

**SECTION IV**

**SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**The United Methodist Church**

**Organized 1972**

**Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785)  
and the South Carolina Conference (1866)**

**Sunday, June 9, 2013 – Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

**Florence Civic Center**

**Florence, South Carolina**

**Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding**

**CONFERENCE THEME:**

***“A More Excellent Way: A Story of Giving, Serving and Loving***

**The First Day – Sunday Evening**

**June 9, 2013**

**Registration:** Registration began at 1:30 p.m. at the Florence Civic Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, registration booklet including additional reports and other information, information regarding the Florence area, and a bag to carry his/her conference items.

**Clergy Session:** The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Jonathan Holston at 5:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Holston opened the meeting with a word of prayer. The Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reviewed the work of the Board since the last session of Annual Conference. The Reverend Ken Nelson called upon the Reverend Dr. Ted Walter, chairperson of the Administrative Review Committee, to review the action of Board of Ordained Ministry in placing the Reverend Grady Bernard Ponds on Involuntary Retirement. Dr. Walter declared that the board followed the provisions of Paragraph 358.3 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*; thus, the recommendation is properly before the clergy session for action.

The Reverend Mel Arant presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Clergy members were presented with a full written report for the questions.

Business Questions 37, 38, 40, 41, 46e, 47 and 49 were presented as information and moved to record, as no vote was required. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 29, 34, 36, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57-59 (statistical data questions calculated after clergy session), was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by Reverend Arant as Motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was approved by more than two-thirds vote of the Clergy Session.

The Clergy Session acted to approve each of the following Business Questions separately: 18b, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 42, 45, 46, 48, 50 and 76. Questions 32, 33, and 50 were approved by more than a two-thirds majority. Question 76 was approved by more than a three-fourths majority.

Following the reading of the names of clergy who had died during the past year, as listed under Question 48, Bishop Holston offered prayer in remembrance and appreciation of their service to Annual Conference.

There being no further business, The Reverend Jason Everson offered the closing prayer, and Bishop Holston reminded the members of the evening worship session, thanked them for their presence and participation, and declared the Clergy Session adjourned.

The materials distributed during the Clergy Session are attached for reference.

**Lay Orientation:** An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5:00 PM in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with a welcome by Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader. All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures, and parliamentary process of the 2013 Annual Conference. Announcements were made concerning the ordination service, the Laity

Luncheon, the conference worship services, additional hand-outs, and the Laity Convocation schedule for later in the summer. Opening and closing hymns were sung.

The **Opening Service of Worship** began at 7:30 PM in the Civic Center with Bishop Jonathan Holston presiding. The Bishop's sermon entitled "Are You Up to the Challenge?" was based on Mark 8:31-28. The sermon challenged each member of the Conference to be a disciple and to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Bishop Holston used the lyrics of an African American Gospel hymn to ask his congregation the following questions: "Have you got good religion? Have you been baptized? Have you met my Savior?" To which the congregation responded: "Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord!" Gathering music was provided by the Lake Junaluska Singers.

### **The Second Day - Monday Morning June 10, 2013**

At 7:30 AM, the Conference began in the Civic Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. Reverend Ricky Howell, director of the Wesley Foundation of Winthrop University, was the celebrant for the service. Howell reminded those in attendance that whom we serve is more important than who we are as servants.

At 8:30 AM, Bishop Jonathan Holston called the Conference into order. The Florence District Superintendent, Reverend John Hipp, welcomed conference attendees to the city of Florence and the Florence District.

The Reverend Barbara L. Reid, speaking on behalf of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, welcomed Bishop Holston and his wife, Mrs. Felicia B. Holston, to the South Carolina Annual Conference. The presentation included a video of Bishop Holston's journey thus far in the Annual Conference.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe, Secretary of the Conference, offered a series of organizational motions.

The first motion was to elect the tellers nominated by their district superintendents for the 2013 Annual Conference session as nominated without reading and to publish their names in the 2013 Conference Journal. The following **clergy tellers** were nominated and elected: The Reverends Jonathan W. Donald, Scottie R. Bramlett, Shawn G. Armstrong, Benjamin Burt, William Wrighten, Anna Miller, Christopher Greene, Ken Nelson, Bob Vincent, John A. Bolin, Pattie E. Gordon, Angela Etheredge-Manly, Matthew Greer, Diane Boyer, Heather Baird, Mat Brewington, Steven R. Jordan, Kimberly N. Evans, Valerie K. Mireb, Nels Ledwell, Kim Eanes, Anthony Alford, James P. Smith, Arthur Rose Jr., Kathryn Scarborough, Bill McCown, Jacqueline Carter-Harris, Arthur Vick, Robert Allen, David Bauknight, Merritt Wentz, Vivian Lingard, Paul Thomas, and Andrew Wolfe. The following **lay tellers** were nominated and elected: Diane Snarski, Shelby Henderson, Paige Wheeler, Myron Middleton, Gary Shealy, Francis Hipp, Tommy Glenn, Doreathea Bailey, Myra Nuttall, Carlie McKain, Ed Stallworth, Sylvia Watson, Christine McCoy, Ray McCoy, Cathy Trevino, Albert Davis, Jeffrey Tadlock, Cornelius Nanton, Pam Ashwood, Michael Chapman, Ray Ardis, Sherry Eisom, Jim Smith, Sandy Sindell, Sylvia Landrum, Ted Fansher, Linda Fansher, Alicia Little, and Tom Woodward.

The other organizational motions were as follows: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2013 Annual Conference Session, and that the Conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials, along with such scheduling adjustments and additions which the President and the Secretary have since made, be adopted as the Agenda for the 2013 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session. An additional motion set the bar of the Conference. These organizational amendments were approved.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe also nominated two additional assistant secretaries, the Reverend Angela Ford Nelson and the Reverend Mary Johnson, for the purpose of producing a daily summary of the events of annual conference. This summary will be posted daily, by 10:00 PM on the Conference website.

Mr. Willie Robinson, chair of the **Committee on the Standing Rules**, presented two changes to the standing rules of the Conference:

The first amendment, IV.B., would include a line item for conference benevolence in the budget of the Commission on Archives and History. The second amendment would change Conference Outreach to include the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries on the Board of Global Ministries. In addition, the editor of the *Advocate* and a designated member of the *Advocate* board would be included as ex-officio members of Outreach Ministries. The purpose of these amendments is to bring the Standing Rules in line with the *Book of Discipline* with regard to the programmatic budget of the Commission of Archives and History and the location of the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and to have the standing rules reflect the relationship between the *Advocate* and Connectional Ministries. The changes were approved.

Mr. Robinson also presented a change to Rule 57, which would include a statement that there is "an organic relationship between the *Advocate* and the South Carolina Annual Conference providing the Conference with a comprehensive communications ministry." In addition the Director of Connectional Ministries and a member of the Conference Connectional Outreach Ministries will be ex-officio members of the board. Also, the editor of the *Advocate* and a member of the *Advocate* board will be ex-officio members of Conference Connection Outreach Ministries. In addition, an editor of the *Advocate* will be a member of the Communications Staff of Conference Connectional Ministries. And the Director of Connectional Ministries will be a part of the interviewing process of an editor but without vote. The rationale for this amendment is to have the standing rules reflect the current relationship between the *Advocate* and Connectional Ministries. These changes were approved.

At 9 AM, **Dr. Vivia Fowler** led the conference in a **Bible Study**.

Following a brief break, the session resumed at 9:30. Mr. Joe Heyward and the Reverend Tim McClendon presented four **Constitutional Amendments** that were adopted at General Conference in 2012.

The first amendment would add the word "**pray**" after "**it will**" in Division One, Paragraph 6, Article VI. The new amendment would read as follows: This amendment acknowledges God's action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

The second amendment would change Division Two, Section II, Paragraph 14, Article II. The change would be as follows: **After "shall meet" delete "in the month of April or May" and after "duly authorized committees," add a new sentence, "The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016."** This amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.

The third amendment changes the *2013 Book of Discipline*, Division Two, section VI, Paragraph 32, Article I as follows: **After "director of Lay" delete "Speaking" and add "Servant."** This proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the spiritual gifts of the laity.

The fourth amendment would change the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, Paragraph 40, Article I as follows: **Delete the first two words, "Changes in" and following "Episcopal areas," delete "may be effected" and add "shall be determined" and after "and the central conferences" add "The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of Episcopal supervision."** The rationale for this amendment is to give the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

Each amendment was voted on by ballot, and the voting on individual amendments was not announced. It will, however, be included with the votes from other Annual Conferences to determine whether each Amendment is approved.

Following the voting, the Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson presented the report of the **Board of Ordained Ministry**. He said that the goal of the Board is to help to produce congregational leaders who have God-sized visions. In addition, he said that laity support is needed to support clergy in these efforts. Reverend Nelson recognized those who will be commissioned and ordained during the Monday evening worship service.

