

Report No. 4

- A. In 2011 CF&A reviewed the formula used to calculate the district superintendent's salary and determined to abandon the formula that called for the salary to be set at 140% of the Conference Average Compensation ("CAC"). Instead, CF&A decided to use the 2012 salary of 91,200 as a base and future changes will be determined by the percent change in CAC. For 2013 that is a .03% increase.
- B. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2013 will be set at \$91,473. (DS compensation for 2010 was \$88,200, and for 2011/2012 is 91,200.)
- C. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% (\$13,721) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2013 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- D. 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 2012 will be as follows (Final amounts will be reflected in the 2012 Journal):

District	2011 Membership	Amount
Anderson	14,693	\$ 3,500
Charleston	24,755	4,500
Columbia	33,198	5,300
Florence	18,346	3,800
Greenville	20,900	4,100
Greenwood	16,359	3,600
Hartsville	18,911	3,900
Marion	22,449	4,200
Orangeburg	18,668	3,900
Rock Hill	16,774	3,700
Spartanburg	16,009	3,600
Walterboro	<u>14,427</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Totals	235,489	\$47,600

- 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$144,000 for the total of all districts, plus \$6,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$12,000 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$144,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is set at \$313,200 (\$26,100 per district), and continuing education at \$700 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.

- E. 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.
- F. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund:

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	\$ 15,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 52,000	.0083
Charleston	23,000	46,000	69,000	.0069
Columbia	10,000	45,000	55,000	.0028
Florence	25,000	45,000	70,000	.0096
Greenville	26,000	30,000	56,000	.0053
Greenwood	20,000	15,000	35,000	.0048
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	.0064
Marion	50,000	25,000	75,000	.0073
Orangeburg	25,000	40,000	65,000	.0010
Rock Hill	10,000	22,000	32,000	.0054
Spartanburg	22,000	25,000	47,000	.0057
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.0142
Total	\$254,000	\$413,500	\$667,500	

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 20, 2013
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 3, 2013
 - One Great Hour of Sharing – March 10, 2013
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 14, 2013
 - Peace with Justice Sunday – May 26, 2013
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 12, 2013
 - Work Day – September 8, 2013
 - Church school offering first Sunday each month
 - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 11, 2013
 - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 15, 2013 (youth offering)
 - World Communion Sunday – October 6, 2013
 - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 3, 2013
 - United Methodist Student Day – November 24, 2013
- 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 3, 2013.
- C. We offer the following:
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.). Payments in excess of \$1,000 should be approved by the Conference Treasurer in advance.
 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 and compliance with payroll tax laws.
 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 2013 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 \$6.00 for breakfast, \$12.00 for lunch and \$20.00 for the evening meal.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2013 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. 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. Churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage may exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister's compensation.
7. That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 53 through 62 (inclusive) of Table 2.
8. 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.
9. 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 Claflin 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. That the budgets of the District Superintendent Salaries, 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.
14. 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 2013, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
15. That local churches of the conference incorporate. (See ¶¶ 2506, 2507, 2528.1 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*.) An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at www.umcsc.org. 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

The recommended apportioned budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund have been reduced. These causes are significant ministries. Therefore, we ask those churches with sufficient resources to continue in 2012 to contribute what was apportioned for these funds in 2009. In addition, \$13,200 will be included in the asking for campus ministry. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

Report No. 7

An inspection of the Episcopal residence was conducted in the late spring of 2012. The house is in good general condition and no major items are currently present outside of normal wear and tear on a 13 year old house. All furniture owned by the conference was accounted for and in good condition. A majority of the furniture currently in the residence, however, belongs to the Bishop.

Work Done To Residence Since 2011 Annual Conference:

The conference had some work done on the roof to stop leaks and to extend the roof life. Some interior repairs were completed to address minor water damage from the roof leaks. The conference also replaced some common household fixtures.

Items That We Anticipate Addressing Shortly:

- The refrigerator will need to be replaced due to a broken freezer
- Pressure washing of the exterior and some small paint touch ups
- Minor electrical and plumbing work

Items that we will likely need to complete in the event of a new Bishop:

- Repainting of the living room
- Replace the carpet in the first floor bedroom
- Stretch the carpet on the second floor

The Episcopal Office budget request presented to CF&A for 2011 was \$10,000 and for 2012 was \$10,000.

CF&A anticipates that there will be approximately \$20,000 available through the Episcopal Residence Operations and Episcopal Residence Maintenance Reserve Funds for future projects through 2013.

CF&A request that an additional \$20,000 be released from the Trustees of The Annual Conference's undesignated funds in the event we are assigned a new Bishop and the funds are needed.

The Conference will likely need to place in the 2014 budget funds for the eventual replacement of the roof.

Report No. 8

While clearly understanding the Book of Discipline's requirement that no Annual Conference session can bind another session in its decision making, the Council on Finance and Administration has approved a goal of moving toward a reduced total Annual Conference budget at or near 15% of total Conference Average Net Funds by Budget Year 2015. The proposed budget for 2013 moves the Annual Conference toward this targeted goal.

Report No. 9

Following is a listing of the 2011 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2012 apportionments.

District	2011	District	2011
Anderson	6,604,263	Hartsville	7,704,129
Charleston	10,070,353	Marion	10,217,641
Columbia	16,024,265	Orangeburg	6,530,726
Florence	7,257,562	Rock Hill	7,378,532
Greenville	10,595,187	Spartanburg	7,577,349
Greenwood	7,276,321	Walterboro	4,561,728
TOTAL			101,798,056

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

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

South Carolina Annual Conference through Conference Connectional Ministries has an opportunity to embrace all of God's people with a spirit of celebration for the many gifts, graces, and talents of every member, every congregation, and every community. We are a community of believers thinking together about our faith and our discipleship. We recognize this great connection works because we are stronger together.

Conference Connectional Ministries is accepting challenges being placed before us to enter into a season of intentional prayer, examination and reflection. This past conference year, the district connectional ministries met to discern needs of the local churches. Dialogue began on the Conference level sharing those concerns from the local churches to the district levels and on to the Conference Connectional Ministries.

The examination of the beliefs we hold as a church lead our conversations to include what we do well, what can we do better, how will we know what to change, and what are we willing to change?

"Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren; ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

This scripture opened the doors of our hearts and minds to be intentional about the works of grace, and works of piety. The Holy Spirit, guiding our work areas of Advocacy, Discipleship, Lay Leadership, and Outreach will meet the needs of the local churches. We are renewed in our faith, our dedication and our commitment to the ministry of the church.

*Cynthia Williams
Convener Connectional Ministries*

Note: *The Conference Connectional ministries' report reflects our transition to the new structure. A new and major part of the report is reports from each District Connectional Ministries (DCM). This is followed by reports from the four Ministry Areas of Connectional Ministries.*

ANDERSON and GREENVILLE DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The decision was made in both Anderson and Greenville districts that the congregational specialist would model what DCM meetings would look like for the first year and have a discernment process for who would be the convener for the next. In Anderson District, we have had listening sessions with four clear areas of emphasis: we reach out, we communicate, we worship and we train. We met on January 26 and spent three hours deciding what the goals in these areas would be. It was a holy and energetic time together. Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray has agreed to talk with a member of our DCM and ask if he will serve as convener. We both feel confident about the work of the Anderson District Connectional Ministries.

The Greenville district has been very intentional about listening and about how to go about the ministries. We have worked on 2 projects. One is the Lay Leadership Orientation which will look different next year. Second is the Great Day of Service. Stop Hunger Now came from our youth in our district and we as a DCM have decided to follow and support them. We do have another and that is VBS. A small group is providing VBS training in both Anderson and Greenville districts. I look forward to hearing evaluation in this area. For these three areas we have brought in people who are not on the DCM team but who have passions in this area. Our goal is to develop those groups that have a fire in their belly for particular ministries. The Greenville District is holding cluster listening sessions in 4 clusters with trained facilitators on February 12. This will help us determine the future needs more effectively.

I must say that both districts have people who desire to be faithful to the structure change and to God. They are engaged, energetic and hopeful toward the future.

Rev. Cathy Joens

CHARLESTON DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Charleston District is making progress under the Leadership of Judson King, Congregational Specialist and Patricia Parrish, District Superintendent.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 6:00 P.M. Meetings are held in the Conference Room at the District Office. Our format is: Call to Order; Devotions; Minutes. We then break into our Table groups for a time of discernment and prayer. After which we spend one hour in our groups working on plans for the coming months. After that we come back together for a time of sharing from our Table groups.

The following has been accomplished during the past year:

Training events for Lay Leadership include: Vacation Bible School Training; Four focus areas of the UMC; Disciple Bible Study Training and the District Lay Leadership Training. These have been well attended. Coming up in our plans we have: District Lay Speaking Training VBS Training from the Conference, and A Gifts Discernment workshop.

Plans are in the making from our Outreach group to have flood buckets and hygiene kits available in our District to send out as needed in the event of a major disaster. Plans are underway for an International Mission Trip to Ecuador in late August and for a Change the World Weekend-Mission Project.

Discipleship is working on Young Adults at present. They have discussed what local churches are doing and what is successful. They are also discussing and reviewing a needs assessment sent to local churches. A program has been started at Wesley on Johns Island. A member of the Discipleship Table group is meeting with them.

Advocacy is planning a Social Principles Training Event for the District. Specific plans for this will be upcoming.

The Connectional Table has been issuing pleas for Advocate subscriptions.

We always have a time for Judson King and Patricia Parrish to address the group.

June Willson, Convener

COLUMBIA DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Columbia District Connectional Ministries is excited about the new focus on our Ministry Areas and the opportunities that need to be addressed as a district. As a committee, we had a lot of discussion on Passionate Spirituality and Worship, Lay Leadership, Advocacy, Outreach, and Discipleship. We began our new journey with discussions on

- 1.) What are the common needs among the churches in our district?
- 2.) What can we do as a district to meet those needs?
- 3.) What are the priorities?

During a period of discernment, our group shared opportunities and riches we receive from our own local congregation. From the long list that was developed, these four priorities were the 'common thread.'

Fellowship

Love/Joy/Means of Grace

Evangelism

Hospitality & Serving

Stephen Ministry

Spiritual Formation

Small Groups, Bible Study, Healing, Worship

Missional Outreach

Openness to Community

After much discussion, the Columbia District will offer a full day workshop on "Lead Like Jesus" in the fall.

Martha F. Thompson, Convener

FLORENCE DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Florence District Connectional Ministries (DCM) has dealt with the issue of establishing an ongoing flow of information from local churches concerning their needs and how the DCM might help meet those needs. We are still living into this process, but we have begun to see some results in discerning the needs of churches in the district as well as representing those needs to the Conference Connectional Ministries. In the Florence District the four areas of ministry have identified and set the following goals for 2012.

Lay Leadership—establish a task force of lay speakers to determine how they might be engaged in service that will benefit the district through the use of their gifts and abilities. In other words, we have begun to identify what resources we have already and how we might mobilize them. Lay speakers are not always afforded the opportunity to fully employ their spiritual gifts in their local church. How might they be utilized on a district level?

Outreach—has already done some disaster response training as a result of this group's work. Other trainings are established in the district—one which includes a partnership with Walmart to give each local church completing the training a first-aid kit. This ministry area also is seeking opportunities to provide training areas of Health and Wellness with an emphasis on women's health. Also, there is a goal to provide models of outreach ministries to help local churches see some best practices and fruitful outreach ministries.

Advocacy—is seeking to begin with the DCM and ensure inclusivity of young people at every level of the local church. This process will begin by asking each church to determine the number of young people involved in the decision-making and planning process of local churches now. This is expected to be in by Charge Conference 2012.

Discipleship—has a goal of hosting a district-wide youth event in August/September 2012 featuring dynamic speakers. There is also a goal of focusing on children's ministries by holding a meeting to determine what resources already exist and how churches might share their resources. The timeline for this is late Spring around May 2012. An emphasis on training in the Vacation Bible School curricula will also be initiated as two people in the district have received training to provide training to churches in the district. The Discipleship ministry area is also working with the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation to determine how fruitful connections with young adults might be made by local churches to help build their ministries with young people.

Cynthia Williams, Convener

GREENWOOD DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Greenwood District Connectional Ministries has been busy ascertaining the needs of local congregations and finding ways to address these needs. Thus far, we have offered several workshops/training events with good response from the district:

Basic Leadership Skills, a 3-hour seminar led by Jim Arant in 3 separate locations across the district in September and October. 66 persons attended.

Transforming Worship Workshop, November 4-5 was held at St. Mark UMC, Rivers Street Campus. Presenters from the Upper Room Ministries focused on the needs of smaller membership churches in the areas of music, preaching, and worship. 114 people attended.

The annual Job Function Workshop was held on January 8th at St. Paul UMC in Saluda, with more than 120 participants from all across the district. Topics covered were S/PPRC, Worship, Church Council, Trustees, Children's Ministries, Small Group Ministries, and Evangelism. More than 120 attended.

Future programs in the works include:

Lay listening sessions modeled on the clergy listening session that was done last year to be held on January 26 in 4 locations across the district (Horsecreek Valley, Greenwood/Clinton/Laurens, Edgefield/Johnston, Prosperity/Newberry.) Leaders for each listening session will be members of the DCM. We will then compare laity responses to those from the clergy to find areas of commonality as we set our course for the future as a DCM.

An Adult Education Training Event will be offered on May 6 at St. Paul UMC in Saluda to help local churches with curriculum needs (one of the areas of need from the clergy listening session.) Flo Martin, Alice MacKeil, Robert Cox, and Steve King will be the presenters.

A joint program with the Greenwood and Orangeburg Districts to fill the gap left by suspension of the Laity Convocation. A Design Team has been determined to work on putting this event together, and will meet initially on February 1.

Compilation of a resource manual/dvd for clergy identifying basic referral resources in the areas of outreach and advocacy (ie. Food pantries, help with medicine, shelters, counselors, etc.) to be available for inclusion in packets to be distributed at the set-up meeting in 2012.

We continue to chart our course as we live into the new Connectional Ministries structure. With God's help, our efforts will strengthen the connection and give our local churches the opportunity to give of their best for the Kingdom.

Rev. Sandra Smith King, Convener

HARTSVILLE DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Hartsville DCM has conducted "Church Hall Meetings" in the four clusters of the District. At those meetings, we invited pastors and laity to attend and participate in a dialogue and express what they thought were the needs of the local church.

SUMMARY of the concerns:

- Direct communication. More Spirituality, Bible Study
- Pastor selection: Provide PPRC with a DVD of the pastor's sermons before appointment

- Outreach between the church and the community
- Evangelism
- Open doors
- Call absentees
- Use more audio-visuals
- Change some regulations? Make it simple!
- Reevaluate apportionments
- Hard to explain the church to the Youth
- Need to know what is available
- More localization, not bigger districts
- Information to the churches from the Pastors' meetings. What are they talking about?
- Want to hear from conference staff people.
- Come to the local church for training opportunities
- More training, more frequently, more specifically
- Help in retaining youth and young adults
- Cooperative ministry
- More listening and making adjustments more quickly
- More fellowship opportunities with other races and cultures
- New order of worship and style of worship
- Intense training of persons with no cost to them
- More ongoing presence from specialists
- System to connect members with local ministry opportunities
- Lack of money to involve youth in new activities
- Establish district or cluster youth ministries
- Communication with district to small churches
- Link up with other churches to share the cost of common ministries
- Better summation of e-mails and information
- RACE
- Youth camp or ongoing summer VBS connection with other churches
- Larger churches with a staff to assist (or adopt) a smaller church to help with shared youth ministries
- Emphasize Spiritual Gifts
- Encourage churches to be involved with Charge events and District events
- More children's sermons and youth activities
- Community calendar that is available to the laity of the district as to the events in the district
- Facebook page
- Youth programs
- Software
- Training on faith sharing, how to witness, training classes online

AS A RESULT of the Church Hall meetings:

We decided that communication and training were the two most important things that we should address as the district.

Training:

We will plan to offer training closer to the local church. This will be in Clusters or even smaller units like parishes or in the local church. To do this, we are seeking to include the Lay Speaking ministry into being instructors, and to organize them into areas of ministry. In some cases, clergy with certain expertise will also be part of this ministry.

When this is organized, a directory of topics and the names of qualified instructors in specific geographic areas will be given to the district office, and upon request for assistance by the local church, the District office will make an assignment.

Training will be in the standard form of job descriptions, assistance in conducting assessments like Vital Congregations, or whatever the local church determines that they need help.

Some of these needs that have been identified are: worship, discovering spiritual gifts, evangelism and witness, youth ministry training, use of audio-visuals, cove-

nant discipleship and class leaders, training in financial matters, and the use of computers and websites.

Communication:

We are assembling from among the clergy in the district persons who are willing to help setup and run our district website. We want to set up a website with pages that address each of the individual ministries in the DCM with links to other UMC and other websites that will help address the needs of the local church.

As an example, the UMC has many sites that have training and information that the local church can use. However, it is spread out over many different sites. We would consolidate this information by providing links to the specific areas of need.

What is important at any website is to always be up-to-date. For this reason we are seeking many persons to serve as page-editors for designated pages and ministries, as well as an overall webmaster.

Youth:

We realize that the attracting, training, and keeping youth is a priority of not only the local church, but for the annual conference and the general church. We will give special attention the programs to train youth leaders and to develop ministries for youth. As part of our communications ministries, we will be training the local churches to be involved with the social media which will be key to sustaining youth in the church.

Rev. Melvin Bell, Convener

MARION DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Marion District Connectional Ministries Team met on the following dates:

- January 24, 2012
- October 11, 2011
- May 31, 2011
- February 26, 2011
- Attendance has waned somewhat, but we have decided to continue meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM for the foreseeable future. Our next meeting will be held on March 27.

We have wrestled with issues such as the following:

1. What are the most crucial and most prevalent needs of the churches in our district?
 - As we met in our 4 ministry areas, we discussed needs in our churches and communities.
 - We asked each of the 4 groups to create surveys to be distributed at the set-up meeting on August 18, 2011.
 - Rather than asking churches to complete four more-detailed surveys, we decided to utilize a consolidated survey.
2. What are the best ways pastors and churches can communicate those needs to us?
 - We received input from small group discussions at a Small Church Network meeting in the Marion District on July 21, 2011.
 - We distributed Connectional Ministry survey forms at the set-up meeting and asked churches to return the surveys by September 12, 2011.
 - Millie Nelson categorized the needs listed on the survey which were returned to us.
3. Which of the needs forwarded to us should we make a priority?
 - The four ministry teams have discussed this issue each time we have met.
 - We realize we are limited in our ability to respond to local church needs in terms of time, money, personnel, resources, etc.
 - We would prefer to address the needs which will be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number of churches.
 - We need to determine the context in which needs can be most effectively addressed. Contexts include local church, community, cluster, district and conference.
4. What are the best ways to address the needs of the congregations?
 - We could have workshops and special events at a host church and invite churches from our District to participate.
 - We can train people to work with individuals and small groups.

- We can place resources and web links on the District website.
 - At our most recent meeting on January 24, three of the four ministry areas discussed the feasibility of activating the clusters and addressing issues on a sub-district level.
 - Since our district encompasses a five-county area (Dillon, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Marlboro), travel distance for special events and workshops is an important issue.
5. How can we keep pastors and churches informed about the work of the Marion District Connectional Ministries Team?
 - We can publicize events at our monthly clergy gatherings.
 - We cannot afford to mail a large volume of communications.
 - We can communicate via e-mail with pastors and church leaders.
 - We have been placing minutes from our meetings on the Marion District website and have posted announcements on the district calendar.
 6. What issues should we refer to the Conference Connectional Ministries Team?
 - The Advocacy Team believes it would be wise for the Conference Connectional Ministries Team to offer a workshop (1) explaining what it means to be an advocate, (2) highlighting its importance to the church and community and (3) recommending some issues and organizations for which we could consider being advocates.
 - Well-aware that our ministry area covers a broad variety of subjects, the Discipleship Team has not yet agreed upon what our priorities will be.
 - The Lay Leadership and Outreach Teams have made plenty of helpful suggestions, but I am not aware of any issue to be referred to the Conference Connectional Ministries.

I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere appreciation to the Rev. Dickie Knight, our District Superintendent, and Millie Nelson, our Congregational Specialist, for their inspiration, guidance and support. They have been instrumental in the ongoing work of the Marion District Connectional Ministries Team. We are excited about the opportunities we have to assist churches in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

William F. Heustess, Convener

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The District Connectional Ministries has been meeting every two months to serve the churches in the District. St Mark UMC in North, SC has been our host.

