make the work of Board and Agencies relevant to local congregations in accordance with the Conference Vision: **To make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping it's local churches for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God.**

The BHW sought to put information about the importance of health and welfare ministries into the hands of local congregations in 2009 by including information on the Conference website on starting a health ministry. It is our hope and prayer that every congregation will do something to put into place at least one initiative to address health and welfare needs in their local setting. As a part of this focus, we heard presentations entitled "The Power to End Stroke" and "Search Your Heart" at our January meeting. These programs are being promoted across South Carolina in hopes of reducing the incidence and severity of strokes and heart disease by educating people as to the signs and symptoms and equipping faith communities to put simple but effective interventions into place that will reduce the risks. We hope to get this information into the hands of every local congregation this year.

In our current economic environment, it is imperative that we all work together to love and serve God and our neighbors in innovative and tangible ways as we seek to improve health and welfare in our communities. We continue to look for ways to share and celebrate the health and welfare ministries that are already part of so many of our local congregations. We encourage local churches to serve as resources for health and welfare-related ministries so that we can utilize our unique connectional relationship to improve holistic health in our communities across this annual conference.

In addition to encouraging low-cost health and welfare interventions, we continue to oversee the funds provided through the annual Golden Cross offering and grant monies awarded for the purpose of eliminating barriers to worship. Through your generosity and commitment to the Golden Cross Offering, we were able to assist persons with their medical bills and award scholarships for UM students enrolled in healthcare and nursing programs. In addition to the local church offering, we received \$808.57 from the Williams-Walker Trust Fund into the Golden Cross account. We encourage every local church to observe Golden Cross Sunday on the first Sunday in February, each year.

The Programs sub-committee approved a request for funds to help a local church with installation of a handicap ramp to improve accessibility to worship for this older congregation. We encourage churches to apply for funds to improve health in their local communities through hosting health fairs or other events as well as, to improve accessibility to worship for persons with special needs.

We continue to solicit and review nominations for the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, Wesley Commons, the Methodist Oaks, the Manor of the Pee Dee, and the Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. These nominees are presented to the Conference Committee on Nominations and to the Annual Conference for consideration and election. The Board of Health and Welfare liaisons attend meeting of the Boards of the homes and communities, and representatives from each gives a report to our Board during our bi-annual meetings. It is critical to maintain relationship with each of our United Methodist homes and communities, and we remain pleased with the ministries offered by each of them in these difficult economic times.

There are presently nine housing units allotted for retired clergy; four at the Methodist Oaks, two occupied and two vacant; one at the Manor of the Pee Dee which is vacant; and four at Wesley Commons, which are occupied. The interest from the Elma Hill Endowment Fund helps maintain these retired clergy units. As of December 31, 2009 there was a balance of \$90, 386.08 in this endowment and \$2828.97 was allocated in 2009 for maintenance.

We remain thankful for the support and cooperation across this Annual Conference for the work of the Board of Health and Welfare, and covet your prayers and your ideas as we continue to live into the Conference Vision. May we be ever mindful that the need for health and welfare ministries becomes even more critical in tough economic times, and that we can make a difference in our communities and in our conference as we seek to live as disciples of the Christ.

Blessings,

*Sandra Smith King, Chair*

## ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry continues to reach milestones in its mission to provide secure dwellings for adults with developmental disabilities. Two homes have been in operation for just over a year.

The Columbia Builders' Home, located on the campus of Epworth Children's Home, currently has five female residents. The women have settled into a stable routine with daily time filled with jobs, workshops and activities. The home has gone through minimal staff changes for a start-up, although the Board is in the process of seeking a new home manager.

Aldersgate at the Oaks, our home for men, has three of its six bedrooms occupied. The Board has faced a challenge in recruiting residents. Although the need for semi-independent living places remains strong, we have found that it is difficult for parents to "turn loose" their adult children. There are economic hindrances as well, due primarily to the state freeze on support money during the present economic downturn.

The Rev. James McGee, President of The Oaks, A United Methodist Retirement Community, has been a valuable asset to Aldersgate and its mission. The Oaks is currently contracted by Aldersgate to provide service management of the home.

The Aldersgate Board was certified as a Qualified Licensed Provider by the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. The Board has furthermore worked with other faith-based providers to encourage a more equitable consideration from our state agencies.

With changes in Board membership and with staff changes in our homes, the mission of Aldersgate remains clear and foremost: to provide homes and services that will enable adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible in a communal setting that ensures dignity, security, and a stable environment of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

We are grateful for the much needed financial support we receive from churches and friends. Churches are asked to receive an offering for Aldersgate on the second Sunday of August (August 8<sup>th</sup>). We would also appreciate referrals of persons who are seeking the services we provide. Our residents are living fulfilling lives, and with your help, this ministry will grow to offer similar opportunities for others.

*Rev. Stephen P. Taylor, Chairperson*

## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 114 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina 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. Continued to implement the CARE (Children and Residential Experience: creating conditions for change) model developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principles that form good residential group care. The Cornell University Residential Care team continues to train, and observe our staff members at regular intervals.
- II. CARE pre-test and post-test data (measured by the Organizational Social Context Instrument developed by the University of Tennessee) indicated the culture and climate at Epworth has changed in the areas of proficiency, rigidity, resistance, engagement and functionality. There were significant increases in proficiency, engagement, and functionality and decreases in rigidity and resistance.
- III. Participated in year two of Cohort IV which is a group of 12 child care agencies in North and South Carolina. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in cooperation with the Duke Endowment, has implemented a program of outcomes research in residential treatment settings for children and youth. Through this outcomes based research we will be better able to determine what the most advantageous options are as we care for our residents.
- IV. Averaged 79 children per day in the residential population plus six college students who live off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program averaged 18 children per week in a preschool program. This program serves children who are developmentally delayed. The EEIC program also served 46 families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 149 children served at any given time.
- V. Began year three of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of moving the current giving level of \$5.76 per church member to a minimum of \$6.00 per member. In the 2009 calendar year church giving increased by \$236,658. This is an increase of \$1.01 per member.  
The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children decreased from 305 to 230. 341 churches met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average.
- VI. Expanded the Barnes Learning Center tutoring and enrichment program to include after-school tutoring Monday-Thursday and two summer sessions. The center staff includes a director, five certified teachers, four instructional assistants and 11 volunteer tutors.
- VII. Adopted a budget of \$4,301,806 for the fiscal year 10-1-09 through 9-30-10. This includes \$93,094 in Federal Education Subsidy funds.
- VIII. Continued the work of the Early Intervention Funds Committee that is charged with raising the amount of money each year that will enable the EEIC to operate at its current capacity. The amount raised as of March 1, was \$176,364 which insures the programs operation through August of 2011.
- XI. The Epworth Board of Trustees reaffirmed the policy of reducing the amount drawn from the endowment and transferred to budget expenditures by \$200,000 each year until the maximum draw is 5% per year. The difference in the amount drawn from the endowment and operating costs has to date been covered by a combination of reducing operating costs and by increasing revenue and donations.

The mission, purpose and vision statements were reaffirmed by the Board of Trustees and a values statement was adopted. They are as follows:

**Mission:** The mission of Epworth Children's Home is to serve children, youth and families through a caring, accepting and safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

**Vision:** The vision of Epworth Children's Home is to provide superior services for the greatest number of individuals through competent, caring adults who are trained in the most effective, research based methods of child and family care.

**Purpose:** The purpose of Epworth Children's Home is to honor God and neighbor by breaking the destructive familial cycle of neglect, abuse and shame, and replacing it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self respect, responsibility and productivity.

**Values:** We value the children whom we serve and the families they represent.

Only 10% of Epworth's income is generated from a combination of state and federal money, and fees for service payments. This is far lower than most other homes. It is largely through the generosity of South Carolina United Methodists, that once again Epworth has been able to provide over four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families in South Carolina.

*John E. Holler, Jr., President, CEO*

## THE METHODIST OAKS

The past conference year 2009-2010 has been a challenging year as we join with the rest of the world in reacting to the economic difficulties of our nation. At The Oaks initiatives have been put into place reducing costs and creating new revenue streams for the future. At the same time we seek to expand our ministry in the community surrounding us. Without a doubt, the continuing care industry is changing as we anticipate serving the wave of Baby Boomers beginning to swell the numbers of those over the age of 60.

- **PACE** – Our PACE program, started in March of 2008 is proceeding well serving over 55 participants. 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. Only 60 PACE sites exist in the United States and The Oaks is one of the few operated by a Faith Based Continuing Care Community.



- **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry** – The Oaks is one of the sites for this wonderful new ministry of the SC Conference, having set aside four home locations on our campus. The home to has 3 residents in place by the time. The home will house up to six adult males. Please make your community aware that we have spaces for Special Needs Adult Home at the Aldersgate at The Oaks Home.
- **Wellness at The Oaks** - The Oaks Wellness program is extremely strong on campus with over 60% of our independent residents participating actively in the program. The heated, enclosed, pool and spacious cardio/strength and exercise rooms are improving the quality of life for many residents and staff. Our new **Passport to The Oaks** program allows seniors in the Orangeburg community to participate in our Wellness and Campus Life programs for a nominal fee each month. We now have 100 individuals from the greater Orangeburg Area participating in the program and have closed enrollment.
- **Interpretive Nature Trail** – Our nature trail continues to be used by residents and visitors alike. The trail is a favorite for bird watchers and butterfly watchers as well as those who just want to see what they can see. The Nature Trail is open to the public by appointment and is used by schools, scouts and others. Claflin University uses the trail as a training site for its Cross Country Team and as an Ecology Lab for the Ecology courses.
- **The Oaks Home Services** – In March of 2008, The Oaks initiated Home Services which serves residents on our campus and a five county area surrounding Orangeburg. Providing multiple non medical care needs allows people to stay in their homes and apartments as long as possible. The Oaks Home Services now provides care for over 60 families and employees over 100 part time care givers.
- **Peace of Mind Alternative** – The Oaks has introduced a new outreach program which uses a variety of technology to provide Peace of Mind to families. The program also uses various products to increase safety, socialization, and longevity at home for participants. It is through Peace of Mind Alternatives that The Oaks works as Research Associates of The USC Medical School Geriatric Program and the Medical University of SC Geriatric Program. We are involved with research to create new products and programs that will allow people to stay home longer. In 2009, our CEO, The Reverend James R. McGee presented with Dr. Victor Hirth of the Geriatric Program at the American Society of Geriatrics in Chicago.
- **Elderhostel** – The Oaks is working with Claflin University to establish an Elderhostel program using housing available on our campus. The program is in the formative stages at this point, but both The Oaks and Claflin are excited about the possibilities for the program in providing interesting educational programs for seniors throughout the nation.
- **Fersner/Whetsell Conference and Retreat Center at The Oaks.** In conjunction with preparing for an Elderhostel Program in the future, The Oaks created our Conference and Retreat Center. We have hosted several meetings of the South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as well as church couples retreats and the African American Clergy Women's group. We will also host the Local Pastors School in May as well as other groups through out the year. The Center has the capacity to accommodate over 60 people and provides small and large meeting rooms. Groups using the Center have full access to all of The Oaks amenities including our Wellness Center, Game Room, Golf Course, Nature Trail, Picnic area and fishing ponds.
- **The Board of Trustees** appreciates the support of the South Carolina Conference through Apportionments, gifts and prayers. All are important in allowing us to maintain our ministry to the aging population.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L. Coleman, Chair Board of Trustees  
The Reverend James R. McGee, CEO/President*

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

As a continuing care retirement community, the Methodist Manor consists of patio homes and apartments for those who are active and living independently; assisted living suites for those looking for a supportive environment; Magnolia Terrace for memory support care and the Healthcare center for skilled nursing care. This full continuum of services enables the Manor to serve the needs of aging adults so that a person may remain in the community with friends and loved ones as their health and service needs change over time. Personal care and support services are provided in a friendly community where the enrichment of everyone's physical, social and spiritual well being is the Manor's mission.

The Manor is undergoing extensive remodeling of its independent living apartments to upgrade them to the level of quality expected today by people seeking retirement housing. Improvements and minor renovations were done to the healthcare center as well. Refinements and improvements to services and programs for resident's quality of life have also been implemented. A home health license was acquired so that the Manor may now provide nursing care and personal assistance for residents in the comfort of their home and thereby enable them to retain their independence longer. The Methodist Manor has adopted a customer focused model for service delivery that redirects the times and types of services being provided so that resident choices and convenience are incorporated. 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 230 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 \$11.5 million and debt service payments are included in the annual operating budget of the Manor.

In the last year the South Caroling Methodist Conference contributed \$77,189.78 to the residence financial assistance fund at the Manor. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. There are currently four residents receiving assistance who received \$89,846.00 in financial support from this fund last fiscal year. The Manor also received \$473.02 from the restricted endowment fund of the South Carolina Methodist Foundation which is held exclusively for the benefit of the Manor.

Led by a Board of Trustees committed to the quality of life for older adults and with God's help, the Manor will provide facilities and programs to meet the needs of its current residents and make preparations for the needs of aged adults in the future. The Methodist Manor will continue its mission of providing quality residential living to those who currently make the Manor their home and plan future service delivery to the aging wherever they call home.

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

## WESLEY COMMONS

Dear Friends:

We continue to be humbled and thankful for the successful management of our Mission during this past fiscal year. It is no surprise that 2009 was a very difficult year, one laced with many challenges from both national and industry specific forces. The Aging Service Field has seen many organizations struggle to stay afloat and even sink during this time. Although not immune to this downturn, Wesley Commons has ended this year a very blessed community!

While last year's downturn in the real estate market continues to impact the decision making of many potential residents considering a move to a Continuing Care Retirement Community, we are leveraging our VALUE to attract new residents to Wesley Commons. Having completed a detailed price comparison of Wesley Commons, we have verified our great value compared to our competitors.

Our unique and diverse service market, which spans many cities across the Southeast, enabled us to weather the downturn better than others in our field. As certain towns around the South improved economically, we were able to prove our value and enable families to make the wise choice to move to Wesley Commons. This combined with the prices issued for 2010 place Wesley Commons' in a very strong position and should help us maintain our successful value in the market.

While our donors of our Mission did slightly reduce the level of giving as compared to previous years, Wesley Commons was still able to provide a consistent level of subsidy to residents across our campus that needed help.

We continue to navigate toward our shared Vision of growth, while effectively managing operations and adjusting to changing conditions. Our success is only possible with the combined efforts of our entire team and with the continued generous support of our donors like the South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

We are grateful for your support of our mission which seeks to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles.

May God's Blessings be with you.

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

## THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry serves several constituencies and connects many areas of ministry that relate to campus ministry and higher education within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Our areas of responsibility for these ministries include promotion, program, property, and personnel. If we made our task merely keeping up with these many areas, we would soon be swamped by the enormity of it all.

However, my hope for this board is that we keep always as our central focus our mission of serving and nurturing in Christ the thousands of college students we serve in the colleges, universities, Wesley Foundations and Fellowships throughout the South Carolina Annual Conference. With this central focus, we hope our service with the several constituencies and areas of ministry becomes more purposeful in at least the following ways:

- The training and resourcing of local Wesley Foundation boards of directors to be partners with foundation directors in providing vibrant programming in a safe atmosphere.
- Equipping Wesley Foundation Directors to lead and nurture new generations for Christ in unconventional settings and in new but effective ways.
- Strengthen and promote the historic connection between the annual conference and the United Methodist related colleges and universities of South Carolina that has benefited countless students over the past decades while we deliberately seek new and different bonds of connection that address the needs of a new century.
- Encourage local churches to find ways to be in ministry with and to college students in their community.
- Promote payment of the campus ministry and the college line items of our conference apportionments with annual conference leaders, clergy, and local churches so that this vital ministry is funded at 100%.
- Recognize through the Asbury Award those who have influenced college students for a life in Christ.
- Award annual conference and general church scholarships to deserving students in South Carolina.
- Offer information on United Methodist scholarships and loans to students seeking financial assistance with rising college costs.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Joseph R James, Jr., Chairperson*

## CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

The 2009-2010 academic year ushered in the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Claflin University, South Carolina's first historically black college or university. The University planned a year-long series of events with the theme, "140 Years: Access and Success," to guide those events and to highlight a tradition of excellence and a promising future.

This report describes recent achievements consistent with the vision of Claflin becoming one of the nation's premier undergraduate teaching and research institutions in the world. The year began with the highest enrollment in school history, 1860 students from 43 counties in South Carolina, 28 other states and 16 countries. The diversity of our student body gained national recognition when the Hispanic publication, *Hispanic Network Magazine*, cited the University as being among the top 50 colleges and universities for Hispanics who seek higher education.

This publication's recognition is added to other new and significant national ranking accomplishments. For 2010, *U.S. News and World Report*, which has listed Claflin as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the past 12 years, ranked us as number 12 among the *Top Tier Baccalaureate Colleges in the South*. And for the first time our University was listed nationally by the publication as a "Top Up-and-coming School;" one of only 77 so listed. We were ranked number two of the colleges and schools

so recognized in the South. Our faculty brought us another first recognition by *U.S. News and World Report*. Claflin was ranked number one in the South and among 80 ranked nationally for our “Strong Commitment to Teaching.” Our alumni giving, which is currently at 39 percent, was also ranked: number two among Baccalaureate Colleges in the South and number one among HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

We were very pleased to learn that we were included in *Forbes.com*'s second year listing of America's Best Colleges. For 2010, we were again ranked number one among HBCUs with Forbes placing Claflin in the top one-third of their “Best College Buy” list.

The Annual Lecture of the Granville Hicks Academy for Laity and Clergy was held on Feb 4-6. This year's theme was “*The Engaged Church: Evangelism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*” The keynote speakers were Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., the E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri and the Rev. Felicia Howell LaBoy, senior pastor of Maple Park United Methodist Church in Blue Island, Illinois.

Claflin was again named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. We were among 635 institutions of higher learning recognized for our community service which came to approximately 40,000 hours. The University partners with more than 50 community organizations through which our students learn and serve. The Honor Roll, launched in 2006, recognized colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs.

The University was the recipient of a second community service honor. The Bone Marrow Foundation presented Claflin with the foundation's “Making a Difference Award” for having the highest participation in the national Bone Marrow drive.

Claflin recently completed another community outreach project, “The Big Read,” which was sponsored under a National Endowment grant awarded to the English Department. Through a series of week-long events, on and off campus, our faculty used the classic novel, “A Lesson Before Dying,” by Ernest Gaines to promote the benefits of reading to middle and high school students and to restore reading as part of the community's culture.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences brought great honor to Claflin as recipient of the 2009 Governor's Award in the Humanities for exemplary support of public humanities programs. The University is only the fourth institution of higher education and the first HBCU in the state to be so recognized.

Our distinguished faculty in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics continue to bring outstanding recognition to the school through their academic and research achievements. The chair of our Department of Chemistry, Dr. Angela Peters, who was Governor's Professor of the Year for 2005 (and the first African American female from a four-year institution to achieve that distinction) was recently elected chair of the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Peters is not only the first African-American to hold this position in South Carolina; she is also the first female.