During the presentation, the following were licensed as **Local Pastors**: Louis Randolph Ashley, Kevin Richard Bishop, Grayson Louis Blackwell Sr., Wallace Michael Burgess, Tracy Paulette Colleton-Glover, Grady William Corder, Gregory Phillip Davis, Scott Stephen Gilmer, Bette Ann Hedden, Sean Michael Kilpatrick, James Stewart McDowell, Darrell Christopher

McNeill, Clarence L. Mitchell, Colin Alfred Moore, James Lawson Morgan, Briant Stanley Mungo, Lynn Griggs Pennington, Michael Steven Phares, Fredericka Whaley Phipps, Justin Lee Ritter, Edward Tyler Strange, Thomas Michael Summerlin, William Lewis Thompson, Steven Matthew Turner, Robert Harry Walker Jr., James Williams, and Michael David Wood.

The Policy Guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry were distributed to Conference attendees. The guidelines were updated to bring the policies in line with the *2012 Book of Discipline*. Reverend Nelson made the motion to accept the guidelines. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the guidelines were approved.

Reverend Nelson recognized the work of Mrs. Bonnie Speas in her work with the Board of Ordained Ministry. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and other gifts in recognition for her faithful service in the position for 12 years and in honor of her retirement.

At 10:35, the Conference heard a report from Ms. Gabrielle Johnson, a senior at Bennett College, speaking on behalf of the **Black College Fund**. She shared her experiences and the importance of the Black College Fund in her education.

Mr. Curtis Young presented the report of the **Committee on Nominations**. He presented several changes in the list of nominations and opened the floor for additional nominations. The Reverend Roger Gramling raised a concern about the nominations presented on pages 91 and 92 of the Conference Reports. He stated that those nominations do not conform to Standing Rule 47, which requires identifying candidates who are United Methodist. At the conclusion of the report, attendees were reminded that the nominations will be voted on Wednesday. (Nominations will be included in the report from Wednesday).

At 10:55 AM, the Reverend Karen Radcliffe, Secretary of Conference, made a report on the **Consent Calendar**. She indicated that those who wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar need to complete a form prior to Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Consent Calendar will be voted on.

The Reverend David C. Surrett made the report for the **Council on Finance and Administration**. He reported that Bishop Holston charged the council with the goal of improving the percentage of apportionments paid by five percent in 2013. He presented the overall budget recommendation for 2014. The total budget is \$16,602,092 which is a 1.5 percent decrease from 2013. Report 2 on the Conference Benevolence Fund and Report 3 on the Conference Administration Fund also show decreases over the 2013 numbers.

In Report 4, the recommended salary for district superintendents is \$94,217. In addition, a change was made in the office (\$30,000) and parsonage (\$45,000) for the Greenwood District to reflect the purchase of new facilities. Report 5 recognizes Special Days in the church. In addition, the report includes additional opportunities to give above and beyond apportionments to support ministries.

Report 6 shows a decrease in budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund. An additional \$13,200 is included in the asking for Campus Ministry. Report 7 shows that the Council on Finance and Administration has approved a goal of moving toward a reduced total Annual Conference Budget of 15 percent of the Total Conference Average Net Funds by budget year 2015.

On Wednesday, these reports will be voted on.

Marvin Caldwell presented the report of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**. He presented the resolutions that were included in the pre-conference materials and announced two additional resolutions: (1) Eradicating Poverty in South Carolina and (2) Responding to the Proposed Changes to High School Equivalency Tests. He stated that additional resolutions can be presented during Annual Conference but 2000 copies of the resolution are required for distribution. In addition, the "Resolution on Minimally Adequate Education," that was included in the pre-conference materials, has been replaced with an updated version. On Wednesday, these resolutions, and others, will be voted on.

The Reverend John Culp announced that a trip is being planned to visit Africa University. The trip is planned for January 13-20, 2014. Reverend Culp invited everyone to get involved with Africa University.

Bishop Holston reported that one of the nominations that was received earlier changed the balance of clergy and lay representation on a committee. Additional nominations were taken for a layperson to fill this position.

Reverend Karen Radcliffe announced that Cokesbury has a store at the Annual Conference this year. In addition, she reminded delegates that the Conference is streaming live this year.

Following a prayer offered by the Reverend Joe Long, Bishop Holston adjourned the session for a lunch break.

### **The Second Day, Monday Afternoon June 10, 2013**

Bishop Holston called the afternoon session into order and opened the session with prayer.

Reverend Jeremy Howell presented the report from the **Commission on Equitable Compensation**. In Report 2.A, the Commission is asking for a line item of \$425,000, which represents a reduction over the previous year. Howell made a motion to adopt the report. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

Reverend Howell also introduced Report 2.B. on the minimum compensation for clergy. The proposed pastor salaries represent a 2.5 percent increase, the first increase in several years. Howell moved for the adoption of the report. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

In Report 2.F., the Commission added language to clarify the presentation of grants. In Report 2.H., the Commission made some minor changes to the language of the information for cooperative parishes. In **Report 2.K.**, the Commission asked to change the "floor" of the reserve fund from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Reverend Howell moved for the adoption of **Report 2** in its entirety. Bishop Holston called for the vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Howell moved for the adoption of **Report 3** in its entirety. Bishop Holston called for the vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Howell moved for the adoption of the report of the Commission on Equitable Finance with the exception of the arrearage policy. Bishop Holston called for the vote, and the report was approved.

Following the vote, Reverend Howell presented the **Arrearage Policy for the South Carolina Annual Conference**. This policy lays out a procedure for situations when a church is unable to meet the salary obligation of a pastor. Reverend Howell moved for adoption of the policy. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the policy was approved.

Herman Lightsey presented the report of the **Board of Pension and Health Benefits** and proposed changes in the clergy pension program. This proposal represents a change for both full-time and part-time clergy. He reported that health insurance costs were expected to rise by 8 percent, and the deductible would be raised from \$750 to \$1,000 to offset these costs. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is asking the Conference for permission to make changes in the interim between Conferences. In addition, changes will be made in the retiree health care plans in an effort to reduce the unfunded liability to the Conference.

Reverend David Anderson then presented the individual reports for Pension and Health Benefits. **Report One.A.** would fix \$720 per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers under the Supplement One of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan. **Report One.D.** states that pastors must contribute one percent in the United Methodist Personal Investment Account to receive the three percent defined contribution portion. Reverend Anderson moved to adopt the report. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Anderson then made the presentation of reports for the Group Insurance Section. **Report One** sets those who are eligible for coverage in the insurance plan. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Following the vote, Reverend Anderson presented **Report Two**, which deals with Major Medical Insurance Benefits. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

**Report Three** stated that the Conference will offer Post 65 retirees two group Medicare supplement options through the AmWINS group. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the report was approved.

Reverend Anderson presented **Report Four** on Administrative Procedures. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved. **Report Five** offered the Group Health Insurance Operating Budget. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Anderson then presented **Report Six**, which presents the 2013 Group Health Costs. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Conference delegates then received a report on the **Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**. South Carolina is one of the first three conferences to have this program approved by the General Board's Pension and Benefits Committee. Reverend Anderson made the motion that this report be approved. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Anderson then made the motion that the entire report be approved as presented. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Following this report, at 2:50 PM, the Conference watched a video from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits concerning its programs and partnerships.

Bishop Holston recognized Dr. James Blassingame, president of the Baptist E&M Convention in South Carolina, who is in attendance at the Conference. Bishop Holston also recognized the Deaconess movement.

Dave Braddon made a report to the Conference on the **United Methodist Publishing House**. He stated that it was an interesting time to make this report since the Publishing House is undergoing changes. He stated the Publishing House is the oldest of our General Agencies. Braddon reported on the decision to close Cokesbury's brick and mortar stores and to focus on other distribution channels. Cokesbury is now concentrating on catalog sales, Web sales, community resource consultants, and special events. Bishop Holston asked the Conference to receive the report as information, and it was approved.

Following a brief recess, the Conference reconvened at 3:15 PM. Following the break, delegates watched a video from the Native America Committee.

Following the video, Reverend Paul Harmon presented the report of the **District Study Task Force**. He stated that as this committee began its study, there was a wide range of views on the number of districts and superintendents. The committee studied a wide range of situations in Conferences across the United States and particularly in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. The task force recommends that no changes be made to the current arrangement of districts in South Carolina. In addition, the task force recommends that the Bishop and Extended Cabinet continue to pursue ways in which the district offices can be more effective in helping local churches make disciples. Reverend Harmon made the motion that the report be accepted. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Reverend Dickie Knight and Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray presented the **Cabinet Report**. Reverend Knight began by recognizing the members of the Cabinet and Extended Cabinet. Reverend Knight thanked Reverend Mary Virginia Taylor for her work as Bishop for eight years in South Carolina. Reverend Leonard-Ray recalled the election of Bishop Holston on the first ballot at Jurisdictional Conference. She described Bishop Holston as a servant-leader and the excitement that came with news that he was assigned to South Carolina as Bishop.

