

SECTION VII

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

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommend to the 2013 Annual Conference

PREFACE

On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank each United Methodist in South Carolina for their generosity of time, talent, service and gifts in 2012. We achieved a new recent high in apportionment giving. I mailed personally signed letters to all clergy members whose churches paid 100% of their apportionments or increased their giving. All disciples are called to be stewards of the mysteries of God.

The following pages outline the ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference in the Calendar/Conference Year 2014. The Council has sought to prepare this document in prayer and faithful reflection. The overall budget targets again moves us closer to the intended goal of setting this at 15% of average net funds by 2015. CF&A is beginning to review budgeting goals over a longer time period.

Again, CF&A will staff an information table on the concourse level. This table will provide resources on stewardship, financial administration, and the Annual Conference budget. Please stop by during our time of conferencing this year in Florence.

The Council appreciates the interest and support of our new Bishop, Jonathan Holston in our work. He brings a wide range of experience including service on the General Council on Finance and Administration.

Our South Carolina CF&A has sought to be better organized as the new term of service has begun. We have organized around four subcommittees – Budget and Planning chaired by veteran lay member Dan Bozard; Audit, Investment and Control chaired by new clergy member, The Reverend Marie Nuckles; Personnel and Operations chaired by veteran lay member, John Redmond and Stewardship, Education and Communication chaired by new clergy member, The Reverend Walter Cantwell.

Planning goals for the years 2012 – 2016 have been adopted by the Council. As always, the entire Council is resourced and informed in vital and significant ways by our Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Anthony "Tony" Prestipino and his helpful staff.

*The Reverend David C. Surret, President,
Council on Finance and Administration*

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Approved by the 2013 Annual Conference

Report No. 1

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

| FUND | Approved for 2013 | Requested for 2014 | Approved for 2014 | % Change | Average Net Funds Factor |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Conference Benevolences | \$ 2,367,906 | \$ 2,415,594 | \$ 2,350,594 | -0.7% | |
| 2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency | 1,952,536 | 1,952,536 | 1,952,536 | 0.0% | |
| 3 District Superintendents Salary | 1,097,683 | 1,097,683 | 1,130,606 | 3.0% | |
| 4 Equitable Compensation | 556,000 | 351,000 | 425,000 | -23.6% | |
| 5 District Administration | 820,000 | 820,000 | 830,000 | 1.2% | |
| 6 Conference Administration | 1,572,751 | 1,572,751 | 1,557,947 | -0.9% | |
| 7 Camps & Retreat Ministries | 328,324 | 350,000 | 311,908 | -5.0% | |
| 8 Congregational Development | 960,000 | 960,000 | 960,000 | 0.0% | |
| 9 Senior College Scholarships | 1,228,590 | 1,324,832 | 1,167,161 | -5.0% | |
| 10 Spartanburg Methodist College | 634,838 | 850,000 | 634,838 | 0.0% | |
| 11 Campus Ministry | 637,801 | 637,801 | 637,801 | 0.0% | |
| 12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance | 540,228 | 589,713 | 540,228 | 0.0% | |
| Sub-total | \$ 12,696,657 | \$ 12,921,910 | \$ 12,498,618 | -1.6% | |
| 13 World Service ** | \$ 2,048,738 | \$ 2,076,038 | \$ 2,060,254 | 0.6% | |
| 14 Episcopal Fund ** | 593,702 | 578,861 | 601,590 | 1.3% | |
| 15 General Conference Administration ** | 247,217 | 237,461 | 248,663 | 0.6% | |
| 16 Ministerial Education ** | 703,364 | 704,041 | 707,317 | 0.6% | |
| 17 Interdenominational Cooperation ** | 54,981 | 55,034 | 55,291 | 0.6% | |
| 18 Black College ** | 280,552 | 280,822 | 282,129 | 0.6% | |
| 19 Africa University ** | 62,783 | 62,843 | 63,136 | 0.6% | |
| 20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry # | 170,187 | 170,187 | 85,093 | -50.0% | |
| Sub-total | \$ 4,161,524 | \$ 4,165,287 | \$ 4,103,473 | -1.4% | |
| TOTALS | \$ 16,858,181 | \$ 17,087,197 | \$ 16,602,092 | -1.5% | 16.07% |