Claflin had another historic science-related first. The 1998 Nobel Laureate for Physiology or Medicine, Dr. Luc Montagnier, who won the prize for his discovery of the HIV virus, was a guest on our campus. During his one-day visit he presented a lecture, which was opened to the public, and toured our research facilities, where he met with faculty, staff and students in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Next month, Claflin will host a second Nobel Laureate: Dr. Martin Chalfie, who was awarded the prize in 2008 in chemistry for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP. He is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Biological Sciences at Columbia University and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Chalfie's three-day visit will also include a lecture; however, his visit will be largely devoted to reviewing the undergraduate and graduate research underway by our students and faculty.

Included in Dr. Montagnier's tour and on the agenda for Dr. Chalfie's visit is Claflin's recently completed Molecular Science Research Center (MSRC). Initial funding for this major research facility was made possible through directed legislative funding by United States Congressman James Clyburn and has substantially expanded the University's research capability. Currently under construction as a continuation of the research complex is a Certified Forensic Laboratory which represents a partnership between Claflin University and Orangeburg Department of Public Safety. This laboratory will serve as a research and teaching facility leading to forensic certification. Support for this initiative is through the Department of Justice via directed legislative funding from Congressman Clyburn and Senator Lindsay Graham of South Carolina.

Claflin University, along with eight other Historically Black Colleges and Universities in South Carolina and northeast Georgia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management. A goal of this collaboration provides the University with the unique opportunity to integrate course work, DOE field work, laboratories and applied research work into a structured academic program on our campus. We anticipate that this DOE academic program will lead to additional employment opportunities in the areas of science and technology. The MOU, which is strongly supported by Congressman Clyburn, also has a community component allowing Claflin to work with local middle and high schools in the subject areas of mathematics, science, engineering, technology and research.

Another collaborative effort of significant benefit to the community is our EXPORT (Center for Excellence in Partnerships, Community, Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training) program. The Center sponsored a forum on the HPV virus featuring Dr. Lisa Flowers from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University. The forum, titled “*What's all the Hype? An HPV Forum,*” was open to the Orangeburg community and provided facts about the HPV virus and ways to prevent it. The health disparities program, which is in partnership with the University of South Carolina, is supported by a \$7.5 million grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Rebecca Bullard-Dillard, Claflin University's assistant vice president for research, is co-director of EXPORT.

In yet another collaborative effort with the University of South Carolina, Claflin and USC signed an agreement to establish a partnership to develop a diverse public health workforce. The agreement creates a dual-degree program known as “4+1” and aimed at eliminating health disparities. Claflin undergraduates who participate in the program will earn a bachelor's degree in biology from Claflin and a master's in Public Health (MPH) from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

The University's mentoring initiative with researchers from the Medical University of South Carolina has been very successful and highly praised. Under the National Institutes of Health three-year sponsored program, Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA), Claflin provides training for post-doctoral researchers in the development of teaching skills through mentored assignments.

Claflin University was one of ten institutions of higher education included in the largest ever grant awarded to the state by the National Science Foundation. The \$20 million award is for research in biofabrication with the purpose of engineering functional 3-D tissues and organs. Faculty in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics will be directly involved in the research.

Students in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics participated in actual forensic investigations when the University hosted a Federal Bureau of Investigation forensic team. The FBI brought evidence collection training to the University to demonstrate the value of DNA forensics to science students through hands-on training. The exercise was filmed by the United Methodist Church News Service and appeared on its website. It was also distributed to other electronic media.

The School of Business, which received reaffirmation of accreditation in 2009 by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), reached a milestone when it conferred degrees to the largest MBA class in its history. Twenty-five students were awarded a master's in business administration in the Class of 2009. Approved to confer degrees in 2002, the program has since graduated 120 students.

These developments keep Claflin University on a path that prepares visionary leaders with global perspectives.

*Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President*

## COLUMBIA COLLEGE

As we have worked this year to review our strategic plan, the three themes that define Columbia College have been prevalent in every discussion. We talk about developing in our students a commitment to the United Methodist value of work to achieve social justice; we reaffirm our mission to develop women leaders; and we design programs that educate our students in the liberal arts tradition.

Although the state of the economy had us concerned about fall enrollment, we had exactly one more student than last year at 1,445 students. We began the academic year last fall with a message from Bishop Taylor as our speaker at opening Convocation. Although she was expecting the birth of her first grandchild any minute, she delivered an inspiring message about the source and power of Methodist education.

Members of our community have received several awards this fall. We were very proud to have senior, **Homa Hassan**, named National Honors Student of the Year at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Washington D. C. in November. In addition, English professor, **Dr. John Zubizarreta**, was installed as president of the council. **Dr. Jason Munsell**, Associate Professor of Communication, received two awards at the recent National Communication Association annual conference in Chicago from the Great Ideas for Teaching Speech Section. Out of hundreds of submissions, his paper, "Pedagogical Stability and Change: Teaching Elocution in the 21st Century Communication Classroom" was named a "Top Ten Paper" as well as a "Top Three Paper Related to Convention Theme." **Brian Solomon** was named Southern States Athletic Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year for the 2009 season. He was voted top coach by his conference peers after his team earned a 24-8 record in regular season play and finished with a third place conference ranking, the highest in recent history for a Columbia College athletic team. The volleyball team earned several other awards this season including Freshman of the Year honors for **Tara Prater**; 1st Team All-Conference awards for first-year students **Aarika Munro** and **Tara Prater**; 2nd Team All-Conference honors for Sophomores **Erica Allman**, **Jennifer Monroe** and **Liz Richardson**; All-Academic Team awards for Sophomores **Ashley Hasty** and **Liz Richardson**; and Champions of Character award for **Ashley Hasty**. Additionally, the team was co-winner of the conference Sportsmanship Award for volleyball.

Our annual Medallion Awards dinner recognized three outstanding women this fall. Recipients of the 2009 Medallion Award are **Dr. Vivian Lawton Fowler**, **Dr. Jan Love** and **Betty Ulmer McGregor**. The Medallion is presented annually to those individuals whom the College wishes to recognize for exceptional accomplishments, leadership, and service. Dr. Fowler is a Columbia College graduate and after many years on our faculty, is now Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Wesleyan in Macon, Georgia. Dr. Love is Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics at Emory University and former chief executive officer of the Women's Division, the administrative arm of the United Methodist Women. Mrs. McGregor, a Columbia College graduate, was named the 2009 South Carolina Mother of the Year and went on to be honored as the 2009 National Mother of the Year.

In preparation for our SACS visit in a year, we have developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that supports our program to develop a sense of commitment to personal values during the sophomore year and demonstrates our concern for social justice. The program, called C2IT will pair second-year students with a faculty mentor to design and implement a service learning project across the two semesters. The program is currently being designed by a committee of faculty "navigators" and will be piloted in the fall.

We are currently in a search for a Chaplain and Director of Church Relations at the college. While the search continues, the student life and alumnae affairs offices have collaborated to keep a lively chapel program going. Spring chapel programs, in addition to the regular weekly service, include Martin Luther King celebration, Founders' Day with retired Bishop Jack Meadors, Ash Wednesday service, with The Reverend Tiffany Knowlin, and a Holocaust Remembrance service.

"Leadership in a Changing World" was the theme of this year's Bishop's School, and Columbia College was pleased to have been asked to participate in a variety of ways. Thad Henry, special assistant to the president, and Lisa Livingston, executive director of alumnae relations, coordinated sixteen workshops and involved many members of the college's faculty and staff. These workshop topics included conflict resolution, transformational leadership, communication and listening skills, tips for Sunday school teachers, electronic and print media, diversity, eChristianEd, personality assessments, fundraising, church nominations and youth activities.

The college continues to model the commitment to values it aspires to develop in students through The Alliance for Women. Developed to address inequities experienced by South Carolina's women in economic autonomy, health and well being, and political representation, the Alliance is currently working with an advisory group to set up a not-for-profit organization to provide support and loans to women in high need job areas in which women are historically underrepresented.

Whether through outreach programs such as these or in our daily work with students, we are blessed to continue meaningful work in the Lord's name.

*Dr. Caroline Whitson, President*

## WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College experienced one of its most challenging years in recent decades during 2009. The national economic crisis that began in 2008 continued throughout the year, and Wofford students and their families lost jobs and savings. The Board of Trustees responded by holding the increase in resident student comprehensive fees to 2.9 percent, one of the smallest such increases among the nation's independent colleges. Operating budgets were reduced and some staff positions had to be eliminated. Meanwhile, the financial aid office allocated more than \$35 million from all sources to 86 percent of the student body, and 243 United Methodist students received more than \$6.3 million in financial aid.

To offset erosion in endowment market value and income, Trustee Michael S. Brown issued a three-year "Wofford Forever" annual giving challenge to alumni and friends, and the initial goal of that campaign was exceeded with the help of 558 new donors. The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church maintained its historical level of support, a supreme effort that the college acknowledges with much gratitude.

While adjusting to difficult economic conditions, Wofford continued to move forward toward in 2009. For example, the new Environmental Studies major, directed by Dr. Kaye Savage, integrates and builds upon strong foundations in the sciences, social sciences and humanities. Grants from the Department of Energy, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, and the Santee Cooper Foundation supported the program in its first year. The newly dedicated Goodall Environmental Studies Center in the Glendale community is a LEED certified off-campus facility located at an historic and ecologically significant site. In recognition of the college's sustainability efforts, Princeton Review has recognized Wofford as one of America's "Green Campuses."

For the second consecutive year, Wofford was listed on the President's Community Service Honor Roll "with distinction," one of only 115 campuses of all types across the country to earn the honor. In 2009, Wofford provided the Spartanburg community and its human service agencies with almost 75,000 hours of volunteer service, and more than 1,100 of the 1,450 students participated in some kind of organized service learning.

ONE is a global advocacy and campaigning organization dedicated to fighting extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. Wofford was judged the nation's outstanding participant in the most recent ONE Campus Challenge. Tomas Moreno, the student chair of "ONE at Wofford," spent a week in Kenya in the summer of 2009 as part of a five-person study team sponsored by ONE. This initiative fit perfectly with a new book co-authored by Wofford Professors "Ab" Abercrombie and G.R. Davis, "Africa University: Thy Wonders Displayed," about the United Methodist institution in Zimbabwe.

As always, Wofford seeks prayers, guidance and support in continuing a tradition of church-related educational excellence. Accordingly, the college has organized a college-church council that meets semiannually to focus on various aspects its connection with the local church, such as the congregational internship program that now involves eight students and the Emerging Leaders Initiative (ELI) that supports 21 participants.

Respectfully submitted,

*Benjamin B. Dunlap, President*

## CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation has had another grace-filled year. As we enter into our ninth year of ministry we are prayerfully reminded of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. May God walk with you in this time of grief and devastation as well as on the road to healing and restoration. Our prayers remain with our troops and their families as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue. We are especially mindful of our alumni who serve in the military, Jonathon Lance, Matthew Williams, Anthony Reynolds, Christopher Waldrop, Jeff Throckmorton, Rachel Rogers, Christopher Waldrop and Bill Houpt. May God continue to keep you and your families!

Our two alumni in the ministry continue to make us so proud, Aaron Meadows and Mallory Forte. Aaron Meadows, a provisional elder of this conference is serving Calhoun Falls UMC in the Anderson district. Mallory Forte graduated from Candler School of Theology and is completing her CPE requirement at Self Memorial Hospital in Greenwood.

Our four campuses here in Charleston continue to thrive. Bethel UMC-Charleston continues to be the home of our College of Charleston programming. Thank you for your awesome support and faith in us. We are losing a strong leader to graduation - Austin Ruedrich. Austin, your tireless support and innovative ideas will be missed. May God continue to guide and bless you as you enter into graduate studies at Emory University. The CSU group is losing several members to graduation including our tireless leader, Alecia Brown. Alecia, you have given so much to this ministry during your years at CSU. You will be an awesome registered nurse. Please visit us soon and often. The group at Medical University is in the midst of transition. We lost many members to graduation, out of town internships and changing schedules. Many thanks to Joe Cate of Point Hope UMC and Mary Ann Gilkeson of Bethel UMC whose talents and love of college students continue to keep TGIF (Thank God Its Friday) lunch and Bible study a sacred respite for students, staff and faculty at MUSC. The knob (freshman) class at Citadel has been one of our largest groups in several years. They are energetic, faithful young men and women who have quickly become a part of our ministry at the Citadel. We bade goodbye to Chaplain David Golden as we welcome Chaplain Joel Harris. Thanks, Chaplain Golden for your years of spiritual leadership at the Citadel. Chaplain Harris, welcome, and we look forward to being in ministry with you.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had busy year. We sponsored two adolescents in the Halos holiday -giving event. Our Mission weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at the United Methodist Center was a blessed time of Christian love in action. The SC Wesley Foundations' cooperative mission week in Harlem was truly a time of building community and awareness of the needs of others. The UM Student Forum was informative and transformative as students attended workshops, did mission work and led spirit-filled worship services. Our own Jade Roy was a member of the design team. Way to go, Jade!

To the beloved churches of the Charleston district, thank you for another year of unwavering support in gifts of food, time, finances but most of all prayer. Trinity UMC- Charleston, thank you for yet another year of selflessly giving us physical space and office support. As our college students say, "you rock"! Much gratitude goes to the Charleston Wesley Foundation Board of Directors for your endless support and faithful giving of your time and talents. As always 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 continuing support. We thank God for you.

*Lisa C. Hawkins, CWF Campus Minister*

## CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

In many ways, serving as a Campus Minister in Clemson is a pretty easy job. There is a strong Christian culture in the Clemson area and the Upstate in general, meaning that it is much easier to say, "I'm a Christian" than "I'm an atheist" around campus. One doesn't have to look too far to find scores of students who are quick to claim the name. But this reality also makes serving as a Campus Minister in the Clemson area very difficult. This "cultural" Christianity is so prevalent that it can be difficult to convince seekers or skeptics that what they see all around them is not necessarily the fullest and most faithful expression of what it means to say, "I'm a Christian." Too often those outside the Church experience a judgmentalism and hypocrisy that leave them jaded forever.

So given this context, how is campus ministry within the United Methodist tradition best practiced and lived out? Over the last nine years, we have developed a strategy and approach that has served Clemson Wesley and Clemson UMC well. The key aspects of our approach (which may help you and your congregations as you seek to be in ministry to and with young adults) include the following:

- **Meet students where they are.** Within Clemson Wesley, we have some students who are "on fire for Jesus" and others that are still "kicking the tires." We celebrate each and every person, thank God for the special way in which God has been working in their lives, and avoid measuring who is the most holy or most faithful. We worship a God who has and continues to transform lives in radical ways...as well as a God who patiently extends grace to us all, even when we are oblivious to it.
- **Celebrate where students come from.** My parents raised me to celebrate both the Methodist roots of my father's family and the Baptist roots of my mother's. In Clemson we avoid making the kinds of jokes about the Baptists, Catholics, Episcopalians or Presbyterians that I grew up hearing in church, ones that are poor in taste and undermining to our common, shared witness. Students from many different backgrounds and traditions call Clemson Wesley and CUMC "home" during their years in Clemson, and we seek to celebrate rather than squelch this diversity of theology and practice.
- **Provide a range of ways for students to connect.** On a college campus, some students are Salkehatchie-centered, some students are Word-centered, some students are worship-centered...and so on. Here in Clemson we have discovered that different kinds of programs and opportunities attract different kinds of students. To have a well-rounded, balanced and diverse group (e.g. gender, spirituality type, personality type, etc.), we offer a variety of worship, study, small group, retreat, social and mission/service opportunities.
- **Involve students in leadership NOW.** Today's students are most interested in a heart-warming faith that makes them think and challenges them to action, both within and outside the Church. They are not so much interested in being the object of our ministry but being partners in ministry with us. With a greater sense of *carpe diem* than in previous generations, they are ready to serve, to lead, to worship and to grow...NOW. And yes, they have much to offer and can be the prophetic voices for our time.
- **Practice what you preach.** Today's generation of young adults have a keen sense of who is being truthful and who is not. In Clemson, the most effective campus ministries are those led by persons (ordained and lay) who earnestly seek to live out what they preach and teach. In the eyes of today's generation of college students, "authority" does not come from the Bishop or the denomination per se but accrues to those persons who are open and honest with their struggles in following the way of Jesus. The best and most effective leaders are those who live with integrity, whether it is Saturday night or Sunday morning.
- **Look for the Spirit to move in unpredictable ways.** As Methodists, we love order. Our worship services reflect this. Our *Book of Discipline* reflects this. Our church polity reflects this. And while I do believe in a God who brings order out of chaos, I also believe in a God who is Spirit, moving and working in ways unbeknownst to me all the time. As a Campus Minister, I have learned to allow space for the Spirit to move within our ministry, from the planning that we do each semester to the way in which we worship together on Sunday nights. Today's generation of young people are more open to the Spirit's unpredictable nature than previous generations, and they are attracted to churches and ministries that make room and time for the Spirit to do its work.

This is a glimpse of the approach to sharing and living out the Gospel that we use here in Clemson. Each year this approach enables us to make connections with 700-1,000 students, many of whom make Clemson Wesley and/or CUMC their home. We give God thanks for the privilege to serve the Kingdom and the Church in this way.

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.

*Rev. C. Lane Glaze, Campus Minister*

## COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION

While it is true that college students are the future of the church, it is equally true that they are also its present. As such, they have their own set of gifts and unique perspectives and experiences to give shape to the mission and ministry of the church in this day and culture. They are students and yet also our teachers when it comes to building the church and welcoming the reign of God. The Wesley Foundation at USC (also known as the Methodist Student Network) is a place and a community where young adults take their faith and discipleship seriously, affirm the great traditions of Christianity and challenge the *status quo* of business as usual. Students are discipled in the traditions of silence, simplicity, service and solidarity. The Methodist Student Network is a diverse and international community representing the global church. Students of various cultures, religious backgrounds, races and nationalities make for a vibrant and rich faith community. Much is to be celebrated in reflecting on its mission and ministry and its growth since it became a stand-alone ministry five years ago. Some highlights of this year are noted.

- Nine times a week students go into the community to serve at a soup kitchen, an after school mentoring program, Homeworks, an EOSL program for Latino women in the West Columbia area which MSN students founded and ESL for children at a grammar school in West Columbia.