The four task groups have been carrying out their charge as follows:

Lay Leadership

The Lay Leadership Task Group planned and executed a Laity Leadership Function Workshop for district local church committee leaders. It was held at St. Andrews UMC in Orangeburg on January 15, 2012. The attendance was good and the sessions well done.

The Lay Leadership Task Group is currently discussing a joint Lay Rally with the Greenwood District to be held in late spring 2012. The initial idea is to have an informal gathering time, a dinner/cookout, and an inspirational speaker. Thoughts also include a separate youth program (concert, maybe) and a separate children's event. The group will discuss this further when we get feedback from the Greenwood District DCCM.

Mr. Bob Barrett, Orangeburg District Lay Leader, coordinated plans for The Great Day of Sharing and Service in the Orangeburg District held Saturday, October 29, 2011. This was the third annual Great Day of Sharing and Service for the Orangeburg District. A number of individual churches lead projects specifically in their communities. A presentation was made at the DS Setup meeting asking ministers to encourage their members to participate and to provide suggestions for work projects. There were District sponsored activities that included a knitting group preparing blankets, Bingo games at the Oaks, a luncheon for the needy, and a Habitat for Humanity project and others.

Discipleship

On October 6, 2011 Dr. Larry C Cospers presented a class on Conflict Management. Dr. Cospers remains available to help mediate conflicts in churches. The seminar was well attended and very successful.

The next event being discussed centers on inviting Bill Bouknight, nationally known preacher and teacher to conduct a workshop, "Inviting People to Christ", for the Orangeburg District during the 2012 fall season. This would be a workshop for laity and clergy.

Outreach

The Outreach Task Group has focused on serving the hungry by partnering with the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA). This much-needed ministry will put nutritious vegetables and fruit on the tables of food-insecure families in the Orangeburg District.

Rev. Ashley McCoy-Bruce from the SoSA has agreed to provide us with training on Sunday, March 4, 2012, at Saint Mark UMC in North, SC. In addition to training the connectional table has been asked to:

- Pray that the Lord's work will be done and needy people will be fed.
- Begin to talk to farmers and identify farmers who will let us glean their fields.
- Share the SoSA message with church groups, civic organizations, and others to identify gleaners.
- Identify soup kitchens, food banks, and homeless shelters throughout the Orangeburg District that should receive fresh vegetables and fruit.
- Continue to pray and always thank God for blessing this ministry...the farmers for their generosity, the gleaners for their work in the fields, and the people who receive the food and are blessed in a wonderful way.

Advocacy

The Advocacy Task Group has focused on the need to identify women at risk to improve pregnancy and child health outcomes. Plans are being developed for utilizing agencies/programs such as Low Country Healthy Start, a program designed to reduce infant mortality and improve pregnancy outcomes in Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton and Orangeburg Counties.

Robert Scarborough, Convener

ROCK HILL DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Rock Hill District Connectional Ministries began preliminary formation in late 2010 to prepare for the structural changes coming from the Conference Council on Ministries. Regular meetings began to take place beginning in January 2010. Formation of the team took a period of several months due to clergy moving in June.

The initial impetus of the Connectional Ministries team for Rock Hill was to find a way to more closely identify with the local church and her needs. We believed the best way would be to make use of the cluster structure already in place. Each of the four areas – Advocacy, Discipleship, Lay Leadership, and Outreach took one of the four clusters and began a series of table conversations to identify needs as well as celebrations. Each cluster brought forth a variety of needs/goals that the areas have been working with. These regular listening sessions have allowed us to meet with both clergy and laity as well as to be in direct contact with the many churches of the district.

The following include initiatives, plans, and programs we have focused on...

- Cluster Listening sessions.
- Job Function Workshop held on January 22, 2012 in Rock Hill and again on January 29, 2012 in Lancaster focusing on Administrative areas as well as a panel session for both small and medium size churches
- District-wide worship service and ministry workshops to coincide with the Vital Congregations Study on March 4 at Woodland UMC in Rock Hill. This event will feature keynote speaker, the Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant as worship leader as well as a workshop leader in conjunction with ten ministry-focused workshops. In addition to the congregational goals being brought forth, a collection and assembly of food buckets will occur.
- Spiritual gifts workshop is being planned.
- The Rock Hill newsletter has resumed along with a district Facebook page.
- We are working on a district mission event to take place later in 2012.

The change in structure with the newly formed team has empowered us to seriously look at how we can better assist the local church in carrying out our mission of making disciples.

Rev. Kyle D. Randle, Convener

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Advocacy Team

The Advocacy Team along with the whole of the DCMT celebrates the initial vision and work that has transformed our annual leadership training event into an event planned by the DCMT as a whole which will be an opportunity for entire congregations to participate and be empowered.

M.A.D. - Making A Difference: A Methodism to Our Madness will be held February 12th from 3:00-5:30 PM at Bethel UMC Spartanburg. Areas of focus will be: The Ministry of Teaching; Missions for Everyone; Computer Help for Methodist Resources; What It Means to be a Methodist; and, Connecting Churches in Ministry. A Commissioning Service which was planned by the DCMT Executive Committee will end the afternoon.

Challenges we face going forward include understanding more clearly what the DCMT is called to do and how the Advocacy Team is a part of that mission, how we can make our personal advocacy interests more universal, and raising awareness of injustices using the Social Principles as a guideline for thought and instruction.

Discipleship Team

The Discipleship Team along with the whole of the DCMT celebrates the first of our scheduled quarterly District-Wide Worship Service which was held in August following our Lay Leader Training at Central UMC Spartanburg. Around 150 individuals from churches across the district came and took part in this beautiful expression of Methodist worship and we look forward to the next service, hoping interest will grow and even more churches will be represented in such services and programs offered to the District as a whole.

We have had very well attended meetings of the Discipleship Team and of the DCMT as a whole. We find that we are slowly developing organization and understanding our purpose distinctively and as a part of the larger whole of the Connectional Ministries Team.

Challenges we face going forward include continually understanding our purpose, encouraging broader participation at district-wide worship and events, building lines of effective communications, and having visible youth participation on the DCMT.

Lay Leadership Team

The Lay Leadership Team along with the whole of the DCMT celebrates our Lay Leader/Clergy Training Gathering event held in August. Rev. Ken Nelson, Congregational Specialist, presented a power point presentation on the role of the Lay Leader. There were 80 lay leaders and clergy persons in attendance. The first of our quarterly district-wide worship services followed.

Challenges we face going forward include figuring out our function and what the churches need, establishing method(s) of effective communication, and finding ways to personalize invitations to participate in ministry.

Outreach Team

The Outreach Team along with the whole of the DCMT celebrates developing a statement of mission and successfully offering an inspiring and encouraging Vacation Bible School at the Bethlehem Center for those who are living in that community. Laypersons and Pastors that helped in conducting this ministry include St. James (Sptbg), Trinity (Sptbg), St. Paul (Sptbg), Cannons Campground, Chesnee, Bethlehem (Union) and Foster's Chapel (Jonesville).

Challenges we face in the coming year will centrally focus on the issue of communications - how to effectively communicate information between the District Connectional Ministries Team and our local churches.

Executive Committee

An Executive Committee was formed at our January 2012 meeting of the DCMT. This committee will focus on specific planning of events and/or issues passed down to them by the DCMT that need closer attention than can be afforded typically by the DCMT as a whole. The Commissioning Service following our M.A.D. event (mentioned above) is an example.

We look forward to strengthening our ministries as we seek vitality within all of the local churches of Spartanburg District and beyond. We have been blessed so much as we have begun to see how we are a part of our collective mission to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We await all the blessings God has to bestow upon our Church as we seek to actively follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, continuing the service and ministry of Jesus Christ, and empowering others to do so as well!

This concludes the report of the Spartanburg District Connectional Ministries Team.

Rev. Christopher Greene, Convener

WALTERBORO DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

District Connectional Ministries

The Walterboro District Connectional Ministries (DCM) has held all regularly bimonthly meetings and one additional meeting in February to welcome our new members. The members of the Walterboro District Connectional Ministries are: Advocacy- Rev. Dwight Nelson, Sabrina Singleton, Rev. Bruce Sayre (Co-Convener), Rev. Bob Lee, Becky Hogan, Lexie Aiken and Dr. DaNine Fleming; Lay Leadership- Alvin Glenn, Jackie Jenkins, Pamela Goodwine-Glover,

John Allgood, Kimberly Link, Rev. Michael Leonhardt, and Beth Brittan; Discipleship- Rev. Ross Chellis, Rev. Jerry Harrison, Thelma Hudson, Deborah Daniels, Connie Borgianini, Daniel Griswold and Dr. Kenneth Jenkins; Outreach- Rev. Fadetra Harrington, Judy Lee, Betsy Baker, Daniel Green, Rev. Curtis Young, Benita Free, Rev. Sheri White and Rhonda Jones (Convener).

The DCM met and shared what we thought were areas that needed attention in late summer of 2011. We decided to utilize the cluster system to provide training in multiple locations so that local churches can choose to attend the training/event closer to them hopefully increasing churches and individuals being trained. We then held two listening sessions across the district at which 32 churches were represented. This time of sharing was extremely insightful as members of the DCM heard the strengths, the effective ministries taking place across our district as well as the concerns, areas that needed to be revitalized, connections that needed to be made and trainings that would better equip or local churches for ministry.

Outreach Ministry Area

The Outreach Ministry area responded by planning a Ministry Fair on Saturday April 21, at Hardeeville UMC and Sandhill UMC which served as a time of sharing congregational stories of Christian experience, faith and service and education. Our local churches connected with Outreach Ministries of the SC Annual Conference, the Board of Global Ministries, Committee on Disaster Relief, Board of Health and Welfare and Commission on Communication and other Low Country Organizations who had representatives at each location to inform and partner with local churches in their ministry endeavors.

We have improved our communication by establishing a laity database of persons willing to serve as a conduit for their local churches and share information both from the district to their local congregations and vice versa. The District Communicator also informs the district of the DCM resources and events via the website, www.wadistumcsc.org

Our United Methodist Women (UMW) trained 106 women at their January 12, 2012 meeting held at Bluffton, UMC where they recognized their youngest member Miss Alexis Williams of Buckhead UMC. Toby UMC was recognized at the February 25, 2012 meeting for success in forming one of their new Units in the district. The UMW held their Quiet Day / Day Apart on April 21st, 2012 at St. Luke's UMC, Okatie. They will host their Come Together, Be Together Day after Annual Conference at Bethel UMC, Walterboro on June 23, 2012.

Lay Leadership Ministry Area

Our Lay Speaking Ministries is still going strong and has further equipped 186 persons for ministry in the life of our local churches in the Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 schools held at St. George UMC and Carteret Street UMC respectively. We adopted the LeadershipNext program at our August meeting of 2011 and plan for the next training to begin in January, 2013.

To date we have held four Lay Leadership Orientations (formerly Job Function Workshops), in the four clusters of the district at which 205 persons were trained to prepare local church elected officers for the 2012 Ministry Year. We had 24 instructors who led the orientation sessions. The workshops offered were all based on the Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2008- 2012 series and covered the following areas: Trustees, Church Council, Lay Leader, Nominations and Leader Development, SPPRC, Missions, Evangelism, Christian Education, Youth, Children, Finance and Communications. The host churches for this series were, New Life UMC, Walterboro, Hampton UMC, Hampton, Sandhill UMC, Ridgeville and Carteret Street UMC, Beaufort.

To address the ongoing need for training the DCM formed an Instructional Design Team (IDT) of both clergy and laity who have covenanted to providing instruction in needed areas across the district. The intent is to identify instructors in each cluster who would serve churches within their cluster which we hope would foster stronger networks and more healthy connections between local churches and the district. Current members of the Instructional Design Team are, Rev. Michael Leonhardt, Rev. Ross Chellis, Rev. Otis Scott, Rev. Bruce Sayre, Rev. Fadetra Harrington, Rev. Anne Bridgers, Rev. Ernest C. Etheredge, Ann Bell and Rhonda Jones. The IDT members attend Instructor Training Sessions prior to their presenting to the local churches to ensure that all churches are receiving the same information. We are in need of more instructors, if interested please contact Rev. Bruce Sayre.

Discipleship Ministry Area

The Discipleship Area planned a Vacation Bible School Workshop on Feb. 12, 2012 held at Carteret Street UMC, Beaufort showcasing the *Operations Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God* and *No Friend Like Jesus: Get Connected* Curricula. These workshops were led by Connie Borgianini and Rhonda Jones, respectively.

We have offered additional support training in the areas of Children's Ministries, Older Adult Ministries, Stewardship and Finance in the first quarter of the year to further assist local churches in developing and/or enhancing their ministries in these areas. These four trainings were held on March 10, 2012 at St. Paul UMC, Ridgeland and on March 31, 2012 at Canaan UMC, Ridgeville.

Advocacy Ministry Area

The Advocacy Area encouraged all churches to attend the African American Listening Session held at Shady Grove UMC on March 29th, 2012. We are giving careful attention to the concerns for ecumenical fellowship and are planning resources to foster that spirit among our local churches.

Looking Ahead – "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3, NRSV)

We will continue to offer Cluster Listening Session to get feedback from local churches as to the effectiveness of our endeavors as a district. Representatives from each ministry area will be in attendance in these times of sharing.

In the second and third quarter the DCM will focus on providing support, resources and training for the local church in ministering to the un-churched and unsaved, focusing on developing discipleship. We will also have our Fall Great Days of Service on August 11, 2012 and November 10, 2012.

We plan to keep the lines of communication open with our local churches and listen to their stories as they live into the Vital Congregations Project. If there are any additional supports needed we will use the Vital Congregations resources available to assist in the process.

We realize that the work of the District Connectional Ministries to connect and resource the local churches for effective ministry is a great task. We confess that at times the task seems daunting and we become overwhelmed. Instead of giving up though, we pray, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to work from our giftedness and not in our own strength. We have been able to implement some training opportunities that have helped our local churches but we do know that our work is not complete and that this support system is not the answer to all our district concerns. So as we continue to engage in Christian conferencing with our local churches and with each other at our connectional table we listen intently for the voice of God. We listen to discern how best we as a district can meet the needs of our local churches to become or remain vital congregations engaged in "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World".

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV)

We will continue to be in prayer and open to what God is doing in our district and our role as spiritual leaders in His plan. "Thank God for the Disciples."

Rhonda Jones, Convener

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES ADVOCACY AREA REPORT

The South Carolina Advocacy Ministry Area is leading the theological work that arises from human experience of the reign of God which contends against the sufferings of the human condition. "Of crucial importance are concerns generated by great human struggles for dignity, liberation, and fulfillment—aspirations that are inherent elements in God's design for creation. The advocacy ministry speaks for biblical values: peacemaking, racial harmonies, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease. These concerns are borne by theologies that express the heart cries of the down-trodden and the aroused indignation of the compassionate." (*Book of Discipline* ¶104).

Our area has set priorities in the area of leadership and district advocacy training, use of current communication technology, women's issues, religion and race. Our hopes are to create an Advocacy 101 module and provide training for hands-on advocacy at the local church level. To further supplement this effort we are hoping to create a conference resource for doing advocacy with a cumulative listing of resources to include General Church, S.C. Conference, denominations, non-profits, and church resources.

Our Advocacy Ministry Area is teamed with the following committees and boards and ex-officio members:

Church & Society, COSROW, CUIIC, ELCC, Native American, Hispanic/Latino, Religion & Race, Peace with Justice Coordinator.

Rev. Amiri B. Hooker, Convener

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES DISCIPLESHIP AREA REPORT

The Discipleship Area organized at the Connectional Ministries meeting held in February, gathering to discuss the areas of ministry needs related to our discipleship areas in our districts, and in the conference as a whole. There was much discussion about the varied needs that relate to our area, and the group is in the process of seeking God's guidance on prioritization and effectiveness in our area as a whole. Meanwhile, the individual committees that make up the discipleship area are in various stages of organization and work. The **Division on Ministries with Young People (Youth Council)**, the **Older Adult Council**, and the **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry** have some clear focus and, with the help of conference personnel, are continuing and/or building upon work that has been done by previous groups. The **Young Adult Council** is recruiting additional members, and will then discern direction and focus. The **Children's Council** is actively discerning how they may best minister to through conference events and initiatives. The **Board of Education**, the **Board of Evangelism** and the **Commission on Worship** are in a stage of discernment. We are all open to the movement of the Holy Spirit through our new structure and operation.

Rev. Kristen R. Richardson-Frick, Convener

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES OUTREACH AREA REPORT

The Outreach Ministry Area met on February 11, 2012 at Virginia Wingard UMC, twenty-two members were present. We began our time together reflecting on what God might be calling us as Outreach Ministries to do. Our discussion illuminated that we are called to come out of our comfort zones and discern what the needs are for the overall Outreach Area in each ministry context, **Board of Health and Welfare**, **Board of Global Ministries**, **Committee on Disaster Relief**, and the **Commission on Communications**. We shared our concerns individually concerning the communication practices of the conference and districts in getting vital information to the local churches and vice versa. We acknowledged that we needed to do a better job of sharing amongst each other and across the conference. Accessibility to already gleaned information through the Charge Conference forms was a spirited point of discussion and the Commission on Communication, the Director of Communications, Matt Brodie and the Conference Informational Technology Director, Jim Crews committed to giving this issue due attention. We all agreed that our network is only as good as the persons in it; we must all be willing to put our information in the system so it can be accessed easily.

We spent a great deal of time hearing the concerns and needs of each district represented.

The ministry areas of Outreach will continue to work throughout the year to address the concerns brought from the local churches through the districts. We are excited about the challenges we face and know that with God leading the way all things are possible. It is our aim that at the fall meeting of 2012 we would have made significant gains in connecting local churches with the ministries of Outreach, providing relevant educational opportunities for them to learn what we are and how they can become involved and equipping them with accessible, practical and relevant resources to help them be more effective in ministry in and through their local church as it relates to the contexts of ministry.

Rhonda Jones, Convener

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES LAY LEADERSHIP AREA REPORT

The Conference Lay Leadership Ministries organized its work during the two meetings held by the newly created Conference Connectional Ministries of which it is a part. Program agencies as prescribed in the Book of Discipline have been included and the work of each has been organized. The organization included leadership of each, program ideas and funding proposals for the 2013 conference year.

Included, as a part of Lay Leadership Ministries, are the work of the Committee on Lay Speakers, Committee on Stewardship and the Committee on Spiritual Formation. The Lay Leadership Ministries has also considered the work of the Task Group for Laity Convocation and that of the Task Group for LeadershipNext. Each of these Task Groups, once a part of the Board of Laity, will be closely reviewed. A survey was done to assist in making a decision regarding the continuation of Laity Convocation.

Lay Leadership members discussed the idea of lay rallies on a district level as opposed to a conference-wide level. In addition, the group discussed empowering laity to embrace the

Holy Spirit, helping laity to realize their spiritual gifts and discipline, communications, creativity in how we train youth in mission and their opportunity to serve in the church.

The Stewardship Committee will publish the CD that promotes stewardship and will recruit additional members. The Spiritual Formation Committee continued its work on the 5-Day Academy for 2012. Lay Speaking Ministries continues its work on Instructor's Training Academy, supplies & books.

Mrs. Jackie Jenkins was named to chair the Committee on Lay Speakers. A great deal of thanks is given to Mr. Michael Cheatham for years of service in providing leadership in that position on the conference level as well as the jurisdictional level.

Joseph E. Heyward, Conference Lay Leader

Report 2 – Part I

SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2013

A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBGS, CORR)	January 20
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 20
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2013
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 3
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 10
Women's History Month	March 2013
World Day of Prayer	March 1
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 10
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 10
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 14
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2013
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2013
National Day of Prayer	May 2
Christian Family Week	May 6-12
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 19
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBGS)	May 26
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 6
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance	October 11-13
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 20
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 10
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 24
World AIDS Day	December 1

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

Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW)	March 3
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 17
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 12
United Methodist Men's Day	June 16
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering	August 11
Call to Ministry Sunday	August 18
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	September 8
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 15
SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday	November 3

Report 2 – Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2013

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: The Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry (BCACM) is a specialized ministry of the South Carolina Conference that was established in 1966 to help facilitate the needs of persons living in Marlboro & Chesterfield counties of South Carolina in a shared ministry and vision. The churches that are affiliated with this ministry are Aaron Temple United Methodist Church, Bethel United Methodist Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Level Green United Methodist Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Old Galilee United Methodist Church, Shiloh United Methodist Church, Smyrna United Methodist Church, Saint Michael United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership less than 2500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission, and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

The overall mission of the BCACM is to respond to the increasing call in our communities to continue to light the flame of hope by striving to build and sustain communities of character with youth, young adults, adults, and older adults who have high morality, integrity, and commitment to be leaders for the sake of the present and future generation. The BCACM seeks to minister to the family by educating and nurturing the whole person—physically, spiritually, mentally, morally, and ethically.