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

Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

* 16.07% of the 2012 Avg Net Funds of \$103.3 million

Report No. 2

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

| Fund | Approved for 2013 | Requested for 2014 | Approved for 2014 | % Change |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| A. Connectional Ministries | | | | |
| 1. Conference Advance Specials | | | | |
| Ministry Programs | \$ 165,000 | \$ 180,000 | \$ 155,000 | -6.1% |
| Special Salary Supplements | 19,000 | 20,500 | 20,500 | 7.9% |
| Sub-totals (1) | \$ 184,000 | \$ 200,500 | \$ 175,500 | -4.6% |
| 2. Board/Agency Programs | | | | |
| District Councils | \$ 90,000 | \$ 90,000 | \$ 90,000 | 0.0% |
| The Board of Church and Society | 20,000 | 20,000 | 18,000 | -10.0% |
| The Board of Education | 12,000 | 12,000 | 10,000 | -16.7% |
| The Board of Evangelism | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,000 | -33.3% |
| The Board of Global Ministries | 38,000 | 38,000 | 35,000 | -7.9% |
| The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0.0% |
| The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry | 35,000 | 35,000 | 33,000 | -5.7% |
| The Board of Laity | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 0.0% |
| The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns | 1,250 | 1,250 | 1,250 | 0.0% |
| The Commission on Religion & Race | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | -50.0% |
| The Commission on Worship | 6,500 | 6,500 | 4,000 | -38.5% |
| The Commission on The Status & Role of Women | 1,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 0.0% |
| The Commission on Archives and History | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0.0% |
| The Committee on ELOC | 37,750 | 41,500 | 37,750 | 0.0% |
| The Committee on Native American Ministry Communications | 3,750 | 4,000 | 3,750 | 0.0% |
| Disaster Response | 0 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 100.0% |
| Division on Young People | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0.0% |
| Sub-totals (2) | \$ 311,750 | \$ 319,150 | \$ 298,150 | -4.4% |
| 3. Board/Agency Administration | \$ 60,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 50,000 | -16.7% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|--|------------------|---------------|
| 4. Operations (100% guaranteed) | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | \$ | 1,214,906 | \$ | 1,239,204 | \$ | 1,239,204 | | 1,239,204 | 2.0% |
| Contract Services | | 190,500 | | 194,310 | | 194,310 | | 194,310 | 2.0% |
| Sub-totals (4) | \$ | 1,405,406 | \$ | 1,433,514 | \$ | 1,433,514 | | 1,433,514 | 2.0% |
| 5. Communications | | | | | | | | | |
| Electronics | \$ | 42,500 | \$ | 42,500 | \$ | 42,500 | | 42,500 | 0.0% |
| Resource Center | | 35,000 | | 35,000 | | 35,000 | | 35,000 | -20.0% |
| Public & Media Relations | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | -25.0% |
| Sub-totals (5) | \$ | 117,500 | \$ | 117,500 | \$ | 117,500 | | 117,500 | -14.5% |
| 6. Advocate | \$ | 140,000 | \$ | 135,000 | \$ | 135,000 | | 135,000 | -3.6% |
| Sub-totals (A) | \$ | 2,218,656 | \$ | 2,255,664 | \$ | 2,255,664 | | 2,192,664 | -1.2% |
| C. Other Conference Agencies | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabinet Emergency Fund | \$ | 25,000 | \$ | 25,000 | \$ | 25,000 | | 23,000 | -8.0% |
| Bishop's Contingency Fund | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 0.0% |
| Episcopal Office | | 0 | | 12,000 | | 12,000 | | 12,000 | 100.0% |
| Committee on Episcopacy | | 1,500 | | 1,500 | | 1,500 | | 1,500 | 0.0% |
| Episcopal Residence | | 10,000 | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 100.0% |
| Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract | | 20,700 | | 21,700 | | 21,700 | | 21,700 | 4.8% |
| Ordained Ministry | | | | | | | | | |
| 1) Operations | | 62,550 | | 49,730 | | 49,730 | | 49,730 | -20.5% |
| 2) Career Planning Programs | | 17,500 | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 14.3% |
| 3) Residency I | | 2,000 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | -100.0% |
| Sub-totals (B) | \$ | 149,250 | \$ | 159,930 | \$ | 159,930 | | 157,930 | 5.8% |
| Total Conference Benevolences | \$ | 2,367,906 | \$ | 2,415,594 | \$ | 2,415,594 | | 2,350,594 | -0.7% |