- Methodist Student Network has been to New Orleans to be in service to and solidarity with its battered residents in St. Bernard's Parish and the Ninth Ward. MSN has been to the Gulf Coast 12 times since Katrina. We also served in mission for a week in Harlem, NYC and a winter break mission working with Rural Mission on the Sea Islands of SC.
- We took a team of 29 to Manaus, Brazil to be in ministry with the people of Central UMC and the surrounding favellas. There we ran a VBS for local children, helped with various construction projects, held meetings and worship with the youth and provided medical and dental clinics for the poorest residents and several outlying villages along the Amazon River. We saw over 700 patients.
- On campus we provided many opportunities for study and worship and support. Though various small groups (Covenant Discipleship, Freshman, Women, Men, Bible Study, Grads), a program evening tackling tough issues of faith and life (such as sexuality, war, homosexuality, relationships, racism and economic justice), students can be spiritually grounded and transformed.
- Four retreats (two each semester) were offered to give students a longer time to be communally intentional in their spiritual growth.
- 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. Traditions and songs of the global church are incorporated. The scripture is often read in one of the 12 languages represented among the students.
- An international ministry with students from at least 18 different countries involves and incorporates internationals into the mainstream of community life at MSN. Offered as well are separate occasions to be together to learn about one another through sharing food, stories and fun.
- The faith community and Center provide hospitality and a place where life long friendships are formed and life/faith issues can be explored.
- MSN is a faith community where students are called to future ministry, both ordained and lay. Three recent graduates are in seminary. Two others enter seminary in Fall, 2010, while another two are candidates for ministry preparing for seminary.

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. This ministry and mission is truly a partnership with the local church. What a blessing it is to accompany these students.

*Tom Wall, Campus Minister*

### **THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY**

The desks were uncomfortable, the room not suited to our purpose. We were 30 minutes past our typical closing time. A member of the janitorial staff was hovering in the hallway, silently threatening to remove us from the premises. Yet as a young woman tearfully poured out her heart no one in the room failed to give her their undivided attention. It was Testimony Night at Wesley - God showed up in a mighty way, our group was bound even more tightly together, and I was reminded why campus ministry is so vitally necessary.

I begin my report with that story to illustrate the awesome ability of God to produce life-changing ministry even in the midst of a small group of college students. When I was appointed to serve as Director of Wesley at FMU in June of 2009 I inherited a program that was (and still is) very much a work in progress. Many of the students from the previous year had either graduated or somehow become detached from the group. As such, the majority of this school year has been spent in rebuilding the program, raising up student leaders, and reestablishing Wesley's presence on campus. God has blessed the program with a measure of growth, increasing our attendance from 2 returning students to between 10 and 15 students on an average night. Again, we are a small group, but God continues to use us as a beacon on campus.

So far this year Wesley has enjoyed a number of regular programs and activities including our weekly meetings for food, fellowship, and faith discussions on Monday nights, a student-lead Bible Study focused on introducing students to the Bible, and a weekly lunch designed to provide students with additional fellowship opportunities. The group also continued its tradition of hosting a campus-wide food drive competition to benefit the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Florence. FMU students from various organizations donated nearly 400 lbs of food, with the winning organization designating a local charity to receive special funding from Wesley. The success of this event whetted the appetites of our students, motivating them to commit to a number of future service projects that are currently being planned.

While I am certainly pleased with the progress Wesley has made this year and am excited about the future of the program, I would be remiss if I didn't express our gratitude to all of the churches in the Florence District that have lent us support. The Florence District UMW has stepped up in particular by encouraging its units to provide food for our weekly meetings on a bi-monthly basis. A number of other churches have also supported us through monetary gifts, prayers, and much-needed words of encouragement. Thank you again to all of you who have supported us for allowing God to bless us through you. Please continue to pray for the future of Wesley at FMU and for the students who are affected by this ministry.

*Rev. Ricky Howell, Campus Minister*

### **FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**

This has been a great year at Furman's Wesley Fellowship. There has been a real spirit of growth in our group as we have moved from sharing our faith stories last year to focusing on the importance of Holy Friendships. As we know, God created us for fellowship and community, and part of being in community is being 'friends'. Each one of us has been given certain gifts to share with one another – some the gift of being mentors, others the gift of being encouragers, and still others simply to be a reminder of how important it is to be 'child-like'. Leonard Sweet's book, *11: Indispensable Relationships You Can't Be Without*, served as the backdrop of our time together, and allowed us to continue moving from being a group of students to being a community of

believers who together share the journey of being Christ's disciples. One of the last 'people' Sweet highlights is not a person at all; rather, it is a place. He says that we all need a place where we can be ourselves and our best becomes reality – Wesley Fellowship is that place for not only the students, but also for me as well!

Just a few highlights of the year include:

- Began the year with a gathering of 50+ students as we kicked off our "Rethink Church/Rethink Wesley" campaign
- Had a bible study on the Book of Leviticus
- Participated in a two day missional outreach to the Boys Home of the South in Belton, SC
- Hosted PW Gopal, a singer-songwriter who presented a concert and offered a seminar on the topic of Human Trafficking
- Continued our co-sponsoring of the Little Red Store [a thrift store] with Monaghan UMC
- Sent 5 Furman Wesley students to Exploration 2009 [for young adults considering professional ministry]
- Hosted a Fall Retreat at Lake Junaluska and a Spring Retreat at [a student's home] on Hilton Head
- Participated in the SCUMC Campus Ministry Retreat
- Co-sponsored a Women in Ministry Event on Furman's Campus
- Sent 20 students and adults over spring break on a mission trip to New York City

We know that as students get more involved in their classes and other campus events, their time becomes precious; as a result, it is our desire to provide the students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship, and service. In this way, they can easily plug into our group [maybe not everything, though that would be ideal] and continue to grow in their faith and life.

Furman, Greenville, and the UMC are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young leaders who are passionate about their faith and living out that faith in their everyday life. We are truly blessed, and thankful, for all of the love, support, and prayers that we have been afforded by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

*Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, Campus Minister*

### **LANDER WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**

In serving as the first appointed campus minister for the Lander Wesley Fellowship, I knew that I would be facing a number of challenges as we attempted an aggressive restart of the Campus Ministry.

With no carryover of students and leaders from the previous semester, we entered the start of the 2009-2010 semester with a clean slate. Active student membership has been growing throughout the semester and we now have double-digits in average attendance at campus ministry functions.

One of the first goals was to improve the recognition of the Lander Wesley name across the campus. We have worked through campus media and through promotions and giveaway items to start to project our name and image. A gift from ReThink Church has proved valuable in helping to improve awareness. In addition, we've expressed the openness and inclusiveness of our campus ministry and, as a result, we now have attendees with a wide range of religious experience.

Lander Wesley's main meeting for the week is Tuesday night's TRANSFORM. TRANSFORM is our worship and activity time and it features food, fellowship, prayer, a message, music and games. This meeting is generally held on campus in a "wired" room. In addition, TRANSFORM goes on the road once a month to a restaurant in the Greenwood area where we provide an opportunity for college students to get a meal. These "On the Road" events have been great opportunities to invite friends and roommates who might not otherwise experience Wesley.

Lander Wesley students are involved in many activities on the campus and in the community. Students with the group have worked with area churches and have assisted in childcare for church events. In addition, we are looking forward to participating in the Mission Trip to Harlem in May.

A group of students from Lander also actively participated in the South Carolina Student Movement Retreat this year and that event has led several of the participants to apply for mission-based opportunities during the summer months.

As we prepare for Fall 2010, our goal continues to be to reach across any lines or barriers and to be an organization that's open to any and all students. We will be making some additions to our TRANSFORM lineup in Fall 2010 and we have a goal of starting a mentoring program where Lander students in Wesley today can have the opportunity to correspond with a Methodist student who is planning to attend Lander in the next year. This will give the opportunity to build and form relationships prior to arrival on the campus and it could ease the transition from high school to college for incoming freshmen.

Lander Wesley Fellowship is thankful for the funding it receives and is ensuring that we practice the best possible stewardship of those gifts. Our goal is to provide a safe, warm and friendly environment where college students can feel free to express themselves and to ask the questions that they need to ask.

*Dean Lollis, Campus Minister*

### **THE ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION**

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation continues to provide ministry to the students, faculty, and staff at Claflin University and South Carolina State University. The Wesley Foundation also provides a ministry of outreach and witness to the areas surrounding the Wesley Foundation which also includes Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College and the two campuses. The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation is more than a facility or a concept, it is a vital ministry to the United Methodist students and Ecumenical and Inter-Faith communities on both campuses and the larger community.

Here are a few of the activities the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation participated in the past year.

- The Granville Hicks Lecture Series at Claflin University.
- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University.
- Several group sessions on Domestic Violence
- Weekly Bible Studies
- A ministry to the children and families at Trinity UMC Child Care Learning Center



- Spring Student Day at Trinity UMC
- Student and Faculty Discussion Group
- Participated in a Campus Ministry Mission Travel trip and a Mission trip to Rural Mission
- UMSM Retreat, Spring Maid Beach
- Campus Melt Down
- Partnership with Public Health Task Force at Claflin University
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month observance sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and conversation with Brothers (co sponsor Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.)
- Religious Emphasis Week
- Religious Life Committees (both campuses)
- Counseling Services

Finally, I wish to thank the members and staff of Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg Wesley Foundation Board, S.C. Annual Conference Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and the Orangeburg District Superintendent during this period of transition. The ministries of the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation are alive and well.

*Reverend Larry D. McCutcheon, Interim Minister*

## WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

This is my fourth year at Winthrop Wesley Foundation and that seems both really quick and like it's been forever. This will be the first time in campus ministry that I've been with a group from their freshman to their senior years and that is both super exciting and really nostalgic. As I look around at this group of young adults I am blown away at how much they have grown and stretched and changed in such beautiful and amazing ways over these years. College is such a rich and special time and the experiences and knowledge gleaned offer food for thought for a lifetime.

We read in our *Advocate* and *Circuit Rider* and *Interpreter* about our aging clergy and our aging denomination. We hear people throw around words like relevant, emerging, non-traditional, and seeker sensitive. We've been asked to Rethink Church not as a place or a building, but as something that's all day, everyday, everywhere. I applaud a lot of this conversation. Though I may not always completely agree with the perspectives or assertions, I applaud the dialogue. And yet, there is something within this back and forth that is tinged with desperation or fear and in a lot of ways I think we need to name that. Church may not look like a brick church with a beautiful white steeple. Church might not mean listening to someone preach from behind a pulpit. Church may not have those - very great for scribbling and writing notes on - offering envelopes in the pews. For some of us that is exciting, for others really scary.

The church my students talk about is one that is in service to the poor. Church is come as you are. It's a church that sees the needs of its community and does something about it. It's a church that doesn't just use words, but shows each day what the Gospel means. We've seen church this past year on mission trips to Managua, Nicaragua and Tarpum Bay, Bahamas. We've lived out our faith in real and tangible ways serving in soup kitchens, running in Hunger Runs, spending the night with the homeless, leading fasts and hunger education events, doing work days in our community, volunteering in community gardens, raising money and making health kits for Haiti and offering a free weekly meal to students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

This year Winthrop Wesley is looking at our community as our mission field - our place to do what we can to serve in the name of Christ. This past fall we hosted the York County CROP Walk which had over 1000 participants, 450 which were students. Over \$32,000 was raised in the walk and \$8,000 went to local hunger agencies while the rest went to people all over the world. This coming Spring we will host Winthrop's first Hunger Week with organizations from across our campus as we highlight hunger concerns both in our local community through a potato drop, our nation through Bread for the World and a letter writing campaign dealing with hunger legislation, and our world in a Hunger Banquet showing the real plight of many in our world living on less than \$2 a day.

Whether through worshiping together at our weekly Crossfire service or getting to know one another and learning more about their faith and community at our Wednesday night dinner and program or living together in Christian community at The Wesley House or finding a spiritual home that provides opportunities for service, fellowship, small groups and retreat - these students as they graduate from this place have seen what it's like to be church with one another. This church is not just in a building or a place but it is alive in all that they do as the body of Christ. When I look at these seniors - those that are going off to seminary, those going to the Peace Corps, those that will be teachers, and those that have no idea how in the world they're going to find a job in this economy - I am more than hopeful about our Church. When I see them welcoming the stranger, the loner, the poor, the one who gets on their last nerve even in the midst of the demands of school and life - I know that these young adults are ready to live it out.

Nothing that we do at Wesley is possible without the support of the Conference and all of the local churches and individuals that give to our program. Each Wednesday night dinner, donation of paper products, or donation towards our mission trips and other projects is greatly appreciated! One of our seniors had her car stolen this past semester and neither she nor her family had the money to purchase her another one. We asked for a car in our newsletter over Christmas break and amazingly - someone had one and donated it to her. There's a post-it note that sits on my desk that says, "God has done this." God has done this. God has provided for us in amazing ways. God has provided a spiritual home for these students that hopefully has given them a place to claim their faith as their own and dare to imagine the possibilities. As we look at our church, as we look to our future, may we to remember that God is the one at the helm of this crazy thing and that we're along for a wonderfully powerful ride. May we and all of these young adults be open to all of the many possibilities and wonders God has in store for each of us!

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Narcie M. Jeter, Director, Winthrop Wesley Foundation*

## THE BOARD OF LAITY

### Report No. 1

The Conference Board of Laity continued to work to help this conference in its efforts to make disciples for Jesus Christ to transform the world. We welcomed one new member to the Board, Mrs. Rhonda Jones, as chairperson of the newly formed Task Group on Communications and Networking. The work of that Task Group will greatly enhance the other Task Groups in improving the work they doing. The Conference web-site serves as another resource for information about the work and opportunities for assistance provided through the Board of Laity.

During the year the Conference Lay Leader continued to serve as President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, attended meetings with the Extended Cabinet which provided opportunities to keep the Cabinet abreast of the workings of the laity, and worked to continue efforts of partnership between clergy and lay. The District Lay Leaders continued to attend Clergy Set-Up meetings, some Charge Conferences and were actively involved in the training of Lay Delegates to Annual Conference. The Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Lay Leader (Kathryn Scarborough) and the Columbia District Lay Leader (Brenda Hook) serve as members of the Lake Junaluska Assembly Board of Directors.

Task Group leaders continued their work in areas of (1) Communications and Networking, (2) Laity Convocation, (3) Lay Speaking (4) Leadership Development, (5) Spiritual Formation, and (6) Stewardship. A summary of their activities follows:

**Task Group on Communication and Networking (Rhonda Jones)** – Our goals are to (1) advise and assist the Board of Laity Task Groups in utilizing communication tools and network systems available to them in the conference, districts and local churches, (2) partner with the Board of Laity Task Groups to design educational resources and training opportunities for communication and networking, further equipping the laity as they continue to engage in effective ministry and (3) identify and establish a core of effective communicators within the network to provide assistance to the Board of Laity Task Groups, districts persons and local churches.

Working with Jim Crews, Director of Information Technology and Matt Brodie, Director of Communications, District Communication Coordinators have been identified in every district and assigned conference emails, providing Task Groups with another network connection for the sharing of information within the conference that is directly linked to the district and local church. We are in the process of developing a survey instrument to be distributed to all local churches to assess their current communications tools and networking processes. From these surveys we will identify means of improving current Task Group communication and networking processes to better connect with and effect ministry in the local church.

We have available resources at the Board of Laity Table at the 2010 SC Annual Conference. We plan to sponsor three breakout sessions at the 2010 Laity Convocation, July 9 -11, 2010: Communications: The Basics, Navigating the UMC Information Highway and Connecting the Dots of Communications. We further plan to design a Communications and Networking page on the Board of Laity website to provide resources on Communication Tools for Ministry and Sharing Information within the Connection.

The Task Group on Communications and Networking members, John Allgood, Rev. Carleathea Benson, Matt Brodie, Michael Cheatham, Rhonda Jones, Lisa Livingston, Donald Love, Tommy Moore, Joy Preveaux, Darrell Ricketts, Kathryn Scarborough, Marlene Spencer and Rev. Neal Woods are committed to equipping the Board of Laity and the SC Conference Laity with fundamental communication practices and to strengthening the partnership in ministry throughout the UMCSC connection.

**Task Group on Heritage and Leadership Development (John Allgood)** - designed and implemented a comprehensive leadership development process—LeadershipNext. The pilot project was held in the Walterboro District in 2009 and was very well received. As a result of the pilot project, LeadershipNext was reformatted and slightly redesigned. LeadershipNext consists of 18 two-hour modules delivered in a once-a-month Saturday setting for six months. LeadershipNext is designed to help local church leaders understand themselves, their church, and their ministry. Its purpose is to prepare leaders for gift-based ministry, for needs-oriented evangelism, and for servant leadership at the local church level.

LeadershipNext is based on six fundamental principles: (1) All Christians are called to ministry; (2) Ministry involves making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; (3) To be effective ministers, we must know ourselves, our spiritual gifts, and how to relate to others; (4) To be effective members of the United Methodist Church, we must understand what Methodists believe; (5) Leadership is influence; and (6) Ministry is a partnership between clergy and laity.

The LeadershipNext modules cover such topics as Our Calling as Christians; Our Mission—Evangelism; Discovering and Using Spiritual Gifts; What Methodists Believe; Developing My Spiritual Life; How Are We Organized; Partnerships in Ministry; Stewardship; Equipping Others; Planning for Ministry; and How Then Should We Lead. The LeadershipNext seminars are designed for 12-20 participants in each series of seminars. It is to be held at the district level. The Walterboro District held the first (January-June) series of the approved program with 14 students, including three from the Florence District who are preparing to teach LeadershipNext in their district.

LeadershipNext is designed to be a conference-wide program which can train 2,000 laity leaders in the next ten years. While it focuses on helping laity understand their role in the church and the church's role in the community, it also embraces a continuing process of follow-up to the initial training seminars. As the Task Group receives feedback from districts offering Leadership, we will continue to update and refine the materials.

One participant of the pilot project describes LeadershipNext as "being instrumental in your faith journey". Through group study, self-evaluation tools, personal reflection, and discussion LeadershipNext challenges emerging United Methodist leaders to discover their unique God-given spiritual gifts and what Jesus embodied as a servant leader. The course is spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally intense while, at the same time, punctuated with humor and heartfelt witnessing of God's grace and infinite power."

The Task Group is continuing to work on a Lay Leaders Handbook which can be distributed electronically. It is looking into the possibility of developing a course in leadership for the Lay Speaking Schools and examining ways to make our Methodist Heritage better understood by Methodists throughout South Carolina.

**Task Group on Laity Convocation (Lisa K. Livingston)** – Laity Convocation is promoted as "A Weekend of Personal Spiritual Growth and Practical Ideas for Your Church" and offers workshops and speakers covering a variety of topics including

but not limited to leadership development, spiritual formation, health and wellness, prayer, natural church development, aging gracefully, stewardship and fundraising and safe sanctuaries. This three day weekend is held at Lake Junaluska and all laity and clergy in the South Carolina Annual Conference are invited and encouraged to attend.

In 2009 we welcomed Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton from Galloway UMC in Jackson, MS as our worship leader. We were fortunate to also have Bishop Woodie White (Atlanta, GA) who offered Bible study. A very special addition to this event was a performance by the Hope for Africa Children's Choir whose South Carolina tour was sponsored by Southern Mutual Insurance Company and many churches across the state.