Reverend Knight stated that Bishop Holston has worked to connect with South Carolina Methodists since his arrival. Listening sessions with Bishop Holston have been held in every district.

Reverend Knight presented some of the issues that churches and the Conference are facing: (1) issues related to direct billing; (2) the development of a plan of ministry for South Carolina; (3) the effectiveness of clergy and congregations; and (4) a challenge to our pastors and congregations to reach 92 percent of apportionment giving. Bishop Holston has stated our goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Reverend Leonard-Ray reported on the changes in the *Book of Discipline* as related to function of District Superintendents. District Superintendents are now called to be the chief mission strategists of the district.

Reverend Knight challenged the delegates to be in prayer for the Conference, for our Bishop, and for what is happening in South Carolina.

Reverend Knight made a motion to move the report of the Cabinet into the record. Bishop Holston called for the vote, and it was approved.

Reverend Sara White and Reverend Ken Owens presented the **Report of Congregational Development**. Reverend Owens talked about the exciting opportunities and dreams of congregational development.

Reverend White shared information on the proposed programs that have been presented to the office of Congregational Development. Those programs include new shared ministry pairings, possible new congregation starts, and leadership development opportunities, among others.

The committee, in its report, is working to create "New Places for New People." It describes its work as serving as an intentional partner with local churches. According to its report, two projects of Congregational Development have reached the end of their funding and remain strong United Methodist presences in their communities.

Reverend White made the motion that the report be approved by the Annual Conference. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the report was approved.

Following the vote, delegates watched a video on the **Rural Mission** in South Carolina.

Royya James presented a report from United Methodist Communications on **Rethink Church**. James stated that the Rethink Church effort is now in its fifth year and the program is using current technology to share the message of the church. Efforts during the seasons of Lent and Advent have attempted to meet people where they are and encourage them to explore faith. James presented information on outreach programs and event grants that have encouraged thousands of people to Rethink Church.

James Salley offered a report on **Africa University**. He reported that the Conference "invested" 90 percent of its apportionment to Africa University funding in 2012. He stated that the apportionment for Africa University accounts for approximately 29 cents per member of the Conference each year. Salley shared stories of how the investment in Africa University is changing lives.

Following the report from Africa University, the delegates viewed a video on the **United Methodist Men's National Gathering**.

Reverend Tim McClendon reported on **Charge-Line Changes** as follows:

- **Anderson District:** Dissolve the Hopewell-Zion Charge and make each church a station church.
- **Columbia District:** Dissolve the Gilbert Charge and make Gilbert and Rehoboth station churches.
- **Florence District:** Dissolve the Ebenezer-Old Johnsonville Charge and make each church a station church.
- **Greenville District:** Dissolve the Dunearn-Brandon Charge and make each church a station church.
- **Greenwood District:** Discontinue Calvary from the Calvary-Mt. Carmel-Ninety Six Charge and make Mt. Carmel a station church.
- **Hartsville District:** (1) Dissolve the Ruby Charge, attach Bethel to Ebenezer, and attach Friendship to Mt. Croghan to form new charges. (2) Dissolve the Pine Grove-Epworth Charge, make Pine Grove a station church, make Twitty a station church, and attach Indian Branch to Epworth to form a new charge.
- **Marion District:** (1) Dissolve the Blenheim Circuit and make Parnassus a station church, attach Manning Chapel to Oakland to form a new charge. (2) Discontinue Old Galilee from the Bennettsville Parish. (3) Dissolve the Antioch-Poplar Charge, make Antioch a station church, and attach Poplar to Salem to form a new charge. (4) Dissolve the Joseph B. Bethea-Salem Charge, make Joseph B. Bethea a station church, and attach Salem to Poplar to form a new charge. (5) Dissolve the Ebenezer-Wampee Charge and make each church a station charge. (6) Dissolve the Lake View Charge, make Hopewell a station church, and attach Lake View to Union to form a new charge.
- **Orangeburg District:** Dissolve the Franklin-Orange Grove Charge and make each church a station church.
- **Spartanburg District:** (1) Dissolve the St. Luke-Beaumont Charge and make each church a station church. (2) Realign the Foothills Charge and create the Chesnee-Fingerville Charge.

Each of the district charge line changes was approved by the Conference.

Following the vote on charge lines, delegates watched a video on **Killingsworth**.

The Monday afternoon session was adjourned by Bishop Holston at 4:45 PM.

**The Second Day – Monday Evening  
June 10, 2013**

**The Service of Commissioning and Ordination** was held in the Civic Center at 7:30 PM. Bishop Jonathan Holston presided and preached a sermon titled, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" based on Matthew 22:34-40. Music was provided by the Chancel Choirs of Bethel and John Wesley United Methodist Churches, Charleston, South Carolina. The Extended Cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Clergy Sponsors participated in the service.

During the service, the following persons were commissioned as Provisional **Deacons**: Adrienne Hamm Fink, Bennett William Mazyck, Martha Ann Nichols, Margaret Hughey Wilkes; and as **Provisional Elders**: Megan Danielle Augustine, Yon Taek Bae, Frances Sarah Connell, Jerry Lewis Dicks, Robert Fitzgerald Gilbert, Jonathan David Harris, Laura Allen Kerlin, Kevin Bruce Lindley, Troy Lane Metzner, Blondell Stephenson Miller, Christopher Lee Thompson, James Elbert Williams, Joseph Alva Wilson, II.

The following persons were received as **Associate Members**: Daniel Ray Smyth, Myrna Kay Westfall.

The following persons were ordained as **Elders**: Laura Ramsey Bratton, Donald Ralph Brown, Michelle Dellinger Cockcroft, Jason Daniel Everson, Fadetra Deonka Harrington, Judith Ann Knox, Alice Elaine MacKeil, David Dean McManus, Jr., Kurt Anthony McPherson, Richard Hancock Reams, Davie Demetrius Sanders, Jr., Frederick Johnson Shepard, Steven Paul Simoneaux, Jr., Scott Walker Smoak, Ryan Greasor Spurrier, Calvin Burdell Washington.

**The Third Day – Tuesday Morning  
June 11, 2013**

**At 7:30 AM the Awards Breakfast was held in the Pee Dee Room. The following awards were presented by the Reverend J.C. Lane on behalf of Connectional Ministries:**

**Bicentennial Churches (Founded 1813):** Nazareth UMC, Saluda, Greenwood District, Emory-Nazareth Charge; Jerusalem UMC, Ellore, Orangeburg District, Ellore Charge; Zion UMC, Prosperity, Greenwood District; Mount Elon UMC, Jefferson, Hartsville District, Jefferson Parish; Center UMC, Mullins, Marion District, Center- Nichols, Tranquil Charge

**Centennial Churches (Founded 1913):** Oak Grove UMC, Swansea, Orangeburg District, Calvary-Oak Grove Charge; Wilkes Chapel UMC, Cheraw, Hartsville District, Wilkes Chapel-Bethesda; Dunean UMC, Greenville, Greenville District, Dunean-Brandon Charge; Cayce UMC, Cayce, Columbia District

**The Bishop's 5 Star Award of Excellence**, which is an award given to provide incentive for churches to annually embrace new ministries specifically geared toward growth and outreach. It is designed to enable churches of all sizes to receive recognition. Five Star churches meet the following criteria: increased Sunday School attendance by 5%, developed a new ministry that impacts youth, have a "new work" program that impacts growth, have a 1% increase for members who are received by profession of faith, paid all apportionments in full for 2012 or increased apportionment payments by 25% over those paid in 2011. The award was presented to the following churches:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
Aaron Temple UMC, Bennettsville	Reverend Sharon B. Weeks
Advent UMC	Reverend Michael A. Turner
Asbury UMC, Shiloh	Reverend Pattie Elaine Gordon
Bethel UMC	Reverend Todd Davis
Bethel UMC	Reverend Cindy S. Shaw
Boone Hill UMC	Reverend Kelli W. Taylor
Broad Street UMC	Reverend Dr. Kitty C. Holtzclaw
Chapin UMC	Reverend Jody Flowers
Cherokee Springs UMC, Liberty Charge	Reverend Brian Arant



Clemson UMC  
 Damascus UMC  
 First UMC - Clover  
 First UMC - Laurens  
 Greater St. Paul UMC  
 Hemingway First UMC  
 John Wesley UMC, Charleston  
 Lake Point UMC  
 Lawrence Chapel UMC  
 Lebanon UMC  
 Liberty UMC, Liberty Charge  
 Little River UMC  
 Mauldin UMC  
 Mays UMC  
 Mt. Carmel UMC  
 Mt. Zion UMC, Bishopville  
 New Life UMC  
 Saint James UMC  
 Shandon UMC  
 St. John UMC, Shiloh  
 St. John UMC, Sumter  
 St. Luke UMC, Walhalla  
 Surfside UMC  
 Tabernacle UMC  
 Trenton UMC  
 Trinity UMC, Greenwood  
 Trinity Conway UMC  
 Wesley UMC, Hartsville  
 Wesley UMC, Pinopolis  
 Wightman UMC