Report No. 3

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

| Fund | Approved for 2013 | Requested for 2014 | Approved for 2014 | % |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 Contingency Fund | \$ 260,000 | \$ 270,000 | \$ 270,000 | 3.8% |
| 2 Journal Publication | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 0.0% |
| 3 Ministers Book | 5,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | -20.0% |
| 4 Director of Administrative Services Office (Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over) | 717,750 (60,000) | 717,750 (42,000) | 717,750 (42,000) | 0.0% -30.0% |
| 5 Print Media Services Deficit Reduction | 70,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | -42.9% |
| 6 Conference Expense Fund | 240,000 | 240,000 | 240,000 | 0.0% |
| 7 Administrative Committees | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0.0% |
| 8 Conference Secretary | 44,804 | 45,000 | 45,000 | 0.4% |
| 9 Methodist Center Trustees | 22,000 | 26,000 | 26,000 | 18.2% |
| 10 Coordinator of Clergy Services | 184,197 | 184,197 | 184,197 | 0.0% |
| 11 General Conference Delegates | 6,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | -16.7% |
| 12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings | 60,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 | -25.0% |
| TOTALS | \$ 1,572,751 | \$ 1,557,947 | \$ 1,557,947 | -0.9% |

Report No. 4

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2013 will be set at \$94,217. (DS compensation for 2011 was \$91,200, and for 2012 is \$91,473.)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2014 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
 - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
 - 2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
 - 3) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$2,800 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 18,000. These funds are not guaranteed and are contingent upon the apportionment receipts and other requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2014 will be as follows (Final amounts will be reflected in the 2013 Journal):

| District | 2012 Membership | Amount |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Anderson | 14,432 | 3,500 |
| Charleston | 24,800 | 4,500 |
| Columbia | 33,714 | 5,400 |
| Florence | 18,228 | 3,800 |
| Greenville | 21,082 | 4,100 |
| Greenwood | 16,330 | 3,600 |
| Hartsville | 18,861 | 3,900 |
| Marion | 22,613 | 4,300 |
| Orangeburg | 18,488 | 3,800 |
| Rock Hill | 16,756 | 3,700 |
| Spartanburg | 15,945 | 3,600 |
| Walterboro | 14,251 | 3,500 |
| Totals | 235,520 | \$47,700 |
 - 4) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$150,000 for the total of all districts, plus \$6,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$12,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$150,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is set at \$312,200 (\$26,100 per district), and continuing education at \$750 per superintendent.
 - 5) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.
- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.

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

| District | Parsonage | Office | Total | Avg. Net Funds |
|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Anderson | \$ 15,000 | \$ 37,000 | \$ 52,000 | 0.007589 |
| Charleston | 23,000 | 40,000 | 63,000 | 0.006075 |
| Columbia | 25,000 | 45,000 | 70,000 | 0.004278 |
| Florence | 25,000 | 45,000 | 70,000 | 0.009570 |
| Greenville | 30,000 | 30,000 | 60,000 | 0.005569 |
| Greenwood | 45,000 | 30,000 | 75,000 | 0.010291 |
| Hartsville | 17,000 | 32,000 | 49,000 | 0.006244 |
| Marion | 50,000 | 25,000 | 75,000 | 0.007295 |
| Orangeburg | 25,000 | 40,000 | 65,000 | 0.009851 |
| Rock Hill | 10,000 | 27,000 | 37,000 | 0.004981 |
| Spartanburg | 22,000 | 25,000 | 47,000 | 0.006229 |
| Walterboro | 25,000 | 40,000 | 65,000 | 0.014042 |
| Total | \$ 312,000 | \$ 416,000 | \$728,000 | |

Report No. 5

- A. We recommend that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church and that appropriate free-will offerings be received.

Human Relations Day – January 19, 2014
 Golden Cross Sunday – February 2, 2014
 One Great Hour of Sharing – March 30, 2014
 Native American Awareness Sunday – May 4, 2014
 Peace with Justice Sunday – June 15, 2014
 Epworth Children's Home
 Mothers' Day – May 11, 2014
 Work Day – September 7, 2014
 Church school offering first Sunday each month
 Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 10, 2014
 Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 21, 2014 (youth offering)
 World Communion Sunday – October 5, 2014
 Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 2, 2014
 United Methodist Student Day – November 30, 2014

- B. An offering may be taken to support the Bessie Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund as a part of the observance of Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 2, 2014.

