

SECTION IV

**The Journal of Proceedings
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972
Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785)
and the South Carolina Conference (1866)
Sunday, June 10, 2012 – Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Florence Civic Center
Florence, South Carolina
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Presiding
*CONFERENCE THEME:
“Invitation To A Changed Life”***

**The First Day – Sunday Evening
June 10, 2012**

Clergy Session: The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor at 5:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Taylor opened the meeting with a word of prayer. The Reverend Kenneth Nelson, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reviewed the work of the Board since the last session of Annual Conference.

The Reverend Anthony Hodge presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Clergy members were presented with a full written report for the questions. Business questions 37, 38, 40, 41, 46e, 47 and 49 were presented as information and moved to record, as no vote was required. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 29, 34, 36, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57-59 (statistical data questions calculated after clergy session) was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by Rev. Hodge as Motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was approved by more than two-thirds vote of the Clergy Session. Motion 2, authorizing the Registrar and Office of Clergy Services to make editorial changes where necessary for the Annual Conference Journal, was also approved.

The Clergy Session acted to approve each of the following Business Questions separately: 18b, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 42, 45, 46, 48, 50 and 76. Questions 32, 33, and 50 were approved by more than a two-thirds majority. Question 76 was approved by more than a three-fourths majority. Following the reading of the names of clergy who had died during the past year, as listed under question 48, Bishop Taylor offered prayer in remembrance and appreciation of their service to Annual Conference. There being no further business, several announcements were made, Bishop Taylor reminded the members of the evening worship session, thanked them for their presence and participation, and declared the clergy session adjourned.

Lay Orientation: An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5:00 PM in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with a welcome by Dr. Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader. All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures and parliamentary process of the 2012 Annual Conference. Announcements were made concerning the ordination service, the Laity Luncheon, the conference worship services, additional hand-outs, and the Laity Convocation schedule for later in the summer. Opening and closing hymns were sung.

The Opening Service of Worship began at 7:30 PM in the Civic Center with the Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presiding. The Bishop's sermon entitled "Invitation to a Changed Life" was based on Luke 5:27-32. Gathering music was provided by the South Carolina United Methodist Native American Committee. The drum groups participating were Rocky Swamp, Keepers of the Word and Southern Fireflies.

**The Second Day – Monday Morning
June 11, 2012**

At 9:00 AM, the conference began in the Civic Center with **Morning Prayer and Holy Communion**.

Following the Communion Service, the conference was called to order by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary of the Annual Conference, offered various organizational motions for the conference.

The first motion was that the tellers nominated by their District Superintendents for the 2012 Annual Conference session be elected as nominated without reading and their names be published in the 2012 Conference Journal. The following **clergy tellers** were nominated and elected: The Reverends Tony Adams, Henri A. Altman, W. Webb Belangia, V, Peter K. Bernston, John A. Bolin, Don Boshell, R.T. Bowling, III, Ollie M. Boyd, Scott Bratton, Walter Cantwell, Jacqueline Carter-Harris, Jonathan W. Donald, John W. Evans, Wade Everett, Pattie E. Gordon, Walter Harley, Judith A. Knox, James W. Lewis, Sr., William H. McCown, III, Ken Nelson, Marie Nuckles, George Olive, Richard H. Reams, Tony Richardson, Karen Richmond, George W. Scott, Arthur Vick, Merritt R. Wentz, Laura Whitt, John M. Williams, III, and William Wrighten. The following **lay tellers** were nominated and elected: Gary Ayers, Karen Ayers, Doreatha Bailey, Bill Brock, Larry Campsen, Michael Chapman, Linda Ferguson, John W. Gaither, Emily Ghassenmzadeh, Tommy Glenn, Sylvia Harris-Greene, Francis Hipp, Cindy Jolly, Sylvia Landrum, Nancy Lee, Christine McCoy, Ray McCoy, Jessica Morris, Carlie McKain, Myra Nutall, Bernetha Orr, Deborah Orvin, Donald Parrish, Pam Ridgeway, Kim Sanders, Ida Smith, and Jean Thomas.

The other organizational motions were: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2012 Annual Conference Session; and that the Conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials along with such scheduling adjustments and additions which the President and the Secretary have since made be adopted as the Agenda for the 2012 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session. These organizational amendments were approved.

Another organizational amendment was offered to make the seating areas on the floor of the Civic Center Arena, the seating in sections 209, 210, 211, 212, 313, 314, 315, and 316, together with any wheelchairs present on the floor or in the handicap area immediately behind sections 313 to 316, the platform and area surrounding the platform be designated the "bar of the conference" for all business sessions of the 2012 Annual Conference Session. All of these organizational motions were approved. C. Gordon of the Jefferson Charge, offered an amendment to the motion that all of the burgundy seats in the Civic Center be considered as the bar of the conference. The amendment was seconded but was not approved. The original organizational amendment to set the bar of the conference was approved.

The Reverend Patty Mayfield then presented the report of the **Committee on Standing Rules**. She first offered a motion to change **Rule 20** (concerning the election of boards, councils, commissions and committees) to state "no sooner than the next business day." The bishop called for a vote on Rule 20 and the change was approved. Mayfield presented a change for **Rule 30** (concerning Annual Conference positions elected quadrennially) to strike the language requiring a conference recorder. The bishop called for a vote and the change was approved. Rev. Mayfield next moved to amend **Rule 36** (concerning the term of office for those elected to all non-quadrennial boards) to read "first regular meeting." The bishop called for a vote on changing Rule 36 and it was approved.

Rev. Mayfield next presented a change in **Rule 48** (concerning the Conference Connectional Ministries) to correct a deficiency relating to Conference Connectional Ministries. The bishop called for a vote and the change was supported. Then, Rev. Mayfield requested the deletion of **Rule 60** (concerning the board of directors of the United Methodist Relief Center, Inc.) since the United Methodist Relief Center, Inc., had filed for bankruptcy and the rule is no longer necessary. The bishop called for a vote and deletion of Rule 60 was supported. It was moved to adopt the standing rules as a whole to govern the proceedings of the Annual Conference. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Marilyn Murphy, chairperson of the Board of **The Advocate**, made a presentation on the paper's 175 years of continuous publication. A new book titled "In the World, Not of the World"

details the history of the newspaper. Delegates watched a video featuring interviews with the current and former editors of The Advocate.

John Holler, president and CEO of **Epworth Children's Home**, shared information on the home's ministry. He invited delegates to register for an Epworth Sundae which includes a presentation and peanut butter ice cream.