Keith D. Ray II  
 Reverend Hope Avins  
 Reverend Tommy Wilkes  
 Reverend Alice Mackeill  
 Reverend Alfonza Jones, Sr.  
 Reverend Milton L. McGuirt  
 Reverend Gary Phillips, Sr.  
 Reverend Jerry L. Dicks  
 Reverend Peggy Garland  
 Reverend Dr. Mark Williams  
 Reverend Brian Arant  
 Reverend Stuart R. Smith  
 Reverend C. E. Kanipe  
 Reverend LaSheila Mack Wyatt  
 Reverend Shirley P. Gordon  
 Reverend Angela Ford Nelson  
 Reverend Dwight A. Nelson, Sr.  
 Reverend Charlie Thomas  
 Reverend Julie Songer-Belman  
 Reverend Pattie Elaine Gordon  
 Reverend J. Robert Huggins  
 Reverend Richard Reams  
 Reverend Dr. Scott H. Watcher  
 Reverend Heather B. Humphries  
 Reverend Cheryl D. Toothe  
 Reverend LaSheila Wyatt  
 Reverend Sandra Stevens Poirel  
 Reverend Fran M. Elrod  
 Reverend Lee C. Bines  
 Reverend Dean Lollis

**The Bishop's Award of Excellence** is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families, and their leaders to participate in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America. The United Methodist Men of South Carolina join with Bishop Holston in recognizing Scouting Ministry as an important part of the Church's total ministry because of who is involved, ALL God's children. These children will learn of God's love from those servants who model their faith. Scouting affords many opportunities for ministry from the church's buildings to camping in God's creation. Those involved become part of a worldwide identity in the local community influencing youth positively for Christ. Not only are the youth ministered to, but the adults also are afforded ministry to each other. This award was presented to the following churches:

Charleston District

Stallville UMC  
 Reverend David James, Pastor  
 Rolland Fitch, II, Scouting Coordinator  
 Girl Scout Troop 53  
 Cub Scout Pack 750  
 Boy Scout Troop 750

Columbia District

Red Bank UMC  
 Reverend W. Russell Freeman, Sr., Pastor  
 Robin Smith, Scouting Coordinator  
 Girl Scout Troop 2323  
 Girl Scout Troop 1030  
 Cub Scout Pack 518  
 Boy Scout Troop 518

Florence District

Shiloh Charge (Asbury & St. John UMC)  
 Reverend Pattie E. Gordon, Pastor  
 Beverly Washington, Scouting Coordinator  
 Girl Scout Troop 517

Greenville District

Buncombe Street UMC  
Reverend Jerry Temple, Pastor  
David Stubbs, Scouting Coordinator  
Boy Scout Troop 9

Orangeburg District

Trinity UMC  
Reverend Larry D. McCutcheon, Pastor  
Ernest Nimmons, Scouting Coordinator  
Cub Scout Pack 190  
Boy Scout Troop 190

**The Herbert Hucks Award** is presented to local churches and publications who celebrate the history of the church. This year's awards were presented to the following: Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Reverend Heather Humphries, Pastor; Shandon United Methodist, Columbia, Reverend Dr. Michael Guffee, Pastor; Pisgah United Methodist, Aynor, Reverend Jane Pearce, Pastor; Mountain View United Methodist, Taylors, Reverend Judith Alford, Pastor; Asbury Memorial United Methodist, Columbia, Reverend Steve McCormick, Pastor; Little River United Methodist, Little River, Reverend Randy Smith, Pastor. The 2013 Individual Award was presented to Reverend Franklin B. Buie, and the Publication Award was presented to the *Advocate* for the book: *In The World, not of the World: 175 years of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* written by Michael Wolfe.

**The Francis Asbury Award** recognizes excellence in and support of higher education ministries within The United Methodist Church. This year's recipient is Reverend Lane Glaze.

**The Denman Evangelism Award**, honors people, both lay and clergy, who are effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ. This effort can involve speaking, personal witnessing, or inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism. Nominees' lifestyles bring honor to Christ and the Church in ways that are in keeping with the United Methodist history and traditions. This award was presented to Davis Crews, Youth recipient; Kit Adkins, Lay recipient; and the Reverend Dr. Robert Howell, Jr., Clergy recipient.

**The Joseph B. Bethea Distinguished Service Award** is presented to a person who has performed outstanding service in working for racial justice. This award was presented to Mr. Willie McLaughlin.

**Barbara Boultinghouse Bridgebuilders Award**, which is presented annually to one person or organization of the South Carolina Annual Conference who has built bridges of understanding by promoting the equity and inclusiveness of all persons, without regard to race, gender, age, handicap, or economic condition. This award was presented to: Mr. Henry Brunson.

**Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award** is presented annually to one clergy person and one lay person who has exemplified extraordinary volunteer mission service in the South Carolina Conference. The award was presented to: Ms. Sonya Floyd.

The following **Students In Mission (SIM)** were recognized: Alice Griffeth, Erica Lowery, Antonio Martin, Javon Etheredge, Keifer Whitt, Jennifer Hall, Sean Thrasher, Octavio Goio.

Bishop Holston called the session into order at 9:00 AM.

A motion was made to suspend Standing Rule 71 to allow for the distribution of an update of the **Resolution to Prohibit Guns at Church-Sponsored Activities**. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the motion was approved to allow tellers to distribute the new resolution.

Ms. Cynthia B. Williams, Conference convener, and the Reverend Kathy James presented the report for **Connectional Ministries**. The report included a glimpse of the ministry and opportunities available through Connectional Ministries including basketball tournaments, Salkehatchie summer service, campus ministries, and many others. The Reverend Emily Scales Sutton and the Reverend Richard Reames spoke on behalf of efforts for immigration reform and challenged delegates to get involved.

Ms. Williams reported on the actions of UMCOR and UMVIM and the efforts to respond to disasters. This year has been a year of training and working toward a disaster response plan, Ms. Williams stated.

Ms. Williams reported on the Special Days for 2014 and The South Carolina Advance Special Ministries for 2014. A new addition this year is P.A.T.H. (People Attempting to Help), a mission to help those in need in York County.

Ms. Williams reported on the role of Congregational Specialists who have the task of assisting local churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world. The delegates heard reports from those who have worked with Congregational Specialists. The Reverend Barry Cannon, Edgefield UMC, and Mr. Ron Young of Augusta Road UMC in Greenville shared their experiences.

Ms. Williams made the motion to accept the report.

The Reverend John Culp made a motion that the Conference give \$65,000 with \$5,000 going to each of the following missions: Alston Wilkes Society, the Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry, Bethlehem Community Center-Columbia, Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg, Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center, Interfaith Community Services Inc., Killingsworth Inc., Rural Mission Inc., The Cooperative Ministry, The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, United Ministries of Greenville, and Wallace Family Life Center. These funds would come from Emerging Ministries' line item with the distribution beginning June 24, 2013. The Reverend Culp spoke in favor of the effort and importance of supporting these ministries.

The Reverend Charles Johnson made the motion to refer the motion to the Connectional Ministries and allow them to address it. The motion was seconded.

Ms. Ann Walker spoke against the motion from Reverend Johnson and asked for the delegates to consider the motion made by Reverend Culp.

The Reverend Larry McCutcheon asked for an explanation of the Emerging Ministries fund. The Reverend Kathy James explained that this fund includes some unused program funds, and she said there are some plans to use some of these funds. The Reverend Jack Washington spoke against the motion from Reverend Johnson.

The Reverend Frances Connell questioned the order of the motions before the conference. She questioned the order of the motion to accept the report prior to the motion from Reverend Culp. She also questioned whether Reverend Culp's motion could be discussed since budget questions are to be addressed on Wednesday. Bishop Holston explained that all motions are properly before the Conference.

Mr. Parker Evatt questioned whether the motion to refer could be acted upon. Reverend Culp asked the delegates to take action now and not refer it back to committee.

The Reverend George Olive spoke in favor of the motion to refer. The Reverend Connie Barnes spoke against the referral.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the motion to refer, and it is defeated.

The Reverend David McManus spoke in favor of using the funds to help those who need these ministries and missions. The Reverend Diane Moseley, the director of Killingsworth Home, spoke in favor of Reverend Culp's motion. A question was asked as to which ministries would be excluded from the motion since 15 are listed in Conference reports.

Mrs. Emily Rogers Evans spoke against the amendment, stating that the Conference has a budgeting process. The Reverend Amari Hooker asked how groups that are approved as emerging ministries would receive less funding because of this motion.