- C. We offer the following:

- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.). Payments in excess of \$1,000 should be approved by the Conference Treasurer in advance.
- 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage and compliance with payroll tax laws.
- 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$7.00 for breakfast, \$13.00 for lunch and \$20.00 for the evening meal.

- 4) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 5) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 6) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2014 apportionments shall mean for each church the four-year average of net funds in the years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. When a church has declined for two consecutive years in "net funds," the term "average net funds" shall mean the average of the last two years only; the first year net funds increases, a three-year average will be used, and the following year the normal four-year average. Newly organized churches will be treated in the same manner as other churches of the conference. A four-year average of net funds will be used, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero. Churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage may exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister's compensation.
- 7) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 53 through 62 (inclusive) of Table 2 or lines comparable to lines 53 through 62 based on the Tables Used For the 2009 – 2012 Quadrennium.
- 8) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2 reports for use in future year calculations.
- 9) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 12, Report No. 1) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 9, Report No. 1) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin College; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 7, Report No. 1) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.
- 10) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts up to \$15,000 from the Conference Contingency Fund to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 11) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of Conference Connectional Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 12) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the budgets of the District Superintendent Salaries, Director of Administrative Services, the Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 14) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates up to 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2013, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 15) That local churches of the conference incorporate. (See ¶¶ 2506, 2507, 2528.1 of the 2008 Book of Discipline.) An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at www.umcsc.org. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

Report No. 6

The recommended apportioned budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund have been reduced. These causes are significant ministries. Therefore, we ask those churches with sufficient

resources to continue in 2014 to contribute what was apportioned for these funds in 2009. In addition, \$13,200 will be included in the asking for campus ministry. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

Report No. 7

While clearly understanding the Book of Discipline's requirement that no Annual Conference session can bind another session in its decision making, the Council on Finance and Administration has approved a goal of moving toward a reduced total Annual Conference budget at or near 15% of total Conference Average Net Funds by Budget Year 2015. The proposed budget for 2014 moves the Annual Conference toward this targeted goal.

Report No. 9

Following is a listing of the 2012 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2014 apportionments.

| District | 2012 | District | 2012 |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Anderson | 6,851,939 | Hartsville | 7,847,056 |
| Charleston | 10,371,023 | Marion | 10,281,399 |
| Columbia | 16,361,608 | Orangeburg | 6,598,328 |
| Florence | 7,314,449 | Rock Hill | 7,428,063 |
| Greenville | 10,772,999 | Spartanburg | 7,545,151 |
| Greenwood | 7,288,222 | Walterboro | 4,628,954 |
| TOTAL | | \$103,289,192 | |

David Surrett, President
 Valerie Brooks-Madden, Vice-President
 David Taylor, Secretary
 Anthony C. Prestipino, Jr., Treasurer

THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Jesus told the disciples stories preparing us for a way of life. The stories framed thinking that would live long after his leaving. We have a profound need to tell and hear stories. It is how we share experiences. Stories give us an understanding of each other and a way to create community. Our conversations, filled with our personal culture, customs, values and wisdom, are an invitation to others to share in our walk with Christ. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we glorify God when we take every opportunity to tell our story of what God is doing, has done, and continues to do. When others can hear, see, and feel our story, they begin to relate not only to us, but to God.

As we serve each other, we give by living lives worthy of the Story of Jesus. As the Conference Connectional Ministries, we have stories to tell about the new work that is emerging in districts and at the conference level. Let us tell the ministries of the United Methodist Church in stories that will encourage others to come and meet the ONE who has done so much for so many.

Cynthia B. Williams – Conference Convener

In addition to job function training, lay servant ministry training, and other programs and ministries that all districts participate in, below are highlights of the new ministry opportunities occurring at the district level.

ANDERSON DISTRICT

- We have studied the book, Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church, by Dr. E. Stanley Ott. This book was used as a guide to help us select an area of emphasis in our work. We selected Shift #5, "Shift from assuming discipleship to developing discipleship."
- Making plans to support, participate, and lift up the "Stop Hunger Now" event planned for June 11.

CHARLESTON DISTRICT

- Offered a training event in July on "Choosing Spiritual Leaders" lead by Rev. Jim Arant. This was a well-attended event on a Saturday.
- Youth rallies throughout the district in 2012.