BCACM aims to be a beacon of light in a dismal world. We seek to spread HOPE for families in search of healing. The opportunities in which we provide by the grace of God are to strengthen, educate, guide, and enhance the whole family—an individual, a couple, or a family.

As the BCACM, our agency embraces the tenets of the United Methodist Church of making disciples for the transformation of the world by coordinating and developing workshops and seminars to empower our laity and clergy. The ministry continues to fulfill its mission by strengthening these churches in the areas of outreach, Christian education, and leadership development. Our programs and ministries focus on meeting the holistic needs of families. We strive to meet these needs via weekly bible study, prayer, workshops and seminars, school enrichment by partnering with Blenheim Elementary & Middle School, Clio Elementary & Middle School, and Bennettsville Middle School. In addition, we sponsor the Sacred Saturday (focusing on children & youth ages 5-11) and Tea Time with Teens (focusing on abstinence with 12-18 girls), VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership trainings, health screenings, soup kitchen, food distribution, summer day camps, and flood buckets.

The BCACM also partners with the communities of Shalom to address inadequate home improvements, medical emergency, hunger and other social needs.

It is our belief that the BCACM is truly embodied in the principles and tenets of the connectional ministry of the South Carolina Conference and the United Methodist Church.

Bethlehem Community Center – Columbia: The Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is an historic multi-service agency now serving residents of the Riverview Terrace and Broad River Terrace communities in Columbia, South Carolina. **VISION STATEMENT:** We envision that the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center will be the premiere community center for children and families in the Midlands. **MISSION STATEMENT:** To educate and enrich the lives of individuals and families in the Midlands to help them achieve their own success. **PROGRAMS:** Afterschool: currently a partnership program with Riverside Apartment Community (Lucius Road) Summer Soapbox Derby: Summer Camp 2012; Introduction to mini -film production for children (Spring/Summer 2012).

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 includes 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 – 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.: *Improving Child Nutrition, Safety and Literacy Interfaith Community Services* works with faith and community partners to meet the needs of struggling families. We were founded 42 years ago by six downtown Columbia churches to be Columbia's first urban service center. Interfaith has been an Advanced Special Ministry for four decades. Our offices are located in St. Mark UMC in the Earlwood neighborhood of Columbia. We are partnering with St. Mark to work toward improving the lives of Section 8 residents in a nearby complex called Riverside Apartments. Our Mission is to convene, educate and coordinate faith and other community partners to build strong families and strong communities. Our Vision is a united faith community improving the quality of life in South Carolina by working together to build strong families and healthy thriving children. Our Guiding Principles: The faith traditions at the heart of Interfaith Community Services call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This calls us to share the gifts and resources of this life justly, to work in partnership for the common good, and to provide an environment that promotes the development of everyone's strengths and skills. We practice honest and integrity in everything we do. We provide service in the spirit of unity and sincerity. These principles guide our work and inspire our mission

Killingsworth Inc.: Killingsworth 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. In addition to room and board, we offer counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and work support, life-skills training, 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 Cooperative Ministry: Founded in 1982 The Cooperative Ministry is a unique ministry of the Midlands community created to serve as an instrument of God's love by providing a coordinated charitable response to assist those in need. We work hard to improve the quality of life for our clients by providing short-term assistance, counseling, prayer, and guidance to other available community resources. With a focus on cultural literacy and an ultimate goal of self-sufficiency, we work to address many of the root causes of poverty.

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 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 in-

cludes: **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.

CONFERENCE HOMES

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

*“My People will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest.” Isaiah 32:18*

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry, a ministry established and supported by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, continues to grow stronger as it develops additional ways to care for adult persons with special needs. The homes provide a place where residents live in a loving Christian environment, overseen by a dedicated professional staff. Our mission is to provide the highest quality of life with the greatest level of independence, within the context of a faith-based residential setting. These homes provide life skills training and work experiences along with daily living skills, cooking, laundry, self-help, social and recreational experiences and Sunday connections to worshipping communities.

The two homes already in operation are Aldersgate Builders Care Home, 731 Sims Avenue, near the campus of Epworth Children’s Home in Columbia and Aldersgate at The Oaks, 921 Methodist Oaks Drive, Orangeburg. The Columbia Home is “home” for six young women. There is a waiting list. Aldersgate at The Oaks is “home” for four young men with space for two additional residents.

During the fall of 2011 the Columbia Home suffered extensive damage due to flooding from torrential rains. We thank the volunteers who gave time and expertise to help restore the residence, to churches and individuals who contributed monetary gifts and to all who continue to pray for this ministry. The house is restored and the young women are enjoying being “back at home”!

As there is a growing need for homes in South Carolina, our vision is to expand **ALDERSGATE** to meet this need. Help this vision come into reality with your prayers and your gifts to build and maintain additional homes and to provide a residents assistance fund.

For more information or to refer persons who may need our services you may visit Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry at the Conference website: www.umcsc.org

August 12, 2012 is designated by our Conference as Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday. We encourage every church to celebrate ASNM by receiving an offering. Information and brochures are available from the Conference office. Persons are ready to come to your church or group meeting to help you know more about **ALDERSGATE**. We thank the churches, organizations, classes and individuals for their generous gifts during the past year.

We thank all volunteers who help to carry out the work of **ALDERSGATE**, the Board of Trustees, the staff in each home, and the Parents and Guardians of our residents. Their tireless efforts enable the men and women of **ALDERSGATE** to “live in peaceful dwelling places, secure homes and undisturbed places of rest.”

Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN’S HOME

Epworth Children’s Home has completed 116 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.

The CARE research and implementation team from Cornell University once again visited the Epworth campus and during that visit commended Epworth for being a "star" CARE program, and congratulated staff members for excellent work with the CARE model.
- II. Completed Phase III of the Residential Services outcomes project. The Residential Services Outcomes Project is a research project that is sponsored by the Duke Endowment and implemented by researchers from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. The goal of this research is to implement a successful outcomes strategy in selected agencies in North and South Carolina in order to strengthen the system of care for children and youth, and to enhance the quality of programs and services.
- III. Averaged 76 children per day in the residential population plus had a record number of 10 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 experience developmental delays. The EEIC program also served 46 families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 150 children served at any given time.
- IV. Began year five of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of increasing per church member giving to a minimum of \$6.00 per member. Church giving decreased by \$142,357 in 2010 and then increased by 72,868 in 2011. The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children increased remained at 248. 325 churches met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average. This is an increase of 3 from 2010. A complete report can be located at www.epworthchildreshome.org.
- V. Changed the fiscal year from an October through September year to a January through December calendar year. Adopted a budget of \$4,755,656 for the fiscal year 1-1-12 through 12-31-12. This includes \$90,000 in Title I funds, and a grant from Richland County of \$45,000 for the Independent Living Initiative.
- VI. 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, 2012 was \$279,270 which insures the programs operation through December of 2012.
- VII. The Epworth Board of Trustees continued 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 endowment draw has been reduced by \$1,100,000 per year.
- VIII. Epworth Children's Home continues to be accredited by EAGLE Accreditation Commission of the United Methodist Association. The EAGLE accreditation is effective for the period of five (5) years, July 2010 through July 2015.

The United Methodist Association serves more than 380 health and human service organizations and professionals nationwide. The Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence or EAGLE accreditation involves meeting a set of high standards that are designed to enhance the governance of and the quality of services provided by an institution.
- IX. Continued to expand the Higher Education Program by adding resources to the Supervised Independent Living Initiative. This new program is designed to serve youth between the ages of seventeen (17) and twenty-one (21) who are "aging out" of child care, yet need limited supervision, guidance and a home as they learn job skills and transition into the adult world.
- X. The annual independent audit was conducted by the firm of DeLoach and Williamson, LLP. The auditors reported to the Epworth Board of Trustees that the audit was an unqualified or "clean" audit which is the highest level of reporting assurance an organization can receive from its independent auditors. The audit

was unlimited in scope which signifies the auditors had full access to Epworth's books and records.

The audit reflected: there was an increase in net assets of \$538,012. Overall revenues increased slightly from 2010 totals. Investment income decreased and legacies and bequests increased. Expenses decreased by \$100,000 when compared to 2010 figures.

- XI. Emphasized witness and service through church school, worship, retreats, UMYF, the Good News Bible Club, cottage devotionals and service projects. Residents of Epworth are expected to give as well as receive therefore they participate not only in campus services but also in off campus projects such as Salkahatchie Summer Service, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Washington Street UMC Soup Kitchen and Homeworks.
- XII. Opened a new mastery based online charter school on campus for high school students. This is a small supervised school where students who may be in danger of not completing high school have the opportunity to earn a diploma through individualized instruction and self paced learning.

23% 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 Methodist 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

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide superior retirement living Continuing Care and a working environment that nourishes the human spirit and preserves personal dignity by addressing the whole person in an atmosphere which witnesses Christian Values and love.

The Oaks was established in 1953 and opened with the first ten residents in 1954 at its main campus just south of Orangeburg, SC. Today, the Oaks serves more than 500 residents and clients on its main campus, at its PACE facility in Orangeburg and in the greater Orangeburg community. On the main campus, the Oaks provides several active Independent Living options, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care as well as Rehabilitative Services. As the retirement environment has changed, The Oaks has expanded its services and where and how it provides them.

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides holistic medical and health-related care to poor, frail, elderly clients in the greater Orangeburg community and is operated in a modern day facility located at 153 Founders Court, Orangeburg, SC. Senior Solutions and Live at Home Technologies provide services that improve quality of life and allow clients to stay in their homes and communities longer and more independently than they would be able to on their own.

On campus, The Oaks offers many activities that nourish residents and clients physically, mentally and spiritually. These activities are now available to the community through the Passport to The Oaks, which allows these clients to participate in activities and use facilities such as the swimming pool and fitness center. Senior Solutions and Live at Home Technologies are also available on campus, allowing residents to stay in the Independent Living and Assisted Living options longer. As part of the Oaks broader Christian mission, space and support have been provided for the first Aldersgate Home in South Carolina. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is a ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church that provides residence and support for adults with developmental disabilities. The Oaks site provides for 6 male residents.

The Oaks is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which is a not for profit charitable and religious organization. It is directed by the Oaks Board of Trustees which is a twenty-one member board consisting mainly of South Carolina United Methodist clergy and laity. Each board member is qualified before being asked to serve, resulting in each member bringing particular skills to benefit The Oaks. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of The Oaks and works closely with the Chief Executive Officer and his staff to look strategically at The Oaks' future. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee meet at least quarterly to monitor the status and review the direction of The Oaks. There are sub-committees of the board that meet regularly throughout the year ranging from committees that consider services offered to board governance issues. In addition, annual planning sessions are held with the Board of Trustees and executive and senior staff to determine the future direction of The Oaks.

As the retirement environment and the needs of those individuals who are served continue to change, The Oaks will remain committed to its ministry and mission and provide new and innovative services to do so. If you are not already familiar with The Oaks, we invite you to contact us, visit our facilities and find out more about our services.

Andy Cox, Chairman of Board of Trustees

WESLEY COMMONS

Thank you for your interest in our wonderful mission at Wesley Commons.

Fiscal Year ending 2011 marked another year of continued accomplishment for Wesley Commons during very difficult times. We are proud to report that our Ministry of CARE and Vision of the Future remains as vibrant and solid as ever before. Our continued success is built on the solid foundation of our mission which is to *enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles*. That is only possible through the support of our wonderful employees who live and breathe that charge every day at Wesley Commons.

Even in these turbulent times, Wesley Commons continues to be a blessed organization as evidenced by the stability of our programs, stewardship and support. For the past several years, Wesley Commons has been involved in a cycle of planning, building and growing our campus into a regionally recognized leader in retirement living. While we are very proud of our accomplishments, we find ourselves, once again, on the precipice of a new journey. One that sees a future radically different due to significant economic, regulatory and consumer shifts.

This year has been laden with many challenges which have tested our resolve. Yet, through determination, ingenuity, and keeping our focus on our core Mission, we have stayed the course. The negative indicators of our economy in both the financial and housing markets have had an impact on our Future Residents. In some cases individuals had to pass up their available position on our waiting list to move into Wesley Commons as a result of such issues. This challenge did result in negative pressure with campus occupancy. The reduction in occupancy was offset through continued retooling of our offerings and increased efficiencies of our operations. To assist our Future Residents and to enable better protection from the pain of this turn down, we continue to design new options to enable them to make the right choice.

As our consumer demand and expectations have continued to evolve, we have also adapted our offerings. As the economy has ebbed and flowed, we have fine-tuned our operations. Wesley Commons is known to be a community of great value and superb offerings. We strive every day to keep that balance and market awareness.

Wesley Commons has remained true to our vision of value in our field of service. We remain focused on our goal to be desired by many and affordable to most. This very difficult target takes great and constant efforts by management to ensure our offerings are of greater value as compared to our competitors across the Southeast. We validate our value offerings continuously through direct comparisons to several communities across the region. Pricing and affordability to those we serve remains a solid element of our success. We are able to maintain this position in the market through our ongoing focus of strong stewardship.

This effort has positioned Wesley Commons in an extremely favorable position as occupancy improves relative to the Southeast's real estate position. This stewardship has not only positioned Wesley Commons on more stable footing than others, it has also allowed our 40 year history of supporting those in need to continue.

We remain humbled and honored to be reminded of our most important asset and blessing; our employees. God is good and has provided Wesley Commons with a wonderful team of dedicated and Mission oriented individuals, who pleasantly and compassionately serve our residents day in and day out.

Currently, we have begun an awesome task of preparing our employees for our next major advancement in our Mission. Our leadership team is poised to redesign how we deliver exceptional services to both our current and future customers. We envision a campus which is based upon delivering much more individually focused service and support in a residential setting, as opposed to the current institutional standard prevalent in our Country.

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

In the service of others,

*The Reverend James F. Patterson, Chairman of the Board
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO*

CONFERENCE RELATED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

In its 142nd year, Claflin University launched the 2011-2012 academic year with a record enrollment and the prospect of another highly successful year of collaborative and strategic efforts to move the University to higher levels of recognition and distinction from a global perspective.

Undergirded by the triumvirate of teaching, research and service, the University's enrollment reached an all-time high of 1961 students from 29 states and Washington, D.C. and 16 foreign countries. These students are engaged with a faculty and staff devoted and determined to ensure their success in their chosen field of study.

Led by the dynamic leadership of its eighth president Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University had reasons to celebrate significant achievements during the year. Claflin received reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A key component of the reaffirmation process was the institution's presentation of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled "Panther STEPS: Students In Transition Engaged and Preparing for Success." The plan targets students in their initial year of matriculation and furnishes them with a strong foundation of skills and competencies necessary to complete their college degrees and be productive, successful citizens competing in a global society.

Claflin continued to be recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the "Best Liberal Arts Colleges" in the nation. In its 2012 edition, the publication ranked Claflin number one in annual alumni giving. Claflin's rate of 43 percent topped the nation's historically black colleges and universities. In that same report, Claflin was reclassified from the South Region and all its rankings are now based nationally. Only four other institutions in South Carolina are ranked national liberal arts colleges by the publication.

Claflin University continued to gain national recognition for advancements in research. Claflin biology professor, Dr. Nicholas Panasik, was awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award, which includes a grant of \$750,000.

International exposure was achieved for the University on the Fox News Channel, New York. In his "Beyond the Dream" segment featured on the "America's News Headquarters" newscast, reporter Kelly Wright, over the course of the year, aired segments on the University. The segments ranged from the visionary leadership of President Tisdale to the University's Leadership Development Center and Honor's College and to the national accomplishments of distinguished alumni photographer and civil rights activist Cecil Williams and artist Dr. Leo Twiggs.

The spiritual life of the University remained vigorous. Claflin continued to hold weekly one-hour worship services on Sunday mornings. The worship service consists of music from the Claflin University Gospel Choir and inspirational messages delivered by members of the ministerial staff from area United Methodist Churches as well as other denominations.

As Claflin continues to value and preserve its connection to the United Methodist Church, the University held the 20th Anniversary of the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy. The theme for this special University two-day event was "The Church as a Model for Ethical Leadership for Our Nation." The Rev. Granville Hicks, after whom the academy is named, delivered the keynote message at one of the luncheons. Another keynote speaker was Dr. Walter E. Fluker, Boston University professor, lecturer, and author who also was the founding executive director of the Leadership Center and the Coca-Cola Professor of Leadership Studies at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

As the leadership of Claflin University works to make a strong university stronger, the public phase of the University's most ambitious Capital Campaign was launched. With a goal of \$96.4 million, "The Campaign for Claflin University: Imagine the Possibilities" focuses on areas most critical to the institution's future advancement, including financial aid and scholarships for outstanding students, facilities enhancements, and support for building nationally accredited academic programs.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Throughout 2011 Columbia College continued to honor our United Methodist Heritage through academic programs, outreach, and chapel.

A new academic program established through a pilot last year and included as a requirement going forward from this fall is the R. Wright Spears C2lt sophomore experience. C2lt builds on Columbia College's highly successful First Year Experience and strengthens college-wide efforts to integrate leadership into the curriculum. Our leadership developmental model is a four-year plan built upon the Four C's: Courage, Commitment, Confidence, and Competence.

At Columbia College, leadership is described as the difference each person can make in the world so, we call our second year experience, C2lt . We believe that our students can “see to it” that they can make such a difference through a sense of social responsibility, service experiences, and rigorous academic and community discourse.

The second year is dedicated to the ideal that as students “see to it,” they are prepared to access issues of social justice, cooperate in bringing about change, celebrate community, and prepare for making life choices and life commitments. The major components of the second year plan are:

- Second Year Course: Incorporating service-learning in LA 201 (an existing course targeted for second year students entitled Liberal Arts 201: Diversity, Gender, and Social Justice).
- Second Year Launch: The day before classes begin in the fall, second year students meet for a rally and activity day. They meet with their LA 201 classmates and instructors (called navigators), visit their service sites, and begin the group identity process.
- SpearsFest: A celebration held in the spring semester in cooperation with existing Fun Day showcasing the commitment of the second year class and service learning on campus.
- Monthly Vocation Seminars: Second year students will be targeted for attendance at a series of seminars given on a regular basis each month during which students begin building a commitment to lifelong study and dedication to a life of service and professional development.

The C2lt year connects students to our mission via service-learning and vocational discourse. Faculty navigators serve as instructors of the course, guides for the service project, and mentors of vocational decision making. Our plan is named for a past president of the College, Dr. R. Wright Spears, whose integrity and vision led the college through integration and a catastrophic fire which destroyed a significant part of the campus.

Outreach to the South Carolina Conference has continued with the Reverend Roy Mitchell, chaplain and director of church relations, filling pulpits across the state numerous times and supporting many Conference and congregational events. A schedule of spring chapel services and a description of religious life from the Columbia College webpage are attached to this report.

The spring semester of 2011 included a visit by our SACS accreditation team. On campus for the 10-year review of the college’s academic programs, financial condition, and governance structures, the team was clearly pleased with what they found since Columbia College received a full ten-year continuation of accreditation with no follow up visits or reports required.

The college continued to celebrate awards and recognition by our students, faculty, staff, and alumnae. Last spring as a result of Professor Lynne Noble’s having been named a Fulbright Scholar Columbia College signed an agreement with the Mongolian State University of Education for a five-year term of cooperation, shared research, and exchange of both faculty and students. This means that, among other activities, six Mongolian educators will travel to Columbia in June for two weeks filled with English practice, teaching collaboration and cultural exchange. In the spring of 2011 several Columbia College visitors joined Dr. Noble at different times in Mongolia, including education majors Nicole Hill and Laura Miller, who completed a practicum at the American School of Ulaanbaatar. In addition, Dr. Mary Steppling, who heads the education division at Columbia College, and Susanne Brown, director of the teacher education program, and President Caroline Whitson made the trip to meet Mongolian colleagues and take steps toward coordinating the exchange agreement.