The Reverend Keith Ray offered a substitute motion that directs Connectional Ministries to work in consultation with CF&A to find a way to present to the Annual Conference each year a way to gift up to half of the Emerging Ministries fund each year to ministries. The Reverend Ray said that he wanted to seek a longer term solution that offers more than just a one-time gift.

The Reverend Culp spoke against the substitute motion, and called for action now to help these ministries and missions.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the substitute motion and it was defeated.

The Reverend Mike Henderson spoke against the motion and urged local churches to get involved in supporting the ministries listed in Reverend Culp's motion.

The Reverend John Hipp questioned whether an amendment was in order and asked whether the Conference is voting on 13 ministries for \$65,000 or 15 ministries for \$75,000. The Reverend Kathy James stated that there are actually 14 Advance Special ministries.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the motion from Reverend Culp. The motion was approved.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the Connectional Ministries report, and it was approved.

The motion is that the South Carolina United Methodist Conference give \$65,000 to the Advance Special Ministries of the South Carolina Conference, designating \$5,000 to each of the 13 ministries. This \$65,000 will come from Emerging Ministries (31545) of the Council on Ministries. The distribution of the \$65,000 will begin June 24, 2013.

The Reverend John Hipp closed the session with prayer.

After a brief recess, the Conference held the **Retirement Recognition Service** presided by Bishop Jonathan Holston. The service included a video message from several of the retiring pastors. Those retiring included the following: Alton Melton Arant, Sr., Philip Loren Bostrom, Twitty Lee Bryant, Jr., James Bowen Carter, Philip Evan Chandler, Joe Darsey Durham., George Ronald Gain, Joyce Arlene Hendry, John Emory Holler, Jr., Larry Richard Hyder, William Simon James, Elizabeth Jane Driver Jenkins, Angelin Jones Simmons, Roberta Cabbagestalk Josey, Phil Clyde Lavender, Carolyn Rampley Malphrus, Edward Homer McDowell, Jr., James Rochelle McGee, John Walter Mims, Louis Marion Mims, Jr., Forest Dean Mixon, James Elliott Moore, Steven Douglas Morgan, James Michael Morris, George Everette Olive, Carol McGinty Rawlinson, Jimmy Michael Ridenhour, George William Scott, Mary Ann Snowden, William Henderson Tanner, Jr., and Samuel Simpson Warwick. Ad-Interim Retirees included the following: John Melvin Bell, Katherine Halsey Bostrom, Curtis Edsel Wells, Toni Louis White. Honorable Location Retiree included George Mowry Workman. The Reverend Angelin Jones Simmons (Retiring) and the Reverend Scott Walter Smoak (Entering) represented the classes in the service of "Passing of the Mantle."

Following the lunch break, the Annual Conference reconvened at 2:00 PM with the **Memorial Service**. The Liturgist for the service was Bishop Holston. The Opening Song was "How Firm a Foundation." The Reverend Lillian H. Washington preached the sermon entitled, "A Celebration of Life," based on Philippians 1:12-21. The following deceased ministers, spouses, and others were remembered during the service:

**Active Ministers:** Jerry Mitchell James. **Retired Ministers:** D. Anita Bozardt, James Monroe Bradley, Jr., James Wakefield "Jim" Covington, Iverson Graham, Jr., James Arthur Graham, Sr., Charles Ariel Graves, William Thomas Holroyd, Edward Lawrence Mainous, Edward Crosland McLeod, Thomas Leonard McMinn, Jr., George Clay Owens, Charles Gate Pfeiffer, Thomas Glenn Rogers, Mary Alice Eskew Rowell, Robert Bradford Way, George Wightman Whitaker, Jr., Lewe Scott Woodham. **Spouses:** Margaret Ann Williams Dudley, Mildred Ammons Fields, Betty Ellen Hucks Harris, Cynthia Yvonne Reynolds, Betty Roper Strother. **Surviving Spouses:** Bliss Janette Stanton Amspacher, Clara Bright Cole, Thelma Lloyd DuBois, Gwen Sanders Gosnell, Carol McDaniel Hipp, Susan Lallage Blanton Jones, Alma Combs Shepherd, Lillie Mae Shumpert, Mary Ellen McKee Turner, Dorothy Eileen Zoller. **Others:** Alonzo Clark Jenkins.

### **The Third Day – Tuesday Afternoon June 11, 2013**

Bishop Holston called the afternoon session into order at 3:30 PM. At the opening of the session, Bishop Holston recognized Bishop Jack Meadors. who was in attendance at the Conference.

Bishop Meadors greeted the Conference and said it was a pleasure to be back in the Conference where he was raised.

Barbara Ware presented the **Conference Lay Leader and Lay Leadership Committee Report**. Ms. Ware reported that the Conference is already experiencing the fruits of the new connectional ministry structure. Lay Leadership covers four areas of focus: Lay Servant Ministries, Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation, and Stewardship.

Mr. Donald Love reported on the success of the luncheon at Annual Conference to honor local church ministries. He said that 24 churches reported missions and were recognized during the luncheon. Mr. Love recognized Ms. Brenda Hook for her service in lay ministry.

The report includes a video presentation on Lay Ministry in the Conference.

Ms. Ware made the motion that the report be approved by the Conference.

Ms. Linda Durant, representing the United Methodist Women, honored the Reverend Lillian Washington. Ms. Durant said that Reverend Washington has represented UMW to the Cabinet for the past eight years and she has been a faithful servant.

Bishop Holston called for a vote to approve the report, and it was approved.

Ms. Martha Thompson presented the report on the **Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty**. Ms. Thompson said that this is one of the new "emerging ministries" in South Carolina with partnership with other Methodist denominations. The goal of the campaign is to (1) renew and empower the efforts of Methodist churches, agencies, and seminaries already serving children and youth at risk to poverty and (2) challenge and enable all Methodist churches and seminaries to establish ministries to children and youth at risk to poverty. She urged delegates to be concerned about those in poverty and to get involved. Her report concluded with a video presentation on the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty.

Bishop Holston called for a vote to approve the report, and it was approved.

Dr. Albert Moseley, the president of Gammon Theological School, presented the report for the **United Methodist Theological Schools**. He reported on the 13 United Methodist seminaries and theological schools throughout the U.S. and the graduates who serve in ministry in all areas. He thanked the Conference for its support of theological education through the Ministerial Education Fund supported by the apportionments line item. He recognized graduates of Gammon Theological Seminary who have made an impact in the South Carolina Annual Conference. In addition, Dr. Moseley shared the efforts of Gammon to make an impact on the community and world.

The Reverend Lisa Hawkins offered the report for the **Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry**. She described the Wesley Fellowships as an opportunity to remain connected during college years. In addition, Reverend Hawkins said that Wesley Fellowships become an avenue for students to hear a calling to ministry. Her report included a video presentation on campus ministry in South Carolina. Reverend Hawkins shared information on the SIM (Students in Ministry) program. This program allows students to serve in ministry opportunities and encourages them to grow in faith.

Mr. Les Pritchard, chair of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries, offered the **Report of Camps and Retreats**. Mr. Pritchard reported that the camps and retreats are financially strong and that the group is reporting growth in the number of campers and those attending retreats. Mr. Arthur Spriggs thanked the Conference for all that it does to assist the Camps and Retreats Ministries. He thanked those who participated in the golf tournament to raise funds for the ministry. Mr. Spriggs presented the District Trophy from the golf tournament to the Florence District. Mr. Spriggs said the committee is still in discussion on plans for the Sewee property. He shared the importance for camps and the impact camps make on the lives of children.

Mr. Pritchard made the motion that the Conference accept the report. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

The Reverend Dr. Mike Alexander presented the report for **Wofford College**. Reverend Alexander introduced Dr. Nayef Samhat, the 11th president of Wofford College, who was unanimously elected by the Wofford Board of Trustees. Dr. Samhat begins his duties on July 1, 2013. Reverend Alexander described Dr. Samhat as being passionate about education as well as warm, caring, and approachable. Dr. Samhat thanked the Conference for its support and said that he is looking forward to working with the Conference in the future.

Reverend Mike Bowers of Spartanburg District asked for a moment of personal privilege. He spoke on behalf of the work being done at Spartanburg Methodist College. Reverend Bowers shared some of the accomplishments of the school in terms of academics and athletics.

Ms. Kay Crowe presented the report of the **Conference Chancellor**. Ms. Crowe encouraged churches to look at the deeds of their church property in light of a recent court decision in South Carolina. In addition, Ms. Crowe encouraged churches to continue to look at the issue of incorporation. She moved that the report be accepted by the Conference. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

The Reverend John Holler presented the report of **Epworth Children's Home**. He thanked the Conference for its support of the Children's Home. For the first time, Epworth reached its goal of annual giving from local churches. Reverend Holler reported that 100 percent of Epworth's high school seniors graduated this year, 45 percent of all students at Epworth were on their school's

honor roll, and every child was promoted. The delegates watched a video for Epworth Children's Home featuring the Reverend Ken Nelson, who shared the impact of Epworth in his life.