The Laity Convocation Task Force is committed to making significant changes to the weekend schedule to make it more attractive and appealing to laity. We are constantly reviewing the workshops in order to provide information on the most appropriate topics to meet the needs of the greatest number of attendees. Through conversations about and evaluations from the 2008 event, we identified ways to strengthen Laity Convocation in 2009. One such change was adding an opportunity for districts to meet together with their congregational specialists and other Conference Center staff. Bishop Taylor and Dr. Joseph Heyward were also featured in a discussion on the laity/clergy partnership. Offering a variety of workshops covering topics that are relevant to everyone is crucial to the success of this weekend. We welcome and appreciate your observations and feedback.

**Task Group on Lay Speaking Ministries (Michael Cheatham)** – offers the laity of the South Carolina Conference training opportunities to provide effective leadership in the local church. Local church leaders have opportunities through Lay Speaking Ministries to improve their leadership and communications skills and to lead effective ministries in the local church and beyond to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local church and certified lay speakers are active in our local churches, in the districts and at the conference level. Lay Speaking Ministries courses in leadership, communications, and caring ministries are offered in every district. Several districts offer multiple schools each year.

Lay Speaking Ministries also equips the laity to be involved in ministry. Lay Speakers are developing many ministries across the conference. Lay Speakers are active in prayer ministries, prison ministries, Bible studies, and homeless ministries through local soup kitchens, food banks, and shelters, ministries for women, and many more. Lay Speakers serve their local church in every area of leadership, mission, and ministry.

Our conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Michael Cheatham, 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.

**Task Group on Spiritual Formation (Kathryn Scarborough)** - sponsored four breakout sessions at the **2009 Laity Convocation**. Rev. Larry Hays led "Short Course on Choosing Spiritual Leaders", Betty Kay Hudson presented Prayer Stations – "Passage through the Psalms", Rev. Jim Arant led "Introduction for the Five-Day Academy", and Rev. Miyoung Paik led a workshop on "Prayer Labyrinth".

**A Two-Day Prayer Conference** was held **October 16-17, 2009** (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon) at Lexington UMC in Lexington, SC. The theme was: "**Prayer Changes...Each Person, Family and Church**". Keynote speakers were Rev. Dr. Tom Albin and Rev. Jeff Kersey. 137 registered, and 118 attended. The evaluations were excellent, and more events will be planned.

The **2010 Five-Day Academy** was planned for April 11-16 at White Oak. Rev. Bill Mallard (New Testament Spirituality) and Sister Kathleen Flood (Prayer for the Journey) were the faculty for this event.

A workshop, **Spiritual Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts**, led by the author, Patricia Brown, was planned for April 24, 2010 at Lexington UMC. One of the main objectives was to train at least two persons in each district to assist local churches in the area of spiritual gifts.

Members of the Spiritual Formation Task Force: Rev. Nellie Cloninger, Willamae Mackey, Dr. Robert Barrett, Clayton Easter, Suzy Speas, Earline Powell, Linda DuRant, Betty Kay Hudson, Faye Love, Kathryn Scarborough, and Rev. Jim Arant (Congregational Specialist).

We continue to seek God's will in all that we do to resource the needs of the Local Church in the area of Spiritual Formation.

**Task Group on Stewardship (Donald Love)** - continues to promote the importance of a "holistic" approach to stewardship in our Christian walk, by emphasizing commitment of our time, talent and treasures for the witness of Jesus Christ. The task group has met several times to plan and discuss efforts in the area of Stewardship promotion. Progress is being made in areas as highlighted below:

**Stewardship Workshops:** Since May of 2009, Task Group members have been busy, supporting, promoting and leading stewardship workshops throughout our conference. In July at the Laity Convocation, Stewardship workshops were led by Pat Luna, a stewardship consultant from the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Stewardship was again offered at the Lay Speakers Instructor Academy in August and led by one of our task group members. Members of the task group have led workshops in several districts (Marion & Anderson) since the beginning of 2010. In each of these workshops, we have seized the opportunity to learn from the attendees, what their ideas are in the area of stewardship needs in the local church as well as promote the importance of a comprehensive approach to stewardship in each local congregation.

**District Stewardship Mentoring Teams:** We have promoted the idea of creating Stewardship Mentoring Teams in each district and have received exciting positive feedback from attendees as they acknowledge that these would be helpful to the local churches. We are developing guidelines for establishing Stewardship Mentoring Teams, and are in the process of identifying persons to work in their respective district. Mentors would be contact persons for individuals and congregations to call upon for assistance and support in the area of stewardship. Mentoring teams would have the option of addressing the needs of a congregation themselves or requesting assistance from the task group to provide persons to address the specific need(s) of a local congregation.

**Stewardship Power Point Presentation:** A power point presentation has been created and used in several workshops for Stewardship promotion. Task Group members are in the process of reviewing and editing the power point presentation so that

this resource can be used by District Mentoring Teams. The presentation explores the complete theme of stewardship: **“Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness.”**

**Stewardship Resources:** The resource, “Stewardship Alive” manual which is posted on the stewardship web page continues to be a valuable resource for those interested in learning about and promoting stewardship. The manual is currently being reviewed by members of our task group to determine what additions can be made to enhance its effectiveness. The addition of a chapter on year round stewardship is currently being considered.

Additional information and links to stewardship websites are being added to our web page on a regular basis. The goal is to develop this webpage into a one-stop source for stewardship information with links to all the popular stewardship websites.

**Spiritual Gifts Discovery:** Our task group has pledged to promote the biblical meaning of Stewardship which includes effective use of our gifts and talents. Feedback from local churches expresses the need for spiritual gifts discernment to help members discover and develop their spiritual gifts. Task group members have begun exploring ways that we might most effectively help members in gifts discovery.

*Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader*

## THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

***But how are they to call on the one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to proclaim him? And how can they proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:14-15 NRSV***

As chair of the South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry I am pleased to report that we continue to affirm God's call on many gifted servant leaders. 2009 has been a very active and productive year for the Board of Ordained Ministry. A significant amount of time, energy, action, and resources have been given to the United Methodist Church's emphasis on *“Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World.”*

The primary purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry continues to be the recruitment, examination, and credentialing of candidates for ordained ministry. District committees on ministry extend the work of the conference board by guiding persons in the candidacy process and reviewing the progress and work of clergy called to licensed ministry.

As a board we are convinced that this great church lacks no good thing in its theology or its mission, but instead is in dire need of visionary leaders. We dream of leaders called of God whose character and competence are above reproach. We need leaders who can articulate such a clear and compelling vision of “God's preferred future” that the people of God are alarmed by the current status quo and are compelled into action toward that preferred future! We believe that leadership is the catalyst to renewal and revitalization in the church, and thus the standards of integrity, competence, relationships must be lofty! The board expects nothing less of itself, the candidates who come before it, or any of the clergy of this annual conference who are part of covenant life together. We pledge to do everything in our power to create, support, and sustain an ethos of excellence where producing these kinds of leaders is the norm.

Because of faithfulness and generosity of local churches in paying apportionments in 2009, the board has been able to assist no fewer than 84 persons at 12 different university senate approved seminaries with the cost of funding their theological education in the amount \$170,000! We further rejoice that the recipients of these resources are local pastors and seminarians. We have been able to offer these resources through the Ministerial Education Fund.

We are pleased to recommend 19 candidates for provisional membership and commissioning, 1 candidate for associate membership, and 25 candidates for full membership and ordination. These persons have been nurtured through the candidacy process and have shown themselves ready and effective for a life of licensed, ordained, and servant ministry.

We also celebrate the journey of persons called to serve the church through the process of licensed ministry at this particular moment in their journey. Today, we recognized those persons who have participated in the 2010 Local Pastors School, and now offer themselves for service in Christ holy church as first time licensed local pastors. We also want to recognize all of those persons who have completed the five year Basic or Advanced Course of Study in 2009.

The Board of Ordained Ministry earmarked funds for candidates and seminarians from this annual conference to participate in a summer ministerial internship experience in SC. This year, there are five interns and five partner congregations participating in this ministry.

### **Ministerial Intern**

Krystle Higgins-Duke  
Will Prosser-Yale  
Josh Blackwelder-Duke  
Martha Nichols-Duke  
Angela Johnson-Pfeiffer

### **Partner Congregations**

Cumberland UMC, Florence  
First UMC, Isle of Palm  
First UMC-Conway  
Connectional Ministries  
St. Andrews By the Sea UMC-Hilton Head

### **Pastors**

Rev. Jeannetté Cooper  
Rev. David Surret  
Rev. Mac Kinnett  
Rev. Willie Teague  
Rev. Neil Yongue

## **Policy Guidelines Proposed Amendments for 2010**

Each year, the Board reviews the policy guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry and offers to the Annual Conference recommendations for review, action, and adoption. Pending their adoption by the annual conference, these changes will be posted on the conference website on the Clergy Services page under Board of Ordained Ministry Policy Guidelines. The following changes are presented to the annual conference for its consideration and action:

### **1. Amend VI.B.2.g by addition and deletion as follows:**

“After election and commissioning to provisional membership, candidates shall complete the ~~two-year~~ Formation in Ministry program designed by the Committee on Formation in Ministry and approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The provisional Formation Program includes both a two-year Residency program and a continuing support program.”

2. Amend the "Guide for License for Pastoral Ministry" checklist in the Policy Guidelines under "Subject: Course of Study" as follows:

"2. SC Conference current MEF support is \$800 ~~\$960~~ for the COS Year for APPOINTED Local Pastors."

3. Amend XXI.A and the "Guide for License for Pastoral Ministry" checklist in the Policy Guidelines under "Subject: Course of Study" by addition of the following:

"Grades lower than "C" in the Course of Study will not be credited toward completion of the Course of Study program. Scholarships will only be awarded once for each course. (Scholarships will not be awarded to re-take a course.)" This will be effective for any courses taken after adoption at the 2010 Annual Conference.

4. Amend the Policy Guidelines by adding the following as VII.B.3.d and VIII.B.4.e:

"Candidates must complete all academic courses listed in the Basic Graduate Theological Studies and South Carolina Conference requirements with a "C" grade or higher to be credited with completion of those courses." This will be effective for any courses taken after adoption at the 2010 Annual Conference.

5. Amend A.4 of the "Provisional Membership and Commissioning Toward Deacon or Elder" checklist as follows:

"4. Recommendation Letter from the District Superintendent and of DCOM action report" (*The report of the District Committee's action shall note if the Superintendent dissents from the action of the committee and shall allow for a statement for the reasons for their dissent.*)

The members of the conference board along with members of the district committees have exhibited great leadership, integrity, and character throughout the course of year. I am grateful for their commitment and dedication to this important work.

Alas, the work of this Board would be impossible without the outstanding support that we receive from the Rev. Tim Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Mrs. Bonnie Speas, the administrative assistant to that office. These persons go above and beyond the call of duty in making effective the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and deserve our gratitude. May God prosper the work of our hands for the sake of God's great kingdom!

Bishop Taylor in response to business question 17 or ¶ 604.4, 605.6- Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration? The answer is yes with the exceptions which have been noted or acted upon in the clergy session held earlier today, Thursday, June 10, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth L. Nelson, 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 \$677 per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. (This rate was \$663 for the year 2010.) 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), \$ 6,757,565.00 for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011, 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 2009, 2010, and 2011 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 Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergy person 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 Clergy person 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 Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person'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 Clergy person'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 Clergy person 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 2011, 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 to \$578 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. (This rate was \$535 per month for the year 2010.) An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2010, 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 under appointment is current.

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 2010 CPP and Health Benefits threshold of \$36,259.
  - b. Three Quarter time (3/4) for members means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (the CPP and Health Benefits threshold of \$36,259). 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% (\$24,173) of the DAC, service time of no less than 28 hours per week. 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 (\$12,086). Service time of no less than 15 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to one week annually.
  - e. Part-time local pastor (3/4) means Plan Compensation is no less than 60% of the DAC (Health Benefits threshold of \$36,259). Service time is no less than 35 hours per week. Paid vacation time is limited to three weeks annually.
  - f. Part-time local pastor (1/2) means Plan Compensation is no less than 30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation (\$20,188). Half time local pastor means service can be no less than 20 hours per week with two weeks paid vacation.
  - g. Part-time local pastor (1/4) means Plan Compensation is less than \$20,188 (30% of the Annual Conference Average Compensation). Service time can be less than 20 hours per week with one week paid vacation.
- E. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
  - F. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense reimbursement 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 reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

**Report Two  
2010 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

Requirement	2010 Budgeted	2011 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	3,893,346.00	4,143,169.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,261,704.00	1,315,981.00
CRSP CPP (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,146,528.00	1,298,415.00
Clergy Transition*	50,565.00	154,920.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>6,382,143.00</b>	<b>6,942,485.00</b>

<b>Estimated Income</b>		
**UM Publishing House	0	0
Institutional Payments	386,758.00	391,998.00
Apportionment*	80,565.00	184,920.00
Direct Bill Payments	5,914,820.00	6,365,567.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$6,382,143.00</b>	<b>\$6,942,485.00</b>
<b>*Amount to be apportioned</b>		
Clergy Transition*	50,565.00	124,920.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS</b>	<b>\$ 80,565.00</b>	<b>\$154,920.00</b>

\* To be apportioned

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

**Report Three**  
**South Carolina Annual Conference Funding Plan**  
**For Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program**  
**As of January 1, 2008, for 2010**

The 2010 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$663, or .99% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). We expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of about 2% per year.

As of January 1, 2008 for 2010, assuming 2% 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	\$101,974,502
Supplement One Liability	<u>(70,723,262)</u>
A PSR Increase of 2.0%	
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2008	\$31,251,240
Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table	

*Edward L. McWilliams, 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), and their eligible dependents, 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 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. Students appointed as full time 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 2008 *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**

During the year 2010, the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) solicited and reviewed proposals for providing health benefits for eligible lay employees and clergy under the health plan. After review of all rates and proposals, the Board recommends the following:

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected to 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 FX2 as the Health Care Plan. The yearly health plan deductible is \$750 individual and \$1,500 for family.

The lifetime maximum coverage for each eligible insured and eligible dependent shall be limited to \$3,000,000.

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2011. Details of this plan are available on the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits website under the Healthflex tab which describes the current incentive program. A participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$300 under this plan.

Additionally, all participants and covered spouses are urged to complete the HealthQuotient™ risk assessment prior to August 31, 2010. Failure to do so will result in an additional \$250 deductible for each during the 2011 plan year.

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 as the Medicare Supplement Plan Option.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference (Conference Plan) shall be the plan of first refusal for covering dependents of clergy appointed to local churches in the Conference. Where covered clergy wish to cover their dependents, the local church will seek to cover such dependents through the Conference Plan, rather than purchasing outside health insurance. Local churches may be excused from this requirement in cases where such dependents may be covered through the employer of a covered clergyperson's spouse, or through a governmental plan, such as an SCHIP, and in cases of demonstrable financial hardship.

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

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>2010 Budgeted</b>	<b>2011 Estimated</b>
Active Group		
Participant Only	2,357,760.00	2,463,120.00
Participant + Spouse	1,839,264.00	1,929,312.00
Participant + Child	144,480.00	166,320.00
Participant + Children	7,008.00	90,360.00
Participant + Family	2,889,600.00	2,661,120.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,238,112.00	7,310,232.00
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Participant	1,047,096.00	1,046,112.00
Participant +1	1,678,440.00	1,404,336.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	11,015.00	13,968.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,736,551.00	2,464,416.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	9,974,663.00	9,774,648.00
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	233,240.00	194,616.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	265,248.00	229,680.00
Total Estimated Other	498,488.00	424,296.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$10,473,151.00</b>	<b>10,198,944.00</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Billing to salary Paying Units	5,064,360.00	5,117,163.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,602,799.00	1,603,000.00
From Insured	2,171,434.00	2,223,688.00
From Medicare Participants	1,333,752.00	1,427,115.00
From Institutional Payments	300,806.00	311,956.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>10,473,151.00</b>	<b>10,682,922.00</b>
<b>Amount to be Apportioned</b>		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	233,240.00	194,616.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,602,799.00	1,603,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,836,039.00</b>	<b>\$1,797,616.00</b>

\* Apportioned to churches, see Note 2 below.

**Report Number Six  
2010 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2010 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,117,163 be billed to the local church **charges** and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2011.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,952,536.00:
  - a. \$ 154,920.00 for Transitional Pension Funding
  - b. \$ 194,616.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
  - c. \$1,603,000.00 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, 2011, the participant only premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$198.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$462.00 per month. The total premium is \$660.00 per month.
    2. Effective January 1, 2011, the participant plus spouse premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$416.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$970.00 per month. The total premium is \$1,386.00 per month.
    3. Effective January 1, 2011, the participant plus child premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$278.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$646.00 per month. The total premium is \$924.00 per month.
    4. Effective January 1, 2011, the participant plus children premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$377.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$878.00 per month. The total premium is \$1,255.00 per month.
    5. Effective January 1, 2011, the participant plus family premium shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$554.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$1,294.00 per month. The total premium is \$1,848.00 per month.
  - b. Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be 30% of the rate; this 30% is expected to be \$130.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2011. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This 70% is expected to be \$302.00 per month per individual. The total premium of individual coverage is \$432.00 per month.
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 2011 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: \$660.00 monthly (\$7,920.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,386.00 monthly (\$16,320.00) yearly for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$924.00 monthly (\$11,088.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,255.00 monthly (\$15,060.00 yearly) for participant plus children coverage, and \$1,848.00 monthly (\$22,176.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2011.

*Edward L. McWilliams, Chairperson  
Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

**Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
Special Report  
Retiree Health Liability Funding Plan  
to Meet the Requirements of Paragraph 1506.25, *The  
Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church***

**1. Description of South Carolina Eligibility and Plan Design:**

**A. Who is entitled to health benefits in retirement?**

Board of Pension and Health Benefits Report, Group Insurance Section, Report Number One, Paragraphs 1-9 reads as follows:

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 Students appointed as Local Pastors who are 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. Students appointed as full time 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 2008 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.

**B. Plan Design**

The plan Design is the Healthflex Medicare Companion 2 with the Pharmacy Plan 2 option.

**2. When are participants entitled to benefits?**

1. If otherwise qualified, at mandatory retirement at age 72 - §359.1 *Book of Discipline*.
2. If otherwise qualified, voluntary retirement with 30 years of service or attainment of age 62 - §358.1b *Book of Discipline*.
3. If otherwise qualified, voluntary retirement with 40 years service or attainment of age 65 - §358.1c *Book of Discipline*.
4. A local pastor who has been recognized as a retired local pastor in accordance §320.5 *Book of Discipline*
5. A surviving spouse and/or dependent of an active clergy member.
6. A surviving spouse and/or dependent of a retired clergy member.
7. Lay employees as listed in A above.
8. A surviving spouse and/or dependent of an active lay employee.
9. A surviving spouse of a retired lay employee.

**3. For how long are they entitled to benefits? What about survivors and surviving dependents?**

1. Under the current plan design, the benefits are lifetime for Retiree Survivors, and eligible dependents unless the participant elects to leave the plan. Standard Healthflex rules apply to right of return once an election to terminate is made.