In March Dr. Jason Munsell and three Communication students attended the Southern States Communication Association conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. The three students, Diana Lynde, Juliette Brown, and Donna Tillis presented papers at the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference associated with SSCA. Diana Lynde received the Top Paper award of over 150 submissions from around the country.

Also in March five students, three faculty members, and one alumna attended the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Columbia College was recognized as having submitted the most books to the Sigma Tau Delta/Better World Books book drive. In addition, Lateshia Beachum, an alumna, was recognized for her paper “Uncle Ruckus, Black-White Supremacy, Self-Hatred, and *The Boondocks*,” which won the top prize in the category of papers on popular culture.

This fall Professor Kyle Love was honored at the 2011 National Communication Association’s annual conference in New Orleans, LA, with the Hobgood Distinguished Service to Communication Centers Award. The award is presented to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the support and/or promotion of communication centers, the Communication

Centers section of the National Communication Association, and the profession during her or his career. Professor Love is also a past recipient of the Preston Leadership Award. She has served as head of the National Association of Communication Centers, and as chair of the Communication Centers section of NCA. She is director of oral communication for Columbia College's Pearce Communication Center, where she directs the Pearce Communication Lab. Professor Love also won the top panel award for the Communication Centers section of NCA; she has won this award three of the last four years.

During the summer we continued facility upgrades with significant renovations to Asbury Hall, the first-year residence for all Columbia College students. In the spring of 2011 the college began a major transformation of the hall into a first-year living and learning center. Renovation thus far has included beautification of the main entry, formal lounge, and two residential wings. Still to be accomplished are renovation of the north wing and of the lower lounge.

Finally, in October I announced my plan to retire effective June 30, 2012, following 11 years at the college. A search committee has been formed and their expectation is to recommend a candidate to the Board of Trustees by early April.

Caroline Whitson, President

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

SMC started this academic year with its centennial birthday celebration on September 5, 2011!!! 100 years ago, Rev. David English Camak, in partnership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and later with the General Board of Global Ministries and the South Carolina Annual Conference began the Textile Industrial Institute on the corner of Farley and Brawley Streets in Spartanburg. From there, SMC moved to the west side of Spartanburg and grew into one of the strongest two-year liberal arts colleges in the nation. That status has not changed in 100 years. We are pleased to share with you the following updates that will serve to underscore our strength:

- **Fundraising Campaign:** "Pioneering the Future: The Centennial Campaign for Spartanburg Methodist College" continues in its quiet phase and is nearing the half-way mark toward its \$15 million goal. The centerpiece of the campaign is the College's newest academic building in nearly 50 years: Edgar H. Ellis, Jr. Hall, named in honor of SMC Alumni Rev. Dr. Edgar H. Ellis (SJC). Ellis Hall will open in October 2012. The cost of the building is \$12 million.
- **Enrollment:** SMC continued its record high enrollment in Fall 2011, welcoming 803 students to campus. We continue to venture into the on-line world, including the use of social media, and have added more new approaches in our recruitment efforts. As a result, we have realized a record 5,462 (and rising every week) inquiries for Fall 2012 admission. This compares to 2,793 for all of the Fall 2011 recruitment season.
- **Success Rate:** Our success rate, defined as students who begin their college career at SMC and then continue on beyond SMC, continues to exceed that of other two-year colleges at 84.7%. Even more impressive is the outstanding work we do with two different minority populations: African-American students (success rate = 79%) and Hispanic student (success rate = 91%).
- **Academic Program:** SMC launched two new degree programs this year: the Associate of Business degree and the Associate of Fine Arts degree. This brings the total number of degree programs up to six. We continue to maintain very strong articulation agreements with a long list of 4-year colleges and are proud of the seamless transfer opportunities our students have.
- **Athletics:** Pioneer athletics never disappoints our fans! Our cross-country program went to its national competition this year and is currently ranked 10th in the nation! Our soccer program (both women's and men's) won their regional competitions. We are looking for outstanding performance in our Winter and Springs sports as well this year. Over 350 student-athletes attend SMC, and in the past three years, a student-athlete has been named the Outstanding Graduate at the College's annual commencement.
- **Commitment to Service and Worship:** Under the continued leadership of Rev. Candice Sloan, Chaplain of the College and Director of Church Relations, weekly daytime chapel services are both creative and well-attended. Rev. Sloan also offers tremendous support and direction for our very popular Thursday evening service called "Overflow," which is a student-led service. In addition, Rev. Sloan spearheads the College's service opportunities, beginning with a Freshman Day of Service in August. The SMC campus community provides over 5,000 hours of service to the greater Spartanburg community every year.

- **Centennial Celebration:** In celebration of our 100th birthday, SMC held a campus-wide birthday party complete with a replica of the campus in cake form! The birthday party was preceded earlier in the day by the Fall Convocation, which featured SMC entrepreneur, philanthropist and business leader Mr. Jimmy I. Gibbs as the featured speaker.

We offer you, the members of the Annual Conference, our continued gratitude for your faithful support. For 100 years, as evidenced by our success, we know that the hand of God has been visible in our work. We are pleased to be in the second century of a blessed partnership with you.

Respectfully submitted,

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

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College usually gets its share of time in the national spotlight, but we are particularly proud this year of such distinctions as a listing in the Princeton Review “Best Value Colleges for 2012;” a selection as one of 40 “Great Schools, Great Prices” in *U.S. News & World Report*; and recognition as one of *Kiplinger’s* “Best Values in Private Colleges.”

Value is not always an easy concept to measure, but here are some reasons that Wofford scores high in this kind of benchmarking:

- A focused mission statement “to be a liberal arts college of superior quality,” and cost-effective programming that makes sense. For example, The Center for Community and Global Engagement (administered by our Perkins-Prothro Chaplain, Dr. Ron Robinson) emphasizes (1) Educational Opportunity; (2) Energy and the Environment; (3) Health and Healthy Living; (4) Poverty Reduction and Alleviation; and (5) Diversity and Pluralism.
- We have an effective enrollment management and advising strategy. Wofford’s most recent six-year graduation rate exceeded 83 percent, compared to the national average of 57 percent.
- We have one of the most robust learning outcomes “assessment for improvement” programs in the nation, and there is daily emphasis on conscientious budget management.
- As a nationally recognized “great college to work for,” we cultivate long-term relationships with faculty and staff who are passionate about student learning and who relate comfortably to others in the campus community.
- We take pride in an effective, individualized financial aid program that keeps the college accessible to a wide range of deserving students.

United Methodists remain the largest denominational group in the Wofford student body. Considering our average financial aid package last year was \$27,149, Methodist students received more than \$7 million through the financial aid office in 2011-2012. Support from the Senior College Scholarship Fund is a cornerstone of that effort. We appreciate that support and put it to good use as part of financial aid packages for United Methodist leaders of the future.

Katy Tamblyn is a junior at Wofford from Charleston, S.C., where she and her parents, Tommy and Leigh Tamblyn, are members of Grace United Methodist Church. A certified Lay Speaker, she was active in youth and musical groups in high school, and made two mission trips. She is active in several student organizations at Wofford, but her focus is on her major in religion and her pre-ministerial interests. “I definitely feel a higher calling,” Tamblyn says. “I am looking at Methodist seminaries — Duke and Candler at Emory — and I’d like to start out in youth ministry. Wofford has been a great fit for me. It has helped me to foster my love for my faith community and my interest in a Christian vocation.”

Another Methodist pre-ministerial student, sophomore Rob Levin of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is the son of Greg and Jenni Levin. “Wofford is a good fit for me because of the small class sizes,” Levin says. “Most of my classes here are capped at around 15 students. This gives me the opportunity to discuss class topics every day rather than having only an opportunity to listen. Dialogue is vitally important to a student of religion, and Methodists always have treasured human experience and rational thinking along with scripture.”

Young men and women like Katy Tamblyn and Rob Levin are the reasons that I believe the world is a better place because of Wofford College, past, present and future. Our vocation is to do good in this world without making any special fuss, sharing what we have with others and finding joy in doing so every day.

Benjamin B. Dunlap

CONFERENCE WESLEY FOUNDATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Charleston Wesley Foundation was reminded this fall that we serve a wounded healer. We lost one of our Citadel members in November. It was the faithful prayers of those who love us that got us through that dark valley. It was the well-wishes, calls and emails from our sister Wesley Foundation directors, members and alumni across the state that held us up when we were too shocked and grief-ridden to stand. It was the gift of presence of our Charleston Wesley Foundation board members that gave us the strength to carry on through darkness and back into the light. The Wounded Healer through our campus ministry family held us tight as we watched the storm of life go by. Praise God! Josh, we miss you but we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have found the peace you so desperately sought. As we enter into our eleventh year of ministry our prayers remain with our troops and their families as the conflict 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, Ben Risher and Bill Houpt. May God continue to keep you and your families!

Our alumni in the ministry continue to make us so proud, Aaron Meadows, Mallory Forte and Justin Ritter. Aaron Meadows, an elder in full connection of this conference is serving Aldersgate UMC in the Charleston district and as a chaplain on the Charleston Air Force base. Aaron, also, serves as Vice chairperson of the Charleston Wesley Foundation Board. Mallory Forte is now a certified candidate serving First UMC and as an associate of Lancaster UMC in Rock Hill district. Justin Ritter has been accepted at Candler School of Theology, Emory University for the fall of 2012 class.

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. The CSU group continues to be in transition as we build a new family faith there.

Our ministry at MUSC is now as a conduit for connecting those adults to the various young adult ministries at our local churches. Citadel continues to be our largest group with a weekly average between 20–50 members at the gathering.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had another busy year. We sponsored an adolescent in the Halos holiday-giving event. The College of Charleston and the Citadel prepared and sent 17 Operation Christmas Child boxes in November. Our Mission weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at Rural Mission was a blessed time of Christian love in action. Charleston Wesley Foundation was one of the organizing groups for the Charleston area Crop Walk in November. We created signs, paced the walking path and assisted with the giveaways. Justin Ritter, College of Charleston, attend Exploration where he was both inspired and blessed. In January of 2012 Charleston Wesley Foundation spearheaded the SC student delegation attending the Holston Conference College event called Divine Rhythm. Students from Furman and Winthrop joined us as we crossed conference lines to worship, learn and serve with our brothers and sisters from the Wesley fellowships/foundations of Tennessee. Participating in the Stop Hunger Now event was an eye-opening, informative and rewarding experience. Charleston Wesley Foundation and Bethel UMC co-sponsor the Beware of Christian group in October. It was well-attended and received. Thank you, John and Paula Altman for your vision and leadership.

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 daily.

Lisa C. Hawkins, Campus minister

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

My years at Clemson UMC (CUMC) and Clemson Wesley (CW) have been exciting, challenging, and very rewarding. I continue to be inspired by the members of CUMC and their

deep love for students, and my wife, Anne, and I continue to be amazed by the spiritual maturity of those students who call CW and/or CUMC "home."

All ministries of CW are initiated and executed through our 24-person Joel Team, a student-leadership team and sets the larger vision and direction for the overall ministry. Our programming typically falls into one of five different categories: **Worship, Small Groups, Retreats, Mission and Social.**

Worship

Because of our belief in the power of the Word and sacrament to transform lives and build Christian community, worship is the central focus for student ministry. Every week through phone calls, emails, and visits students are encouraged to participate in weekly worship. This year we have averaged 94 students at CW's main gathering of the week, *Evensong*, which is held on Sunday nights. In addition, an average of 60 students have attended one of CUMC's two weekly services on Sunday morning. In total we see an estimated average of 137 different students at one of the three Sunday worship services at CUMC each week.

This spring we have added a new mid-week worship opportunity in the hopes of reaching a new group of students. *Eventide* is held on Wednesday nights at our Student Center in downtown Clemson and involves 90 minutes of music and Bible study. We are excited about the evolution of *Eventide* as we look forward to the fall of 2012.

Small Groups

In the spirit of John Wesley and the early Methodists, small groups play a vital role in the overall life of CW. This academic year CW has sponsored 8 student-led Bible study groups, with over 80 different students meeting weekly for study, prayer, accountability and encouragement. In addition to these groups, other short-term groups were offered, including a Couples Discussion group for students dating seriously or talking about marriage. It is apparent from comments made by students that the time spent in these groups is essential and a highlight of their college experience and spiritual growth.

Retreats

Retreats continue to play an important role in reaching new students and helping others to grow in their faith. This fall a group of 60 students went rafting on the first weekend of school, and our Mountain Weekend to Asbury Hills this winter involved 45 participants. Typically, more than 150 different students participate in one of the three to four retreats that CW sponsors each academic year.

Mission

Missions – locally, regionally, and globally – continue to play an important role in helping students put their faith into action. Highlights this past year include a fall mission trip to Tuscaloosa, AL (45 participants), and two spring break trips to Los Angeles and Joplin, MO (20 and 45 participants, respectively). In early May, CW anticipates sending another strong group to New Orleans as we collaborate with other Wesley groups across the Conference.

While these mission trips and short-term missionary experiences tell much of the story, CW has also been in mission in other ways. Students continue to serve God and their neighbor through assisting local ministries like Habitat for Humanity, Crop Walk, Dance Marathon and Clemson Community Care and doing volunteer work for the elderly and homeless throughout our campuses and greater community.

Social

One final key component to the overall student ministry is the social and fellowship opportunities that are offered. Every year a number of opportunities for students are offered including Welcome Back Luncheons, Pre- or Post-game Tailgates, Thursdays Men's Breakfast, Welcome Back Cookout, Trick or Treat for Canned goods, Christmas Drop In and College Graduate Recognition Dinner.

Other Reflections

In total, the combined efforts of CW and CUMC will result in connections with over 900 different students this academic year, with well over one-half of these students being active in either CW, CUMC or both. With nearly 24,000 students in the area (representing Clemson University, Tri-County and Southern Wesleyan University), our goal remains to reach at least 5% of this population, or approximately 1,200 different students each year.

I continue to be inspired by the number of students who have made the decision to serve God with their lives, both in ordained, full-time and lay capacities. Over the last ten years 15 alums have entered the ordained ministry and dozens of others are serving God, the Church and the world in other full-time ways.

I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve the Church through the ministry of CW and CUMC and for the gift of wonderful colleagues and lay members throughout the area and Conference who have been so supportive of our efforts over the years.

*Rev. C. Lane Glaze, Director,
Campus Minister*

COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION- METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

The reign of God is breaking in upon us, even now, Jesus proclaimed. As people are healed, the good news proclaimed, the captives set free and the blind made to see, the reality of God's healing, reconciling and transforming power is manifest in our midst. The reign of God is breaking into the lives of students at the University of South Carolina and into the campus ministry called the Methodist Student Network (Wesley Foundation) as we worship, serve each other and especially the "least of these", learn about the mysteries of faith, offer hospitality, work for justice and work for the full realization of God's rule. The Methodist Student Network is a Pentecost community of faith comprised of students from many faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds. It is a community striving to be hospitable to all regardless of background, language, sexual orientation or maturity of faith. We are young, very imperfect but passionate about the spiritual life and are intentional about living it out in practical and faithful ways. These are some of the signs of the reign of God breaking in among us.

We serve on eight occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, entertain through music and offer words of encouragement. We tutor and mentor each week after school at St. Lawrence Place, a program for at risk, latch key children. We work particularly with Hispanic children at BC Grammar School to help them with their English and general studies and we weekly assist West Metro Hispanic Ministry with ESL for adults and caring for the children. Additionally we serve on many other occasions and contexts such as Epworth's Children's' Home, the Tucker Center, the Winter Shelter and Transitions.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year we took five different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to Harlem (New York City), Tuscaloosa (Alabama) and Guntersville (Alabama) doing tornado relief work, Rural Mission on John's Island and Pastocalle, Ecuador.

About 55 students gather in small groups throughout the week support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. This year Shane Claiborne's "Irresistible Revolution" and Henri Nouwen's "Reaching Out" have focused our study and faith growth. This year we held four retreats to allow students more time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God.

We worship Sunday evening in a lively and joyous manner utilizing the various gifts of students and a diversity of traditions from the global church. Afterwards we eat together a meal donated by a local United Methodist church or prepared by our students. Weekly we gather for **contemplative prayer** believing that silence is fertile soil for cultivating God's presence.

The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and meet to talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries.

Sincere thanks to all the people and churches that support this connectional ministry. This ministry would not be possible without it. Thanks to the Board members, local churches, Sunday school classes, UM Men's and Women's groups. We are grateful that they are so helpful. And, of course, thanks to my students and staff. They are what make us as vital and dynamic as we are. Thanks be to God for all of you.

Tom Wall, Director

THE FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

I once preached a sermon entitled, "Expect the Expected," essentially encouraging my congregation to approach prayer (and life in general) with unwavering faith and a positive attitude. In God's Word God promises to love, care, support, and provide for us- hence how we pray and how we live should reflect expectations of God to make good on God's promises. The Fall, 2011 semester at The Francis Marion Wesley Foundation has shown me that I still need to work at practicing what I preach.

This school year at FMU Wesley has been one of surprising, explosive growth and subsequent adaptation. The average attendance at our weekly meetings has more than doubled (sometimes tripled), and the number of students served by this ministry has increased dramatically. Our students are excited about what God is doing in and through the group and they regularly invite others to share the blessings. Such an influx of new students has required an unexpected adjustment to our "small group" format, but has also opened the door for the reinroduction of Worship into the program for the first time in years. Through the generosity of

local churches and the know-how of student volunteers, we have introduced new technology that has greatly increased the quality of our Bible study and group discussion components. While the sudden boom in attendance initially caught us off guard, FMU Wesley continues to provide a safe, comfortable environment for students to encounter God in powerful ways and to grow in faith together.

Although our growth in the Fall has necessitated a shift in focus to more group-building and fellowship activities, FMU Wesley still provides opportunities for students to live out the love of Christ through mission and service projects. The group continued its annual traditions of Trick-or-Treating for food items (to support Florence's Harvest Hope Food Bank) and volunteering at FMU's Bike MS event (to raise awareness and money for the fight against Multiple Sclerosis), and also sponsored a new campus-wide event called "Dunk-A-Palooza." Brave professors volunteered to sit in a dunk tank, affording students (and a few faculty and staff members) the opportunity to dunk the professors for the price of a small donation to McLeod Regional Medical Center's branch of the Children's Miracle Network. Plans for the Spring, 2012 semester include hosting a campus-wide Christian concert, partnering with other groups on campus to raise awareness for social justice issues, and once again serving the surrounding community through our annual Week of Service over Spring Break.

If there is anything I have learned this school year as Director of the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation it is that when we ask God to provide growth we need to be prepared for God's answer. God has undoubtedly blessed FMU Wesley, but an increase in students served has also meant an increase in necessary expenses. We are sincerely grateful to all of the churches, groups, and individuals who have supported this ministry, but we are also greatly in need of new partners and additional financial support. Please continue to pray for the future of our program and for the students who are affected by its ministry, and please consider becoming a part of this vital ministry as God leads you.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Ricky Howell, Campus Minister

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

I love the Bible story Jesus tells about the parable of the sower. In this story, Jesus is discussing the different places that the seed will fall. One of the things I glean from this passage is the fruitful soil and the growth that occurs in these places. I have been blessed to be in ministry with this wonderful group of young adults and see the growth that has occurred in their lives – I have been blessed to plant seeds, cultivate the soil, and even reap what others have sown.

This year we have focused on the question, "Who Am I?" We know that the college years are a very formative time in the life of an individual, and a time in which we begin to live out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. Often times, however, we get stuck in our ideas of who we *should* be, or who the *world* or *others* want us to be, without really giving heartfelt thought to who GOD is calling us to be. Hopefully through our dialogue and journeying together we have begun to strip away these false "identities" and live into the people that God created. This is a very special year in the life of our students [and me] as it marks the graduation my first class of students. They have lived into the true spirit of Furman Wesley and allowed us to live into the call of God.