Flo Johnson and Martha Thompson presented information on **Killingsworth Home** which is celebrating its 65th birthday and delegates were invited to share in birthday cake.

The **Reverend Ken Nelson** asked for continued prayer for the work of the **Board of Ordained Ministry** and invited the delegates to join together in celebration in the board's work. Rev. Nelson encouraged the Annual Conference to be in prayer for God to raise up future clergy for the church and to pray for those who are being licensed, ordained and commissioned. He urged pursuing a goal of moving toward excellence and that accountability is for all including clergy and churches.

He noted the Board's report and urged continued assistance in the cost of seminary education through the Ministerial Education Fund.

He then announced those who will be commissioned as provisional members in the Annual Conference, as provisional deacon, Angela Renee Johnson; as provisional elders, Heather Stewart Baird, Joshua Lee Blackwelder, Benjamin Olsen Burt, Daniel Walker Chamblee, Michael Terrance Fleming, Mallory Jean Forte, Andrew Charles Martin, Henry Lee Ravenel, Sr., David Jeffrey Roper, Redonia McKnight Thomas, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Suzanne Byrum Walker, Charles Bryson Williams, Jr., Thurmond Williams, and Andrew Roy Wolfe; and as associate member, James Edward Elder.

He then presented those to be ordained in the Annual Conference as ordained deacon, Angela Halter Marshall; as ordained elder, Brian James Arant, Edward Rossiter Chellis, Joseph Christopher Greene, Linda McDaniels Gutherie, Jerry Harrison, Jr., Willis Everette Haselden, IV, Kathy Priest Hudson, Tarnisha Varnarda Jenkins-Jackson, Stewart Dean Lollis, Genova McFadden, Millie Nelson, Luke MoonTaeg Rhyee, Terry Abner Roof, Murray Arthur Snow, Julie Dawn Songer Belman, Emily Scales Sutton, and Keith Robert Taylor.

Rev. Nelson recognized three who will be commissioned during Annual Conference who participated in the board's ministerial internship program during their time in seminary: Angela Renee Johnson, Josh Blackwelder and Ben Burt.

He then recognized those who were to be licensed as local pastors. Those are: Patricia Bundrick Amick, Scott Ray Bramlett, Henry Mat Brewington, Anne Gregory Bridgers, Kanny Angelica Bright, Henry Lee Brown, Wallace Michael Burgess, Kenneth Campbell Burr, Sr., James Derrick Cattenhead, Meredith Marie Dark, Donna Stone Eidson, Rebecca Lewis Forrest, Deborah Copley Gibson, Michael Eugene Goldston, Matthew Elliott Greer, Adrienne Jeana Hamm, Jon August Hoin, Elizabeth McKay Timms Hudson, Charles Brian Humphries, Laura-Allen Kerlin, Sheila Burrell Koger, Ann deRosset Kovan, Kevin Bruce Lindley, Otis Dewitt Livingston, Darrell Christopher McNeill, Colin Alfred Moore, Brian S. Mungo, Travis Aaron Pearson, Lynn Griggs Pennington, Louis Otto Perez, Justin Lee Ritter, Matthew Kirk Snelgrove, Frances Hillary Taylor, Steven Matthew Turner, Sylvia Freeman Watson, Carly Kirsten Wicklund, Charles Lionel Wilbanks, James Williams, Michael David Wood, and LaShelia Mack Wyatt.

He then recognized Terry Abner Roof who is transferring from deacon to elder in full connection and Mark Fulton Williams who was received as a provisional member from another Christian denomination. In addition, he recognized Coleman Lane Glaze and Valerie Knox Mireb who have been received by transfer from another annual conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Nelson also reported that the School of Pastoral Ministry now includes two 16-hour weekend session for those attending Local Pastors' School.

Rev. Nelson then presented a change to XXI. Financial aid through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF). The change would delete the language directly relating to Duke and Candler. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved. In another change, Rev. Nelson presented a change to MEF Policy 2 (striking the language concerning full-time students) and MEF Policy 4 (striking the language concerning a needs formula). The bishop called for a vote and the changes were approved.

Following these presentations, Rev. Nelson recognized Rev. Timothy Rogers and Bonnie Speas for their work with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Delegates then heard a presentation from the Black College Fund with students and representatives talking about their experiences at Claflin University.

Following the presentation, at 11:15 a.m., delegates elected the **Quadrennial Conference officers**. The Reverend Timothy McClendon was elected to serve as parliamentarian; **Kay G. Crowe** was elected to serve as Conference Chancellor; the Reverend Karen Radcliffe was elected to serve as Secretary of the Conference; the Reverend Dean Lollis, the Reverend J.C. Lane and the Reverend Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes were elected to serve as assistant secretaries.

Following the elections, the Reverend Mike Bowers, chair of the **Committee on Nominations**, presented its report. Rev. Bowers offered several additions and modifications to the list of nominees. Valerie D. Brooks was nominated to a second term on the Council of Finance and Administration. The Reverend Jeremy Lawton Howell was nominated to serve as chairperson of the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Mary Johnson was nominated to serve on the Committee on Congregational Development. Jennifer Pettit was nominated to serve as the Bishop's lay nominee on the Committee on the Episcopacy. Rev. Bowers asked for the Annual Conference to suspend Rule 68 to allow the Reverend Curtis James Young to serve as the chair of the Committee on Nominations. The bishop asked for a vote and it was approved.

William McLary Wrighton, Skyler Nimmons and R. Phillip Stone were nominated to serve on the Advocate Trustees. Arch Yeager was nominated to the Belin Property Trustees. On the Committee on Investigation, Rev. Robert Wayne Horne was removed from the nominees, Rev. Clarence Earl Kanipe was listed as a clergy nominee and Rev. Hazel Bennett was nominated as a clergy alternate.

The Reverend Ed McDowell and Mr. Tony Prestipino then presented the report of the **Council on Finance and Administration**. The budget presented for 2013 represents a 1.8 percent decrease from 2012. Then, Rev. McDowell presented Mr. Prestipino for re-election as the Conference Treasurer. The Bishop called for a vote and Mr. Prestipino was reelected.

Ms. Betty Walker, chair of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**, called attention to two resolutions found in the preconference package: "A Resolution to Encourage Companies That do Business with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church to Change Their Policy on Outsourcing Jobs" and "A Resolution to Recognize Fifty Years of Service by the Alston Wilkes Society." A third resolution titled, "Resolution for Tobacco Free Places of Worship", was made available at the tables.