**4. Contribution Strategy and cost-sharing arrangements of the retiree health plan?**

1. For 2006-2008 cost sharing was 20% to the retiree and 80% to the Conference if fully eligible for funding.  
 Conference share = \$280/month  
 Participant share = \$70/month

Conference cost for those who are between 10 years and 20 years are earned by 10% per year for years 11-20 of continuous and consecutive service and coverage under the conference health plan. Pension and Health Benefits Report, Group Insurance Section, Report Number One, Paragraph 10 reads as follows:

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%.

2. For 2009 and 2010 cost sharing is 30% to the retiree and 70% to the conference if fully eligible for funding.  
 2010 Conference share = \$284/month  
 2010 Participant share = \$122/month

Conference cost for those who are between 10 years and 20 years are earned by 10% per year for years 11-20 of continuous and consecutive service and coverage under the conference health plan. See above

**5. Plan Assets**

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits projects a \$8,500,000 balance in its HEMP account at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits that will be used to address part of this gap in funding.

**6. Plan Liabilities**

The Retiree Health Valuation dated December 31, 2008 estimated the Accumulated Postretirement Benefit Obligation (APBO) to be \$51,530,727.

**7. Plan for bridging the gap between assets and liabilities**

In accordance with the motion adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference the South Carolina Board of Pension and Health Benefit offers three options to address this gap between assets and liabilities.

**Option One: (EDITOR'S NOTE: Option One was approved.)**

This gap is proposed to be addressed by both a reduction in the retiree subsidy phased in from 2014-2022, an eligibility change for future retirees retiring on or after July 1, 2015, and an apportionment to fully fund this liability by the year 2032.

The Details are as follows:

The Subsidy will be reduced as follows:

Effective 1/1/2014	Lower maximum subsidy to 65%
Effective 1/1/2016	Lower maximum subsidy to 60%
Effective 1/1/2018	Lower maximum subsidy to 55%
Effective 1/1/2020	Lower maximum subsidy to 50%
Effective 1/1/2022	Maximum Subsidy would be \$5,000 per retiree including spouse.

The Eligibility would be changed for retirees effective July 1, 2015. Current retirees and retirees retiring prior to July 1, 2015 would not be changed, but those actives who are age 65 by the effective date of this change and who retire on or after the effective date of this change would not be eligible for the Medicare Supplemental or other health care coverage under the Conference plan.

The Funding will be accomplished via the use of the Comprehensive Health Plan Holiday for 2011 and 2012 to fund this gap and an apportionment remaining at the 2010 level for the years 2011 through 2015. In 2016 the apportionment would be increased to fully fund the gap by the year 2032. No additional funding would be required after 2032.

**Option Two: (EDITOR'S NOTE: Option Two was not approved.)**

This gap is proposed to be addressed by an eligibility change and new plan design for future retirees retiring on or after January 1, 2015, and an apportionment to fully fund this liability by the year 2032.

The Details are as follows:

There would be no subsidy change for current retirees.

The Eligibility would be changed for retirees effective January 1, 2015. Current retirees and retirees retiring prior to January 1, 2015 would not be changed, but those actives who are over 55 years of age by the effective date of this change and who retire with eligibility under the current plan after the effective date of this change would not be eligible for the Medicare Supplemental Plan but would receive a subsidy of \$5,000 per year for an individually procured health plan. No coverage would be available through the conference plan for those receiving the cash subsidy.

The Funding will be accomplished via the use of the Comprehensive Health Plan Premium Suspension for 2011 and 2012 to fund this gap and an apportionment remaining at the 2010 level for the years 2011 through 2015. In 2016 the apportionment would be increased to fully fund the gap by the year 2032. No additional funding would be required after 2032.

**Option Three: (EDITOR'S NOTE: Option Three was not approved.)**

This gap is proposed to be addressed by both a reduction in the retiree subsidy phased in from 2014-2022, no eligibility change for future retirees, and an apportionment to fully fund this liability by the year 2032.

The Details are as follows:

The Subsidy will be reduced as follows:

Effective 1/1/2014	Lower maximum subsidy to 65%
Effective 1/1/2016	Lower maximum subsidy to 60%
Effective 1/1/2018	Lower maximum subsidy to 55%
Effective 1/1/2020	Lower maximum subsidy to 50%
Effective 1/1/2022	Maximum Subsidy would be \$5,000 per retiree including spouse.

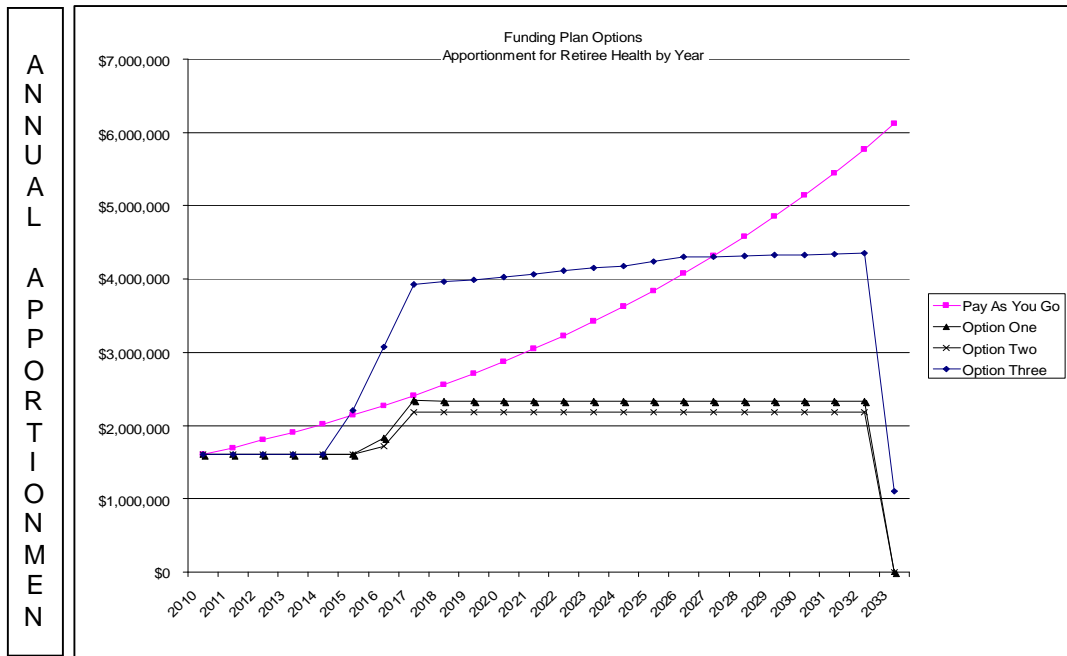
The Eligibility would not be changed for retirees effective January 1, 2015. Current retirees and retirees retiring prior to January 1, 2010 would not be changed.

The Funding will be accomplished via the use of the Comprehensive Health Plan Holiday for 2011 and 2012 to fund this gap and an apportionment remaining at the 2010 level for the years 2011 through 2015. In 2016 the apportionment would be increased to fully fund the gap by the year 2032. Apportionments after 2032 would only be for benefits earned during that year.

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(See chart next page)

The following chart illustrates the impact of the options above compared to the current payment methodology.



The South Carolina Annual Conference recommends adoption of **Option One** as the plan for addressing the gap between assets and liabilities.

**8. Attestation and Certification:**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits certifies this is a true and accurate estimate to the best of our ability. Actuarial Assistance and costing was obtained from Towers Watson of Chicago, IL. Gary Bakker of Towers Watson was instrumental in gathering actuarial cost data.

*Edward L. McWilliams, 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.

**SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS**

The SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held at Madison, Mississippi, July 6<sup>th</sup>- July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. **Contact Rev. Frank Buie, 209 Jabay Drive, Columbia, SC, 29229 or [fbuie@sc.rr.com](mailto: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 of being 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: (1810)**

Smyrna (West Kershaw Charge)	Elgin	Columbia District
Ebenezer (West Kershaw Charge)	Elgin	Columbia District

The **Centennial churches are: (1910)**

Golightly (Golightly-Tabernacle Charge)	Cross Anchor	Spartanburg District
Wesley Memorial	Columbia	Columbia District
Summerton	Summerton	Florence District
St. Matthew (East Camden Charge)	Camden	Hartsville District
Trinity (New Zion Charge)	New Zion	Florence District
Mathews (Mathews-Harris Charge)	Greenwood	Greenwood District
Beaumont	Spartanburg	Spartanburg District

**Hucks Awards**

Time and space do not permit us to go into detail about the works of these devoted local church historians, so these represent only a small percentage of their work on behalf of our connectional ministry of memory this year. Many of these

churches celebrated anniversaries, and we note especially that many of the churches that have worked hardest to celebrate their history are younger churches.

### **Hucks Award Recipients – Local Churches**

#### **New Hope UMC, Anderson**

This church is receiving the award in recognition of the work they did on their 125th anniversary. They have an active historian and committee, collect records, and had a number of events where history is interpreted and celebrated.

#### **Trinity UMC, Anderson**

Trinity has a historian who is active, collects records, and has a nice booklet about their history.

#### **St. Luke UMC, Walhalla**

The church celebrated its 150th anniversary this year on four Sundays – each with a historical theme. They collected materials for a time capsule and updated their history.

#### **Grace UMC, Pickens**

The church meets all of the criteria. They have worked hard to preserve and promote their own history, and they are also the guardians of the McKinney Chapel property.

#### **Main Street UMC, Columbia**

Main Street celebrated homecoming and Heritage Sunday in October, their archives are well-established and growing, and the historian has been active in preserving and promoting history.

#### **Shandon UMC, Columbia**

Shandon celebrated its centennial during 2009, and the work of their historian, centennial committee, and congregation in preserving their history has been excellent.

#### **Mountain View UMC, Taylors, Greenville County**

I believe this will be Mountain View's fifth consecutive Hucks Award. They continue to build their collection and work to promote church history.

#### **St. James UMC, Burgess Community, Horry County**

This church has an active historian, they preserve and collect records, and they say that for them, every Sunday is Heritage Sunday – though they do have special recognition of their heritage on Mother's Day and on their anniversary date in November.

#### **Pisgah UMC, Aynor**

This church continues to be a beacon of preserving and interpreting their history, and they are a fine example of the work that a committed group of church historians can accomplish.

#### **Central UMC, Spartanburg**

The church's historian, Dr. John Bullard, hosted the Conference Historical Society's meeting last October, and he and his colleagues have worked throughout the year to preserve and promote their history.

#### **Individual Award – Mrs. Betty Murph Timmerman.**

A member of Grace United Methodist Church in North Augusta, Mrs. Timmerman served eight years as a member of the Commission on Archives and History and recently completed four years as president of the Conference Historical Society.

### **2011 Award Application and Criteria**

#### **2011 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards**

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2011 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2011 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: **Phillip Stone, Wofford College, 429 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663**

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

##### ***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.

### **Publication Qualifications**

Along with awards for individuals and local churches, the Commission will consider nominations of books or other publications for the Herbert Hucks Award for Publications.

To be eligible, a book or publication must contribute to the knowledge, preservation, or understanding of United Methodist history or heritage **beyond the local church**. The commission will consider the quality of the publication's writing, research, and its contribution to the history of South Carolina Methodism.

As with the individual award, one book or publication may be recognized annually. Nominators are asked to assess the publication's qualities in a few paragraphs. A publication is eligible for consideration during the year it was published and in the subsequent year.

**Deadline:** February 1, 2011 The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions on February 12, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa C. Hawkins, Chairperson*

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

The Commission of CUIC continues to strive to assist the ecumenical needs of the local church. The Commission celebrated the news of the Lutherans approving full communion with United Methodist. We continue to encourage dialogue and relationship building among interfaith efforts. The Commission believes confessing our faith together would continue to breakdown walls of differences only to realize that we are all one in Christ.

*Michelline Cooper*

## **THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS**

The Commission on Communications has continued to explore ways to improve communication effectiveness and efficiency throughout the conference. Various constituencies in the conference have indicated a need to find ways to reach more United Methodists, especially the laity, to make them aware of events, ministries, and services that can enhance their spiritual lives. This year's tight budget and absence of a permanent treasurer/director of administrative services have worked against making significant progress; however, making it possible for people to subscribe to the ConnX e-mail newsletter is a significant improvement.

The conference's communication staff members have continued to increase activity and services, and we hope that further review of communication activities and locations will take place with the participation of the recently appointed treasurer/director of administrative services.

Respectfully submitted,

*J. William Click, Chairperson*

## **THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION Report Number 1**

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

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of full-time clergy 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 as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations." (*The Book of Discipline, 2008, Paragraph 625.2*) 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 2011

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of \$505,000 be made to fund the estimated \$530,000 Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2011. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, 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 Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2011, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

Category	Amount
a. Clergy in full connection	\$40,500
b. Probationary, Commissioned and Associate Members	\$36,800
c. Local Pastors	\$34,150

\*The recommendations are for an across the board increase of \$650 over the 2010 conference schedule for total minimum compensation.

[Please note that the Commission on Equitable Compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expense through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "N" and "O" below, entitled "Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses" and "Reimbursement as Administrative Cost"]

### B. 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, 2008, 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, 2008. 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.

### C. 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
Year 7	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1050
Year 8	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1225
Year 9	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1400
Year 10	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1575
Year 11+	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1750

### D. 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.

### E. 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 July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June 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.

### F. 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.

### G. 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.

### H. 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.

### I. 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.



**J. 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.

**K. 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.

**L. 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, 2008*.

**M. Ineligibility**

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

- I. Retired supply pastors
- II. Part-time local pastors
- III. Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 100.
- IV. Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of the United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1 a, b, c of *The Book of Discipline, 2008*.
- V. Deacons as defined in Paragraph 303.2 of *The Book of Discipline, 2008* (except as appointed under Report 3 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline, 2008*).

**N. 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 50cents 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 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 pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

**O. 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.

**P. 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 Parish 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 clergy person 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 July.

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

After One and 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 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 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 Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the compensation supplement and for payment of the direct 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**

**Schedule for New Church Starts Begun in 2008 and Thereafter**

Equitable Compensation for new church starts that were initiated after December 31, 2007 shall be as follows:

Year 1 and 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 on Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's direct bill for pensions and health benefits.

After One and 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 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 another 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 another 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.

#### **F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will operate in light of the Annual Conference's decision to make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority. Support for clergy working in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall be made in accordance with the Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income (Report Number 3e, Part 3). The Commission recognizes that adjustments may be necessary on a case by case basis. The District Superintendent, after consultation with the Cabinet and the Conference Hispanic Committee, may request adjustments in the following areas:

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:
  - After Two 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 Three and 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 another 5% 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 another 10% 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 decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Eleven 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.
2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years full-time service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.
  - Example: Year 6: \$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 7: \$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 8: \$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 9: \$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 10: \$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 11: \$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 12: \$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 13: \$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 14: \$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
  - Year 15+: \$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit

All requests for adjustments shall be made in writing. Requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made.

## Report 4

Your Commission is pleased to report that as of December 31, 2009, we were providing support for 33 charges, of which 5 were new church starts. At the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the commissioners approved support for 33 pastors, 5 of whom are Provisional Members of the Annual Conference.

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec 2006		Dec 2007		Dec 2008		Dec 2009	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	4	97,908	5	177,900	5	200,799	5	197,567
Minimum	14	61,364	13	89,869	16	96,222	18	88,597
"Special"	1	3,000	7	71,757	8	100,150	8	92,840
Low Income	2	42,140	2	57,350	2	57,600		
Hispanic/Latino							2	63,700
Direct billing costs		39,000		106,304		99,848		115,652
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>243,412</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>502,880</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>554,619</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>558,356</b>

	Jan 2007		Jan 2008		Jan 2009		Jan 2010	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Effective Members	10		20		16		21	
Provisional Members		1		3		5		5
Associate Members	0		0		1		1	
Local Pastors (Full Time)		4		6		3		5
Other		1		1		2		1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>33</b>

*Professor Kenneth N. Mufuka, Ph.D., Chairperson*

### THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The Commission on Religion and Race partnered with COSROW to monitor Annual conference this pass year and submitted results to Bishop Taylor. We encourage nominations for the Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award and the Joseph Bethea Award annually.

*Patricia Jackson, Chairperson*

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

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) continues to develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women and prohibit the full participation of women in the life of the church. This year's goals were to continue to publish the annual newsletter, *The Eve*, to offer a one day seminar with the opportunity of receiving continuing education credits as resources for the conference, and to monitor the Annual Conference for inclusiveness.

The theme for the Spring 2010 issue of *The Eve* was "Life's Journeys: Cancer and the Church." This issue focused on the effects of cancer on women and their families and in the life of the church. COSROW's intent was to give some insight to the invasion of cancer in our lives, and to show how we can be more effective hands and feet of the body of Christ to others, not just as pastors, but as families, as friends, and as the church! The issue also contained resources for Women's History Month and worship aids for "Women in the Pulpit Sunday."

On August 15, 2009, COSROW hosted a one day continuing education seminar entitled, "Women and Men in Ministry Today: Challenge and Opportunity." The keynote speakers were Garlinda Burton, Secretary of General COSROW, and Rev. Vernon H. Dixon, pastor of Hobson UMC in Nashville. Seminar topics included: How to Prepare a Church For Its First Female Pastor, Identifying Sexism and Recommending Ways to Diminish It, Women and Men Talking About Effective Communication, and Women and Men Talking About Domestic Violence. Evaluation results revealed positive results and requests for similar events, perhaps on district levels.

In addition to these events, COSROW monitored Annual Conference events for inclusiveness. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Commission on Religion and Race have been called to encourage and challenge The United Methodist Church to live out God's call for the full and equal participation of all persons in the total life and mission of the church.

At the 2009 South Carolina Annual Conference, COSROW and Religion and Race choose random plenary sessions and worship services to monitor for inclusiveness of all persons. Observations of this year's report indicated that:

- 1) Participation of African Americans as chairpersons/presenters has increased.
- 2) Having a female bishop is a step ahead of many conferences as far as inclusiveness of women.

We should also encourage:

- 3) The nomination and election of more chairpersons who are female, and racial ethnicities not represented in the report.
- 4) More discussion and contributions from laity, and from racial ethnicities not represented in the report on various plenary discussions. (Those ethnicities not represented were: Asian, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, and Pacific Islanders.)
- 5) More discussion and contributions from youth, young adults, and older adults on various plenary discussions, and presentations if possible.

COSROW continues to strive for innovation in becoming a more visible and more effective ministry as we resource the South Carolina Conference on issues pertaining to the status and role of women.

*Cathy D. Mitchell, Chairperson*

## THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

In 2009 The Commission on Worship focused our work and attention on the idea that worship is not “just one more thing that the church does”. We encouraged and promoted the idea that pastors and congregational leaders need to plan and carry out worship that is intentional. In the words of the NCD lexicon worship needs to be “inspiring” and that rarely, if ever, happens by accident. To follow up on that “not just another thing” promotion, this year the commission is focusing on “Best Practices” for worship. To that end our work is directed towards providing opportunities for pastors and congregations to involve themselves in learning opportunities, we are providing resources for congregations and pastors to use in the development of a worship mind set, and lastly we are attempting to model, during the Annual Conference sessions, some of the “best practices” for worship in those services in which we are involved.