In addition to our weekly Tuesday night meetings [Wesley Night], in which we share a snack, worship/program, prayers, and announcements, this year we also have:

- During the first month of classes, we visiting five local UMC churches – designed to give students an introduction to local churches in the hopes that they may find a home of worship while at Furman.
- Weekly Freshmen Small Group Meetings – designed to help new students assimilate into college life.
- Monthly Sophomore/Junior Group Meeting – designed to help the students deal with issues of being a full-time student and the changes that happen in our lives as we get older and more involved in campus life.
- Monthly Senior Group Meetings – designed to provide graduating seniors a place to wrestle with issues of life after college.
- Weekly Lunch in the Dining Hall
- Weekly Office Hours for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Retreats – i.e., Mountain Getaway, Fall Retreat, Divine Rhythm, Spring Retreat

- Missional Outreach – i.e., Fall Spring Break Mission, Spring Break Mission Trip to New York City, Habitat for Humanity, Greenville District Great Day of Service, Relay for Life
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Lake Day, Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Progressive Dinner, Movie Nights, Senior Luau
- Sent 3 Furman Wesley students to Exploration 2009 [for young adults considering professional ministry]

It is our belief 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. I think often times we sell our students short in their desire for a genuine relationship with God and other travelers on this journey of faith. However, I truly believe that if we are going to be in relationship with the Almighty, then it will begin during these formative years in the lives of students, and their faith will form the foundation of EVERYTHING else they encounter in college. They should approach their lives through the lens of their faith.

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

Lander Wesley Fellowship experienced a transitional year in 2011 with many of the group student leaders moving forward in their lives in graduation or student teaching assignment. The program concentrated primarily on student Bible studies and small group ministry. The emphasis of Lander Wesley Fellowship remained on relationship building.

In 2011, Lander Wesley held three worship services at St. Mark UMC (Greenwood). These services, with the name “Ignite,” featured live music, a message and communion. Three students participated in a mission trip to New York. Two students worked as youth ministry interns in a local church.

In addition, Lander Wesley was a sponsor of Transform, a worship event for students in the Greenwood community. The event, held at St. Mark UMC’s Rivers Street Campus, featured the music of Casey Darnell and a message for the students.

Rev. Dean Lollis, Director

THE ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

“And again he said, ‘To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’”

Luke 13: 20-21 (NRSV)

This parable, in which Jesus compares the Kingdom of God with the yeast that leavens bread, speaks to the possibility of great things arising from small beginnings. It is a parable that characterizes the present ministry of the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation. At times, I and loyal supporters of the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation felt overwhelmed with “three measures” of insurmountable odds in our ongoing efforts to fashion a vital ministry for those we seek to serve. Shrinking or non-existent finances, tight budgets, declining revenues, vision and commitment- challenged governance, and ubiquitous competition for the attention of students are just some of the stumbling blocks the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation faced even as we work diligently to build and grow this ministry.

How do you maintain a vision of a flourishing ministry when beset by obstacles all around? In this parable, Jesus helps us to see that the Kingdom of God cannot be contained or restrained from spreading despite small or seeming inconsequential beginnings; likewise, we hold fast to a vision of ministry anchored in trust that a sovereign God always acts to provide for our every need.

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation (sometimes lovingly referred to as the “O”) provides full-time Campus Ministry at Claflin University and South Carolina State University. Our aim is to provide holistic, ecumenical, Biblically, theologically and spiritually based ministries and programs to engage and meet the needs of students, faculty, staff and administrators in the Claflin South Carolina State campus communities. We seek to fulfill these aspirations by culti-

vating a spiritual community – sacred, safe, gracious and caring – a “Jesus Ministry” characterized by Christ like love, service, compassion and emphasizing faith and belief in action - living and practicing their core beliefs and values for the world to see.

Report of Activities

Our efforts continue to be concentrated in three areas: 1) being the presence of God to students in the Claflin and South Carolina State University campus communities; 2) sustaining community and relationship building efforts on both campuses and in the greater Orangeburg area, and 3) strengthening the O’s Board of Directors and instituting a viable administrative and fiscal infrastructure of the ministry.

Significant ministries and activities include, but are not limited to the following:

Messengers in Mission: In partnership with the Community Service Program at Claflin University, the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation offers biblically and theologically grounded sessions designed to help students learn and grow spiritually in the context of a community of care. Called “Messengers in Mission”, students who participate in this ministry will learn what it means to be true Servant Leaders: those dedicated to serving God by serving others and who demonstrate a willingness to go “out on the margins” in service to God’s people. Sessions are mission focused, characterized by a relational and ecumenical approach to teaching and learning. This partnership also led to the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation’s participation in The President’s Interfaith Initiative at Claflin.

Establishment of the Orangeburg Wesley Leadership Team: Through the diligence of building relationships, one student at a time, we have been able to reach and develop a core group of interested, gifted students to form a Leadership Team at the “O”. This group advises and assists with ministry and program planning, and is in the process of working to develop a vision and “branding” for the “O” which will have relevance and meaning for students in a 21st century context.

Ongoing Programs/Ministries and Student Involvement: Other significant activities and accomplishments include a growing ministry of counseling and care; establishment of the OWF Face Book Page, participation and or collaboration in a variety of campus and programs and activities, for example:

- Breast Cancer Awareness (“Coins for Cancer”);
- Forums: “Why Wait?” (on abstinence); “Straight vs. Natural; Black Church History.
- Basic Sewing Seminar (An intergenerational ministry where adult women who are skilled crafts persons in sewing taught students basic sewing skills. This was originated by students who had a genuine desire to learn these skills.) World Day of Prayer – Prayer Walk; Annual Holiday Christmas Party; “Study Hall” Night during exams week; Welcome Back Ice Cream Social; Games Night; “Let’s Eat!” Baking session; Freshman Orientation and Student Day at South Carolina State University, and
- Continued participation in Worship Services at Claflin (Speaker on several occasions)

Administrative Functions: With gratitude I am pleased to report that our endeavors in fundraising and interpretation continue with tangible results. Members of the Board of Directors, local churches and other supporters of the “O” made cash donations as well as gave of their gifts and skills to advance the ministry. We are pleased to have the support of our District Superintendent and that of the clergy in the Orangeburg District. With the addition of new Board members, gains are being made in building and strengthening governing organization and functioning. We are now ready to begin the work necessary for the Board to have a larger vision of the ministry and an accurate understanding of their role as a governing board.

From small beginnings come great things. So we forge ahead, with resolute faith and trust in God’s unrestrained benevolence, fixed in knowing that God will grow this ministry, just as the yeast leavens even “three measures” of flour! Here’s our faith, expressed in these words: “... the parable of the yeast reminds us that even small beginnings are powerful and eventually, change the character of the whole. Can one believe that what began with just a handful of followers in Galilee would eventually change the whole world?” (R. Allen Culpepper, *The New Interpreter’s Bible*.)

How then, could we fail or falter at the “O”?

Reverend Genova McFadden , Director/Campus Minister

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

When I have writer's block I turn on Pandora Radio or I go sit in our "comfy couch" room and talk to students for a little while. There's something about both music and the checking in and shooting the breeze with the smorgasbord of students here that gets my brain buzzing and ready to begin or complete any project. In campus ministry we have the unique gift of working with college students all the time. They're not all the same age, they don't all believe the same things, and they've come to this place from near and far, but they're each facing a critical point in their lives where they're forming significant parts of their identity as they continue on a vocational and faith journey and engage both their minds and their hearts. I love it. I love the intersection of "real life" and faith that seems to flow so easily over lines here.

Winthrop Wesley did many of our usual things this year – mission trips to Nicaragua, Harlem, Charleston, Asheville, as well as service in the community with various agencies, speakers coming in to educate the campus, and the York County CROP Hunger Walk which we host and coordinate, raising over \$26,000 for the hungry here in our community and around the world. We enjoyed spiritual life retreats, cheering on our teams at sporting events, studying in discipleship groups, sharing in worship and Communion together, and offering the love of Christ through both words and actions. We took more seriously the call to be community with one another, again lifting up the Irish saying that "In the shelter of each other is where the people live." In this we began not to just look at who was already part of the group, but at those that would never walk into a campus ministry. What about the student who is afraid to walk into a large already formed group or the one that's been burned by the traditional church?

Focusing on the "other" among us and looking for ways that we can meet needs on campus and in the community has shaped and guided our ministry this year in sometimes unexpected ways. We have reached out to our typical United Methodist students but we've also been intentional in being open to all people that God brings into our ministry. I hear a lot about metrics and vital congregations and the graying of our denomination and I know this is a way for us to bring awareness to our decline and a way to try to curb it. What excites me and our students is not wringing hands over what used to be, but looking towards a future of Christ's followers coming together in transformative ways both in our personal journeys and our living out our faith in real and tangible ways in all of the communities and mission fields that God gives us.

You, the South Carolina Annual Conference, are the accountability for our campus ministries so here are a few metrics for you. In a campus of 5800 undergraduate and graduate students, this year Winthrop Wesley had over 450 students participate in our missions and outreach on campus, on mission trips, and in service hours. This year our weekly gatherings averaged over 75 individual students, not including special lectures, events, or fellowship activities. We celebrate several of our students currently in youth and children's ministry in the conference, four currently in seminary, one just approved for commissioning as a Deacon at this Annual Conference, and another who was just certified as a candidate through the Wesley Foundation and will be attending seminary in the Fall. We have been blessed with a full Wesley House with nine students living in Christian community and living right beside our Foundation. What those metrics don't tell you is the countless hours spent in one-on-one or pre-marital counseling, the amount of student groups that use our building, the students and faculty/staff that find a welcoming home here, or the joys in sharing life together with such an assorted cast of characters.

Often I write that you are a partner in our ministry and that we couldn't do this ministry without you. It's true. Our district churches and individuals from around the conference have stepped up in mighty ways since program and building funding was cut in 2010. Y'all have kept our doors open and ministry flowing in new and beautiful ways. Each of you in giving your apportionments have made it possible for a full-time pastor to be here to support, nurture and minister to our college students. WE are your apportionments and we thank you for giving them! As we all plan and dream about vital congregations, may we remember that some of our vital congregations aren't just in traditional churches, but that vibrant and critical ministry is happening all over the place as the people of God go and make disciples of all the world!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Narcie M. Jeter, Campus Minister and Director

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

For a number of years, I sat where you sit and questioned the wisdom of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Sometimes I wondered if they had a hidden agenda. I thought a district committee on ministry was out to get me. I wondered if the questions asked had been trick questions. I wondered if they had an axe to grind. I wondered if they were looking for conformity or honesty. There have also been times over the years when I couldn't understand why the board delayed a friend. I couldn't understand why the board passed along someone else and delayed the one whom I thought they should send forth. I also found myself from time to time agreeing with friends when they were delayed saying the problem was not them, the problem was the board. For years, I confess that I judged the board, but I do not remember a time I ever prayed for the board! Then, I was asked to serve on the district committee on ministry and then the conference board of ordained ministry. I became the chair of the board of ministry. The foolishness of God!

So this morning, I am here to ask you to pray for your board of ministry. The work of the board is far harder than I ever imagined. It is hours, and hours, and hours of preparation before interviews. There are days and days of interviews, there are meetings between meetings. Time away from family, time away from the church, time that is often difficult to recoup. Yes, the board enjoys one another, there are times when we find great collegiality with one another, but there are also days that are filled with anguish and hard decisions. And hard decisions they are! Decisions to approve, delay, or discontinue candidates are never, ever made quickly or lightly. Many of time have I gone home from meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry with a sad and a heavy heart. The board of ministry does not look for reasons to say no. We look for reasons to say yes to those who feel called to ordained ministry. Because we take seriously the responsibility that has been entrusted to us, we make prayerful decisions, decisions that we believe are in the best interest of the church as well as the candidate. We trust that we do all of this in accordance with God's will and in light of the Holy Spirit.

It is clear that we do not serve the church well when we recommend people for commissioning in whom we have not found evidences of readiness for ministry. Nor do we serve the church well when we recommend persons for full connection in whom we have not found evidences of fruitfulness. No doubt it is harder for the candidate to see that their delay is also in their best interest. We do not serve the candidates well when we recommend them despite identifiable deficiencies. In every case the board seeks to name the areas of concerns and invites the candidates to address those concerns before returning the board. The words are often hard to hear. Many candidates are grateful for our willingness to talk honestly with them, but some are not. Many address the concerns that have been raised, work on those issues, and grow. Unfortunately, some do not. Some go home and spend a year complaining about the unfairness of the process and blaming the board. That grieves us greatly. So I ask to you to do what I failed to do in the early years of my ministry: to pray for the board. I invite you to celebrate with those who are recommended and help those who were not grow in patience and humility to things that serves all of us well.

I have three things that I want to invite our laity and clergy to do. I ask you first, are you praying for God to raise up in your church future clergy for the church? When was the last time you asked God to stir up in some young person in your church a call to ordained ministry? I ask you, are you encouraging those in your church in whom you see the gifts for ministry? When the last time you told someone in your church that you see in them the gifts for ordained ministry? My clergy colleagues, I ask myself and you, are we being faithful witness' to the sacred privilege and the joy that comes with serving our Lord as ministers of the gospel, or do the people in our church say, "I wouldn't have that job!" Are we faithful in our witness or do the laity say, "what has become of our clergy?" Who has been inspired or deterred from ministry by the witness of your ministry?

I ask you to pray for the discernment of the board, to celebrate with those who will be licensed, commissioned or ordained this week, to encourage those who are delayed, and pray that God will raise up out of our congregations faithful and gifted persons to lead the church for the 21st century.

As we enter a new quadriennium, perhaps the greatest challenge facing the church is the issue of clergy effectiveness. The vast numbers of our clergy are faithful servants of God who offer the best of themselves and their gifts to God and the church. In my heart of hearts, I do not believe that any of our clergy wake up saying, "today I choose to be ineffective!" Nor do I believe it healthy or true to depict to the laity that our clergy, in large numbers, are ineffective. But even one ineffective clergy member is one too many! Every congregation deserves to be served by a competent clergy member be he or she licensed, commissioned, or ordained!

Security of appointment commonly referred to as “guaranteed appointments” was created out of a desire to ensure that prophetic pulpits, gender and racial diversity became a hallmark of our identity as United Methodist. The time has come to admit however that security of appointment has morphed into a means of perpetuating ineffective clergy who do harm to local congregations. That my friends, has nothing to do with race or gender! There are clergy who through benign or willful neglect or habits that are not conducive to a disciplined life the of body, mind, and spirit, no longer demonstrate the knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal characteristics that contribute to effective performance. The time for accountability is now! Our goal is help our clergy take the corrective actions needed to become effective or to help these persons gracefully exit licensed, commissioned, or ordained ministry.

Accountability must be for all and not just the clergy! Calls for the elimination of the guaranteed appointment are based in part on a false assumption that the ineffective pastor is the sole problem. Our itinerant system also suffers from dysfunctional local churches. How will we hold local churches accountable for being “clergy killers” or bishops and cabinets accountable for repeatedly making poor choices? Too often we have been seduced into thinking that a single solution will solve what is often a complex set of interrelated problems. Tinkering with the machinery or playing the blame game won’t make a single disciple for Jesus Christ or transform the world! In working together, however, we can conquer this challenge!

In conjunction with the actions taken by 2012 General Conference to end security of appointments, Boards of Ordained Ministry have been charged with establishing a set of guidelines that seeks to describe and define effectiveness in each annual conference. These guidelines will be brought back to the annual conference for consideration and action. Our goal is to pursue “a still more excellent way” a standard that exceeds mere effectiveness and moves us toward excellence! When competency is lacking in our clergy, all aspects of the work of ministry are compromised, low morale grows, and our focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is diverted. Our concern must be for both the well-being of local congregations and our clergy. When excellence is the standard, then we will produce leaders and congregations who will bear fruit and join with Jesus Christ in transforming the world.

Because of the faithfulness and generosity of local churches in paying apportionments in 2011, the board has been able to assist no fewer than 101 persons at 10 different university senate approved seminaries with the cost of funding their theological education in the amount \$151,320! 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.

Beginning in the fall of 2012, certified candidates who are full time student attending University Senate approved United Methodist seminaries will receive an increase of \$500/year for a total of \$5,500. Certified candidates who are full time students attending University Senate approved non-United Methodist seminaries will receive an increase of \$250/per year for a total of \$3,250.

In response to a motion offered by the Rev. Terry Fleming and referred to the board by Rev Joseph James, all certified candidates who are part time students attending University senate approved seminaries will receive \$200 per course in the fall and winter terms. As we are better able to determine the needs and numbers of part time students, our hope is to increase what we are able to offer.

We are pleased to recommend 15 candidates for provisional membership and commissioning, 1 candidate for associate membership, and 18 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 commissioned and ordained servant ministry. We are elated to recognize that three of the persons who will be commissioned on this week, were participants in the board’s ministerial internship program during their time in seminary. Angela Renee Johnson will be commissioned as a Deacon and Josh Blackwelder and Ben Burt will be commissioned as provisional elders. This reflects the board’s commitment to increased emphasis on recruitment and retention of young clergy.

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 recognize those persons who have participated in the 2012 School of Pastoral Ministry and who now offer themselves for service in Christ holy church as first time licensed local pastors. As these persons, along with the Bishop, our conference Lay Leader, Dr. Joe Heyward, and our District Lay Leaders gather here at the stage, allow me to recognize those persons who have completed the five years Basic Course of Study and those who have completed the Advanced Course of Study: Donald Boshell, Arthur Vick, Francis Edward Traxler, Jr., Glenn Williams Ribelin, Raymond F. Cook, Jr., Jim Elder, and David Fields.

Through the recruitment and enlistment committee, the Board of Ordained Ministry continues to cultivate and strengthen the relationships between the annual conference and our seminarians through on going visits to the seminaries by representatives from both the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet. We have continued to support seminarian through our summer ministerial internship initiative. This summer, three interns and three partner congregations will participate in this ministry: Wallace Culp, Kayla Hawar, and Zachary Dillard.

Beginning this summer, the Board of Ordained Ministry has added two additional weekends (16 hours each weekend) to our basic one week School of Pastoral Ministry (48 hours) offered in May. The addition of these hours will bring our School of Pastoral Ministry into compliance with the requirements of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry which establishes guidelines for Board of Ordained Ministry.

Policy Guidelines Proposed Amendments for 2012

Each year, the Board reviews its policy guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry and offers to the Annual Conference recommendations for review, action, and adoption. Pending there 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:

XXI. Financial aid through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)

Course of Study schools. ~~The scholarship is paid directly to Duke or Candler.~~ Local Pastors enrolled in the Advanced Course of Study who are working towards Full Membership as an Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference may apply for ME Funds for a maximum of three full seminary courses per year. The scholarship funds for Course of Study and Advanced Course of Study classes are to be paid directly to the ~~seminary student~~ student. 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.)

....

D. MEF Policies and Procedures:

....

2. Completed application must be reviewed and signed by the District Superintendent; then mailed to the accredited higher educational institution to confirm enrollment as ~~full-time student for minimum of 12 semester hours or equivalent~~; and returned to Chairperson of MEF prior to deadline.

....

4. Completed applications signed by the candidate, District Superintendent, and institutional representative must reach the Chairperson of MEF by the deadline. Loan-grants are based on availability of MEF ~~and on needs formula related to marital status, number and ages of children, auto travel for ministry, and reported expenditures.~~

....

The members of the conference board along with members of the district committees have exhibited great leadership, integrity, and character throughout the last four years. I am grateful for their commitment and dedication to this important work. Their work is so important to the life and ministry of this annual conference. It takes so many persons who are deeply committed to this work. I ask them to stand. In this year in particular, we pause and in remembrance and thanksgivings for life and work of Dr. Rudolph Gordon, an active and vital lay member of board, who joined the church triumphant on February 2012.

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. For the last seven years in particular, the Rev. Tim Rogers has gone above and beyond the call of duty in making effective the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and deserve our gratitude.

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 on Sunday, June 10, 2012.

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 **\$705** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers for 2013. (This rate was \$691 for the year 2012.) 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 to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$6,529,930** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, 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"); and

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; and

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 2011, 2012, and 2013 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolu-

tions) 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 2013, 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 \$578 per month for the year 2012.) 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 2013, 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.
- 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
2013 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

Requirement	2012 Budgeted	2013 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	4,143,169.00	4,208,996.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,315,981.00	1,355,461.00
CRSP CPP (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,298,415.00	1,337,367.00
Clergy Transition*	114,920.00	154,920.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	6,902,485.00	7,086,744.00
Estimated Income		
**UM Publishing House	.00	.00
Institutional Payments	381,998.00	401,894.00
Apportionment*	154,920.00	154,920.00
Direct Bill Payments	6,365,567.00	6,529,930.00
Total Estimated Income	\$6,902,485.00	7,086,744.00
*Amount to be apportioned		
Clergy Transition*	124,920.00	124,920.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	\$154,920.00	\$154,920.00

* To be apportioned

**The Board recommends 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**

The 2013 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$705, or 1.01% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). We expect future Past Service Rates to increase by an average of little less than 2% per year.