**The Fourth Day , Wednesday Morning  
June 12, 2013**

At 8:30 AM, the Reverend Dr. Vivia Fowler led the delegates in a **Bible Study**.

Bishop Holston opened the morning session at 9:00 AM with an announcement that \$145,359.89 has been raised for the Stop Hunger Now project.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe presented the **Consent Calendar** for adoption. No items were removed from the calendar. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the consent calendar is approved.

Mr. Curtis Young presented the report of the **Committee on Nominations**. He presented the three names for the open position on the Board of Pension and Health Benefits: Thelma Hudson, Cheryl Glover, and Jeff Selig. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and Thelma Hudson was elected.

Ms. Kim Sanders asked for a clarification of the nominees. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the nominees were approved.

The Reverend Marvin Caldwell presented to report of the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**.

He presented "**Resolution on Minimally Adequate Education**," and the committee recommended concurrence. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

**RESOLUTION ON MINIMALLY ADEQUATE EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, In 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled that educating its citizens was the responsibility of the States; and

WHEREAS, With regard to education, the 1895 Constitution of the State of South Carolina states only that the State must offer its children "a system of free public education"; and

WHEREAS, In 1998 the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the word "free" should be interpreted to require the State of South Carolina to provide a minimally adequate education for all its children; and

WHEREAS, A case is pending before the South Carolina Supreme Court in a suit brought against the State by 36 school districts claiming that the State does not provide a minimally adequate education for children in their districts;

WHEREAS, Since the days of John Wesley the Methodist Church has had a commitment to quality education, as evidenced by the many colleges and universities it has established;

WHEREAS, We believe that children are a sacred trust and that the church, along with families and the government, are responsible for their well-being, development, and education.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2013 Annual Conference of the South Carolina United Methodist Church calls for passage of an amendment to the State Constitution that would mandate South Carolina to offer a "high quality education" to all children to replace the current standard of "minimally adequate education;" and further urge the South Carolina General Assembly to fully fund existing education formulas regarding financial support for all public schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Bishop work with the existing Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children and Poverty Task Force to develop a strategy for encouraging Pastors and United Methodist members to promote the passage of such a Constitutional amendment as well as appropriations to fully fund existing education formulas ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Pastors and United Methodist members be encouraged to contact their legislators to support such a Constitutional amendment as well as full funding of the State's existing education formulas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference support public education by:

1. establishing partnerships with local public schools to give support needed by the schools in their area,
2. honoring teachers for the crucial work they do with young people; and advocating for appropriate salaries commensurate with their vital role in society;
3. supporting efforts to end unjust educational disparities between rich and poor communities; and
4. advocating for universal, early, and quality preschool education for all children.

*Submitted By The Advocacy Ministry Area of  
The South Carolina Annual Conference*

Reverend Caldwell presented "**Resolution to Support Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion.**" The committee recommended concurrence. Louise Geddings spoke against the resolution. Dot Scott spoke in favor of the resolution. Michelle Filler from the Greenville District spoke against the resolution and questioned the fiscal soundness of Medicaid expansion. JoJo Nixon spoke in favor of the resolution stating that churches need to take care of their own. The Reverend Cathy James asked to refer a portion of the resolution which states "direct a Congregational Specialist to coordinate Health Advocacy" to committee. Bishop Holston stated this portion could be dealt with if the resolution is approved. John Kelly spoke against the resolution and in favor of a health care alternative. Patricia Patterson spoke in favor of the resolution. Reverend Caldwell asked to allow the Reverend Amari Hooker to speak on behalf of the resolution. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the body approved allowing Reverend Hooker to speak. Reverend Hooker stated that the Committee on Advocacy was seeking to ask the legislature to move forward and to expand Medicaid to help those in need.

Reverend James made the motion to refer the line "direct a Congregational Specialist to coordinate Health Advocacy" to the Conference-Staff Relations Committee. Bishop Holston called for the vote, and the amendment was approved.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the resolution, and the resolution is supported.

#### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND MEDICAID EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, during the elections held in the month of November in the 2012th year of our Lord, the world witnessed the re-election of Barack H. Obama, the first African-American president of The United States of America; and

WHEREAS, in fulfillment of the President's promises made, in March 2010, Congress enacted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law the constitutionality of which was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in June of 2012, with the exception of certain aspects of Medicaid Expansion; and

WHEREAS, the members of The United Methodist Church have continued to live in pursuit of our founding principles of holy boldness and social justice that are bounded upon the biblical mandates including "doing justice" and "loving kindness"; and

WHEREAS, John Wesley, founder of The Methodist Church, found ways to offer medical services at no cost to the poor in London; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina currently has over 700,000 uninsured citizens, and the majority of them have no regular source of healthcare, forcing them to delay needed care when they are sick, and further threatening their health and life expectancy.

WHEREAS, without insurance and access to preventative care, uninsured patients arrive in emergency rooms with more severe conditions requiring more expensive care for which they cannot pay. In turn, those high costs are shifted to businesses and families that pay health insurance premiums.

WHEREAS, It is estimated that Medicaid expansion would provide health coverage to approximately 250,000 uninsured, low-income South Carolinians that simply cannot afford health insurance and often rely on hospital emergency rooms as their primary healthcare provider.

WHEREAS, Refusing Medicaid expansion will create a coverage gap for South Carolina's most vulnerable citizens, while a family of four making up to \$94,000 a year

has access to federal tax subsidies to help afford healthcare. Meanwhile, a single adult making \$11,000 a year receives no coverage and no access to tax subsidies.

WHEREAS, in Paragraph 162.V in the *2008 Book of Discipline* (pp. 117-118) our Social Principles state that health care is a basic human right and affirms the duty of government to assure health care for all; and

WHEREAS, The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) re-launching the "John 10:10 Challenge," the updated campaign will continue building a faithful movement for health-care justice by engaging United Methodists to promote, preserve, and implement affordable health care for all people across all levels of government.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference: encourage (by letter, conversation and Direct Advocacy) the members of the South Carolina General Assembly to declare that participation in Medicaid Expansion pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to be necessary to the State's economic growth and welfare and to the health, wellbeing, and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that churches in the Annual Conference accept responsibility for:

- becoming actively involved at all levels in the development of support systems for health care in the community; and
- educating and motivating members to follow a healthy lifestyle reflecting our affirmation of life as God's gift;
- direct a Congregational Specialist to coordinate Health Advocacy (*referred to Conference Staff Relations Committee*);
- become advocates for a healthful environment; accessible, affordable health care; continued public support for health care;
- continue their support and provision of direct-health services where needed through hospitals and homes, clinics, and health centers

*Submitted By The Advocacy Ministry Area of  
The South Carolina Annual Conference*

Reverend Caldwell presented the "**Resolution to Prohibit Guns at Church-Sponsored Activities.**" The Reverend Karen Jones presented the rationale of the newest version of the resolution, which changes the language of the resolution in regard to law enforcement, and she stated that a law is currently in place in South Carolina to make churches "gun-free" zones. She stated that the primary concern was chaperones for church children and youth events off the grounds of the church. Reverend Jones stated that the intent of the resolution is to extend the gun-free zone to off-church activities.

The Reverend Rodney Powell spoke against the resolution and presented information on the rates of gun violence. Mr. Michael Cheatham asked for a clarification of the resolution and stated that the reference to SC Code 16-23-30 in the resolution is incorrect. Bishop Holston called for an editorial change to correct the SC Code to 16-23-20.

Brad Parham spoke in favor of the resolution, stating that it reflects the current law in South Carolina and says it delegates authority to church councils. The Reverend Eric Shepherd asked to make an amendment and add a further exception to allow retired and active military and police officers to discharge firearms on church cemeteries for the purpose of salutes at funerals. The amendment was seconded. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

Jerry Byrd spoke against the resolution questioning whether individuals who possess guns could hold functions on their own property. Carroll Player spoke in favor of the resolution. Steve Simpson spoke against the resolution.

Bishop Holston called for a show of hands and a standing vote. However, he stated that the vote was close and asked for tellers to count the votes.

Following numerous questions and concerns, Bishop Holston asked for a distribution of paper ballots. Prior to the vote, Bishop Holston prayed, stating that "no opinion should be any different than our love for Jesus Christ."

Following a 15 minute break, Bishop Holston called the Conference into order.

Bishop Holston announced that by a vote of 628-540, the resolution was not approved.



Reverend Caldwell presented the “**Resolution to Support Global Maternal and Child Health through the Healthy Families, Healthy Planet Project.**”

The Reverend Cheryl Toothe spoke in favor of the resolution. Billy Lynch questioned what role abortion has or will play in this endeavor. Reverend Caldwell stated that abortion plays no role in this resolution. Bishop Holston called for a vote on this resolution, and it was approved.