Ms. Walker reminded the body that any additional resolutions must be submitted to the Committee when it met that afternoon following the close of the business session, and copies must be provided by the author by next day's business session. Action on the resolutions was scheduled for Tuesday.

The Reverend Timothy Rogers presented the **Consent Calendar** as found in the pre-conference materials and directed the attention of the body to the Petition to Remove items from the Consent Calendar. He stated that 15 signatures are needed to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. He reminded the body that the items on the Consent Calendar were scheduled to be voted on during the Tuesday business session.

The Reverend Paul Harmon presented the **Report of the District Study Task Force**. He stated that the committee had met for the past year, had spent time in prayer, reviewed information on the districts and interviewed pastors from across the state. He said that with all of the data in the hand that the committee did not yet have a redistricting plan to present. The committee did not know what actions would be taken by General Conference and how those would impact the task, and, he said, the committee is still receiving information from General Conference action. In addition, the District Offices are connected to the Conference connectional structure. In light of this information, the Task Force offered additional recommendations:

- That the Annual Conference authorize the Task Force to continue its study for the 2012-2013 conference year.
- That the Task Force be authorized to expand the study to include all conference and district staff positions, offices and the conference organizational structure, particularly in light of new legislation coming out of General Conference.

- That unexpended funds authorized by the 2011 conference for the work of the Task Force be carried over, and that an additional \$5,000 be budgeted for the Task Force for the 2012-2013 conference year.
- That the Task Force provide the next annual conference a comprehensive report on its findings and its recommendations for action.

The bishop called for a vote and the motion from the Task Force was supported.

The Annual Conference then adjourned for a lunch break.

The Second Day – Monday Afternoon June 11, 2012

At 2:00 PM, the Annual Conference Memorial Service was held. Dr. Charles Johnson, Greenville District Superintendent, preached the sermon for the service. Liturgist for the service was Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. The opening hymn was "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" and the closing Hymn was "When We All Get to Heaven." Special music was provided by the Mass Choir of the Pee Dee.

The following deceased ministers, spouses and others were remembered during the Memorial Service. **Active Ministers** remembered were Marian Ruthe Woodle Dyer and Sandra Hardin Hatchell. **Retired Ministers** remembered were Lemuel Corydon "Brother" Carter, George Summers Duffie, Jr., Donald Franklin Funderburk, Vincent Francis Halter, Jr., John Gerald Hipp, Joseph McAllister, Sr., John Winifred Robinson, and Oscar Allan Rogers, Jr. **Retired Diaconal Minister** remembered was William Brant Mills. **Spouses** remembered were Nancy Lois Reese Cleasby, Patricia Campbell Cribb, Barbara Huggins Dean and Margaret "Margie" Gibson Williams. **Surviving Spouses** remembered were Virginia Piper Claytor, Ellen V. Richburg Croker, Dorothy Johns Crouch, Beulah Maye "Billie" Chapman Davis, Nadeen Williams Dickert, Vera Allison Garris, Vivian Etheridge Gregg, Margaret Ormond Hardin, Roberta Clark Horne, Margaret Miller Jenkins, Ruby Louise Jones, Blanche Allen Mirse, Gertrude O'Neal Patrick, Eugenia Cleo Wescoat Sandlin, Carrie Louise Baily Singletary, and Lillian Lewis Wilson. **Others** remembered included G. Walter "Walt" Forrester.

At the close of the service, the session was in recess until **Dr. Gil Rendle** presented a teaching session. Following the teaching session, the afternoon business session resumed at 4:30 PM.

The Reverend Sara White presented the **Report of the Cabinet**. She noted that when the South Carolina Census data was reported in 2011, less than five of the state's 46 counties did not experience an increase in those living in poverty. In contrast, she noted that Charleston is the eighth fastest growing city in the United States. "These are realities that will transform the work of the conference," she said. "Every local congregation is going to have to look within itself and see where its lives are able to come into the lives of the people around it."

She said that congregations must continue to stay focused on connection and continue to work to build bridges. One of those bridges, she said, was Vital Congregations and many found within this work the language to discuss what is meant by ministry. This past year has represented a time of transition, she said. Changes have come in the Cabinet. Dr. Joe Heyward is completing his service as Conference Lay Leader, the Reverend Timothy Rogers is completing his term as Secretary of the Conference. The Reverend Willie Teague and the Reverend Charles Johnson are retiring, and the Reverend Ernest Etheridge has completed his term as district superintendent.

Rev. White presented the report of the Cabinet for approval. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

Mr. Herman Lightsey and the Reverend David Anderson presented the Report of the **Board of Pension and Health Benefits**. Mr. Lightsey presented information on the new Clergy Retirement Security Plan. In this plan, he said, defined benefits and defined contributions have not changed. He reported that General Conference had realigned the CRSP to make it more financially viable for the future and to encourage clergy to participate in saving for their retirement beginning in 2014. Mr. Lightsey said that mandatory participation by part-time clergy will be decided at the annual conference level in 2014 and beyond.

In addition, Mr. Lightsey reported that insurance rates for active clergy and retirees will increase by one percent in 2013 and an optional, consumer-driven plan will continue to be offered for 2013. He stated that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will look into options for retiree healthcare in the future including consumer-driven plans, market-based plans and market insurance exchanges.

Rev. Anderson presented **Report One** which sets \$705 per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers. In addition, the report contained a resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired or disabled clergypersons in the S.C. Annual Conference. The bishop called for a vote and the report was approved.

Then, Rev. Anderson presented **Report Two** (2013 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget) and moved it for adoption. The bishop called for a vote and the report was supported. Next, **Report Three** (South Carolina Annual Conference Funding Plan for Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program) was presented and moved for adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Rev. Anderson then moved to the **Group Insurance Section** of the report. **Report One** was presented and moved for adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved. Rev. Anderson presented **Report Two** (Major Medical Insurance Benefits) and moved for its adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported. Next, Rev. Anderson presented **Report Three** (Medicare Benefits) and moved for its adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Rev. Anderson then presented **Report Four** (Administrative Procedures) and noted that if participants want to enroll in the Flexible Spending Account, they must do so during the open enrollment period. He then moved for adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved. Next was the presentation of **Report Five** (Group Health Insurance Operating Budget). Rev. Anderson moved for its adoption. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Rev. Anderson then presented **Report Six** (2013 Group Health Care Costs) and stated that there would be one percent increase in active premiums. He moved the report for adoption. The Reverend John Hipp, Orangeburg District Superintendent, asked for some information on the impact of unpaid direct billing. Rev. Anderson stated that the conference receives approximately 95 percent of the payments for direct billing and that options are being explored that could offer more insurance options. After the questions, the Bishop called for a vote and the motion was supported. Rev. Anderson then made the motion to adopt the report of the Board of Pensions and Benefits as a whole. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Dr. Joe Heyward, Conference Lay Leader, then offered a report from the **Annual Conference's delegation to General Conference**. He stated that he was proud of the delegation and the ways in which they carried out their responsibilities. He highlighted some of the work of the General Conference including the Plan UMC restructuring effort that was ruled unconstitutional. In addition, he said there are no changes in the language on issues of homosexuality and the effort to create a set-aside bishop failed. In addition, Dr. Heyward talked about the proposal to end guaranteed appointments for clergy which passed on the consent calendar and a judicial decision on the vote is pending. General Conference approved a budget of \$600.3 million which is a reduction from the previous quadrennium. The numbers, he said, include \$5 million for theological education in the central conferences and more funding for the recruitment of young clergy. In addition, he said, the United Methodist Women now has independent status. In other business:

- The majority of the general boards reduced the number of board members.
- The name of Lay Speaking Ministries changed to Lay Servant Ministries.
- A new clergy trial process was approved.
- Future delegations from the US will be reduced because of increased membership in Central Conference.
- The UMC entered into full communion with AME, AME Zion, CME, and Union American Episcopal Church.
- The UMC held an act of repentance.

Dr. Heyward presented a list of nominations for the jurisdictional pool. He moved for adoption of this list and the bishop called for a vote. It was approved. Dr. Heyward then reported that

members of the 2012 delegation have nominated the Reverend Tim McClendon as the conference's Episcopal Candidate. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Dr. Heyward moved for the approval of the entire report. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Following the report and announcements from the conference, The Reverend Cathy Jamieson-Ogg asked for a point of personal privilege. She asked that the conference send greetings and appreciation to Dr. Carolyn Whitson who is retiring from Columbia College.

The bishop reported that attendance at the Annual Conference was 1,622 so far. In addition, \$18,607 was collected in the offering for "Imagine No Malaria."

The annual conference went into recess at 5:35 PM for a dinner break.

The Second Day – Monday Evening June 11, 2012

Following the dinner break, Dr. Gil Rendle preached for the evening worship service. An offering was collected for **Imagine No Malaria**. The Reverend Emily Sutton served as the liturgist, and **IGNITED** of Mt. Hebron UMC in West Columbia provided the worship music.

The Third Day – Tuesday Morning June 12, 2012

The day started with a teaching session from Dr. Gil Rendle at 8:30 AM in the Civic Center.

After a short recess, the session resumed with Awards, Presentations and Recognitions of the various boards and agencies. The Reverend Kristen Richardson-Frick announced the award recipients, and they were greeted by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. The **Denman Evangelism Award** was given to the Reverend Robert Lee and Mr. Michael Cheatham. The **T. Dennis Smith Scholarship** recipients were Brian Edward Preveaux and Martha Ann Nichols. The **Seminary Students Scholarships** recipients were William Wallace Culp, Rhonda Penelope Jones and Elizabeth Adams Murray. Dr. Steven Morgan received the **Barbara Boultinghouse Bridgebuilders Award**. Bette Ann Hedden received the **Bessie Bellamy Parker Scholarship**. This year's **Students in Mission** workers are: Camp Providence (Anderson) – Dustin Simon, Pamela Cooper and Victoria Spurlock; La Puerta de Esperanza: Salina Reinhardt and Nolan Moore; and Rural Mission, Inc. (John's Island): Deontez Wimbley, Alyssa David and Jennifer Hall. **Herbert Hucks Awards** were given to Pisgah (Aynor), Broad Street (Clinton), Mountain View (Taylors), Tabernacle (Lancaster), St. James/Burgess Community (Myrtle Beach), and Campobello (Spartanburg). The **2012 Publication Award Recipient** was the Reverend Roger M. Grambling, author of *John Wesley and the Beginnings of Methodism*. Friendship of the Liberty Chapel-Friendship Church in Florence was honored as **Bicentennial Church**. Honored as **Centennial Churches** were Lawrence Chapel (Anderson District), Lewis Memorial (Greenwood District), Lowell Street (Greenwood District), Bethel (Hartsville District), New Providence (Hartsville District), Aynor (Marion District), Main Street (Orangeburg District), Chesnee (Spartanburg District) and El Bethel (Spartanburg District).

The **Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award** was presented to the Reverend Alonza Jones, clergy recipient, and Lee McMillan, lay recipient. **2012 Bishop's Awards of Excellence** for Scouting were presented to Boy Scout Troup 750 (Stallsville, Charleston District), Cub Scout Pack 397 (Asbury Memorial, Columbia District), Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2323 (Red Bank, Columbia District), Girl Scout Brownie Troop 2378 (Red Bank, Columbia District), Girl Scout Junior Troop 2316 (Red Bank, Columbia District), Cub Scout Pack 518 (Red Bank, Columbia District), Boy Scout Troop 518 (Red Bank, Columbia District), Cub Scout Pack 190 (Trinity, Orangeburg District), and Boy Scout Troop 190 (Trinity, Orangeburg District). The South Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist Men presented **James Awards** to Dr. Charles Johnson, Sr., Dr. Tim McClendon and Dr. Joseph Heyward.

Recipients of the **Bishop's Five-Star Award of Excellence** were: Antioch (Easley), Asbury (Lynchburg), Bethel (Columbia), Bethel/St. Stephen (Wando), Bluffton (Bluffton), Boone (Summerville), Chapin (Chapin), Cherokee Springs (Spartanburg), Clemson (Clemson), Ebenezer (Longs), Greater St. Paul (Cross), Grove Hall (Summerville), India Hook (Rock Hill),

Landrum (Landrum), Lebanon (Eastover), Little River (Little River), Mt. Beulah (Sumter), Mountain View (Greer), Mt. Zion (Bishopville), New Hope (Sumter), St. Mark (Seneca), St. John (Lynchburg), St. Luke/Walhalla (Walhalla), St. Mark (Greenwood), Suber-Marshall Memorial (Columbia), Surfside (Surfside Beach), Trenton (Trenton), Wampee (Little River), Wesley (Hartsville), Wesley/Pinopolis (Moncks Corner), Wightman (Prosperity).

Following the awards presentation, the body went into a brief recess before the business session resumed.