The learning opportunities are to be provided in several ways: by making available a series of grants for local groups to fund training events; by maintaining a Speakers Bureau that provides readily names of individuals that can present quality workshops; by working with the officers of the Clergy Orders to bring a leader from the Board of Discipleship to provide a one day training event for “This Holy Mystery”; by planning a training event on the best practices for The Service of Holy Communion to individuals in each district; by working with the S. C. Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts on bringing Andy Langford to South Carolina for a weekend workshop on worship and music; and by providing funding for the Youth Choir Clinical Weekend event. Further, we are looking for ways to create a link with the newly re-established Order of Saint Luke in South Carolina.

The resources provided are in the production of a third volume of Nuts and Bolts that will focus on all things musically related to worship, a DVD companion to the Nuts and Bolts 1 booklet, and through the establishment of a library/ archive of current and historic official Methodist related worship materials.

Lastly, we model best practices by maintaining a complete and thorough inventory of all the conference's worship related materials and equipment, the establishment of a well stocked sacristy for the Annual Conference sessions, and by the recruitment and equipping of the volunteer personnel that people the activities for worship during the Annual Conference sessions. This is all done in coordination with the conference liturgists (Bishop Taylor) and the designated worship coordinators.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rev. Gary D. Phillips, Chairperson*

## THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on Monday, October 19, 2009, to evaluate the 2009 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2010 Annual Conference. The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2009 Annual Conference and the results of the 484 post-conference evaluations that were returned. Evaluation forms had been made available in the registration packets. The committee was pleased to note that in twenty-five of the twenty-six listed categories, each rated between Good and Excellent. The rating of the one other category was scored as Acceptable. The committee was especially gratified to see that every worship service received very high overall ratings, and that the changes in the registration process had resulted in significantly higher ratings than in 2008.

The committee considered the suggestions offered in the evaluations and focused on several that might improve future annual conferences. In light of the dates set by Bishop Taylor for the 2010 annual conference, (beginning later in June and starting on a Thursday) a discussion was held about possible changes to the agenda. The committee authorized the executive committee to finalize the agenda outline at a later time.

Within the past year, two cities other than Florence have submitted proposals to host the annual conference. The committee sent small delegations to each to hear the proposal and see the facilities. In both cases, the committee believes that Florence continues to offer the best combination of cost, accessibility, facilities, and options for food and hotels.

In light of this, as well as the continued favorable experience in Florence, the Committee recommends that the 2011 Annual Conference be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to Cumberland United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2009 Session. Their gracious spirit of hospitality was highly instrumental in producing a successful Annual Conference.

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

## THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Dear Members of the Annual Conference,

We want to thank you for the smooth technological transition this past Conference year. At the 2009 Annual Conference, your Conference Journal Committee requested a 66% reduction in allocated funds. We did so in an effort to be fiscally as well as ecologically responsible. With your patience and cooperation, and the excellent IT skills of Matt Brodie and Jim Crews, we have been able to offer you the Conference Journal and the Pictorial Directory online through the Conference website without loss of quality and, perhaps, with added ease of use. Of course, hard copies and DVD/CD copies are available for purchase while supplies last (for the hard copies).

During this past Annual Conference year, we, your committee, also took measures to better preserve the archived journals by having them bound according to their time frames in our denominational history. These lovely editions are on display in Sylvia's office at the Conference Center. Do stop in to see them when you happen that way.

As for future expectations, we are making plans for an e-version of the Minister's Book which we publish every ten years. You can be sure to hear more about this at up and coming clergy meetings and charge conference sessions. Again, thank you for your help and generous spirit as we seek to serve you and God in new and yet still faithful ways.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Emily Turner, Chairperson*

## THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee met in August to review and consider staff compensation for 2010. They met with the Director of Connectional Ministries, who reviewed the value of our deployed Congregational Specialists and how the ministry of our churches is being strengthened. Also, there was general discussion about personnel and budget matters. The committee, aware of the economic conditions and apportionment receipts, determined that it would be in the best interest of the Conference to freeze salary levels at the current 2009 amounts. Budgetary restraints led the committee to further determine that a staff position would have to be eliminated.

The committee acknowledged the need for revision of the Personnel Manual for the Conference. We will be working on this in the coming year.

The Conference Staff Relations Committee has a difficult task and it is even more so during these economically troubled times. We appreciate the committed efforts of the employees of the Annual Conference, who continue to serve faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ. They have been understanding of the financial challenges facing the church and are ever ready to respond to the needs of our United Methodist family.

*Mary Virginia Taylor, Chairperson*

## THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conference Committee on Congregational Development continues to seek ways to support and empower churches across our conference. Our new church starts continue to show signs of growth and outreach. Ashley Ridge in Summerville and Esperanza in Greenville are models of how we can start new faith communities in diverse demographic areas. The decision has been made to discontinue our efforts in Bluffton at Grace Point. We have not been able to reach the critical mass needed for Grace Point to be successful in making disciples.

Most of the grants made by the committee are granted at our spring meeting. This year we have awarded \$264,733 to existing churches and \$340,000 to new churches for a total of \$504,733. I celebrate the fact that the annual conference is providing this kind of support to strengthen and expand the scope of our shared ministry.

It is with sadness that I announce that the Rev. Don Smith who for 4 years has been working with our conference as a church planting strategist is going back to serve a local church this June. Don has made an invaluable contribution to the South Carolina Conference in training and coaching both pastors and congregations.

Our two new church starts at the 2010 annual conference are the West Metro Columbia Hispanic Mission Congregation (this is what we are calling this effort until they come up with a name for the church), and the Rocky Swamp American Indian United Methodist Church. The Rocky Swamp church closed over 40 years ago and there have been several efforts to develop a congregation for Native Americans at this location. We are hopeful that we are going to be able to help establish this congregation that will target the native people of the Orangeburg Area.

I continue to be blessed with the opportunity I have been given to serve Christ in my role as the Director of Congregational Development for the South Carolina Conference. I continue to ask for your prayers and continued support for this vital ministry.

Yours and His,

*Rusty Taylor*

## THE COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Committee on the Episcopacy (2008-2012) met for an extensive time of discussion on April 8, 2010. Nearly all committee members were present for this time of sharing. In addition to reviewing the purpose and responsibilities of the committee, the group heard from the Bishop about the extent of her various duties and roles. She discussed her focus on strengthening local churches in their ministries, which she seeks to accomplish by:

1. encouraging Natural Church Development, and
2. making faithful pastoral appointments in cooperation with the District Superintendents.

The Bishop also shared some significant accomplishments, difficulties, and ministries in which her leadership and time commitment have been extensive over the past year. These have included:

- her participation in the hiring of a new conference treasurer,
- the initiation of a new major annual conference youth event (Revolution),
- dealing with clergy misconduct and trials, and
- appointment making.

The committee asked questions and sought feedback from the Bishop, and offered assistance to her as she seeks to fulfill God's vision of growth for our annual conference. The committee will continue to follow the mandate of the Discipline to meet at least annually, as convened by the bishop.

*Kristen Richardson-Frick, Chairperson*

## THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

All conference agencies experienced budget cuts this year. ELCC was not an exception. Therefore, our grant funding capability has been impaired. The ethnic churches are in dire need of funds for various ministries. Before budget cuts there was a need for additional funding in areas restricted to ELCC.

There is a Chinese proverb that says: "When the wind changes direction, there are those who build walls and those who build windmills." It is ELCC's intent to build windmills. ELCC is planning the following empowering events.

**Grant Writing** – It is the intent of ELCC to have two (2) grant writing webinars prior to Annual Conference. These webinars

will be for one hour and will provide the basics for grant writing. The webinars will be available to everyone. The webinars will be followed by an onsite grant writing workshop this summer by two consultants. The summer workshop will train 150 persons pre-determined to help provide training in each district to ethnic congregations and churches in ministry with ethnic persons.

By having the afore events ELCC will expose participants to the following types of grants: capital, endowment, matching, operating, project, research and seed. Participants will be exposed to the process of grant writing (research & matching, funders), project development steps and other information. Each participant will receive a notebook.

For funding needs beyond the conference's grasp—like transportation, salaries, etc., possible sources may be identified and the amount of funding available will be more.

**District E-Team (Ethnic Team) Splashes** – ELCC will begin to have district splashes this fall. These events will be educational. ELCC and each of its committees (African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American and Korean-American, Funding Committee) will meet with persons in each district to talk about their committee activities. Mission/outreach opportunities will be presented. There will be displays. Following the general session, the committees will break out for one-on-one sessions.

**Heritage Workshops** – Beginning this winter ELCC will offer Heritage Workshops to African-American Churches. These workshops will be for about 3 hours. Tentatively, the topics will include:

- *African-American Methodist History (brief)*
- *How to Research Your Church History*
- *The Basics of Writing Your Church History (“Telling Your Story”)*
- *How to research African American Methodist History*
- *Collecting historical info & artifacts*
- *Preserving Your History & Resources*

To schedule this event at your church, contact Charlotte Grooms at (843) 332-3682 or [CharlotteAGrooms@aol.com](mailto:CharlotteAGrooms@aol.com).

**Funding Committee** – This sub-committee of ELCC is chaired by Rev. O. Julius Hadden. Grants funded the last cycle of 2009 and the first cycle of 2010 were:

<u>Funded</u>	<u>Ministry/Group/Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
*ARCH Min., Arcadia UMC	Hispanic/Latino Min.	\$5,000
+Marlboro Cty. Pee Dee Indian Tribe	Cultural	\$2,000
>Emmanuel UMC & Lemira Elem. School	“Stepping to Success”	\$3,000
^Wesley UMC, Pinopolis	R. E. A. D. Y.	\$3,000
^Mt. Carmel UMC, Bamberg Conf. & Retreat	Health & Wellness	\$1,716
^Canaan UMC, Ridgeville Community Initiative	The Giving Hands	\$3,250

**Ethnic Groups Served:** \* = Hispanic/Latino > = African-Americans & Euro-Americans  
+ = Native Americans ^ = African-Americans

**Clergy Scholarships**

SEJ African-American Worship Workshop (Reg.)	2 Pastors
BMCR National	(Reg.) 1 Pastor

**Ethnic Group Served:** African-Americans

**Lay Scholarships**

Laity Convocation	1 Young Adult
Gammon Workshop (AAHC)	2 Lay Persons

**Ethnic Group Served:** African-Americans

**Youth Scholarships**

^Breeze	7 Youth
^Harambee	6 Youth
#Splurge	3 Youth
^+Salkethatchie	5 Youth

**Ethnic Groups Served & Participants:** # = Korean-Americans ^ = African-Americans  
+ = Native Americans

*Charlotte A. L. Grooms, Chairperson*

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN TASK FORCE**

The African-American Task Force suffered a tremendous loss with the death of Rev. Herbert Fogle, the vice chairperson. Rev. Fogle previously chaired this committee.

This committee continues its involvement with the **Granville Hicks Lecture Series** at Claflin University. Future plans for involvement includes greater promotion of this event and the participation of more lay persons.

In cooperation with the Congregational Specialist for the African-American Church--Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson--the African-American Task Force is helping to design SC Conference's first **Summit on the Black Church**. ELCC and BMCR are also a part of this effort. This event will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, September 23-25. It will provide resources

and training that will further strengthen, equip, and empower local congregations in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Some of the sessions will be:

- Making Disciples Through Small Group Ministry
- Stewardship in the African-American Church
- Strengthening the Disciples Through Christian Education
- Reaching the Church Through Music: Trying Something Old & Something New
- Creating Faith Communities in Mission and Ministry with the Poor
- Leading Turn Around Congregations
- Doing Ministry in Context – Ministry in the Rural Church
- Creating and Shaping Discipleship Systems

*Rev. Ellis W. White, Chairperson*

### **THE HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

The Hispanic/Latino Ministries Committee continues to work from its mission to **connect** churches and their Hispanic/Latino neighbors, to **equip** churches and districts to respond to the needs of Hispanic/Latino persons, to **develop** places for worship, fellowship, radical hospitality and extravagant generosity, and to provide opportunities to **grow** in discipleship as individuals and communities.

Last year the Rev. Enrique Gordon was appointed to serve as pastor of the new Esperanza (Hope) UMC in the Greenville District. He and his wife, Shirley, along with a group of churches in the district committed to this ministry, have worked tirelessly to reach their multicultural neighborhood. Worship is being held weekly, English as a Second Language is continuing two days a week, the food bank program is already serving the community, and the Greenville Mobile Dental Clinic is holding consultations once a month at the church facilities.

This year a new mission will be started in the Columbia District. The Rev. Emily Scales, who served last summer as an intern in Hispanic-Latino ministries at Mt. Hebron UMC, will provide leadership to the churches in the West Columbia-Cayce-Springdale area in building upon what they are already doing in their communities.

A one-day workshop is being planned for this year to assist churches who want to become involved in such ministries to address such issues as cultural sensitivity, how to start a new ministry, opportunities for ministry in their communities, assessing needs, and resources for ministry.

Thank you for your continued support in making this ministry a priority for our Annual Conference.

*Mary V. Teasley, Chairperson*

### **KOREAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE**

This committee is temporarily inactive until the election of the new chairperson. Due to unforeseen circumstances and with sadness, the chairperson, Dr. Ro resigned. Dr. Ro's efforts will be missed.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN COMMITTEE**

In Luke, Chapter 15, verses 1-7, we read the story of the "Parable of the Lost Sheep." A shepherd loses one sheep, leaves 99 behind, and goes to recover the one lost sheep. He and his neighbors rejoice in the recovery.

As I reflect on this parable, I cannot help but to think on the new journey that our committee is now undertaking. The Pee Dee Indians of Upper South Carolina and the Marlboro County Pee Dee Indians have submitted petitions to our conference requesting that the SC Conference establish Native American Mission Churches in their communities. What an opportunity and trust placed on us. Some of these individuals were involved with the United Methodist Church in the past and now they are willing to return. This is the opportunity for healing and the recovery of some of our lost sheep. Additionally, we are working to re-establish Rocky Swamp--United Methodist Mission Church in Neeses. This is a great journey for our conference and we pray for the inclusion of Native peoples in our conference. However, this is not the only task and accomplishments of our committee this past year.

Once again, we increased the number of churches celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday. This is a great accomplishment; yet, we are still reaching only one quarter of our conference. Although Native American Ministries Sunday is in April, our committee will arrange for this special Sunday anytime during the year. We provide speakers for this occasion. **To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact the chair, Zan Tracy Pender, 803 905-5672.**

In February, we conducted our eighth annual Native American Representative training. There were 73 people in attendance. Most of these were first time attendees and we welcomed back some previous attendees. We continue to be encouraged by the number of new faces and new representatives. Our committee is working to get a new DVD release from the 2008 training. All District offices will have a copy so that representatives and churches may use the training especially if they could not attend. The 2007 version is already in District offices and at the conference office. As a reminder, *The Discipline* requires that every local church at charge conference designate by nomination and election a minimum of one person per charge (without regard to race or ethnic origin) as a Native American Representative for that church.

Our committee provides the training and the local church Native American Representative works with our committee in assisting with our projects and programs as well as establishing Native American Ministries Sunday in his or her church. We have our own offering envelope for this special Sunday. The envelope has our logo and provides a summary of our mission and objectives. If your church needs offering envelopes, please contact Gail Corn at the conference office in Columbia.

We strive to continue to be good stewards of the monies provided through Native American Ministries Sunday. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our conference, and *The Discipline* directs the Native American Committee to properly utilize these



funds for our mission. I am pleased to tell you that our committee is supporting itself. While the Ethnic Local Church Committee (ELCC) continues to help our committee, we are accomplishing our mission through Native American Ministries Sunday offering and other donations. We continue to have a detailed operating budget which will help us monitor and use our funding appropriately. We have designated line items for special funding, such as donations for elder baskets.

This year, we spent \$3,687 in scholarships sending South Carolina American Indian families to the annual Native American Conference at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. We provided \$1,300 in tribal assistance to several tribes including repairs to tribal buildings, supporting an afterschool program, a local food bank, a cultural event and restoring the culture.

We are proud to report that we had a successful, full, Native American Salkehatchie Camp last July working with the Wassamasaw in the Moncks Corner area. There is the possibility of an on-going relationship with the Wassamasaw and tribes in that area. This year, we are planning a camp with the Catawba in Rock Hill. We are seeking volunteers to help with building and home repairs as well as donations of repair material and monetary support. If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Bart Sistare.

We will continue our Christmas Elder Comfort Basket project. We thank the conference churches for both the donations of elder baskets and the monetary support of over \$1,000 to purchase supplies to balance the donations in all baskets and to cover transportation costs to move the baskets to South Carolina Indian people throughout the state. We set a new record this year with 181 baskets. The cost break for each basket was \$30; thus, \$5,430 total in value. We are pleased that we did not exceed our budget in making this project successful again this year.

We gather and make Elder Comfort Baskets throughout the year. Small laundry baskets are needed 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 to cover gas expenses for pick-up and/or delivery of the baskets.

A hearty thank you is sent out to Keepers of the Word who continue to work with us in completing this project. They also provided drumming this year at our Native American Representative Training.

Sarah Sanchez continues to publish our committee's 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.

We have a new project this year thanks to Sandy Nesbit. She is serving as our new Native American Representative E-mail Group Manager and Communications Coordinator. It will be her responsibility to communicate with our trained representatives informing them of the committee's needs and projects as well as informing the committee of inquiries/questions and concerns from the congregations.

There is one area that we continue to seek assistance from all churches. We need an accurate count of American Indian people in our churches. In many instances, there are one, three, or more American Indians attending our various congregations. However, they are not being identified in charge conference reports. Yes, it is easy just to guess or go by what has been sent in previously. However, we are asking churches to identify those Native American members of their congregations. Three of our committee members, who are American Indians, are not identified as Native Americans in their own churches. Thus, we have room for improvement.

In conclusion, I cannot tell you the excitement about the continued growth and progress that our committee continues to reach. We are a role model for other Native American Committees throughout the general conference. We are looking forward to continuing our old endeavors as well as expanding our mission and presence as we move forward into the next decade. Thank you and God Bless especially all of those who have contributed to make this past decade such a success.

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

*Zan Tracy Pender, Chairperson*

## THE GLOBAL AIDS COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the SC Annual Conference,

During a special worship service focusing on the Global AIDS pandemic at the 2007 Annual Conference, you gave offerings that resulted in slightly over \$5000 of Global AIDS Funds being returned to this Conference to be used locally. By a previous decision of this committee, funds returned for local use will be distributed in \$5000 increments to the districts based on prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases. The Columbia district heads this list.

With those funds we were able to work with Rev. Tim McClendon, DS of the Columbia District, and Dr. Bambi Geddis, Director of the SC HIV/AIDS Council, to provide a Sexual Health and Domestic Violence Seminar for women and girls on June 15, of 2010.