As of January 1, 2011 for 2013, assuming 2% annual Past Service Rate increase, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows more assets than benefit obligations. This Projection of fund values is done on a Market Value basis as opposed to the use of funding values in the past to more accurately reflect the funding of the plan.

The funding plan is shown below in a Funding Plan Values and a Market Values Perspective:

Funding Plan Values*

Current Plan Assets	\$ 86,626,028
Supplement One Liability	(63,283,445)
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2011	\$23,342,583
Ratio	137%

***Assumptions:**

- PSR increase of 2%
- Interest Rate 7%
- Mortality Table RP-2000, unprojected

Market Values (For informational Purposes Only)**

Funding Plan Values:

Current Plan Assets	\$ 86,626,028
Supplement One Liability	(77,975,727)
Funding Surplus as of January 1, 2011	\$8,650,301
Ratio	111%

****Assumptions:**

- PSR Increase of 2.0%
- Interest 4.90% based on the Citigroup Pension Discount Curve published January 1, 2010.
- Improved Mortality RP-2000, generational, scale AA

*Herman B. Lightsey, Jr., Chairperson
Sherry Eisom, Secretary*

(See next page for letter.)



March 21, 2012

VIA EMAIL
David L. Anderson
South Carolina Annual Conference
P.O. 3787
Columbia, SC 29230

RE: 2013 Funding Plan for the South Carolina Annual Conference

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Attached is a copy of the funding plan for 2013 submitted for the portion of Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program attributable to the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The total liability as of January 1, 2011, for 2013 is \$63,283,445 based on the following key actuarial assumptions:

- 7.0% interest
- RP-2000 mortality table, unprojected
- Past service Rate of \$705 and
- 2.0% increase in the Past Service Rate

In the opinion of The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, the attached funding plan meets the funding requirements of Paragraph 1506.8 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008*. This opinion applies only to the attached funding plan.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Featherstone
Actuarial Services

cc: Herman Lightsey, Chairperson, Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, South Carolina Conference
Sherry Eisom, Secretary, Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, South Carolina Conference
Barbara Hora, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Enclosure

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, Provisional Elders, Provisional Deacons, Provisional 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 2012, the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, 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 for active HealthFlex BlueCross/BlueShield – Option B750 HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan P2 (percentage copay) as the Standard Health Care Plan. The yearly health plan deductible is \$750 individual and \$1,500 for family. **And as an option the Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP). The yearly CDHP deductible is \$2,000 individual and \$4,000 family, but a Health Reimbursement account is funded at a \$1,000 individual and \$2,000 family level.**

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2012 and 2013. 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. An active participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$300 under this plan.

Some of the highlights of these incentives for 2012 are as follows:

- Ø **Blueprint for Wellness Screening earns \$100 HealthCash through Virgin Healthmiles program. This must be accomplished during these dates; April 1-July 31, 2012.**
- Ø **Completion of the HealthQuotient™ (health risk assessment) must be accomplished to avoid a higher deductible (\$250/\$500) during the dates of August 1–September 30, 2012.**
- Ø **Walking and meeting quarterly activity targets earn \$150 in HealthCash through the Virgin Healthmiles program. These quarterly deadlines are March, June, September, December**

The incentive plan for 2013 is expected to continue to emphasize Completion of the HealthQuotient™ during April to September, Blueprint for Wellness Screenings during the period April to July, and participation in wellness activities year round.

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 P2 (percentage copay) as the Medicare Supplement Plan Option.

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

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

Report Number Four Administrative Procedures

Enrollment in HealthFlex, the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, must be made within the first thirty days of eligibility or the first day actively at work. Late enrollment or enrollment for January 1st of any year must be completed with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits **during open enrollment which is prior to November 30th of the preceding year. It should be noted that any changes or initiation of Flexible Spending Accounts (Medical Reimbursement or dependent care accounts) must be done during this time through the open enrollment process and not on the ministerial support form.**

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**

Requirements	2012 Budgeted	2013 Estimated
Active Group		
Participant Only	2,463,120.00	2,450,520.00
Participant + Spouse	1,929,312.00	1,880,304.00
Participant + Child	166,320.00	156,372.00
Participant + Children	90,360.00	106,428.00
Participant + Family	2,661,120.00	2,574,300.00
Total Estimated Active Group	7,310,232.00	7,167,924.00
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Participant	1,046,112.00	1,008,288.00
Participant +1	1,404,336.00	1,288,368.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	13,968.00	8,400.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	2,464,416.00	2,305,056.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	9,774,648.00	9,472,980.00
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	194,616.00	194,616.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	229,680.00	372,224.00
Total Estimated Other	424,296.00	566,840.00
Total Estimated Requirement	10,198,944.00	10,039,820.00
Estimated Income		
Billing to salary Paying Units	5,117,163.00	5,309,406.00

Apportioned to Churches*	1,603,000.00	1,603,000.00
From Insured	2,223,688.00	2,150,377.00
From Medicare Participants	1,427,115.00	691,511.00
From Institutional Payments	311,956.00	284,844.00
Total Estimated Income	10,682,922.00	10,039,138
Amount to be Apportioned		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	194,616.00	194,616.00
Retiree Group Costs	1,603,000.00	1,603,000.00
Total	\$1,797,616.00	1,797,616.00

* Apportioned to churches.

Report Number Six 2013 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2012 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$5,308,406 be billed to the local church/**charges** and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2013.
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. Standard personal group insurance premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be approximately 30% of the total coverage premium.
 1. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$199.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$464.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$663.00 per month.
 2. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus spouse premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$418.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$976.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$1,394.00.00 per month.
 3. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus child premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$279.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$651.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$930.00 per month.
 4. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus children premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$378.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$883.00 per month. The total premium shall \$1,261.00 per month.
 5. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$558.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately of the rate. This is expected to be \$1,300.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$1,858.00 per month.
 - b. Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$131.00 per month per individual effective January 1, 2013. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$308.00 per month per individual. The total premium of individual coverage shall be \$436.00 per month
 - c. Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP) premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
 1. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$194.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$464.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$658.00 per month.

2. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus spouse premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$405.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$976.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$1,381.00 per month.
3. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus child premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$273.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$651.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$924.00 per month.
4. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus children premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$359.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$883.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$1,242.00 per month.
5. Effective January 1, 2013, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be \$531.00 per month. The salary paying unit share shall be 70% of the rate. This is expected to be \$1,300.00 per month. The total premium shall be \$1,831.00 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 2013 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: For the standard plan - \$663.00 monthly (\$7,956.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,139.00 monthly (\$16,728.00) yearly for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$930.00 monthly (\$11,160.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,261.00 monthly (\$15,132.00 yearly) for participant plus children coverage, and \$1,858.00 monthly (\$22,296.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage. The estimated 2013 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: For the Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan - \$648.00 monthly (\$7,776.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,381.00 monthly (\$16,572.00 yearly) for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$924.00 monthly (\$11,088.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,242.00 monthly (\$14,904.00 yearly) for Participant plus children coverage, and \$1,813 monthly (\$21,756 yearly) for participant plus family coverage Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2013.

*Herman B. Lightsey, Jr., 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 Scaritt- Bennett College, Nashville, Tennessee, July 9th–12th, 2012. **Contact Rev. Frank Buie, 209 Jabay Drive, Columbia, SC, 29229 or fbuie@sc.rr.com for more information.**

GRAVE MARKERS

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

CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

Bicentennial Churches

1812 - Friendship UMC, Florence, Florence District, Liberty Chapel- Friendship Charge

Centennial Churches

1912 - Chesnee UMC, Chesnee, Spartanburg District, Chesnee Charge

1912 - Bethel UMC, Ruby, Hartsville District, Ruby Charge

1912 - Lowell Street UMC, Greenwood, Greenwood District, Lowell Street Charge

1912 - Aynor UMC, Aynor, Marion District, Aynor Charge

1912 - Lewis Memorial UMC, Newberry, Greenwood District, Lewis Memorial Charge

1912 - New Providence UMC, Darlington, Hartsville District, New Providence Charge

1912 - Main Street UMC, Bamberg, Orangeburg District, Branchville- Main Street charge

1912 - Lawrence Chapel UMC, Clemson, Anderson District, Lawrence Chapel Charge

1912 - El Bethel UMC, Spartanburg, Spartanburg District, El Bethel Charge

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.

Local Church Awards

Pisgah UMC, Aynor – 6th consecutive award

Pisgah Church continues to preserve its heritage with much enthusiasm. Their archival collection continues to grow, their efforts to promote their history have never been stronger, and they appear to have made promotion and interpretation of their history a central part of their church's mission.

Broad Street UMC, Clinton

The church and its records and history committee have worked hard this year to promote their history in the newsletter and in events, have worked to build their archives room collections, held Heritage Sunday events, interviewed members of the congregation, and submitted some records to the conference archives.

Mountain View UMC, Taylors

Mountain View has yet again done an excellent job of preserving and promoting its history. They operate with the goals of preserving the past to make others aware of their heritage, the present to catalog and store information to make sure that it will always be available, and the future to insure that future generations will be able to have access to these records. The committee has continued to research the church's history, added new materials to the collection, and been present at many church events.

Tabernacle UMC, Lancaster

This church undertook a unique project – a cemetery survey – and managed to make it part of the life of the congregation. The committee undertook considerable research, created a new survey, and added the records to the church's archives. The church combined Heritage and All Saint's Sundays to remember some of the young children buried in the cemetery.

St. James UMC, Burgess Community, Myrtle Beach

Their historian is active in the life of the church, records are kept in a secure and safe manner, and their role as the only historically black Methodist congregation in Horry County gives them ample opportunity to promote their history and heritage. They believe that every Sunday is Heritage Sunday, though they did have a special anniversary celebration. They have involved their youth in collecting reminiscences.

Campobello UMC, Spartanburg District

Their historian, Carolyn Thompson, has been active in the life of the church, has collected documents, undertaken research, collected memories of church members, maintains the historical collection, and helps promote the church's history. They celebrated several Heritage Sundays in 2011. They were also invited to be on Campobello's Christmas Candlelight tour.

Publication Award

The recipient of the 2012 Herbert Hucks Award for Publications is: *John Wesley and the Beginnings of Methodism* by Rev. Roger M. Gramling.

2013 Award Application and Criteria

2013 Herbert Hucks, Jr. Awards

The S.C. Conference Commission on Archives and History is pleased to receive applications for the **2013 Herbert Hucks, Jr., Award** for Historical Preservation and Interpretation. This award will be presented to all qualified churches and one individual at the 2013 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, 2013

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.

An 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, 2013 The Commission regrets that no extensions to the deadline are possible; the Commission meets to finalize all actions on February 9, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa C. Hawkins, Chairperson

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

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

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of fulltime clergy 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 2013

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$556,000** be made to fund the estimated **\$530,500** Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2013. 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, 2013, 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 unchanged from the 2012 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 "O," "P," and "Q" below, entitled "O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses," "P. Continuing Education," and "Q. 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 330 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. (See 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 year's full time service or the equivalent thereof in the South Carolina Annual Conference, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service.

Example:

Year 6	Equitable compensation base plus	\$875.00
Year 7	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1050.00
Year 8	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1225.00
Year 9	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1400.00
Year 10	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1575.00
Year 11+	Equitable compensation base plus	\$1750.00

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 paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergyperson, and shall be disbursed monthly. 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, businesses 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. Under IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.

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. In accordance with guidelines established with CF&A in 2010 and presented to the 2010 Annual Conference, the "floor" of the reserve is to be set at \$200,000 in order to meet general projection shortfalls, to allow for the unanticipated start of a new church or missional situation, or to deal with an unexpected disaster.

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:

- Retired supply pastors
- Part-time local pastors
- Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99
- 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*.
- Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 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 55.5 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with 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. Continuing Education

Each charge shall place in its budget an amount of \$750 or more per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund. 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 inclusive of the current year's amount.

P. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

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

Q. Vacation Policy

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

Total Years of Service	Number of Weeks
Less than 5 years	a minimum of 2(including Sundays)
5 years -10 years	a minimum of 3 (including Sundays)
More than 10 years	a minimum of 4 (including Sundays)

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

Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

It is asked that the Lay Member of the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff 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 December 15th 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 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.

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 Ministry with Persons of Low Income

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

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

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

After Two and 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 Districts 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 2). 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 fulltime 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 Number 4

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec 2008		Dec 2009		Dec. 2010		Dec. 2011	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	5	\$200,799	5	\$197,567	4	\$102,645	2	\$44,408
Minimum	16	\$96,222	18	\$88,597	12	\$48,676	12	\$60,787
"Special"	8	\$100,150	8	\$92,840	6	\$84,563	8	\$112,831
Low Income	2	\$57,600			1	\$12,000	1	\$12,000
Hispanic/Latino			2	\$63,700	2	\$69,250	2	\$70,950
Cooperative Parish					1	\$7,000	1	\$7,000
Direct billing costs		\$99,848		\$115,652		\$72,682		\$70,630
TOTALS	31	\$554,619	33	\$558,356	26	\$396,816	26	\$378,606

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
Effective Members	16	21	12	9
Provisional Members	5	5	5	6
Associate Members	1	1	1	1
Local Pastors (Full Time)	3	5	5	7
Other	2	1	1	2
TOTALS	27	33	24	25

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

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, to evaluate the 2011 Annual Conference and to begin planning for the 2012 Annual Conference. The Executive Committee met on Monday, February 6, 2012, to complete the work of the committee in preparing for the 2012 Annual Conference. This report includes actions taken at both meetings.

The members of the committee reviewed the experience of the 2012 Annual Conference and the results of the post-conference evaluations that were returned. The committee considered various ways that pre-conference materials might be distributed. It was decided that pre-conference materials will be mailed to all members this year, and that the mailing will include a dvd that includes all pre-conference materials. Pre-conference materials are already provided on-line each year. The Committee is requesting that the Charge Conference forms be altered to allow those elected as lay members of annual conference, as well as clergy members, to designate how they would like to receive pre-conference materials: print, dvd, or downloaded from the conference web site.

Pre-conference informational meetings will be at the discretion of the districts this year. The dvd included in each packet will include video presentations on major reports, and contact information will be provided so that those with questions will be able to contact the appropriate persons directly.

The Ordination Service will be held on Wednesday morning as the closing service of annual conference. The Committee felt that the experience last year, when the conference concluded with this service, was a positive experience that should be continued this year, even though the last day of conference falls on Wednesday instead of Sunday.

In light of the continued favorable experience in Florence, the Committee recommends that the 2013 Annual Conference be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to St. Paul United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2011 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

The Committee has continued to reduce the number of copies printed each year in an attempt to match the demand that exists for printed copies of the *Journal*. In 2011, 175 copies of the *Journal* were produced, and as of this writing, only two copies remain unsold. The Committee now produces dvd copies of the *Journal* as well, and 100 were produced in 2011. As of this writing, 38 copies of the dvd version were unsold. The printed copies of the *Journal* cost \$20.00 each, and the dvd copies cost \$5.00 each. The Committee intends to continue to be intentional about matching the number of copies produced to the demand.

Copies of the *Journal* that are more than two years old are given away at no charge. The Committee has preserved two *Journals* from each year in hard back bindings, and plans to give away all other copies. The Committee also intends to give away all extra copies of the *2001 Ministers' Book*.

As of this writing the 2011 edition of the *Ministers' Book* is in production, and it is our hope to have them available for purchase at the 2012 Annual Conference. The cost will be \$20.00 per book, and a \$5.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added for those copies ordered by mail.

The members of the Committee look forward to continued service to the Annual Conference.
Rebecca W. Eleazer, Chair

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The work of the Annual Conference carried out through the Office of Congregational Development is both exciting and rewarding. The new congregations that have come into existence over the past six years are growing and fruitful. We continue to support some of our earlier church starts and the faithfulness of these churches is a story of perseverance. We currently list ten churches on our new church accounts, and because of your support we are reaching people that we otherwise would not have the opportunity to serve.

Our newest project will begin on July 1, 2012 with the appointment of an associate pastor to develop a second campus of St. Andrew by the Sea in Hilton Head. This will be the model for most of our new church starts in the future. Sponsoring churches who want to multiply themselves by either birthing new churches or extension campuses represents the best opportunities for the Annual Conference to grow our ministry across South Carolina.

The other strategy will be assisting current congregations in high growth areas to reinvent themselves. This means that a congregation is willing to give up its old life in order to find a new life. I believe that Jesus meant to apply this principle to both individuals and congregations.

Part of our work is to assist existing churches in developing a vision for the future. Through grants given for expansion of both personnel and property the Annual Conference is able to make a positive impact on some of our churches. This year we were able to make three grants for a total of \$130,000. We had received 9 requests that totaled \$641,572. The highest priority was given to being good stewards of the resources the Annual Conference has given for Congregational Development.

It is my privilege to share in this important part of the ministry of our Conference. The Conference Committee is led by the Rev. Ken Owens and I am blessed by those from the 12 districts who serve on this committee. It is also a blessing to work with Laura Hill, the administrative assistant in our office. She is a true servant of the church.

Yours and His,

Rusty Taylor, Director

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy met on October 26, 2011, to complete the work required for Jurisdictional Conference 2012. This meeting was the culmination of a three-month process required by the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy. The process was three-faceted, involving:

1. The completion of a comprehensive assessment of our Episcopal leadership,
2. The completion of a comprehensive "Episcopal Area Quadrennial Profile," and
3. The bishop's completion of a "Bishop's Quadrennial Profile."

The first facet of the process was completed by first distributing the "Episcopal Assessment" evaluative tool designed and required by the SEJ Episcopacy Committee. This assessment was sent to ninety-two (92), and returned anonymously by eighty-one (81), lay and clergy leaders of our annual conference, including the members of both the Committee on Episcopacy and the Board of Laity, as well as the members of the cabinet, the conference program staff, and the chairs of the conference boards and agencies. The contents of the completed assessments were compiled and presented to the Committee for discussion and evaluative purposes during the October meeting. They, along with a narrative summary of the SC Committee's evaluative discussion with Bishop Taylor, were then sent to the Reverend John Ed Mathison, Chairperson of the SEJ Episcopacy Committee for their purposes.

Also at the October meeting, the committee completed the second facet of the process required by the SEJ Committee, the "Episcopal Area Quadrennial Profile," in which the particular character of the SC Annual Conference was detailed, as was the conference's Episcopal office operation. With the evaluation tools, the profile was sent to the SEJ Committee Chairperson.

Separately, Bishop Taylor completed her "Bishop's Quadrennial Profile" for the SEJ Committee. The committee will gather again in the summer months, if a transition in our Episcopal leadership for 2012-2016 is anticipated.

Current members of the SC Committee on Episcopacy are:

Clergy Members

Diane A. Moseley (10)
Kristen R. Richardson-Frick (04-08)
Barbara Lee Reid (08)
Theron W. Smith (08)
Kenneth B. Timmerman (08)

Lay Members

Betsy Alexander (08), PO Box 528, Murrells Inlet 29576
Edith Arant (08), 510 East Gold Street, McCormick 29835
Robert W. Bedell (08), PO Box 0346, Columbia 29290
Nancy Bradshaw (04-08), 3314 Truman Street, Columbia 29204
Earl Johnson (08), 2235 Palm Court, Darlington 29532
Sandra Padgett (04-08), 208 Quin Oak Road, Lexington 29072
Kristian Roof (04-08), 288 Woldus Road, North Augusta 29841
Jack Shingler (08), 210 Lakewood Drive, Spartanburg 29302
Tasia M. Stackhouse (08), 8077 Thurgood Marshall Hwy., Andrews 29510

Conference Lay Leader:

Joseph E. Heyward, PO Box 384, Florence 29503

Ex-Officio with vote: SEJ Committee on Episcopacy Representatives:

Rev. Timothy McClendon
Carolyn Briscoe, PO Box 1825, Clemson 29633

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kristen R. Richardson-Frick, Chairperson

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

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

Mrs. Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to district offices and candidates with patience and good humor. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports this office is responsible for. The work of this office literally would not happen without her. It is a pleasure to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to

our clergy, and to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervise the clergy of our Conference.

The members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, under the leadership of Rev. Ken Nelson, continue to offer excellent service to the annual conference. As the repository for personnel files for the Conference, Clergy Services continues the work of transferring records from paper to digital form. The space available for storage of paper files has already been exceeded. By transferring information from paper to disc form, the retention of this important information is made more orderly, and the need for increased space is eliminated.