Then, Mrs. Betty Moss McGuirt offered a report on the **Publishing House**. She highlighted the GROW curriculum for children and reported that the Cokesbury Store in Columbia has been remodeled and will have a grand re-opening in September.

Following this report, the delegates watched a video on **Lake Junaluska** and appreciation was expressed to the board members of Lake Junaluska.

The Reverend Roger Grambling requested a point of personal privilege to reflect on the end of the 1785 and 1866 Conferences and the formation of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Point of Personal Privilege – Roger M. Gramling

Bishop Taylor and Members of the Conference, forty years ago last week I was admitted “on trial” in the South Carolina Conference (1785). While that was a most significant event in my own life, it was insignificant when compared to what was happening in the life of Methodism in South Carolina forty years ago last week.

On Monday morning June 5, 1972, the South Carolina Conference (1866) convened at 11:00 am in Leonard Auditorium on the campus of Wofford College for the one hundred seventh and last session of that Conference. Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., presided. The Reverend John D. Boone, Jr., was the Secretary. That session conducted all the necessary and concluding business of the conference and adopted a “Resolution of Transfer” to a new South Carolina Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Special words of appreciation were expressed for the Reverend John W. Curry, Sr., who had served twenty years as Treasurer of that Conference. Dr. Curry read an historical statement remembering the 106 years of the Conference’s history.

On Monday afternoon June 5, 1972, the South Carolina Conference (1785) convened at 2:30 pm in the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium for the one hundred eighty-seventh and last session of that Conference. Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., presided. The Reverend Dr. Allan R. Broome was the Secretary. That session conducted all the necessary and concluding business of the conference and adopted a “Resolution of Transfer” to a new South Carolina Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Hardin made a statement regarding the new conference, after which the Conference was permanent adjourned.

Then, on Monday evening, June 5, 1972, forty years ago last week, Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., convened the membership of the two South Carolina Conference, 1785 and 1866, at 7:30 pm in Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium for an Order of Worship uniting the two conferences into a new South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The processional for that Service was led by Colonel Roy C. Moore and the Reverend Omega F. Newman who had chaired the Committees on Merger of the respective conferences. Representatives of various groups of the two Conferences (laity, clergy, youth, and the Women’s Society of Christian Service) along with the Executive Officers of the two conferences and the two cabinets formed the procession. Joining Bishop Hardin in the procession, was Bishop James S. Thomas, then resident bishop of the Iowa Area, who was a native son of South Carolina and had been a member of the 1866 Conference at the time of his election in 1964. Bishop Thomas had been invited to be the preacher for the evening. The service opened with the singing of “O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing.” Following Bishop Thomas’s sermon, the readiness for union was declared by Mr. Moore and Mr. Newman; then the representatives of each group affirmed their unity in the United Methodist Church and in the South Carolina Conference. Then, Bishop Hardin led all members of the two conferences in the words: “We are united in Christ. We are united in the United Methodist Church. Now we are united in the South Carolina Annual Conference.” Then, Bishop Hardin spoke the “Declaration of Union” after which the now one conference sang the Doxology. There followed prayers for the Church, and the service concluded with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

June 5, 1972 – the day had begun with two South Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church. The day ended with one South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. As Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., our Conference Historian, has noted the day was a day of “much sentiment and some uncertainty.” While much remained to be done to effect merger, this was at the very least the end of the beginning. Today we would remember the fortieth anniversary of that beginning and many faithful servants of the church, most of whom are now gone, who labored to bring that day to reality.

Bishop Taylor, I would ask that these brief remarks be entered into the *Journal of Proceedings*, and I would encourage the Conference to look toward an appropriate recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the South Carolina Conference (1972) as the 2022 session is being planned. I would also ask that any here today, lay and clergy, who were present for the 1972 Sessions of the South Carolina Conference in Spartanburg be invited to stand and be recognized.

The conference then heard a report on **Hatcliffe UMC** in Harare, Zimbabwe and watched a video on the work that is going on there. A work team from the conference is travelling there in July and there will be a dedication of the church’s new worship space.

It was reported that donations for the Imagine No Malaria offering now total more than \$29,000.

Following a brief recess, the conference held a service for the **Recognition for Retiring Ministers and the “Passing of the Mantle.”** Bishop Taylor presided and a video message of interviews with retiring ministers provided the message for the service. Those retiring included: Howard Donald Addis, John M. Bauknight, William Harleston Bynum, John Scott Cloninger, Jr., Kenneth Roy Correll, Frederick Ronald Davis, Jimmy Wayne Dillard, Lowry Tresslar Drennen, Roger Charles Goupil, Lawrence Foy Hays, Arthur Hardin Holt, Charles Luther Johnson, Sr., William Alfred Jones, Patrick Hamilton Kelly, Roye Lynn Kulik, William Morgan Lewis, Jr., Patricia Caldwell McCain, George Alfred McClennan, William Terry Mitchell, Roger Wayne Pearce, Cyrus Dawsey Rogers, Bobbie Opal Taylor, Willie Senn Teague, Elizabeth Ann Thompson, Jack Christopher Washington, Lloyd Earl White, William Thomas Wicker, and David Walker Williamson. The Reverends George A. McClennan (Retiring) and Ross Chellis (Entering) represented the classes in the service of the “Passing of the Mantle.”

The Third Day – Tuesday Afternoon June 12, 2012

Following a recess for lunch, Dr. Gil Rendle held a teaching time at 2:00 PM in the Civic Center. Following a brief recess, the business session began at 3:20 pm with announcements from the Reverend Timothy Rogers.

Rev. Rogers then presented the **Consent Calendar** for adoption. He announced the report of **Camps and Retreat Ministries** had been removed from the Consent Calendar. He then moved the Consent Calendar for adoption. Bishop Taylor called for a vote and it was supported.

The Reverend Smoke Kanipe and Mr. Arthur Spriggs offered the report of the **Committee for Camps and Retreat Ministries**. Rev. Kanipe reported that the mission statement of the committee is that “We exist for Christian birth, growth and renewal.” Rev. Kanipe reported that Asbury Hills, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a camp, has seen a 15 percent increase in registrations for the year. The report included a video on the camp program. Mr. Spriggs reported that there are three options for the Sewee site: (1) developing it into a year-round retreat center for \$8 million; (2) trading the Sewee property for something that will work out better for the conference; or (3) Sell the Sewee property.