- Free health clinics offered at Murray UMC, Wesley UMC, Ladson and New Hope UMC.
- Offered seminars on diversity during the Lay Leadership Training on November 4.
- Offered a mission trip to Ecuador (where we have a missionary supported by Charleston District)
- Gary Davis has designed a blog for the Charleston District that gives trained persons access to posting items from their church.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

- Our main goal continues to be establishing a flow of information from local churches concerning their needs and how the DCM might help meet those needs.
- This past year the Columbia District raised over \$70,000 to build a new church building for Mzuzu United Methodist Church in Malawi, Africa
- As part of our Advocacy, Lay Leadership, Outreach, and Discipleship Ministry, the Columbia District held a "Lead Like Jesus" encounter on January 25-26, 2013, with 90 participants from 22 local churches and 13 clergy present. This was a very meaningful experience and avenues of follow-up are being explored.
- The Columbia District has endorsed an unique opportunity for Outreach, Advocacy, Lay Leadership, and Discipleship as a group of motorcycle riders from the Gilbert area of the Columbia District have been approved to become United Methodist Circuit Riders using the United Methodist logo of the cross and flame while riding their Harley Davidson bikes! This unique opportunity came from a local church member, John Barnett, of Beulah UMC, Gilbert.

FLORENCE DISTRICT

- A district-wide Day of Service was held that was greatly supported. It was our first, and we hope to build on it next year and have more participation. Of the ten clusters in our district, there was participation from all. The projects included visitations, home repair, trash collection and community clean-up, community fellowships, prayer line ministry, personal hygiene items for Epworth Children's Home, Bishopville Manor Assisted Living and other homes in the district.
- We have begun to identify young people in some of the churches who we hope to connect with and engage in dialogue. We also continue to seek ways to help local churches reclaim our Methodist distinctiveness of social justice. Education in this area is desperately needed.
- We planned and implemented a day of training that focused on stewardship. It was titled "The Good Steward." The focus of the training was giving God our very best through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness – our baptismal covenant. The plenary session began the day by emphasizing the importance of our relationship and connection to God along with practical ways that one might live that daily. The rest of the day was break-out time into workshops that focused on youth ministry, outreach and evangelism, church trustees, and finance. They made the day fun with door prizes and giveaways along with great food.

GREENVILLE DISTRICT

- **Great Day of Service (Stop Hunger Now)** – The Greenville District has once again chosen to have a Great Day of Service to meet the needs of those who suffer from hunger. We are seeking to raise enough money to fill an entire container with food to ship overseas through Stop Hunger Now. We were successful in doing this in 2012 and are confident that we will once again be able to do this in 2013. We are slated to pack on April 13th at Advent United Methodist Church. We know this is an event that primarily addresses hunger outside of the United States, we are well aware that there are hunger needs right in our backyard. Knowing this, the Greenville DCM is taking steps to make sure that we reach out to the "least of these" right here in Greenville District. The Greenville DCM plans to encourage folks to give in abundance for local hunger during the Conference Great Day of Service. For those who cannot travel to Florence we will collect food locally and deliver the food to food banks throughout the Greenville District. The Greenville DCM is also educating the district of the conference Great Day of Service and asking all churches to help fund that project.
- **Communication** – The Greenville DCM has been working on the identified issue of communication. We have implemented a new website, Facebook page and have a dedicated communications representative in-district. The goal is to have both clergy and local church lay leadership receive the communication.

- **Local Church Help** – With the help of the district lay leader and the District Superintendent we are able to hear from the local churches areas that they need help. One area, specifically is with small groups and Sunday School. The DCM is exploring how to help local churches with this issue as well as others.

GREENWOOD DISTRICT

- Transforming Worship workshop led by Dean McIntyre, Safiyah Fosua and Taylor Watson Burton-Edwards of the General Board of Discipleship.
- Basic Leadership Skills training in 3 locations throughout the district.
- Adult Education training event to help with curriculum needs.
- Small Groups training.
- Endorsed a Church Media and Communications workshop sponsored by the district Congregational Development Committee.
- Upcoming Lay Rally sponsored by Greenwood DCM and Orangeburg DCM is scheduled for April 20 at Batesburg-Leesville High School that will have something for all ages. Speakers are Bill Bouknight and Jasmine Smothers.