**RESOLUTION  
TO SUPPORT GLOBAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH THROUGH  
THE HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY PLANET PROJECT**

*Whereas*, Jesus said, “I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 NKJV);

*Whereas*, maternal mortality claims the lives of more than 287,000 women each year, most of whom live in the developing world<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, more than 4 million infants die within the first month of being born<sup>2</sup>;

*Whereas*, a woman is much more likely to have a healthy pregnancy and give birth to a healthy baby if she delays pregnancy at least two years after the birth of her previous child<sup>3</sup>;

*Whereas*, more than 222 million women worldwide would like to avoid a pregnancy but lack a family planning method<sup>4</sup> resulting in more than 70 million unintended pregnancies each year<sup>5</sup>;

*Whereas*, *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2012*, #3203 “Maternal Health: The Church’s Role” states: “Women are crying out for not only their own survival but also the survival of their families and communities. They deserve access to services and care that empower their personal decision-making. As a global church, we are called to eradicate systems of oppression and marginalization that inhibit women’s well being.”

*Therefore be it Resolved:*

- that the South Carolina Annual Conference endorses the “Healthy Families, Healthy Planets” initiative, a project of the General Board of Church & Society to educate and mobilize United Methodists on maternal health and the importance of international family planning;
- that The United Methodist Women and other relevant Boards of the South Carolina Annual Conference work together for the purpose of creating awareness, education, and advocacy for the well-being of women, infants, and children worldwide;
- that the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Church and Society, with the help of the General Board of Church and Society, provide leadership and coordination for this effort;

*Be it Further Resolved:* that we call upon United Methodist leaders, pastors, and laypersons in the South Carolina Conference to contact their *members* of Congress to urge them to increase funding for international family planning in U.S. foreign assistance in order to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

*Diane B. Talley  
Ambassador For Healthy Families Healthy Planet*

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, Maternal Mortality Factsheet, May 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Sunsheela Singh et al., *Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health*, New York: Guttmacher Institutes and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Rhonda Smith et al., *Family Planning Saves Lives*, 4th ed., Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Sunsheela Singh et al., *Family planning Saves Lives*.

<sup>5</sup> Guttmacher Institutes, “Rates of Unintended Pregnancy Remain High in Developing Regions,” *International Perspectives*, Vol. 37 No. 1, March 2011.

The Reverend Caldwell presented the “**Eradicating Poverty in South Carolina Resolution**” and the committee recommended concurrence. With no discussion, Bishop Holston called for a vote, and the resolution was approved.

## ERADICATING POVERTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA RESOLUTION

The disparities have created an impoverished South Carolina, along the I-95 Corridor and the Mill Crescent in the center of the state; with towns where poverty rules, illiteracy passes to children like an inherited disease, and diabetes strikes 9-year-olds because of bad diets and obesity.

This hidden South Carolina shrouded in despair by the legacies of slavery, dependence on marginally educated workforces, and political and economic domination by an elite few has produced more than a million people locked in generational poverty.

The shift of political power from rural to urban areas, the decline of agricultural and textile-mill employment, and a lack of tax base to support schools and build infrastructure to attract business, has moved our state to rank at the bottom of nearly every list you want it to be at the top in the areas of income, education and health.

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state, "In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world. Increasing technology, when accompanied by exploitative economic practices, impoverishes many persons and makes poverty self-perpetuating" (§ 163 E).

Our General Conference resolution, "Call for a Rebirth of Compassion," reinforces this sentiment when it states, "We call upon United Methodists throughout the land not only to feed the hungry and house the homeless, but also to work for policies that will end hunger and homelessness."

Therefore; to achieve improvements and healing in South Carolina, the conference will integrate their budgets and work among the following goals on poverty:

- Increase by 2 percent service to the poor in the Annual Conference through the Advance Minister mission institutions.
- Train an advocate for the poor in the annual conference.
- Work with international partners to reduce by 66 percent malaria-related deaths of children under the age of 5.
- Develop opportunities for more in the annual conferences to become involved with advocacy for health issues such as access to health care, disease, and to decrease infant mortality.
- Find people on the edge of society not now being addressed in United Methodist congregations.
- Provide short-term mission experiences for young people to explore and reflect on professional Christian service.
- Build a network of prophetic pastors and lay members around the conference and provide them with opportunities to work for advocacy and social justice.

*Submitted By The Advocacy Ministry Area of  
The South Carolina Annual Conference*

Reverend Caldwell presented the resolution called "**Responding to the Proposed Changes to High School Equivalency Testing: A Rallying Cry for Action in South Carolina.**" Reverend Caldwell stated that the committee concurred but asked to refer this resolution to Connectional Ministries. Connie Moody asked whether the General Assembly has passed a bill related to this resolution. Cynthia Seller spoke against the resolution and in particular with the pencil and paper reference in the resolution. Joyce Porter spoke in favor of the resolution. Steve Mann spoke against the resolution. Gregg Riley spoke in favor of the resolution. Jerry Byrd questioned whether a church has the authority to "insist" that a government agency take action.

Bishop Holston called for a vote to concur with the resolution and forward it to Connectional Ministries. The resolution is approved.

## RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TESTING: A RALLYING CRY FOR ACTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS**, it is the stated mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, we are charged by those same Social Principles to "...support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as: adequate income maintenance, quality education, decent housing, job training, meaningful employment opportunities, adequate medical and hospital care, radical revisions of welfare programs, work for peace in conflict areas and efforts to protect creation's integrity." [*The Book of Discipline* 2012, ¶163(E)]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state, "We believe that every person has the right to an education. We also believe that the responsibility for education of the young rests with the family, faith communities, and the government. Persons should not be precluded by financial barriers from access to church-related and other independent institutions of higher education." [*The Book of Discipline* 2012, ¶164(E)]; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2012 analysis of nearly 31,000 online job postings available to South Carolinians between February 2011 and March 2011 revealed jobs requiring only minimal on-the-job training paid, on average, \$12.00 per hour compared to \$18.00, on average, for jobs requiring a post-secondary education vocational award or \$26.00, on average, for jobs requiring an Associate's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated 418,000, or 14.5%, of the nearly 2.8 million working-age South Carolinians between 18 and 64 have not earned a high school diploma or a high school equivalency degree; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated 114,000, or 27%, of the 418,000 working-age South Carolinians between 18 and 64 who have not earned a high school diploma or high school equivalency degree reside in what *The Post and Courier* (Charleston) has called "Forgotten South Carolina", 26 counties within the Spartanburg, Greenwood, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Florence, Marion, Hartsville, and Rock Hill districts characterized by: (a) a 2011 poverty rate above 20%, 2011 median household income at least 10% below the state average; (b) a 2012 ranking on health in the bottom half of all counties in the state; (c) a 2012 unemployment rate above the state average; and (d) loss of at least 10% of its young adult population (18 to 44) between 2000 and 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated 132,000, or 32%, of the 418,000 working-age South Carolinians between 18 and 64 who have not earned a high school diploma or high school equivalency degree are under the age of 29; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated 86,000, or 65%, of the 132,000 working-age South Carolinians between 18 and 29 who have not earned a high school diploma or high school equivalency degree are 24 years old or younger; and

**WHEREAS**, the only state recognized General Education Development (GED) testing centers are located in the counties of Dorchester, Florence, Greenville, Horry, Richland, York, and Sumter; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the South Carolina Department of Education website, only 3,800 seats spread across 47 alternative test locations are available to individuals who wish to take the GED in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 2, 2014, the for-profit entity known as the GED Testing Service, a joint venture created in 2011 between the non-profit American Council on Education (ACE) and the for-profit company Pearson Education Ltd., will no longer offer the GED test as a pencil-and-paper test in the United States but will instead offer only computer-based test (CBT); and

**WHEREAS**, it has been acknowledged the proposed changes to the administration of the GED will: (a) force existing testing centers to purchase computers at their own expense to become "certified"; (b) increase the price of the current test from an average of \$75 for all five tests (reading, writing, social studies, science and math) to \$120; (c) not allow scores from the current version of the GED to "carry-over" to the new version; and (d) require test takers be "computer literate" to adequately respond to questions on the new computer based test;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the South Carolina Annual Conference shall advocate through its Conference Connectional Ministries and District Connectional Ministries for a high school equivalency test that is both affordable and administered as a pencil-and-paper test by insisting that local school boards and the South Carolina State Department of Education provide cost comparisons between the proposed GED testing regime and alternatives to the GED such as the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) offered by McGraw-Hill; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the South Carolina Annual Conference shall create a task force consisting of at least one, but not more than three, representatives from each district--one of whom should be the convener of the District Connectional Ministries or the convener's designated representative--who shall collectively develop an implementation plan for: (a) expanding routine access to high school equivalency test sites by obtaining certification for local churches as testing centers and (b) creating local, church-based high school equivalency preparation programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the task force shall present its plan to the Bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference no later than November 18, 2013, the start of American Education Week; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, upon its acceptance by the Bishop, said report shall be disseminated to all District Connectional Ministries as the implementation plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference and shall be used by local churches and districts to expand the number of high school equivalency test sites and/or develop high school equivalency test preparation programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, District Connectional Ministries shall report its progress on the implementation of the aforementioned plan annually as part of its report to the Annual Conference until 2016.