The Reverend Tommy Wilkes asked questions about the high price of developing Sewee and asked if there was an interest in building this into an affordable retreat center. Rev. Wilkes asked to propose a motion but the bishop said that this falls under the work of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries. After more questions about the Sewee property, it was moved to accept the report of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

The Reverend John Holler of Epworth announced that Carol Stackhouse Hall, Debra Williams and David Lupo were the winners of Epworth Sundae Sundays.

Mrs. Cynthia Williams presented the report of the **Conference Connectional Ministries**. In her opening remarks, Mrs. Williams described the current situation for United Methodist Church as being in the wilderness. "We can together affirm that God does his best work in the wilderness," she said. "We can trust God to reform us and make us new." She stated that our Connectional Ministries can frame our ministry in Scripture and prayer and that God can recycle and renew.

The Reverend Willie Teague praised the work of Ms. Earline Ulmer for Connectional Ministries. He stated that Ms. Ulmer brought prayer, spiritual discernment and reflection in the process of changes for Connectional Ministries. He stated, "Whatever success we've had as a result of reshaping Connectional Ministries comes with Earline's prayers and leadership."

Rev. Teague stated that the restructuring of South Carolina's Connectional Ministries was presented to the Judicial Council and the council ruled that, while the majority of effort was in compliance, there were five places that were not in compliance. According to Rev. Teague, actions on the first day of conference were designed to bring the restructuring effort into compliance. South Carolina will prepare a report to the Judicial Council and the council will review the actions and rule on compliance in October, according to Rev. Teague.

He moved that the conference receive the report of Connectional Ministries. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Mr. James Salley, member of Edisto Fork UMC, made a presentation on **Africa University** and its 20th anniversary. Salley reported that 382 students graduated the previous Saturday and this class represented 19 countries in Africa. So far, he said, 4,862 students have graduated from Africa University. He presented a video featuring some of those whose lives have been changed by the school. He moved that the report be accepted by the conference. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Dr. Ken Mufuka then presented the report of the **Commission on Equitable Compensation** and talked about the committee's work. He presented **Report 1** and moved for its acceptance. The Bishop called for a vote and it was supported. The Reverend Jeremy Howell presented **Report 2, A.1**, with a change reducing the request from \$583,400 to \$556,000. He stated that this reduction was a result of new church starts that did not happen. The bishop called for a vote and the report was approved.

Rev. Howell presented **Report 2, A2** with no changes. The bishop called for a vote and the report was approved. He stated the rate for mileage in **Report 2, N**, is set at 55.5 cents per mile and the Continuing Education level in **Report 2, O**, is set at \$750 in 2013. Rev. Howell then moved that the entire report be approved. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported.

Dr. Susan Henry Crow presented the **Report of the United Methodist Theological Schools**. The presentation included a video presentation about Candler.

Then, Rev. Mike Bowers presented the slate of nominations from the **Committee on Nominations**. He moved that the nominations be accepted. There were no questions from the floor and Bishop Taylor called for a vote. The nominations were accepted.

Rev. Bowers asked for a point of personal privilege and described the nomination process and how input is sought to fill positions. He described the process as an ongoing conversation of how to find the best people to serve in the right places.

Ms. Betty Walker, chairperson of the **Committee on Resolutions**, presented the resolutions for consideration by the annual conference. Ms. Walker first presented "**A Resolution to Recognize 50 Years of Service by the Alston Wilkes Society**" and reported that the committee concurred with this resolution. The bishop called for a vote and this resolution was approved as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE
FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
BY THE ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY**

Whereas, Reverend Eli Alston Wilkes, Jr., a United Methodist Minister, founded The South Carolina Therapeutic Association in 1962 to provide rehabilitative services to adults released from correctional facilities in South Carolina; and

Whereas, Reverend Wilkes and volunteers ran the agency for a year and a half before his death; and

Whereas, upon the death of Reverend Wilkes, the agency was renamed the Alston Wilkes Society in recognition and appreciation for his extraordinary vision and leadership; and

Whereas, volunteers ran the agency for the next two and a half years until Parker Evatt was named the first Executive Director, a position he held for 21 years before being named Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, and

Whereas, Anne Walker was subsequently named Executive Director, a position she has held for 25 years; and

Whereas, throughout the years of outstanding leadership by Reverend Wilkes, Parker Evatt, and Anne Walker, all United Methodists, the Society has expanded the scope of its service to now provide offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at-risk youth, veterans, and their families the tools they need to become productive citizens; and

Whereas, the assistance and guidance provided by the Alston Wilkes Society since its beginning has helped more than 300,000 clients rebuild their lives for a safer community;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2012 Annual Conference of the South Carolina United Methodist Church offers its heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Alston Wilkes Society on the Fiftieth Anniversary of its service to the community and State; and

And Be It Further Resolved, That the 2012 Annual Conference urges its churches and members to continue their support of the Alston Wilkes Society with financial contributions, volunteer hours, and other gifts deemed essential by the agency.

*Submitted by
Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church*

Ms. Walker then presented “**A Resolution to Encourage Companies that Do Business with the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to Change Their Policy of Outsourcing Jobs.**” Ms. Walker reported that the committee concurred with the resolution. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved by the body as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE COMPANIES THAT DO BUSINESS
WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO CHANGE THEIR POLICY OF OUTSOURCING JOBS**

Whereas, The unemployment rate in the United States is currently over 8%, which is equivalent to over 13 million residents, and

Whereas, The unemployment rate in South Carolina is currently over 9%, which is equivalent to over 200,000 residents, and

Whereas, Outsourcing is designed to employ cheap foreign labor without benefits for the purpose of increasing profits, and

Whereas, The family structure is severely challenged with the loss of income, becoming dependent upon support from government agencies, food banks, and faith-based institutions which are becoming more drained of resources and the ever increased numbers of homeless fill the streets, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church stands in strong opposition to the companies that are outsourcing jobs and are headquartered in the United States and that the South Carolina Conference does business with, and be it further

Resolved, That the CEOs and Board of Directors of all companies with which the South Carolina Conference does business be contacted by the Bishop to state our opposition and to encourage policy changes.