If our listening sessions are accurate, we are addressing real needs of the local church – we just need to figure out how to get the word out and how to make people want to participate.

HARTSVILLE DISTRICT

- Cluster Training for Church Councils.
- Disaster Response Training.
- Send Cluster Representatives to Children’s Ministry Conference in Greenville that can return and lead cluster workshops.

MARION DISTRICT

- The Reverend Richard Knight created/set-up Small Church Network for clergy and laity of small membership churches to gather and share ideas to bolster connectational opportunities among those groups.
- Follow-up sessions on the Gil Rendle teachings from Conference 2012 were conducted in cluster settings for further understanding and implementation into the local churches.
- Laity trainings on Accountable Discipleship, Spiritual Gifts and Methodism 101 were held to help equip laity as disciples.

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT

- Church Leader Orientation Trainiin: On Sunday, January 27, 2013, about 400 lay persons from the Orangeburg District gathered at Claflin University to receive training in different areas of church ministry and mission. Dr. Henry Tisdale, president of Claflin University, gave a welcome, and Rev. Dr. Frederick Yebuah, Orangeburg District superintendent, spoke to those gathered. Gregg Riley, Orangeburg District lay leader, spoke to the group on “Stop Hunger Now.” After the total group session, the laypersons broke out into 15 small group sessions. The following areas were included: Lay/Clergy Partnership, Lay Leaders, Vital Congregations, SPPRC, Finance, Trustees, Safe Sanctuaries, Mission/Outreach, Church Council, Men’s Ministry, Nurture, Evangelism, Nominations and Leader Development, Advocacy, and Youth.
- “Stop Hunger Now”: The Orangeburg District has made a commitment to support “Stop Hunger Now.” Each man, woman, child, and youth will be asked to give up something during Lent and give to “Stop Hunger Now”. The people of the Orangeburg will be asked to make a pledge to “Stop Hunger Now.” A goal of 200,000 meals has been set; \$50,000 will be needed to meet the goal. On Saturday, April 27, 2013, men, women, youth, and children will gather at Edisto Fork UMC to bag the meals.

ROCK HILL DISTRICT

- The Lay Leadership team hosted two Spiritual Gifts Workshops last year. The first workshop was held in the Lancaster Cluster with approximately 25 persons attending. The second workshop was held in the Clover cluster with 12 persons attending. As a result of the Cluster workshops, several churches have held workshops for their local congregations. This team is also looking forward to planning a leadership development training for August.
- As a result of input from the ministry areas and the listening session held around the district, we have overhauled and given a new look to the “Job Function Workshops.” The title of the event this year is “The Church in 3D – Dialogue, Discernment and Dedication.” We are moving away from workshops where participants are told how to do ministry to conversations. The hope is to teach participants how to have these conversations in their local congregations that will lead to change and more effective ministry. There will be conversations on Rethinking Sunday School, Worship, Bridg-

ing the Generational Gap, Revitalizing the Local Congregation, Conflict Resolution, Vacation Bible School and Disaster Response. This event will be held on March 17 and will coincide with Bishop Jonathan Holston's visit to the district. He will be the keynote speaker at the event.

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT

- We look forward to celebrating during the Fall a community-wide event with the Advocacy Committee. It will be a day of family fun and an opportunity for nonprofits to set up booths and share information.
- The Discipleship Committee hosted three District Worship Services. Our most successful and best attended was a Festival of Wesleyan Hymns hosted by Silver Hill Memorial UMC. A packed house worshipped with Gospel Grass, a blue grass band of United Methodists from Union County, a praise band from New Beginnings UMC, and the Youth Orchestra from Silver Hill Memorial.
- The Outreach Committee is in the process of upgrading and redesigning the District Website as well as publicizing events through the District Facebook page.
- In addition the team organized a District Singles Ministry.
- During the month of February, Clusters in the District came together for a time of worship followed by listening sessions to see how Connectional Ministries may better serve their churches.

WALTERBORO DISTRICT

- Our training sessions since the 2012 Annual Conference have been in the areas of Safe Sanctuaries, Stewardship, Vacation Bible School, Lay Leader, Outreach/Mission, Witness/Evangelism, Christian Education, Trustees, Church Council, Nominations, and SPPRC.
- The Great Day of Service was April 6, 2013, and churches across the district were involved in outreach ministries of various kinds in their respective communities.
- The Walterboro District is committed to being present and participating in the June 11 Stop Hunger Now event at annual conference.