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 is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry.

Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services

THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

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 discussions of the meeting focused on leadership development to meet the needs of the South Carolina Conference.

The MAT continues to oversee the investment of the Bobo Estate Funds. As of January 1, 2012, the two Certificates of Deposit earned \$4,000.87 interest in 2011. The income was divided as directed in the endowment document (25% to programming and 75% added to principal), leaving \$38,167.78 available for programming and \$552,727.26 as the total principal.

The MAT approved a total of \$4,700.00 for the 2012 Holy Land trip for ordinands: \$2,700.00 was approved to help defray the cost of the trip, and \$2,000.00 was approved to pay for workshops and educational programming on the trip. This funding enabled the group to have an extended meeting at the Mar Elias Educational Institute, with over 3,000 Muslim, Christian, and Jewish students, at Ibillin in the West Bank with Archbishop Elias Chacour of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, a peace advocate and 3 time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Final plans were approved to carry out the instructions of the 2010 Annual Conference in the Resolution on Racism adopted by the conference. The General Commission on Religion and Race is scheduled to coordinate a 2 day training event to be held in May of 2012. Up to \$4,000.00 was approved to fund the training. Part 1 of the training will be focused on anti-racism training. The purpose will be to equip persons to meet with local congregations to lead them in confronting these issues. Part 2 of the training will focus on cultural competency, and will be designed primarily for those involved in the appointment process.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Chairperson, Ministry Advisory Team*

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The primary work of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to oversee the maintenance and ultimate disposition of the property of discontinued and abandoned churches. These issues normally come to the Board from one of two major sources. One source of properties to be overseen is the churches being discontinued currently. In these instances every effort is made to transfer the property to other United Methodist churches, or other appropriate entities. Only when such a transfer cannot be negotiated ahead of time is the property of a discontinued church transferred to the Board. The other major group of properties overseen by the Board is those properties of churches discontinued some years ago, but which have never been properly transferred or disposed of. These properties come to the attention of the Board primarily through inquiries or requests of third parties.

The Board received title to two pieces of property as part of the discontinuation of two churches: Broomfield UMC in the Walterboro District, and Sharon UMC in the Anderson District. The Board will hold the title to these properties until an appropriate disposition can be determined and approved by the Annual Conference.

The Board transferred out the title to four pieces of property since its last report. The remaining property of the Asbury Clark property in the Anderson District was transferred to Pendleton UMC, along with the endowment fund created to maintain the cemetery on that property. The property of the discontinued Woodside UMC in the Greenville District was sold. The property of the discontinued Pisgah UMC was transferred to the Columbia Society of Friends. And the property of the discontinued Glenn Chapel in the Marion District was transferred to the Town of Sellers in keeping with the intent of the Annual Conference at the time the church was originally discontinued.

As noted above, from time to time the Board receives third-party inquiries regarding properties located around the state. In three instances during the past year, the Board investigated and confirmed that the Conference had no claim to title to the properties being inquired about, and no further action was taken.

The Board receives no apportionment money. Rather, it operates from reserves and from money generated from the occasional sale of properties. Most properties that the Board deals with do not generate extra funds, as the Board frequently deals with properties that have no natural market. It can be especially difficult to maintain and transfer cemeteries in a responsible manner. But since it is highly impractical for the Board to actually oversee and maintain properties spread across the state, the ultimate intent of the Board is to transfer the title to all properties under its care as quickly and responsibly as possible.

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, as required by paragraph 2512.6 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

William Moody, Chair

**South Carolina Annual Conference Trustees
Financial Report for the Period January-December 2011**

Operations Account

Beginning balance –	138,642.13
Income –	
Sale of property	137,799.46
Other Income	5,888.33
Interest Income	<u>5,249.28</u>
Total receipts	148,937.07
Expenditures –	
Insurance	(3,124.87)
Legal expenses	(17,366.98)
Greenville County Storm Water Fees	(100.00)
Liability Release, Pisgah	(10,000.00)
Printing	0.00
Board travel/meals/lodging	(1,159.07)
Yard care	(950.00)
Miscellaneous	<u>(851.44)</u>
Total expenditures	(33,552.36)
Increase/(Decrease In Net Assets)	<u>115,384.71</u>
Ending Balance	\$254,026.84
CD	
First Palmettos Savings Bank	250,000.00
SC Community Bank	150,000.00
SCBT	<u>50,000.00</u>
Total	\$450,000.00

Net Assets **\$704,026.84**

Accounting By Property

District	Property	Designation	
Anderson	Asbury Clark	Undesignated	346,568.89
Anderson	Sharon/Liberty	Care/Maint. Pending Resolution	4,956.60
Greenville	Concord	Undesignated	42,723.09
Greenville	Zion-Andrews	New Beginnings UMC	58,613.59
Greenville	Woodside	Urban Center	130,983.48
Conference Trustees Operating Fund			\$120,181.19
			704,026.84

Real Properties Being Overseen by the Board of Trustees as of December 31, 2011

Arrington Memorial UMC (Greenville District)

This property is being used by Esperanza Mission Congregation through a cooperative agreement with the Greenville District Trustees.

Broomfield UMC (Walterboro District)

Concord UMC (Greenville District)

This property is being used by Greenville Korean Mission through a cooperative agreement with the Greenville District Trustees.

Rocky Swamp UMC (Orangeburg District)

Sharon UMC (Anderson District)

THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

The South Carolina Annual Conference continues to be blessed with a vibrant camping and retreat ministry. It is a joy to work together with you to fulfill our mission statement of "Serving all people for Christian birth, growth, and renewal."

The Conference year 2011-2012 has been sparked with much enthusiasm and excitement, as we had the privilege to celebrate Asbury Hills's 50th year in operation. It was a fabulous weekend – with all the past directors in attendance from down through the years, along with a host of past campers, counselors, friends, and family.

Asbury Hills has continued to grow its summer camp and groups conference ministry even in the face of a tough economy, and we believe the strong programming, strong staff leadership, and continued improvement in facilities have really made the difference.

The staff has begun measuring specific outcomes at Asbury Hills as a way of strengthening our campers' human and spiritual development. Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill out the surveys and send them back to us. Here are a few of your responses:

- Of the surveys returned 91.4% of you rated your child's stay to be an 8, 9, or 10, on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being excellent. 53.1% selected excellent (10).
- When your child was asked if they felt they had learned more about God during their week at camp, 97% responded YES.
- 94% of the campers when asked stated that the staff at camp helped them feel good about themselves.
- Asked if they felt that their relationship with Christ had grown during their time at camp, 97% of campers responded YES.

In 2011 a new 50ft Alpine Climbing Tower was added, along with a 32ft climbing wall, allowing the adventure programs at Asbury Hills to soar to new heights. Phase I of the new Lake Chapel has been completed, and we have high hopes for the completion of the project by the 1st session of summer camp 2012. Accessible for adult retreat guests as well as summer campers, this outdoor chapel will greatly enhance our opportunities for worship at Asbury Hills. Gifts to the new Lake Chapel will be a wonderful way for individuals or congregations to honor a loved one's memory and enhance the ministry of the camp.

Our Board continues to assess the demand for and feasibility of future development of Sewee Coastal Retreat Center as an adult retreat center. For a number of years, Clemson University conducted marine biology camps at Sewee during the summer. Currently the Board has expanded that relationship by leasing Sewee to Clemson year-round for a variety of community youth outreach programs.

The Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries is honored to lead our Annual Conference in the work of "making disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" through camping and retreat experiences.

C. E. "Smoke" Kanipe, Jr., Chair

THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

According to the rendering of his will, the Reverend James L. Belin stated it was “the long fixed and settled purpose of my life, to devote all that I possess to the promotion of the Glory of God, in advancement of the Missionary Cause.” The James L. Belin Board of Trustees protects the corpus of the trust and utilizes its income for the benefit of missions within the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

With Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. as financial management consultant, investments are made in conformity to the Board’s socially responsible management philosophy. A portion of earned income is allocated each year to the Conference Board of Global Ministries for new mission projects.

At the May 13, 2011 meeting the annual audit report by Webster Rogers LLP was received and approved.

In 2011 the Board made available \$90,000 for mission grants. \$52,080 was paid in the calendar year and additional grants totaling \$27,920 were approved.

The following officers were elected for 2012: Chairperson, Joe N. Long, Jr.; Vice-Chairperson, Stuart Ford; Secretary, Frank Sanders; and Treasurer, Marty Nason.

Gratitude is extended to those who reach out in fresh ways to help others in the name of Jesus Christ, to the Conference Board of Global Ministries who awards grants according to the Board’s directives, members of the Board for their service and wisdom, and to the Reverend Belin who before his death in 1859 created the means for the church to continue his love of glorifying God and advancing Christian missions.

Joe N. Long, Jr., Chairperson

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE BOARD OF TRUST

This year at Annual Conference, the Advocate will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary as the longest published periodical in United Methodism.

The Board of Trust has spent the past 2 years in preparation with the publication of a history book about the Advocate’s continuous journey.

Historian and writer, The Rev. Dr. Michael Wolfe, a South Carolina elder in the United Methodist Church, was chosen as the author of [In the World Not of the World](#). The hardback book covers the rich and tumultuous history of the Advocate through the Civil War, two World Wars, temperance and civil right causes as well as issues of today.

Current living editors were interviewed and their stories are told.

The award winning Advocate continues its winning ways under the writing and editorship of Jessica Connor. At the 2011 United Methodist Association of Communicators annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, our editor’s article on “Spirit Singers” was chosen Best in its Class; eight other articles were granted Awards of Excellence, and a Certificate of Merit, for the “Fighting Goliath” article on a South Carolina turkey farm. The Advocate overall was given an Award of Excellence.

At the 2011 South Carolina Press Association Award Ceremony, the Advocate garnered 4 awards, including First Place for Best Featured Story, “Feeding Mouths, Feeding Souls”, written by the Advocate editor.

Awards on the state and national level are welcomed and appreciated but the Advocate recognizes that what happens on the local level with our churches and is reported in the Advocate is the heart of the matter.

A 2011 survey showed that the Advocate is meeting the needs of its readers. Our readers are informed and connected; they read the paper cover to cover and like the articles, viewpoints, and conference and district news the most. As one reader stated, “Just keep doing what you are doing; you are doing a fantastic job. I have always appreciated the fact that one can speak his or her mind about any issue in the Advocate.”

Marilyn Murphy, Chairperson

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during the year. This specifically included replacement of various parts to extend the lives of several HVAC units. Tenants of the Conference Center of the Methodist Center include Annual Conference Offices and the Advocate. For 2013 rent will not increase. However, a 4.5% increase may be needed in 2014.

Steven D. Morgan, Chairperson
Anthony C. Prestipino, Treasurer and Director of Administration

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

In 2011 we were delighted to share with you some time with our General Secretary, Gil Hanke. Gil spoke from the Annual Conference floor and continued his theme "Men Matter" at the United Methodist Men's Luncheon. We were proud to have him here in South Carolina. Also at Annual Conference Rev. Geneva Stafford was awarded the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award for her advocacy for ministry to men. We have since learned that this will be one of the last G. Ross Freeman awards given. With Brother Freeman's health failing, the family and the foundation have decided to no longer offer this award. The Southeastern Jurisdiction is considering the development of an award that we may continue to honor those ministers that are proponents for Men's Ministry.

Dick Strachen, one of the developers of the "Understanding Men's Ministry" training course, led a train the trainer's event for us in August. We now have 18 men certified to lead this course. Bill Smith, former U.M.M.S.C. President, has led two classes in the Greenville district. One class has been held as an advanced Lay Speaking class in the Rock Hill District. On March 23-24, 2012, a class offering accreditation of the "No Man Left Behind" requirements for potential Men's Ministry Specialist was held. Men from several districts in S.C. and a couple from N.C. were certified.

Our Spiritual Retreat was held at Springmaid Beach this year. The move back there from Columbia was determined by the wishes of the attendees. Our participation was increased by more than thirty percent. Workshops included Basic Computer/Email, Promoting your Men's Ministry, Local Church Prayer groups, Scouting, Young Men's Ministry, and Foundation Building for the Men's Ministry at the local church level. The ministry theme Homecoming, Revival and Renewal was conveyed with a "Step out of the Boat" message. Keynote Speakers were Rev. Randy Madsen and Rev. George Ashford.

The "Twelve" evangelism booklet finally came to fruition at our retreat. The first formal roll-out was blessed with acceptance and we look forward to building on the concept throughout this year. This tool is designed to help men track and develop relationships being built with personal witness for Christ being the goal.

We face a continued challenge to establish district leadership in our vacant districts. We now have two districts in organizing stages. The goal is to establish solid leadership TEAMS in at least 3 districts before the August annual meeting. If you are interested in serving your district please contact me using the contact information below.

In closing please ***allow us to share this good news***. At the National Association of Conference Presidents in Nashville, it was revealed that the South Carolina Conference led the nation last year for increase in chartering. Our local churches were second to none in chartering or re-chartering UMM organizations. This is a giant step toward getting us in compliance with *The Book of Discipline*. It states that all churches will have a United Methodist Men's unit. We are extremely proud of the men in South Carolina for their recognition of the need to be connected.

Thank You, South Carolina United Methodist Men!

Respectfully,

Dale H. Sherrin Sr., Conference President
803-320-2129 daleumm@yahoo.com

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There is a cliché that states: "Time flies when you are having fun!" and this year has really flown! 2011 has been a full and active year for South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. We have studied, sung and celebrated and we have rolled up our sleeves and worked for the furthering of God's Kingdom here on earth. As United Methodist Women we pledge ourselves to be a supportive group of women...a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in our spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation. We are

challenged to love our neighbors and to understand that "neighbor" does not mean only those who live within a mile or so of our homes...many of them do not even have homes, they don't dress like us or talk like us or go to our Church. Often, God nudges us out of our comfort zones and we respond by reaching out to others and experiencing the freedom that only living in Christ can give to us.

The Conference leadership team has worked hard to plan programs and events that support our Purpose, undergird our Mission Projects, educate and involve our membership and expand the concepts of Mission through participation in the global Ministries of the church.

In February, Legislative Advocacy Day was held at Epworth Children's Home in Columbia. 306 United Methodist Women attended and were joined by Members of the League of Women Voters of SC, The American Association of University Women, and the School Improvement Council for a total of over 400 in attendance. The theme: Coming Together for South Carolina's Future: Our Children. Some of us went to the Statehouse, others stayed at Epworth for workshops. It was an exciting, invigorating day and a wonderful chance to showcase Epworth to our members and others. Susie Johnson, Social Action Coordinator for Women's Division was with us for the day.

March 4th was World Day of prayer and members of United Methodist Women across South Carolina joined in an Ecumenical celebration of prayer and its importance in our daily lives. Throughout the spring our Districts held Days Apart at various locations around the state and our various Conference Committees met at the Conference center to evaluate and confirm plans for the activities for the remainder of 2011.

The Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska was held April 29th, 30th and May 1st with Angella Current Felder of Nashville, TN as the speaker. The theme was "Worshiping God in the Midst of It All". Total attendance was 672. Lake Junaluska is a wonderful place to worship God in early Spring.

May was a busy month for United Methodist Women. We welcomed Harriett Jane Olsen, Executive Director of Women's Division, as our Special Guest Speaker for the very first Conference wide "Mission Extravaganza!" It was held on May 17th at Trenholm Road UMC in Columbia and Units from across the state brought a tremendous outpouring of love-gifts for our 5 Mission Projects. It truly was "All About Mission" and women from across South Carolina went back to their units renewed, refreshed and invigorated about what we can do for mission when we work together. On May 21st, 17 women from across SC departed Columbia for Sager Brown in Baldwin Louisiana, the UMCOR depot for our region. We filled flood buckets, made school bags, worked on home repairs in the neighborhood, repackaged hygiene kits and helped with food distribution for the elderly. It was hands on Mission work, truly a labor of love in action.

"Come Together Be Together" was held on Saturday, June 4th at Francis Burns UMC in Columbia where we laughed, learned, prayed, read, sang, and just enjoyed being together! It was a wonderful day, inspiring many of us to go back to our own units and just do something fun! Also in June, many of us attended Annual Conference in Florence and several United Methodist Women were elected as delegates to General Conference. President Linda DuRant was elected as a Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference where she will participate in the election of Bishops for the South Eastern Jurisdiction in July of 2012.

Conference Officers and Study Leaders attended Regional School of Christian Mission at Ferrum College in Virginia June 25th-27th to learn and plan for the SC School of Christian Mission. Ann Alexander of St. James UMC in Clover was named Dean of the Regional School for 2012. The Conference was awarded a certificate signifying that we had met and exceeded our pledge to Mission for 2010 by more than 20%. The conference also was honored with a gold seal certificate of excellence in forming more than 5 new Units.

The 2011 SC Conference School of Christian Mission was held at Spartanburg Methodist College, July 21-24. The theme was "All Things Made New." Studies included a Spiritual Growth study: "The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation," the Global study was on Haiti, and the general interest study "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Globalization." The year was rounded off nicely by the Youth Mission Event held in 3 different areas across the state on August 13th. About 130 girls and their chaperones and other helpers worked on little dresses & bracelets that have been sent to Haiti and to the Fairfield Orphanage in Zimbabwe and to the Orphanage at Old Mutare. We were blessed and were able to be a blessing.

The Conference Annual Meeting was held at St. John's UMC in Aiken and was hosted by the Orangeburg District. The program book was dedicated to Reverend Lillian Washington the Cabinet Representative to United Methodist Women. The Keynote Speaker was Reverend Robin Dease from John Wesley UMC in Greenville. Retiring Officers were Janice Eaddy, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations; Jean Elmore, Treasurer; Doris Freeman, Member of the Com-

mittee on Nominations. Replacing these officers are Maureen Thomas, Treasurer; Sharon McTeer, Chairman Committee on Nominations and Doris Sullivan and Kasandra Graham as members of the class of 2015 on the Committee on Nominations. Attendance of 470 was announced for the Annual Meeting.

As the year wound down we held our Statewide Officers Training at Mount Hebron UMC in West Columbia and began plans for 2012 which will include a trip to Birmingham for South Eastern Jurisdiction. At this meeting elections will be held for Women's Division Directors and for Officers for the South Eastern Jurisdiction.

The South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women continue to be a vital arm of the United Methodist Church in our commitment to Missions. As we study, learn and grow we act out our conversion in our actions of Faith, Hope and Love in Action!

Grace and Peace,

Linda DuRant, President

THE DISTRICT STUDY TASK FORCE REPORT

In response to "A Resolution to Develop a Task Force to Evaluate the Current Number of Districts in the South Carolina Annual Conference" passed at the 2011 session, Bishop Taylor recruited sixteen persons from around the state to form the District Study Task Force, including representation from every district and balanced between clergy and laity, male and female, and ethnic minority and majority members.

In accordance with the resolution the District Study Task Force has

- Examined data from other annual conferences which have undergone substantial changes in the makeup of the number of districts,
- Gathered the South Carolina Conference's financial and statistical data,
- Gathered financial and statistical data from other conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction,
- Examined demographic data from the present 12 districts in SC,
- Reviewed the duties of District Superintendents in the *United Methodist Discipline*,
- Conducted interviews and surveys concerning South Carolina District Superintendents' time structuring from all 12 districts as well as a number of clergy and laity from each district,
- Reviewed literature from a variety of sources pertinent to the areas of inquiry, and
- Contacted a number of individuals in other conferences to obtain feedback on the effects of redistricting.

Data from other annual conferences indicates that sweeping changes are taking place in the United Methodist Church with restructuring plans being undertaken in dozens of annual conferences in the U.S. There is little uniformity in the forms of the new structures being implemented in a number of conferences in the SEJ and beyond. For example, because a reduction in the number of districts results in an increase in the number of churches per district, some conferences have found it necessary to add additional staff such as Assistant District Superintendents to handle various duties previously managed by one person. Other conferences have moved toward centralizing certain functions of district offices by hiring additional conference staff to handle those functions for all districts. In addition, some of the proposed plans from other conferences seem to be in conflict with provisions of the *Discipline* related to the duties of district superintendents and may have to be revisited accordingly.

Of the conferences in the SEJ that have reduced the number of districts we found no noticeable impact on the vital statistics of the churches in the conference. Conferences, for example, in which professions of faith and worship attendance had been declining before redistricting have continued to experience a similar rate of decline after redistricting. Also, even though redistricting in some cases has resulted in a slightly lower conference budget, the support from churches through apportionment giving has not thereby improved.