*Respectively Submitted by
Rev. J. Robert Huggins, St. John UMC, Sumter*

Ms. Walker then presented a “**Resolution for Tobacco Free Places of Worship**” and she reported that the committee concurred with the resolution. Billy Martin, a lay delegate from Enoree, spoke in opposition to the resolution. Charlotte Black, a lay delegate from Honea Path, asked a question concerning the resolution and its proposed reach. The Reverend Amari Hooker, the author of the resolution, stated that the intention is to encourage members to begin the education process in regards to tobacco products and this was not an effort to limit personal choice. The bishop called for a vote and the resolution was supported as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR TOBACCO-FREE PLACES OF WORSHIP

Whereas, The **2012 Surgeons General Report** and the **2009 SC Youth Tobacco Survey** reveal tobacco use is the single leading preventable cause of death, annually killing more people than alcohol, car accidents, AIDS, murder, suicide, and illegal drugs combined; and no amount of secondhand smoke is safe;

Whereas, Each year in South Carolina an estimated 6,100 adults die from their own smoking, and about 790 adults, children and infants die from others' smoking (secondhand smoke and pregnancy smoking);

Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 80% of tobacco users initiate use before they are 18; and in South Carolina, more than 6,300 youth under age 18 become new daily smokers each year;

Whereas, If current smoking patterns are not reduced, an estimated 103,000 S.C. children who are living today will die prematurely as adults from a smoking-related illness;

Whereas, Secondhand smoke contains poisons and causes heart disease, lung cancer, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), low birth weight and lung problems in infants and children, and may cause disease in other parts of your body;

Whereas, Tobacco and/or secondhand smoke disables and kills, the United Methodist Churches (UMC) sees the responsibility for protecting all congregational members and community residents in their charge from dangerous products;

Whereas, The official position of the United Methodist Church on the use and misuse of Alcohol and Tobacco, as well as other drugs, can be found in the Social Principles of the UMC, which state:

“The use of tobacco is another form of drug abuse, even though it is legal. Overwhelming evidence links cigarette smoking with lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. In addition, cigarette smoking can negatively affect a developing fetus, and secondary smoke is a known carcinogen. The United Methodist Church discourages all persons, particularly children, youths and young adults, from using any form of tobacco.” (2004 Book of Resolutions, “Drug and Alcohol Concerns: Tobacco,” ¶83 II) Scriptural Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:13-20

Whereas, The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church acknowledges that tobacco is a sacred plant among Native Americans and used in some sacred ceremonies. We acknowledge Native Americans believe that if a sacred plant is abused, we risk spiritual disconnection and thus Native Americans support that any use of tobacco that occurs outside of sacred ceremony is an affront to the Creator;

Whereas, The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church believes that tobacco misuse use and exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco smoke) are hazardous to the health of human beings, especially children, it affirms that one of the best places of worship is one that is provided within a 100% tobacco product-free environment;

Be it resolved, The Advocacy Team of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will work with Mothers Eliminating Secondhand Smoke (M.E.S.S.) – a collaborative effort of Hold Out the Lifeline: A Mission to Families, DHEC and the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative- which promotes the adoption and enforcement of 100% tobacco – and smoke-free policies in homes, vehicles, schools, recreational facilities and faith-based organizations;

Be it also resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage congregations to adopt a Model Tobacco Use Policy for Faith Based Organizations that address preventing tobacco use other than during sacred ceremonies within faith-based settings which encompasses prohibiting tobacco misuse in the entire facility, all vehicles, parking lots, and at any of its sponsored events and functions on or off its property, by all people (pastors, employees, members, visitors, contractors, delivery drivers, etc.);

Be it further resolved, That the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage its leadership to develop policies supporting stricter regulation of tobacco, an increase in tobacco prevention programs, a ban on all fruit or candy-flavored tobacco products and work to stop tobacco advertising, especially that which targets young people and minorities.

Sponsored by
Conference Connectional Ministries Advocacy Area
Convener Rev. Amiri B. Hooker

The Reverend Ed McDowell and Mr. Tony Prestipino then presented the **report of the Council on Finance and Administration**. Bishop Taylor asked if the body was willing to suspend house rule 21 to complete the business of this report. The Reverend Charles Johnson made the motion to suspend the rule, the bishop called for a vote and it was supported. Rev. McDowell and Mr. Prestipino moved that the report of the Council on Finance and Administration be adopted in total. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

Dr. Joe Heyward followed with the report of the **Conference Lay Leader**. Dr. Heyward reported there are continuing efforts to provide opportunities for laity to improve their skills and to learn how to do their jobs more effectively within the local church. He stated that the church must continue to take growth seriously and that what we learn on the inside of the church must be taken outside the church. Dr. Heyward said that the lay leadership of the church remains concerned about the economic situation in the United States and church leadership needs to provide ways to support churches that are seeking to grow in giving. Dr. Heyward stated that his term is concluding, and Carolyn Briscoe made a motion to accept Barbara Ware as Conference Lay Leader, Jenny Rawlings as Secretary and Donald Love as Associate Conference Lay Leader. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

Following the vote, Barbara Ware was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as lay leader of the Greenville District. Dr. Heyward then presented the list of nominees for District Lay Leaders. The bishop called for a vote and they were approved.

The Reverend Tim McClendon then presented the **resolutions to discontinue or abandon churches**. The first resolution was to authorize the conveyance of the property of the discontinued Sharon UMC in the Anderson District. Before the vote, Rev. McClendon was asked to address the steps that were taken to keep churches from closing. Rev. McClendon reviewed the procedure and stated that churches are discontinued by their own action. "As long as there are members who want to be a church and to serve God faithfully, the annual conference does not have a plan to close those churches," Rev. McClendon said. The bishop called for a vote on the resolution to convey the property and it was approved as follows:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
THE CONVEYANCE OF THE PROPERTY
OF THE DISCONTINUED
SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Anderson County, South Carolina
Anderson District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, During its annual session in June 2011, the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference") adopted a resolution ("Discontinuation Resolution") declaring Sharon United Methodist Church ("Sharon UMC") discontinued; and

Whereas, The Discontinuation Resolution directed the District Superintendent of the Anderson District ("Anderson District Superintendent") to attempt to locate a suitable caretaker church for the real property of the discontinued Sharon UMC ("Property"), which includes a cemetery, from within the South Carolina Conference or within a denomination represented in the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union; and

Whereas, The Anderson District Superintendent was unable to locate a caretaker church within the South Carolina Conference, but she has determined that the religious denomination known as The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ("CME Church") (a Pan-Methodist denomination) is interested in the Property; and

Whereas, The Carolina Annual Conference of the CME Church has expressed an intention to use the Property in furtherance of its ministry efforts in upstate South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Anderson District Superintendent recommends that the Property be conveyed to the Carolina Annual Conference, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents concur with the recommendation of the Anderson District Superintendent; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby authorizes the conveyance of the Property to the Carolina Annual Conference, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated, or any other entity of the CME Church designated by that denomination; and be it further

Resolved, That, if any funds remain from the discontinuation of Sharon UMC, those funds shall be distributed to Kairos Prison Ministries and to the conference Committee on Congregational Development for the redevelopment of local churches within the South Carolina Conference in accordance with the wishes expressed by the former congregation of the discontinued Sharon UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference are authorized to take all actions necessary to convey the Property in accordance with this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That any two officers of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the conveyance and transfer of the Property in accordance with this resolution.