Unfortunately, very few funds have trickled in since that service in 2007 and we have not been able to fund further ministry in this area. Every time you give \$1 to the Global AIDS Fund, \$.25 is returned to this Annual Conference and other grant funds are made available for ministry. Please remember to give to the Global AIDS Fund and to ask each member of your congregation to give at least \$1 so that each district can be funded. There is much ministry yet to be done as is evidenced by the statistics.

South Carolina has risen in rank among the states in the number of HIV/AIDS cases from 9<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> according to the CDC. Columbia is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among metropolitan areas (this includes much larger cities). While we are in this state of affairs, the State Legislature has cut the money made available for medications for those who have been diagnosed HIV+ while the SC HIV/AIDS Council has been averaging 100 new ADEPT applications per month. SC has again begun a waiting list for those who need this assistance.

This committee continues to offer information and resources to the churches of this conference for use during a World AIDS Day worship service. This conference year we supplied speakers for the celebrations held at St. Mark UMC in Taylors, SC where the Rev. Janice Frederick-Watts is pastor and St. Paul UMC in Camden where the Rev. Franklin Garrett is pastor. We appreciate the opportunity to serve that these two pastors provided.

Please visit our booth here at Annual Conference for more information and please give to the Global AIDS fund.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Emily Allen, Chairperson  
SCAC Global AIDS Committee*

## THE COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

The Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling has a primary responsibility in addressing personal and family needs of clergy, both ordained and diaconal, and their families. We assist in providing a fee supplement for counseling by one of our approved counselors for a minimum of ten sessions. A list of approved counselors may be requested from the Office of Connectional Ministries. The counselor applies for these funds for the client without breaking confidentiality. The case is referred to by number.

The committee is planning a retreat entitled "A Time To Celebrate" to be held in April 2011. The retreat is designed to meet the needs of all clergy persons and their spouses.

It has been a pleasure to serve the members of the annual conference. Special thanks to the annual conference for your support and the members of the committee.

*Cassandra Pasley Jackson, Chairperson*

## THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services continues to be 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.

Ms. Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to district offices and candidates with patience and good humor. Her concern for each of our candidates and her apparently endless willingness to help guide them through the process are blessings both to the candidates and to our church. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports this office is responsible for. In the past year her work load has increased as we have begun a continual process of conducting criminal background checks for the clergy of our annual conference. The work of this office literally would not happen without her. I continue to be grateful to the twelve district secretaries for their work and for their diligent oversight of so much information, vital to so many different people. And 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 continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervises the clergy of our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues to seek the most effective and faithful ways to fulfill its remarkably broad role in evaluating and approving clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. The importance of this work cannot be overstated. The genuine concern and great wisdom of the members of the Board is continually demonstrated in the work that they do on behalf of the conference. The Rev. Ken Nelson continues to provide outstanding leadership to the Board. It has been a privilege to assist the Board in its work.

During the past year the single most noteworthy change in this office has come with the adoption of a detailed records retention policy. With this policy in place, our office has been able to continue its work of maintaining the records of the Board of Ordained Ministry with more precision and consistency. In addition, this office has continued with its normal, annual work by helping to organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisting in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; and providing support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, 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 has been a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry for the past five years, and I look forward to continued service in the coming year.

*Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services*

## THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM REPORT

The Ministry Advisory Team brings together the leadership of Connectional Ministries, the Council on Finance and Administration, Ordained Ministry, the Board of the Laity, and the Cabinet. During this past year the Ministry Advisory Team has met once.

The corpus of the William Norman Bobo, Jr. Endowment has been invested in an instrument that will mature in June of 2010. At that time, after returning 25% of the income in the corpus, and the remaining 75% of the income in the programming account, it is expected that the corpus will be valued at \$549,900.17, and an additional \$38,856.58 will be available for distribution.

The Ministry Advisory Team has adopted a meeting schedule which will call for an annual meeting close to the end of the year, at which it will direct the investment of the corpus of the Bobo Endowment for the ensuing year, and another annual meeting close to the start of the year, at which the MAT will determine the use of available income from the endowment.

The MAT has approved the first two disbursements of money from the proceeds of the Bobo Endowment. First, \$5,000 will be used to help fund an internship during the summer of 2010 created to develop a catalogue of coaching materials available to help in the NCD process. Second, \$3,000 will be used to help support further NCD coach training.

In the coming year, the MAT will investigate the possibility of producing training materials designed to extend the effectiveness of District Job Function Workshops.

The MAT continues to concentrate on methods of developing leadership, both clergy and laity, throughout the annual conference. While the MAT now has the responsibility to oversee the Bobo Endowment, it was initially created to be a forum for conversations about the interconnected nature of the ministry of the South Carolina Conference, and to seek ways to make all of the ministries of the Conference more effective. We continue to work toward that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor  
Chairperson, Ministry Advisory Team*

## 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 Board of Trustees established the cemetery endowment for the Asbury Clark Cemetery consistent with the resolution of the 1988 Annual Conference. The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation is the custodian of the endowment. The Board continues to search for a caretaker of the cemetery.

The old Center Church cemetery property has been deeded to the Oconee Heritage Center for historical preservation.

In keeping with the resolution passed at the 2009 annual conference, the Trustees have deeded the cemetery of the former Cainhoy Methodist Church to the cemetery association that has been caring for the property for several years.

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 paragraph 2512.6 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

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

*John Quackenbush, Chairman*

### Detail Accounting for the Trustees of the Annual Conference December 31, 2009

#### South Carolina Annual Conference Trustees Financial Report for the Period January-December, 2009

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##### Operations Account

Beginning balance --			\$630,228.73
Income --			
Sale of property			
Concord UMC property	34,000.00		
Concord UMC savings account	11,229.40		
Concord UMC checking account	<u>1,962.80</u>		
Total from Concord UMC		47,192.20	
Sale of Spring Branch property		58,069.25	
Return of excess premium --Woodside		506.00	
Return of 2008 excess distribution		<u>23,375.28</u>	
Total receipts			129,142.73
Expenditures --			
Legal expenses		(21,110.96)	
Greenville County taxes		(704.80)	
Asbury/Clark cemetery (Roper)		(1,850.00)	
Asbury/Clark Cemetery Endowment		(125,000.00)	
Board travel/meals/lodging		(1,441.25)	
Property/liability insurance premium		(549.42)	
Yard care for Woodside		(330.00)	
Remaining Sims Chapel balance to Spartanburg Dist. Cong. Dev.		(3,479.37)	
Purchase certificate of deposit		<u>(450,000.00)</u>	
Total expenditures			<u>(604,465.80)</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$154,905.66</b>

##### CD Bank of America

purchased 9/29/09 @ .3% for 6 months; matures 3/29/10)	\$450,000.00
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##### Pisgah UMC Maintenance Fund

Beginning balance	1,353.76		
Rent	1,000.00		
Insurance premium	(1,309.38)		
<b>Ending balance</b>			<b>\$1,044.38</b>

#### Real Properties Currently Being Overseen by the Board of Trustees

Asbury Clark UMC cemetery (Anderson District)  
 Esperanza (Arrington Memorial UMC) (Greenville District)  
 Concord UMC (Greenville District)  
 Rocky Swamp Church Property (Orangeburg District)  
 Woodside UMC (Greenville District) This property is for sale.  
 Pisgah UMC (Columbia District)

(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

This has been a time of renewal for Camps & Retreat Ministries which oversees Asbury Hills Camp & Retreat Center and Sewee Coastal Retreat Center. This past year at Asbury Hills construction was finished on many projects, while at Sewee the feasibility study continues to seek clarity of the proposed vision.

In the spring of 2009, Asbury Hills re-opened two lodges, Batson and Creekside, after they were remodeled to now host 30 adults in hotel-style bedrooms, each with private baths and beds for 1-3 people. The Dining Hall has been remodeled to update all finishes, bathrooms and furnishings. Rice Lodge for youth has been remodeled to accommodate 60 youth in bunk beds, expanded bathrooms and an expanded meeting room. The transformation of these buildings is remarkable.

Twelve new youth cabins opened in time for summer camp 2009. Each cabin sleeps 16 people with bathrooms and showers in the cabin. We have added heat and air conditioning (for those really hot nights in the mountains) so these cabins are available for year round retreat use.

Asbury Hills can now host 280 people in year round facilities. Most every week-end there are groups from across South Carolina on retreat in this beautiful setting.

In the spring of 2010, Asbury Hills will open a new seven line zipline canopy tour! Our guests can soar through the trees at 30-40' off the ground and see some incredible areas of camp. This addition makes Asbury Hills even more adventurous!

The next steps at Asbury Hills include building a new lakeside worship area. This outdoor chapel will seat 300 people and become another spiritual focus of the property. This project is not funded yet, so we need your help! If your church or a group in the church will help fund this project, please let us know. The new chapel is a \$100,000 project. Please consider giving generously so we can have an outdoor space to worship with everyone together by the summer of 2011!

After pausing the operations at Sewee Coastal Retreat Center in December 2007, the board has been seeking feedback with a feasibility study in relation to the proposed vision. The vision for this property includes building a 50 room, full service adult retreat center for groups for the purpose of spiritual renewal. The natural beauty of the coast and the water serves as a call to reflection and renewal in our faith. The vision also includes every group having access via boat to the water and access to all the culture of the Charleston and coastal area. This plan includes new rooms for lodging, dining, meeting and worship located overlooking the waterway.

The board and staff spent much of 2009 holding town hall style listening sessions and conducted an online survey. The response was very minimal to both of these efforts therefore not giving enough feedback for a valid study. The board has decided to continue to listen and have conversations in 2010 to determine an operating model that will be VIABLE and serve a VITAL ministry to United Methodist Churches in South Carolina. Questions to continue to consider include: will adult groups from churches use this property for retreat? Is capital funding for building this facility available? It is our great desire to see this vision fulfilled to serve the churches in South Carolina and the surrounding region, BUT we need feedback! The board will continue to study in 2010 and be patient in this discernment process.

For more information about our ministry, including pictures of new facilities at Asbury Hills, the summer camp or retreat ministry throughout the year, and the master plan for Sewee, see our website [www.scampsandretreat.org](http://www.scampsandretreat.org). Thank-you for your support as we seek to continue to serve the ministry of United Methodist Churches in South Carolina!

*Joe Clark, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Jody Oates, Executive Director*

## 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 re-occurring grants would be required. It is anticipated that grants are awarded in conformity to the spirit of the will of the Reverend 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 March 5, 2010 meeting, per by-laws.
2. The Board voted to change the financial management consultants from Smith Barney's Consulting Group to Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. (the new managers will adhere to the Board's philosophy on socially responsible investment management). The Board will also continue using the accounting firm of Webster Rogers, LLP.
3. For the year 2010, the Board has made available to the Board of Global Ministries the sum of \$70,000 for mission grants.
4. The Board continues to review the performance of the investment managers and the asset allocation mix for the investment assets of the Trust to confirm that the assets are properly invested to meet the Trust's investment goal of total return using a socially responsible approach.
5. Elected the following officers for 2010:

Chairperson:	Shirley C. Robinson, Esquire
Vice-Chairperson:	Rev. Joe N. Long, Jr.
Secretary:	Rev. Leatha W. Brown
Treasurer:	Rev. Maurice "Marty" Nason, Jr.

*Shirley C. Robinson, Chairperson*

## THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST *ADVOCATE*

Since the last report to the Annual Conference the *Advocate* highlights the following:

- Financial reporting method improved
- Budget analyzed with an emphasis on conservatism
- Regularly review Investment Policy and Trust Fund Assets
- Staff keeps costs to a minimum
- Increased subscription and advertising rates
- 5 Free subscriptions changed to 5 for \$25
- Pursuing & securing contracts with new advertisers
- Church plans enhanced to save churches on subscription rates
- Free one year subscription to all new church members if notified
- Looked at decreasing office space to save rental money
- Continue to promote *Advocate* one on one
- Circulation Task Force appointed
- Editor travels the Conference speaking at district meetings & churches
- Subscribers report using articles as teaching tools
- Green Theology promoted
- Articles put the spotlight on local, district, and conference events
- Good utilization of free-lancers
- *Advocate* on-line subscriptions launched
- Planning stages of a written history book for *Advocate's* 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Appraised & reframed an original Anna Worsham Richardson's painting
- New *Advocate* Banner designed
- Continuing evaluation of how the *Advocate* is perceived

Many of the above accomplishments are due to the *Advocate's* exemplary editor. It is with great regret that the board announces Emily Cooper's retirement effective June 30, 2010. Accolades across the conference continue to compliment the *Advocate* on being informing, encouraging and challenging. The editor's depth of research and clarity, as well as her strong editing skills, has been noted by many. The board formed a search committee in February to find an equally qualified editor to take the *Advocate* to the next level.

*Marilyn Murphy, Board Chairperson*

## THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during they year. This specifically included cleaning the carpet, wallpaper repairs, and some tree work. In 2010 the Conference Center parking lot will be resealed and new lines painted. For 2011 rent will remain the same for the offices in the Conference Center.

We are thankful to all those churches that paid their UM Conference Center asking in full, and encourage those that did not to make your contributions during this fiscal year.

*Dewey Campbell, Chairperson  
Anthony C. Prestipino, Treasurer  
and Director of Administration*

## 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 South Carolina Conference is engaged has brought us closer to this goal during the past year.

Our spiritual well-being is a top priority. The Spiritual Retreat was held February 26, 27, 28, 2010 at the Radisson in Columbia, SC. Three of our District Superintendents lead in one of the three Worship Services and a fourth served as the Celebrant for Holy Communion to conclude the conference. In addition, there were breakout sessions on a variety of subjects and information on SEJ and General Commission projects. It was a great weekend of men in ministry.

We continue to offer a four or five hour event around the Conference called Reaching Every Man, using *Man In the Mirror* resources.

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.

Prayer, Strength for Service devotional books, Scouting, and Feeding the Hungry continue to be major focuses of the United Methodist Men of the SC Conference. We donated over \$3000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. The prayer line is routed to our UMM Spiritual Retreat held in February, the SC Annual Conference every June, and to the SC Laity Convocation each July, and calls are answered and prayers lifted up throughout all the meetings. Training for this important ministry is always available.

We presented the 2010 SEJ G. Ross Freeman Award, a pastoral leadership award, to Rev. Clarence "Smoke" Kanipe of Mauldin UMC in Greenville. This annual award recognizes a pastor who has shown outstanding devotion to men's ministry. If you think your pastor is worthy of this award, pursue it. Take the following steps:

Go to <http://www.sejumm.org/GRELAwardNominationForm.pdf> on the web.

Review the criteria and print off an application.

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

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

*Robert E. Scarborough, Conference President  
803-730-8577 res@tds.net*

## THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Another year has come to an end and we celebrate our accomplishments. It is hard to believe that the year has come to a close. Throughout the year, my messages to you have been a way to connect our members with what is involved, and what is happening in United Methodist Women. They have reminded us how much we are doing in the name of mission and how we are taking the leap of faith to continue doing in spite of our economic situation. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and we can be no less than that.

Our first celebration of women together was Legislative Day 2009. It was held at Francis Burns UMC in Columbia. Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Thomas Bowman and Columbia District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon joined Francis Burns' UMW President Rebecca Eleazer and others in welcoming the more than 233 in attendance. Our speakers were outstanding in their presentations. They were Brenda Kneece, Kelly Davis, Dr. Oscar Lovelace, Rev. Michael McClain, Bud Ferillo, and Rev. Ken Nelson. Of the 150 evaluations returned, majority responses were positive. The committee is committed to making this day an educational and inspirational event that reflects the social action priorities established and accepted by the conference.

The Charter for Racial Justice Training for the district officers was held on February 21 at Union UMC in McBee, March 28 at St. Paul UMC in Spartanburg, and April 4 at Moncks Corner UMC in Moncks Corner. Goals for implementing at the local level were written and are to be carried out in 2010. Every district was represented at the three training sites. The districts were divided into areas of the Midlands, the Low Country and the Upstate. We have come a long way with implementing the Charter but we have a long way to go.

Spiritual Growth was held May 1-3 at Lake Junaluska. Our speaker, M. Garlinda Burton more than filled a real need through her messages and reminded us of our heritage as United Methodist Women. She stated that we all have a little light to shine. The theme was "Let Your Light Shine". As a reminder to continue shining our light, each participant was given a penlight. It was such an awesome sight to see the lights waving throughout the auditorium. Thank you to those that attended. I hope that you are making plans to attend next year. I cherish the times when we come together as a community in fellowship and worship.

Our presence was again felt at Annual Conference May 31-June 3. We filled backpacks and totes to be sent to shelters, schools and nursing facilities. Thank you for your unselfish spirit of giving.

Come Together, Be Together was held at St. Paul UMC in Florence on June 6. Our speaker, Alyce Kemp DeWitt kept us entertained with her wit and wisdom. We were delighted to have her as our speaker.

The Conference Officers along with the Study Leaders for the School of Christian Mission traveled to Owensboro, Kentucky on June 11 to prepare for our School, which was held July 23-26. The theme for this year was "Together at the Table". Every effort was made by the School team and the Study Leaders to make the School a success. Craft sales were great. The items contributed were wonderfully created and designed. The youth had their special day on August 29 at Mt. Herob UMC in Lexington. Over 70 students registered for the day. The theme was "Food, Faith and Me". The

Rev. Kempie Shepard was the Study Leader. Other members of the team served as workshop leaders and registrar. It is the hope that this event will serve as a springboard for the next year.

Our website has a new look! I encourage you to use it. I also hope that you will use it to download the Mission Echo, forms and other information that may be important to you. You will be pleased with the new look. With you downloading information from the computer, many dollars could be saved and used for mission.

May we continue to celebrate our accomplishments and tell our story because others need to hear them and we need to hear them ourselves.

In God's Service,

Mary Johnson, President

## LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY

This past year has been great for Lake Junaluska. Even in recessionary times, we were able to finish 2009 with a significant surplus. This was due to diligent planning on the part of the Board of Directors and hard work on behalf of our staff by keeping expenses under revenue. We know this past year was difficult for all annual conferences and we express appreciation of the financial support we received from your conference for Lake Junaluska ministries.

In September 2009, the Supreme Court of North Carolina ruled in Lake Junaluska's favor stating we had the legal right to charge property owners a service charge. The decision puts Lake Junaluska's Residential Services practices on firm legal ground. The court stated: "In light of the unique character of the Assembly and its long-standing history of covenant-imposed regulations, we uphold the covenants as enforceable and reverse the Court of Appeals."

We have instituted three giving societies for persons to commit annually for a 5-year period in order to enhance donations for the future. This will solidify our budget projections for the annual fund. The three societies are named after great Methodist leaders: Gilbert-Lambuth Society; Francis Asbury Society; and Susanna Wesley Society.

The Conference and Retreat Center had positive feedback from guests with its Junaluska "E" (experience) Program. The emphasis is on providing a quality hospitality experience to all persons who enjoy our ministries and campus. We are in the process of renovating Sunnyside and Mountain View Lodges by Shackford Hall. They are being air conditioned with upgraded furnishings. This will greatly enhance the youth and children's ministry.