*Submitted by Greenville District Connectional Ministries, April 30, 2013*

The Reverend David Surratt offered the report of the **Committee on Finances and Administration (CF&A)**. Reverend Surratt announced that Lee McMillan has retired from the treasurer's office and requested for the Conference Secretary to send greetings on behalf of the Conference. Reverend Surratt also thanked Conference Treasurer Tony Prestipino for his work for the Conference.

Reverend Surratt asked the Conference to remember Mr. Thad W. Herbert and his wife, Kathryn, who both died in the past year. Mr. Herbert had served the Conference as treasurer prior to retirement.

Reverend Surratt stated that the overall budget represents a decrease of 1.5 percent over the previous year. In addition, he stated that changes related to the Greenwood District Parsonage will apply only to the churches in the Greenwood District. Reverend Surratt made the motion that the budget be accepted.

Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

The Reverend Tim McClendon presented the **Resolutions to Discontinue or Abandon Churches**. Reverend McClendon referred to this moment as a high and holy moment and a celebration of the ministries of each of the churches that will be presented. He stated that these churches have chosen, through charge conference action, to discontinue their ministry.

The following churches were discontinued:

- Cameron United Methodist Church in Calhoun County in the Orangeburg District. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
CAMERON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Calhoun County, South Carolina  
Orangeburg District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Cameron United Methodist Church ("Cameron UMC"), Cameron Charge, Orangeburg District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective **June 26, 2013**; and

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

Whereas, The Reverend Dr. Frederick N. Yebuah, District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District, has recommended that Cameron UMC be discontinued; and

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

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

Whereas, Jericho United Methodist Church ("Jericho UMC") has agreed to minister to the members of Cameron UMC; and

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

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Cameron UMC discontinued, effective June 26, 2013, pursuant to Paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012); and be it further

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

*Resolved*, That the membership of Cameron UMC shall be transferred to Jericho UMC; and be it further

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

*Resolved*, That the real property and remaining personal property of Cameron UMC (not including those tangible personal items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including the monies of Cameron UMC held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference to be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference is authorized to use the monies transferred by Cameron UMC for the care and maintenance of the property until the further disposition of the property; and be it further

*Resolved*, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Cameron UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference requests that the officers of the church corporation of Cameron UMC take all actions necessary under South Carolina law to dissolve the church corporation as part of the winding up of the business affairs of the church.

*Presented by The Appointive Cabinet*

- Old Galilee United Methodist Church located in Marlboro County in the Marion District. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
OLD GALILEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Marlboro County, South Carolina  
Marion District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Old Galilee United Methodist Church ("Old Galilee UMC") located in Marlboro County, South Carolina, has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 26, 2013; and

Whereas, The Reverend Richard H. Knight, District Superintendent of the Marion District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Old Galilee United Methodist Church be discontinued; and

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

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

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Old Galilee United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 26, 2013, pursuant to

Paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Old Galilee United Methodist Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the membership of Old Galilee UMC shall be transferred to Smyrna United Methodist Church, Bennettsville, SC; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the District Superintendent of the Marion District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Old Galilee United Methodist Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the real property and remaining personal property of Old Galilee United Methodist Church (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including the monies of Old Galilee United Methodist Church held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference to be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference is authorized to use the monies transferred by Old Galilee United Methodist Church for the care and maintenance of the property until the further disposition of the property; and be it further

*Resolved*, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Old Galilee United Methodist Church are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

*Presented by: The Appointive Cabinet*

- Calvary United Methodist Church located in Laurens County in the Greenwood District. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LAURENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
GREENWOOD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of **Calvary United Methodist Church** ("Calvary UMC"), Laurens Charge, Greenwood District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective June 26, 2013; and

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

Whereas, The Reverends Mary Teasley and James L. Friday, District Superintendents of the Greenwood District, have recommended that **Calvary UMC** be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Greenwood District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of **Calvary UMC**; and

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

Whereas, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church located in Ninety Six, South Carolina has agreed to minister to the members of **Calvary UMC**; and

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

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Calvary UMC discontinued, effective June 26, 2013, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012 ed.); and be it further

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

*Resolved*, That the membership of **Calvary UMC** shall be transferred to Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church located in Ninety Six, South Carolina; and be it further

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

*Resolved*, That the real property and remaining personal property of **Calvary UMC** (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including the monies of **Calvary UMC** held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference to be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference is authorized to use the monies transferred by **Calvary UMC** for the care and maintenance of the property until the further disposition of the property; and be it further

*Resolved*, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of **Calvary UMC** are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

*Submitted by  
The Appointive Cabinet*

- Union United Methodist Church in Pickens County in the Anderson District. Bishop Holston called for a vote, and it was approved.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
ANDERSON DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, the Union United Methodist Church congregation disbanded its weekly worship service in 2003 and joined with the Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church, leaving the property unattended; and

Whereas, The Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray, District Superintendent of the Anderson District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church ("South Carolina Conference"), has recommended that Union United Methodist Church, located in Pickens County, South Carolina, be formally discontinued; and

Whereas, The Anderson District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Union United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuance of Union United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, Union United Methodist Church has nurtured the faith of many people and served the community in which it is located since its founding in 1870; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Union United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 26, 2013, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012 ed.); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the South Carolina conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Union United Methodist Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That any remaining members of Union United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church, Liberty, South Carolina; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Union United Methodist Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the real property and any remaining personal property of Union United Methodist Church (not including the tangible personal property items referred to above) including the monies of Union United Methodist Church held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference to be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference is authorized to use the monies transferred by Union United Methodist Church for the care and maintenance of the property until the further disposition of the property; and be it further

*Resolved*, That as part of the winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any member of the Board of Trustees of Union United Methodist Church is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the property consistent with the direction of this resolution and if none can be now located, any member of the Anderson District Board of Trustees is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the property consistent with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, particularly section 2549 (3).

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

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

*Submitted by  
The Appointive Cabinet*

Following the votes, Bishop Holston asked for the delegates to remember and reflect on those who have served, been a part of, and have been ministered to by these four churches. He then led the Conference in a prayer for these churches.

Bishop Holston announced that the Annual Conference dates for 2014 will be June 1-4. The Reverend John Culp asked the conference to consider other sites in the state for future Conferences.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe made the recommendation that the Conference return to Florence for the 2014 Annual Conference. John Williams asked for consideration of different dates due to school schedules. Bishop Holston stated that he will take those factors into consideration in future years.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the Conference site, and the Florence site is approved.



The Reverend Keith Ray expressed gratitude to Bishop Holston for this first Conference.

The Reverend J.C. Lane asked whether the former members and pastors of the churches who were discontinued would be asked to stand to be recognized. Bishop Holston asked for those to stand and be recognized.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe asked for delegates to fill out the evaluation form in the conference packet.

Reverend Radcliffe stated there are many people in the Conference who made this time and time of worship possible for the 2013 Annual Conference. She expressed gratitude to the Reverend Tim Rogers for his help and assistance. As part of her report, delegates watched a video of all who assisted in the Conference.

Reverend Radcliffe then made the following Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-Conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the completion of The Fixing of the Appointments, that this 2013 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned sine die. The motion was seconded and approved by the Conference at 11:32 AM.

Following a brief break, the Conference reconvened for the Closing Service of Worship and Fixing of Appointments. Copies of the SC Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church Ministerial Appointments roster was distributed to Conference participants. Bishop Jonathan Holston presided over the worship service and preached a sermon entitled "What Really Matters." The sermon was based on Luke 9:23-27. Following the sermon, the District Superintendents and the District Lay Leaders came forth to amend the ministerial appointments where necessary and to approve them. The Lay Leaders prayed for the clergy and laity in each respective district. The following edits were made to the Ministerial Appointments roster:

Florence District

Hemingway:

Good Hope – appointment changed from TBS to Graham Bennett

Lynchburg:

Lynchburg Parish – a misprint was corrected. Franklin D. James is the associate pastor, and Blondell Miller is the senior pastor.

Greenwood District

Extension Ministries - Adrienne Finkham is appointed to attend school.

Hartsville District

Oswego:

Oswego Circuit – the appointee was changed from Keith Taylor to be supplied (TBS).

Orangeburg District:

Orangeburg Circuit – the appointee was changed from David W. Williamson to Dan Clendaniel.

Charleston and Walterboro Districts

Extension Ministries – Genova McFadden is the Congregational Specialist for the Walterboro and Charleston districts.

Following the singing of the hymn "Go Make of All Disciples," Bishop Jonathan Holston pronounced the Benediction and sent the Conference attendees forth to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## NOTES