Presented by:
The Appointive Cabinet

Next, Rev. McClendon presented a resolution to discontinue Orrville UMC in the Anderson District. The bishop called for a vote and it was supported. The Reverend Karen Upton who served Orrville described the church as having faithful servants and a beautiful building. Bishop Taylor offered a prayer for Orrville UMC and its ministry. The resolution

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
ORRVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Anderson County, South Carolina
Anderson District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Orrville United Methodist Church ("Orrville UMC"), South Anderson Charge, Anderson District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective June 27, 2012; and

Whereas, Orrville UMC is incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray, District Superintendent of the Anderson District, has recommended that Orrville UMC be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Anderson District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of Orrville UMC; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuation of Orrville UMC; and

Whereas, Marshall Memorial United Methodist Church ("Marshall Memorial UMC") has agreed to minister to the members of Orrville UMC; and

Whereas, Orrville UMC has nurtured the faith of many people and served the community in which it is located since its founding; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Orrville UMC discontinued, effective June 27, 2011, pursuant to Paragraph 2548, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2008 ed.); and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of Orrville UMC shall be transferred to Marshall Memorial UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Orrville UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the church building property of Orrville UMC, located at 2408 South Main Street, Anderson, South Carolina, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference pending permanent disposition of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bishop and Cabinet are authorized to determine the ministry uses of the property pending permanent disposition thereof; and be it further

Resolved, That if the Bishop and Cabinet determine that there are no practical future ministry uses for this property, they shall be authorized to notify the Conference Board of Trustees that they are authorized to dispose of the property; and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop and Cabinet are directed to present to the annual conference, at such time as may be appropriate, recommendations for the permanent disposition of the church building property located at 2408 South Main Street, Anderson, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That the parsonage property of Orrville UMC, located at 311 Dixie Drive, Anderson, South Carolina, including any remaining tangible personal property items located therein, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference to be overseen and disposed of in the discretion of the Conference Board of Trustees; and be it further

Resolved, That any funds of Orrville UMC held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be transferred to the South Carolina Conference, that the Conference Treasurer is authorized to expend any undesignated funds to reimburse the South Carolina Conference for any costs incurred related to the discontinuation of Orrville UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That any remaining undesignated funds shall be transferred to the Conference Board of Trustees; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of the winding up of the business affairs of the church, any two officers of the church corporation of Orrville UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all other actions necessary to convey and transfer the real and personal property consistent with this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference requests that the officers of the church corporation of Orrville UMC take all actions necessary under South Carolina law to dissolve the church corporation as part of the winding up of the business affairs of the church; and be it further

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

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

Presented by:
The Appointive Cabinet

Rev. McClendon then offered a resolution changing charge lines. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

Following this, the bishop asked the delegates to consider going until business was concluded. The vote was approved.

The Reverend Timothy Rogers offered the recommendation that Annual Conference return to Florence in 2013. The bishop called for a vote and it was approved.

Rev. Rogers, Secretary of the Annual Conference, expressed appreciation to those who assisted with Annual Conference as follows: Rev. James Friday, Florence District Superintendent, and Margaret Smith, his Administrative Assistant; Rev. Michael Arant and Pisgah UMC in Florence; Kendell Wall and the Florence Civic Center staff; United Methodist volunteers from the Pee Dee Region; administrative assistants from the various district offices; the Print Media Center; Good News TV; Matt Brodie; Carla Steele; Rev. Dean Lollis, Rev. J.C. Lane and Rev. Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, the assistant secretaries of the Conference; the tellers; Miyoung Paik for assistance with communion; Robin Thompson, the organist; Karen Radcliffe and the Board of Ordained Ministry; Highland Park UMC; Trinity UMC of Darlington; Cumberland UMC; Dr. Charles Johnson for presiding in the memorial service; Dr. Gil Rendle for teaching throughout the conference; Rev. Emily Sutton and the Mt. Hebron UMC Ignite

Band for leading in the Monday evening worship; Rev. Paul Frey for serving as song leader; Shaw Thompson and the Pee Dee Mass Choir; the Rev. Tim McClendon; Dr. Joe Heyward; and Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor.

Rev. Rogers then made the following Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the completion of the Service of Commissioning, Ordination and Sending Forth and The Fixing of the Appointments this 2012 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*. The motion was seconded and approved by the Conference at 6:16 p.m. The Bishop and Annual Conference expressed appreciation to Rev. Rogers and to those involved in the preparations and conduct of the Annual Conference.

The annual conference was adjourned until Wednesday morning.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Morning June 13, 2012

The Service of Commissioning, Ordination and Sending Forth was held in the Civic Center at 10 AM. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presided, preaching a sermon titled, "He Personally Revealed It," based on John 20:19-31. An offering was received to support *Imagine No Malaria*. Music was provided by the Mass Choir of the Pee Dee. The Extended Cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Clergy Sponsors participated in the service.

During the service, Angela Renee Johnson was commissioned as **provisional deacon**. The following were commissioned as **provisional elders**: Heather Stewart Baird, Joshua Lee Blackwelder, Benjamin Olsen Burt, Daniel Walker Chamblee, Michael Terrance Fleming, Mallory Jean Forte, Andrew Charles Martin, Henry Lee Ravenel, Sr., David Jeffrey Roper, Redonia McKnight Thomas, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Suzanne Byrum Walker, Charles Bryson Williams, Jr., Thurmond Williams and Andrew Roy Wolfe.

Angela Halter Marshall was ordained as a **deacon**. Those ordained as **elders** include Brian James Arant, Edward Rossiter Chellis, Joseph Christopher Greene, Linda McDaniels Guthrie, Jerry Harrison, Jr., Willis Everette Haselden, IV, Kathy Priest Hudson, Tarnisha Vanarda Jenkins-Jackson, Stewart Dean Lollis, Genova McFadden, Millie Nelson, Luke MoonTaeg Rhyee, Terry Abner Roof, Murray Arthur Snow, Julie Dawn Songer Belman, Emily Scales Sutton and Keith Robert Taylor.

Following the Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth, the newly commissioned and ordained were received and congratulated in the Civic Center, thus concluding the 41st gathering of the South Carolina Annual Conference.