The Ministry Event Development office at Lake Junaluska led in celebrating the fifty-five (55) years of ministry of Dr. Glenn Draper as the Director of the Junaluska Singers. He retired at the end of 2009. We are pleased that Dr. Melodie Galloway, a professor at UNC-Asheville has been hired to be the new director of the Singers.

Exciting plans for 2010 include (1) *The Jazz of Preaching – learning to preach with great freedom and joy!* August 1-4, 2010. A major preaching event for United Methodist clergy featuring three outstanding leaders along with jazz musicians from across the southeast: Heather Murray Elkins, Drew Theological Seminary; Kirk Byron Jones, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary; and Tom Long, Candler Theological Seminary; (2) *Caring for Creation* April 8-11, 2010; (3) *Lake Junaluska Peace Conference – Children at the Table of Peace*, September 19-21 plus 17-19. The 2010 focus will be on issues of young people, with Marian Wright Edelman, founder and director of the Children's Defense Fund.

SEJANAM is a wonderful platform to tell the story of Native Americans in the southeast through advocacy, education, cultural awareness, initiatives and programming. In 2009 SEJANAM hosted over 500 Native Americans representing numerous tribes from 10 of the 15 annual conferences who attended programs and events; sponsored the first highly successful Native American Women's Gathering; supported the 15th mission ministry to Montero, Bolivia; and hosted all the national Native American leadership within The United Methodist Church at the annual summer conference. We look forward to 2010 with noteworthy programs which will include the first Native American Youth Gathering, the first Native American Men's Conference, and a Roundtable Dialogue with National Leaders on Social Justice Issues.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve United Methodists around the Southeastern Jurisdiction at your conference and retreat center. Come see us in 2010!

*Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director*

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University has many stories to tell – to the nations of Africa, and the world.

During Zimbabwe's economic and political struggles of recent years, United Methodist-related Africa University continued to educate leaders for all of Africa. For a time in 2009, it was the only institution of higher education in Zimbabwe open for classes. We celebrated our 3,000<sup>th</sup> graduate with the 2009 graduating class.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, our 1,100 students represented 28 African countries. We have a substantial waiting list of students eager to attend on campus or through our emerging distance-learning curriculum.

For all of this, we thank God for the prayers and support of United Methodists. In 2009, annual conferences contributed more than \$2 million to the apportioned Africa University Fund. That represents 86 percent of the \$2.5 million goal set by the 2008 General Conference.

United Methodists' support for Africa University creates opportunities for Africans to help Africans. Our graduates are living out the United Methodist vision for the Four Areas of Focus:

**Leadership:** The Rev. Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr. is a prime example. A graduate of AU's Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance, the former advisor to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is now Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in West Africa.

**Global Health:** Bigi Ruhigita, a nurse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, earned her master's degree in public health at AU. She returned to Congo to work in a 50-bed clinic she and her siblings founded in honor of their father.

**Ministry with the Poor:** Isaiah Njumbu, a 2006 graduate, returned to Lubumbashi, DRC, to find many children orphaned because their parents died of AIDS. In response, Njumbu started the Child Action Initiative, a nongovernment organization. Today, this ministry still thrives.

**Church Growth:** The Rev. Daniel Mhone was instrumental in establishing 28 local churches in the newly established Malawi (Africa) Missionary Conference. He credits Africa University for increasing his capacity as a pastor.

In December 2009, we joyfully celebrated the inauguration of Bishop David Kekumba Yemba and professor Fanuel Tagwira as the university's third chancellor and vice chancellor.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila praised the university's dedication to Africa at our annual seminar commemorating former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Every annual conference is vital to the success of the dream that has become Africa University. Your support educates leaders in theology, agriculture, social sciences, health sciences, and peace and justice.

Grace and peace,

*Jim Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor  
for Institutional Advancement, Africa University*

## CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*, **Candler School of Theology** continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Our distinctive commitment to both *inspiring minds* and *empowering ministry* enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives, led by Dr. David Jenkins, and received several grants related to international engagement. Through one of these, Candler partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc. to send seven student interns to Mozambique, Indonesia, and the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2009. Other grants are assisting Candler in initiating a national conversation on best practices for internationalizing theological education. In spring semester of 2010, Dr. Wesley de Souza, Arthur J. Moore associate professor in the practice of evangelism, team-taught a distance education class in real time with a professor and students at a seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the first collaboration of its kind at Candler. The March 2010 visit of Roman Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service, the highest federal award a college or university can receive for its commitment to community engagement.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program, directed by Dr. Alice Rogers, continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with bold initiatives to advance our mission. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid each year. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was \$4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than \$2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students. We also established Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills. In March, we hosted our second annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler. Last year, 75 percent of the participants in Leadership Candler joined us as students in the fall. Finally, Candler has raised more than half of our \$60 million capital campaign goal.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund. Established by Frank and Helen Sherman of Jacksonville, Florida, the Sherman program has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Candler's student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity, 62 the Master of Theological Studies, 25 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations. This year we welcome two new faculty: Dr. Greg Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling, who joined us in fall 2009, and a fellow United Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Arun Jones, who joins us in fall 2010 as the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism. Candler also has produced *A Thrill of Hope*, a church resource DVD for Advent that offers a fresh take on the Christmas story, uniting art, scripture, and commentary by members of Candler's faculty. Watch a preview on our website, [www.candler.emory.edu](http://www.candler.emory.edu).

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

*Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
Candler School of Theology*

## DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

With a global financial crisis slowly abating throughout the year, Duke Divinity School successfully overcame significant financial challenges in 2009 while continuing to seek new opportunities to carry out its mission. All the while, the school maintained a hopeful outlook and a strong focus on preparing students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church, the academy, and the world.

Like most other schools across the country, Duke Divinity School saw the value of its endowment – a critical piece of our financial support – decline by more than 25 percent at the worst of the recession. In response, the school sought efficiencies and achieved significant cost savings in the last year to help keep the budget balanced.

At the same time, our community engaged in a period of intense strategic planning to position ourselves as a more flexible institution capable of meeting the needs of a changing church. In September 2009, the faculty approved an official update to our 2006 strategic plan, which aligns with our core mission and will help make the Divinity School a financially stronger institution that is better able to fulfill its role of service and witness to the Triune God by preparing faithful and effective leaders.

We are now working to implement this plan, which includes proposals for new degree programs to address broader constituencies for the Divinity School and respond missionally to the needs of the church.

New degree programs we hope to begin offering in 2011 (all of which would need to be approved by the Association of Theological Schools and Duke University by the summer of 2010) include a master of arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S.), a master of arts in Christian practice (M.A.C.P.), and a doctor of ministry (D.Min.). None of these degrees would diminish the school's commitment to existing degree programs, especially our core Master of Divinity program for local church ministers, or to residential learning. Rather, they are meant to fulfill needs of churches and individuals that we are unable to meet with our current offerings.

The M.A.C.S. is a 32-hour graduate theological degree for full-time students, to be completed over eight months of the academic year. The degree is designed for students who have an interest in serious theological study, seek to enrich their vocation, leadership, or service in the church, and want to bring theological reflection to bear on their vocation in the world.

The M.A.C.P. is a graduate theological degree that organizes learning around short-term intensive residential seminars, in conjunction with ongoing group interaction assisted by web-based learning platforms. It is designed for students who are seeking disciplined theological reflection while remaining in a full-time lay ministry context or other professional position.

The D.Min. is intended to enhance the work of Christian leaders serving in local churches, denominational positions, and other faith-based organizations through a combination of theological study, reflection on their experiences in ministry, and/or



training in organizational management. Like the M.A.C.P., the degree would be structured on a cohort model that organizes learning around short-term residential seminars as well as ongoing group interaction facilitated by web-based learning platforms. Therefore, it would allow church leaders and other professionals to pursue intensive advanced study while remaining employed on a full-time basis in their vocational settings.

As Duke Divinity School concluded this period of rigorous strategic planning, it also prepared to welcome a new dean on July 1, 2010.

L. Gregory Jones, who has served as dean of the Divinity School since 1997, was named Duke University's senior advisor for international strategy in the spring 2010 semester. Jones, who continues to oversee Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, will step down as dean at the end of June.

Richard Hays, the George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at the Divinity School, will serve as dean for a two-year term while a national search is conducted for Jones' successor. An ordained United Methodist minister, Hays is internationally recognized for his work on the letters of Paul and on New Testament ethics. Read more about this leadership transition on the Divinity School's website at [www.divinity.duke.edu/news/spotlight/senioradvisor](http://www.divinity.duke.edu/news/spotlight/senioradvisor).

Meanwhile, the Divinity School continued with its strong tradition of teaching, research, and outreach.

We were pleased to welcome a diverse, energetic, and academically strong group of new students in the fall of 2009. The median grade point average for the entering class was 3.62 out of a possible 4.0. Minority enrollment is 21 percent, and the median student age continues to be low—24 for the entire class and just 23 for the master of divinity students.

Of 151 students seeking the three-year M.Div. degree, 52 percent are United Methodist; 15 percent are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopal; and 4 percent are Presbyterian. Eighteen other denominations round out the M.Div. class.

We also entered the fourth year of our Doctor of Theology program; our Th.D. applications increased this year to more than 100. We now have 35 students enrolled in the program, and we graduated our first student in December 2009.

Early in the spring 2009 semester we launched "Faith & Leadership," the online magazine of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, which is supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. The magazine, which already has developed an enthusiastic following, aims to strengthen the practice of Christian leadership through video interviews with transformative leaders, theological reflections, in-depth articles and stories, and reading lists. Its companion blog, "Call & Response," offers a daily roundup of news and ideas, as well as commentary from several pastors, a seminary president, and experts in the sociology of religion.

Approximately 100 people participated in Duke Divinity School's first Summer Institute in 2009, a week-long program designed to cultivate a community of Christian worship, reflection and action. The Institute, led by world-class scholars and practitioners, focused on a theme of reconciliation and was titled "Shaping the Beloved Community in a Divided World." A second Summer Institute was planned for 2010.

And the Divinity School hosted numerous additional events in 2009 and early 2010 important in the life of the church as well as the academy, including ongoing meetings of our Episcopal Leadership Forum for United Methodist Bishops, a 20th anniversary celebration for our Baptist House of Studies, a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Black Seminarians Union, and numerous lectures, sermons, and panel discussions.

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

Respectfully submitted by

*Dean L. Gregory Jones*

## **GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Gammon Theological Seminary was established in 1883, first as a department of Religion and Philosophy at Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia by The Methodist Episcopal Church with the assistance of the Freedmen's Aid Society. The school was granted a charter and the name was officially changed to its present form on March 24, 1888. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield served as the first president.

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of thirteen accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historical predominantly African American theological school related to the United Methodist Church. Dr. Walter H. McKelvey is the President of Gammon Theological Seminary.

Gammon is the United Methodist component of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. The seminary is a multi-racial, multi-cultural and co-educational graduate school of theology. 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; Doctor of Ministry; Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty In Pastoral Counseling; and Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling. Dual Degrees in Christian Education and Master of Divinity; Church Music and Master of Divinity and Christian Education and Church Music.

Our range of innovative special programs provide research and learning opportunities for students and faculty, while serving society as a whole. Some of the programs are: (1) The Institute of Church Administration and Management (ICAM) supplement theological education with leadership training and administrative skills development, addressing topics such as entrepreneurial concepts, time management, organizational development, and policy formulation. (2) Black Women in Church and Society Program establishes networks among African American church women locally and nationwide through an institute, a research and resource center and seminars. (3) The Religious Heritage of the African World initiative conducts research and advocacy activities, gathers data, and examines issues related to the religious heritage of people of African descent around the Globe. (4)

Faith and The City is one module of a collaborative relationship among local Seminaries that addresses civic and community interest by engaging the public, theologians, local church leadership and their congregations in active pursuit of a spirit of mutual community and shared responsibility with its specific emphases on environmental justice and wholistic health. (5) The Womanist Scholars Program recognizes and promotes the scholarly activities of academicians who Black Women, religion and spirituality. This program enables womanist scholars to pursue a research project of their own design. Scholars are engaged in teaching, lectureships, and consultation on issues affecting Black women and religion and Black women and spirituality. This program invites two Black female scholars annually to be in residence, teach a course in the scholar's research area and develop publishable contributions to womanist works. (6) The Youth Hope Builders Academy seeks to provide high school youth an opportunity to explore their present and future lives theologically and discover ways in which their lives can contribute to a hope bearing church and society. During the program an intensive four week summer residential academy is held. A second component of the Academy is year round forums, including the Annual Youth and Family Convocation, for young people and their families, and church and community leaders focus on current issues of youth and resources for problem solving. (7) The Urban Theological Institute is an exciting initiative designed to address the need to develop effective religious and public leaders for urban transformation. The vision is to become a major partner with local churches, neighborhood, faith based organizations in the war against urban blight. (8) The Student, Local Church and Agency Internship Program functions with an opportunity for partnerships with organizations, local churches, social action and advocacy agencies, which helps prepare students and fosters a vision of excellence in ministry in general, and pastoral ministry in particular. This program seeks to accomplish its nurturing and mentoring goals through the development and utilization of strategic partners. (9) The Conference on Ministry, which is held during the Spring of each year is an opportunity for persons who feel they have been called to ministry to come and visit our campus and explore their call to ministry as they visit classrooms, engage students who are currently matriculating at the seminary and dialogue with the Financial Aid/Scholarship officers as well as the President of the seminary. This three day program stimulates and helps prospective students to clarify their call to ministry and also helps them to consider the seminary that will best help them to achieve their goals for preparing for ministry. (10) The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series were established by alumni, family and friends for Bishop Wilbur P. Thirkield and Bishop Robert E. Jones. Each person had an individual lectureship, "Thirkield's Lectureship was on Preaching and Social Services, and Interracial Goodwill." Jones family, alumni and friends established the "Alumni Lectureship". The two lectureships were combined in 1947. The Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series are held annually during Gammon's Founders' Day celebration in October.

Gammon is known as, "**The School of the Prophets**" and has trained many Bishops, District Superintendents, Annual Conference Staff Executives, General Agency Administrators, College Presidents, Preachers, Teachers, Christian Educators, Pastoral Counselors, Military, Hospital, and Children's Home Chaplains, Wesley Foundation Directors, Campus Ministers, Ministers of Music, Church Administrators, Religious Journalists and Authors, Biblical Scholars, and Social Activists the last 127 years. Our graduates hold the promise of hundred of local church ministries around the world in Africa, Asia, and India and our gifts and graces will continue to honor our historic mission and embrace its promising future. To learn more about Gammon, please visit our website at [www.gammonseminary.org](http://www.gammonseminary.org).

*Madelyn C. Greene, Alumni & Student Affairs Director  
Gammon Theological Seminary*

## THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

I asked a friend "What do you want to hear in a Cabinet Report?" and after the obligatory answer of "Do I want to hear a Cabinet Report?" they responded: "Talk about it being OK and if it is not OK talk about hope". So let me tell you a very short story. There was a small restaurant on the Isle of Palms that always served cherry tomatoes on its sandwiches and they were very fine, tiny little tomatoes with tiny little tomato seeds. At the end of each day, the trash included a few little seeds and unused cut tomatoes. The trash was tossed into cans outside the back door. In some way, a seed from a tomato fell not just out of the bag but out of the bag and into a crack in the concrete back landing. It reached dirt and sprouted into a tomato plant that pushed itself up to the sun and actually produced tomatoes. It's a true story. I saw the plant. I tasted the tomato that came off the plant. My mind had to wrap itself around the physical manifestation that against great odds this plant existed and thrived. The memory helps me always remember that in the most unusual, unlikely places, there is the presence of life and hope.

Much of the work of the Cabinet in the past year has been undertaken in the hope that the Cabinet can provide leadership for congregations and pastors who want to acknowledge and practice hopeful living. The entire Cabinet received training in Conflict Mediation from the Lombard Peace Center focused on equipping us to listen, repeat, share and move forward in times of conflict. In a week long training we received help in dealing with one of the most common of tasks for Cabinet members, working with congregations in conflict crisis. A week is not long enough to become an expert however it is long enough to develop care and caution in dealing with these fragile situations.

Working with already established policies from the Board of Ordained Ministry provided some positive momentum for identifying and working with pastors who were struggling with patterns of conflict or ineffectiveness. And the use of Natural Church Development has provided local congregations a tool that moves them into new patterns of ministry. There is a powerful hope created when a local congregation takes the survey and listens to the voices that speak out regarding places of successful ministry and other areas of needed adjustment. In the Columbia District, a local congregation in the midst of a change in pastors used the Natural Church Development tool to focus attention not on loss but on change. In nearly every circumstance using the Natural Church Development tool has created opportunities for new prayer life and new study of scripture. Many of those who have completed the survey and addressed its findings have found a new vitality in their service and in some cases - like that of Mt. Horeb - congregations have literally been transformed.

And that vitality and transformation is greatly needed. The Cabinet sees clearly the cost of ministry and the cost of ministry's absence. The cost of ministry is reflected in escalating insurance costs reflected in Direct Billing to local congregations. This realistic assessment of the costs of a local congregation's pastoral leadership has not resulted in the closing of congregations as many feared but has resulted in an increased dependence on part time pastors for whom benefits are limited.

However, the greatest cost is not confined to the local congregation's balance sheet. The ongoing economic turmoil of the past two years has lifted to the surface the spiritual and emotional challenges of many congregations. While financial cost of ministry has led to congregations who pay pastoral salary, utilities and apportionments and little else; the spirit of the congregation that yearns for a greater completion to its witness is imprisoned. And, still we are reluctant to share. Population shifts have resulted in communities unable to support a local school system but attempting to support multiple United Methodist congregations. We learned in pre-school there are costs if you do not share; teenagers do not have youth groups, the hungry don't have soup kitchens and futures are narrowed to the here and now.

Frankly, we are not a people of the here and now. Everyday we celebrate that "Sunday is coming." The Rock Hill District pastors grow weary of hearing me lecture "We are not in the maintenance business. We are in the mission business" - a statement used by Impact Church in Atlanta. It has not been business as usual. That reality has underlined much of the work of the local congregations of South Carolina and the work of its Cabinet. The celebrations and challenges have seemed sharper in this year. We have returned to the basics as individuals and congregations. We have moved among district memberships who have taken up the least of their communities and attempted to be in ministry with them not simply for them. We have gathered communities together and challenged them to see one another as partners not rivals. We have listened to the tear choked voices of people who love God and their local congregation. In the midst of the great challenges of 2009 and 2010 we have seen in the local congregations and the pastors of the South Carolina Annual Conference evidence of the power of God to provide comfort, strength and yes, hope. The Church lives on.

With the retirements of four members, the Cabinet will once again reform. On behalf of the entire Cabinet, I want to say "Thank You" to these retiring members for their wisdom and wit. Also on behalf of the Cabinet; thanks need to be said to Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor for her ever focused faith and leadership. Thank you as well to the pastors and local congregations who allow us to share ministry with you. It is a privilege.

*Sara A. White*

## NOTES