In view of the data we have examined we do not recommend a change in the number of districts in the South Carolina Annual Conference at this time.

In addition, information we have gathered with regard to the workload of individual superintendents indicates that there is no substantial difference between the districts. Those who have larger geographical areas and more congregations tend to have a higher percentage of multiple-point charges, and the discrepancy in the number of pastors per district is not as great

as the discrepancy in the number of churches per district. The workload is also evened out by assigning superintendents of larger areas fewer responsibilities beyond the district, such as attending meetings of conference boards and committees.

In view of the data we have gathered with regard to the relative workload of the twelve district offices we do not recommend changes in district lines other than those which are proposed by the Cabinet and approved by the Annual Conference from time to time to accommodate changes in charge lines.

However, we do not believe that our work is finished. The world has changed. The Church must change if we are to be effective in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For years now we have depended on fewer and fewer people to give more and more. Substantial structural changes in the organization of the Annual Conference are going to be unavoidable because of the coming dramatic increase in the number of retirements and deaths among those in the "Baby Boomer" generation, the segment of the population that provides most of the church's leadership and financial support. If we are to meet that challenge, substantial changes must be instituted soon.

It is crucial, however, that the motivation for such changes must be on increasing our effectiveness in pursuing the church's mission. Drastic structural changes implemented for the sole purpose of relieving budgetary pressures may, in the end, result in even less effectiveness in pursuing our mission of making disciples. We believe that a large part of our focus should therefore be on identifying those churches and locales where the involvement of district superintendents and others will produce the greatest results.

It is important to consider that some crucial information is missing. For example, it is difficult to imagine what direction we can take until we know what legislation has been enacted at General Conference this year. We note as well that in September we may have a change in episcopal leadership, as the SEJ Conference in July will elect new bishops and assign or reassign all the bishops in the jurisdiction to their areas. If there is a change in our conference leadership, it would be prudent to consult with that new leadership before proceeding with a restructuring plan. Finally, it is important that we continue to monitor the success or lack of success resulting from changes being experimented with in other conferences.

In conclusion, we believe that focusing exclusively on the arrangement of districts in the annual conference will result in a truncated plan of action because district offices are inextricably part of the larger administrative system of the annual conference.

In light of these considerations we make the following 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 any 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 \$5000 be budgeted for the Task Force for the 2012-2013 conference year; and
- That the Task Force provide the next annual conference a comprehensive report on its findings and its recommendations for action.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Paul Harmon (Chair), Dr. David Braddon, Ms. Freda Brock, Rev. Robin Dease,
Dr. Thomas Edmonds, Mr. Roger Hayes, Dr. Joseph Heyward,
Ms. Mary Johnson, Rev. Ken Nelson, Rev. Timothy Rogers, Rev. Willie Teague,
Rev. Michael Turner, Ms. Earline Ulmer, Rev. Sara White, Rev. Neil Yongue*

THE CABINET REPORT

The Cabinet is a part of the Annual Conference's charge to equip and connect the local church for its work in "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This work of equipping and connecting is both joyful and fearful. It is a joyous moment to be a part of the Greenville District's youth led project "Stop Hunger Now" where literally thousands came together in common cause. It is fearful to hear a local church member tearfully remember the days when they choose not to reach out to their community and to hear the words of regret, "I

think that we should have invited the children to our church after football games". Both celebration and lament are witness to our relationships with one another and with our sovereign God.

In 2012, the cabinet chose to focus on questions of connection. It was a choice motivated out of our and local churches desire to be involved in ministry that made a difference. Realities of finance, availability of work force, and value of cooperation came together and created a momentum for conversation and action. With the adoption of the new Connectional Ministries model helping to form ideas and possibilities, many districts began to actually respond to community need with shared ministry. At first, the turn felt forced – and perhaps it was – but as clergy and laity have talked and then moved an appreciation has been created for this work. Many possibilities are created when congregations are focused on stretching the walls of the church and sharing the community as the mission field.

Fewer people trying to do the same things is a common reality for many congregations. It is also a "church killer". Questions of what to do and who will do have become driving forces of change in many congregations. Increasingly, these forces are calling congregations to burrow deeper in how and why they have chosen to value some areas of ministry and some persons more than others. These are hard conversations and a congregation needs trust and appreciation of each person to carry them through. Many congregations lacking the necessary trust and appreciation are trying to avoid the conversation. Superintendents increasingly are called to speak to the conflict that ensues.

One of the most helpful questions of the last year for superintendents has been, "How much time do you spend with healthy churches and how much with unhealthy?" And intentionally the Cabinet has worked to increase time and energy spent with those churches who have chosen to work toward a vitality and an excellence in their ministry. The emphasis on Vital Congregations in 2011 and 2012 uses the tangible evidence of worship attendance, small groups, dollars and people who are involved in mission, and professions of faith to bring into focus the intangible measurement of the gifts of the Spirit. Numbers are not and cannot be our identity but we cannot in good faith leave them out of the conversation.

The financial connections of the Annual Conference are at one and the same time obvious and perplexing. The Cabinet has worked to increase understanding of the budget of the South Carolina Annual Conference and the apportioned items of the General Conference and has joined with the Council on Finance and Administration to curb spending. In addition, the superintendents have worked with local congregations in planning futures that address the reality of new giving habits, more sporadic worship attendance and the unpredictability of contemporary incomes.

Questions of connection also often take us away from our comfort zones. "Building God's Beloved Community" asked members of the Cabinet and other conference leaders to enter into new conversations about the intentionality of shared ministries in diverse settings. Our diversity of the South Carolina Annual Conference moves across geographical, economic and demographic lines but the greatest prize and is the diversity of race within the annual conference. How we will value and live out this prize is a spiritual matter for us. We fall short if we do not only appreciate that diversity but also utilize it for the growing of the Kingdom of God.

In focusing on connection, the Cabinet chose to address the strengths of the United Methodist way. And, like most strengths it can without care and attention become weaker and weaker until it has all the weight of importance without the fluidity of new life. To choose connection is: to take up the life of both our own congregations and the congregations of our brothers and sisters; to maintain an awareness that God is greater than our own vision; to value the shared life of the disciple and to trust that in the midst of the great chaos of connection God is still creating.

2012 is a year of transition for the Cabinet as membership and assignments change. South Carolina Annual Conference Lay Leader, Dr. Joseph Heyward concludes his service on the Extended Cabinet. Director of Connectional Ministries, the Rev. Willie Teague and Director of Clergy Services, the Rev. Tim Rogers also move off the Extended Cabinet. Walterboro and Greenville District Superintendents, the Rev. Dr. Ernest Etheridge and the Rev. Dr. Charles Johnson, leave the Cabinet after eight years of continuous service. Their presence and wisdom have been generous sharing to the Annual Conference and we are grateful.

Finally, a word of appreciation is due to Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor for her leadership and to the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the shared life of the connection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara A. White, Dean of the Cabinet

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

As Lake Junaluska prepares to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2013 we find ourselves proud of our rich past, energized by the present challenges, and excited about the bright future.

We cannot thank you enough for the generous support you have provided to us over the years. We are a part of you and you will forever be a part of us. We fully understand that the Southeastern Jurisdiction is facing significant challenges resulting in a reduction in the financial support provided to traditional partners, including Lake Junaluska. We want to assure you that we are preparing well for a different form of partnership with the Jurisdiction and you, the annual conferences, but do want to strongly affirm our desire to be in true partnership with each of you.

We are making some important improvements with the goal of serving you more effectively. In 2012 we will spend over \$1,000,000 on capital improvements to our facilities including \$300,000 from the NC Energy Office for the replacement of inefficient heating and cooling systems. Being more “green” is one of our goals for the future. We will use the remainder of the capital improvement funds to get a jump start on a campus master plan which is a part of the overall strategic plan approved by our Board of Directors in October. Included in the plan are the interior and exterior renovations of the Terrace Hotel and Lambuth Inn, the replacement of the Harrell Center and Jones Cafeteria, and the updating of Stuart Auditorium. These changes will be taking place over the course of the next several years but there should be noticeable changes the next time you come to visit us.

The success of every organization is directly dependent on having the right people in the right positions doing the right things. It is also important to have the right number of people in place. There are fewer people employed at Lake Junaluska than there were a year ago at this time, a necessary change given our financial realities. The remaining staff have willingly taken on additional responsibilities and are doing them very well.

Hosting the 2012 SEJ Conference will be a very important event for us. We are doing all we can to prepare for this conference with the hope that every delegate leaves here knowing that we have been good stewards of the resources that have been given to us.

Our mission statement for Lake Junaluska is to be *a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body*. The significance of having a clear mission statement that people remember and refer to has been impactful. Continuing to create a culture of excellence and fabulous Christian hospitality will be our primary focus in 2012.

The future of Lake Junaluska is indeed very Bright! Thank you for your incredible support as we have begun to live more fully into the potential of this place we call Lake Junaluska.

Jack Ewing, Executive Director

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

**“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.” – Isaiah 43:2**

At its inception, many doubted that the dream could be realized. Yet, in February 2012, Africa University launched a year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary. It has quite a story to tell.

“We serve a faithful God,” says Dr. Fanuel Tagwira, vice chancellor. “As we now celebrate 20 years of existence, we can say ‘Ebenezer’, for this far the Lord has taken us. He will surely take us further because we serve a God who finishes what he starts.”

Recalling the challenges the University faced during Zimbabwe’s economic crisis in 2008-2009, Tagwira noted that “God was on our side...other universities, primary and secondary schools, and hospitals closed, but Africa University students never lost a day of classes.” For this, Tagwira offered his thanks to The United Methodist Church for its responsiveness and unwavering support.

In 2011, twenty-seven annual conferences met 100 percent of their apportionments for the Africa University Fund—up from twenty-one in the previous year. These and all contributions from local congregations are deeply appreciated by the University community as they enable our ministry. Africa University is profoundly grateful for the support.

Enrollment at Africa University is at an all-time high. The current total population of 1634 students is 42% higher than it was for the 2010-11 academic year. There are 23 African countries represented in the student body. At Africa University, male and female students are almost evenly balanced—something that bodes well for increasing the participation of women in decision-making and leadership roles in Africa.

New programs are helping Africa University to grow and remain relevant to community needs across the continent. New academic offerings include undergraduate degree programs in Computer Science and Laboratory Science as well as graduate degree programs in Child and Family Studies, and Public Policy and Governance.

The University is preparing to launch online distance learning. Online training options will focus on areas such as practical theology, health, and business. The initial target countries for Africa University's online distance learning outreach are Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

In June 2011, 349 students from 19 African countries graduated. The graduating class was comprised of 69 graduate students receiving master's degrees, and 280 undergraduate students receiving bachelor's degrees. The Class of 2011 swelled the ranks of Africa University graduates to more than 4,000 since first opening its doors in March 1992.

In their home countries, graduates are addressing critical issues of hunger, poverty, disease, lack of knowledge, and conflict, all of which prevent millions of people in Africa from enjoying God's promise of abundance (*John 10:10; Jeremiah 29:11*).

At 20, Africa University is part of a crucial feeder system for nurturing a new generation of principled leaders in Africa as evidenced by the number of graduates who are evangelists, pastors, lecturers and administrators of schools, seminaries and universities.

"Many believe that Africa University, voted into being by the 1988 General Conference, is the most exciting ministry that The United Methodist Church has ever founded," says Tagwira. "It is a model of connection; shared responsibility; and best of all, it is a tangible witness to how United Methodists live out the Word of God in a chaotic and self-centered world."

This year, encourage your church to give 100 percent of its Africa University Fund apportionment. The Africa University Fund supports day-to-day operations. Your support helps young people acquire the tools and skills to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, heal communities, enable dignified living, and foster hope. Thank you for believing in and supporting Africa University.

*James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor
for Institutional Advancement, Africa University*

**For more on Africa University, visit: www.support-africauniversity.org or
like us on Facebook**

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant 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 seven 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, Candler offers students a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 479, with 372 seeking the Master of Divinity, 64 the Master of Theological Studies, 19 the Master of Theology, 17 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 22% U.S. ethnic minority, 8% international, and 50% women. Forty-four denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 50% of total enrollment under thirty.

An extraordinary gift of \$15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation will make possible the construction of the second phase of the school's new building. In recognition of this gift, the first building—a 65,000-square-foot facility completed in 2008—will be named in memory of the late Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake. The new building will house the Pitts Theology Library, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel.

Candler and The General Theological Seminary (GTS) in New York have formed an innovative partnership that includes the sharing of library resources, collaborative educational programs, and the exchange of both students and faculty members. The partnership began this fall with the transfer of 90,000 volumes from GTS to Candler's Pitts Theology Library, and will continue to expand this year via student/faculty exchanges and continuing education programs.

Candler has introduced two new ways to make theological education more accessible. First, we launched a Tuesday-Thursday format for core courses for our incoming students in order to lessen the burden of commuting. Second, we began offering certain courses in an online or hybrid format. Two courses were piloted in January term and spring semester. We remain deeply committed to the highest quality education for our clergy and will offer only those hybrid and online courses that meet a gold standard of excellence in teaching and learning outcomes. Faculty members undergo rigorous training in order to translate their courses to an online format.

Candler continues to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context. We now offer 17 academic exchanges with theology schools across five continents and 15 countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, this year's travel seminars included the Middle East Travel Seminar in May-June and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to Colombia, Indonesia, and Israel.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the two-year Contextual Education program shapes our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites with academic analysis in the classroom and spiritual reflection in pastor-led small groups. 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. This year we have continued Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can further hone their pastoral skills beyond the first two years of ConEd.

Candler's Lifelong Learning events strengthen the church by providing opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to learn more about the practice of ministry. Our Fall Conference, "The Art of Preaching in the 21st Century," brought to campus some of the most respected names in preaching, including Otis Moss Jr. and James Howell. The Spring Conference, "The Singing Church," gathered experts to lead an exploration of the best practices and emerging trends of congregational song.

In addition to our Lifelong Learning events, Candler oversees the educational process of more than 900 people each year through the Course of Study regional school and our five extension schools in the Southeast.

Despite today's challenging economic climate, Candler remains steadfastly committed to making theological education financially feasible. Although our operating budget essentially remained flat this year, we dedicated \$4.5 million to financial aid. Seventy-seven percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering more than two-thirds of tuition.

Our widely respected faculty continues to distinguish itself, both in academia and in churches and denominational bodies at local, national, and international levels. This year, faculty members garnered prestigious grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Louisville Institute, among others. Dr. Carol Newsom recently completed a term as president of the Society of Biblical Literature. In Fall 2011 we welcomed two new faculty members: Jennifer Ayres in religious education and Anthony Briggman in the history of early Christianity. In Fall 2012 we welcome Neil Alexander, current bishop of the Episcopal Archdiocese of Atlanta, as director of our Anglican Studies Program and Ted Smith as assistant professor of homiletics and ethics. Our UM faculty presence remains strong, with 36 percent of our full-time faculty being United Methodist.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its 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 advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person in Atlanta or online at www.candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

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

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The academic year 2011–2012 has been a year of strengthening the foundation of our mission and vision for Duke Divinity School. After completing his initial two-year appointment as dean, Richard Hays has accepted a full-term appointment by the President and Provost of Duke University to continue in the role as Dean of Duke Divinity School. Lacey Warner, who has served as associate dean for academic formation and programs and associate professor of the practice of evangelism, has accepted the position of Executive Vice-Dean. She will oversee the day-to-day operations of the school, including oversight of academic programs, centers, and initiatives. We are thankful to have in place two exceptionally qualified leaders.

The school's highly successful existing degree programs (M.Div., M.T.S., Th.M., and Th.D.) continue to attract some of the most talented and committed men and women who desire to be trained for ministry at Duke Divinity School. The M.Div. program remains at the heart of the school's mission, serving as the basic program for the formation of students called to ordained ministry.

We were very pleased to welcome a diverse, energetic, and academically strong group of new students in the fall of 2011, our largest. Of the 151 entering students seeking the three-year M.Div. degree (bringing our total M.Div. enrollment to 443), 52 percent are United Methodist, 15 percent are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, and 4 percent are Presbyterian. Forty-six other denominations round out the M.Div. class.

At the same time, the Divinity School has expanded in recent years to include new degree programs, centers and initiatives, houses of study, and a Leadership Education program. During the past year we have sought to articulate the ways that all of these efforts are integrally connected to the mission of the school. These various components of Duke Divinity School are not separate silos of ministry or learning. Instead, they all work together to embody our vision for the future of the church. The Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Education, Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, and Christianity and Healthcare all build bridges to meet needs in the church, academy, and the world.

Our three new degree programs, which formally launched in 2011, are off to a successful start:

- The Master of Arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S) welcomed 18 students to this one-year, residential program. This degree provides theological reflection for people called to non-ordained ministry or service to the church or for students seeking an introductory exploration of theological studies
- The Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) began this summer with a cohort of 13 students in the Youth Ministry track. Their first intensive week of classes in residence coincided with our Duke Youth Academy in June 2011. The program uses web-based distance learning in coordination with one-week intensive classes in residence so that people can remain in their place of ministry and still receive quality training in theology and Christian practice.
- The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) is a professional doctorate providing advanced study for ordained clergy seeking to deepen and enhance their practice of ministry. Twenty-four students began the program this year. The focus of this first cohort is Leadership in the Christian Tradition.

The quality of the faculty at Duke Divinity School continues to set the standard for theological education. Three professors were awarded prestigious recognition for their books. Willie Jennings, associate professor of theology and black church studies received an award from the American Academy of Religion (AAR) for his book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. Norman Wirzba, research professor of theology, ecology, and rural life, won "Book of the Year" honors from The Englewood Review of Books for his book *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*. And *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* by Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, religion, and divinity at Duke, was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

In addition to our core mission of academic and spiritual formation, Duke Divinity School experienced exciting developments in our centers and initiatives.

The Center for Reconciliation was given a \$300,000 challenge grant from the Stewardship Foundation to explore and expand global reconciliation efforts. Director Chris Rice has made exploratory trips to central Europe and East Asia to gather information about how to best deploy the influence of the Center and the Divinity School. The Center continued its existing programs: the Summer Institute at Duke Divinity School, which equips Christian leaders for the task of reconciliation; formation in reconciliation for students, including summer field education

placements; and support for the Africa Great Lakes Institute, which brings together Christian leaders from east Africa to focus on reconciliation.

The Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, led by Professor Jeremy Begbie, continues to develop a robust series of theological and artistic engagements. The 2011 Convocation & Pastors' School was devoted to this theme: Jeremy Begbie delivered the Gray Lectures, Duke University music professor Anthony Kelley performed with the BLAK Ensemble, novelist Marilynne Robinson gave a reading and interview, and the Rev. Lillian Daniel preached the Convocation sermons.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity oversees programs for the United Methodist Church, including Clergy Health Initiative, a \$12 million, 7-year program to improve the health of United Methodist clergy; Thriving Rural Communities; and Study Leave for Ministry Professionals. The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation attracts dozens of high-school students each summer. Finally, *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine of Leadership Education, continues to extend the reach of Duke Divinity School to provide deeper reflection on Christian leadership through video interviews with transformative leaders, theological reflections, and in-depth articles. See <http://faithandleadership.com/>

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Richard B. Hay, Dean
and George Washington Ivey, Professor of New Testament*

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of six historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world's premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world's largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religious Education, the Master of Arts in Church Music, the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Pastoral Counseling, and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). There are also a number of dual degree programs offered in cooperation with seminaries and schools in the Atlanta Theological Association. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

Because of the support of this Annual Conference, Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. There are at least three significant ways that we have lived out our mission and furthered our vision:

- 1) Enrolled one of the largest entering classes on record for our institution. This entering class is comprised of young persons (average age of 25) called by God to be prophetic leaders for the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- 2) Instituted the Merit Scholars Program, which is a scholarship for incredibly bright and called students, that covers full tuition and fees. Gammon/ITC is able to attract these students because of your contributions to the Ministerial Education Fund.
- 3) Launched the Center for the Study of Religion and Race. Gammon/ITC's historic commitment to producing public theologians – men and women who are spiritually astute, intellectually keen, politically sophisticated, and culturally sensitive – is advanced with the establishment of this Center. With assistance from the General Commission on Religion and Race, it is Gammon/ITC's desire to continue the great work of addressing issues of cultural competency, advocacy and education in areas that further racial justice and equity.

Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Dr. Albert Mosley, President-Dean

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