The role of the Conference Connectional Ministries is to equip local churches for the ministry of making disciples and connect them in ministries beyond themselves. The committees and boards of Connectional Ministries function under four ministry areas: Lay Leadership, Discipleship, Outreach, and Advocacy. Below is a synopsis of their work.

LAY LEADERSHIP AREA

New structures, new committees, new options, and new faces - all these add up to what Lay Leadership has experienced this year. Formerly known as the Board of Laity, the new Lay Leadership Area of the Conference Connectional Ministries welcomed many new members from the 12 districts across the conference. These folks brought new energy and creative ideas to the group. We also welcomed six new District Lay Leaders: Charleston-David Braddon, Florence-Dennis Sullen, Greenville-Michael Cheatham, Marion-Becky Green, Orangeburg-Gregg Riley and Rock Hill-Anna Feagin. Along with these folks, Donald Love is the new associate conference lay leader and Jenny Rawlings serves as the new secretary of lay leadership. Continuing as District Lay Leaders are: Anderson-Freda Brock, Columbia-Brenda Hook, Greenwood-David Salter, Hartsville-Max Jackson, Spartanburg-Earline Powell and Walterboro-Pamela Goodwin-Glover. We are blessed to have as our cabinet representatives, Rev. Paul Harmon, Spartanburg DS and Rev. Thomas Pearson, Walterboro DS.

Lay Leadership has four areas of focus: Lay Servant Ministries, Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation and Stewardship. A report from each area follows:

Lay Servant Ministries

The Committee of Conference Lay Servant Ministries (formerly Lay Speaking Ministries) has been working together to design uniform guidelines for conducting our schools across the conference in the same manner within each district. With the change in name from Lay Speaker to Lay Servant, the Conference Committee is actively championing improvement in District Committee polices and functions on behalf of local churches, laity, clergy relations, lay servants, lay leadership training and development, and District programs. Lay Servant Ministries is actively promoting Lay Speaking/Servant Ministries training awareness and recently held a Lay Speaking/Servant Ministries Celebration Day commemorating the successes of lay speakers, and lay servants, work in the local

churches. We also hosted the annual "Lay Speaking Emeritus" Celebration to recognize and bestow honor to lay speakers no longer able to fulfill the educational requirements due to physical incapacities. These individuals do continue to remain active in their local churches as they are able. The LSM Conference committee reviewed the books and curriculum of eight different courses introduced by the districts, and approved them for inclusion as advanced courses for lay servants. Four of the courses involve the four areas of Connectional Ministries. We continue to plan an Annual Instructors' Academy.

*Submitted by Jackie Jenkins, conference director of LSM and chair,
Lay Servant Ministries Task Force*

Leadership Development

The Leadership Development Task Force is charged with finding new ways to educate, train, and involve laity in the local church. Consistency in training is of utmost importance, and this task force has recommended that every district hold an annual lay leadership workshop to train laity on the jobs they hold within their local churches. Formerly, this committee planned Laity Convocation, which served as a spiritual development event that also included practical ideas for local churches. This year, an experimental event with the Orangeburg and Greenwood Districts occurred on April 20, 2013 as a replacement. Concurrent tracts for adults and youth were held along with great music and food. We will be evaluating this model, and, if deemed successful, the task force will encourage other districts to host a lay rally in 2014. In addition, the Lay Leadership Task Force has adopted "Strengthening the Clergy/Lay Partnership" as its focus for 2013. An implementation plan is currently being developed.

Submitted by Lisa Livingston, chair, Leadership Development Task Force

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee's focus is training and making resources available to every district in the South Carolina Annual Conference. The committee approved a project for CDs on stewardship and other related resources for local church trainings. Distribution of these materials is scheduled for early March 2013. Furthermore, committee members have facilitated trainings at district training events and for local groups by request. Our next goal is to develop a regional or statewide event, utilizing persons within the United Methodist Church and others incorporating requests from the local church.

Submitted by Dennis Sullen, chair, Stewardship Task Force

Spiritual Formation

The Spiritual Formation Task Group has been actively pursuing ways to bring Spiritual Formation events to the conference. In October 2012 we hosted the Spiritual Practices one-day event in Spartanburg. This was a wonderful opportunity for folks to experience many new ways to grow in their spiritual life. On May 13-17, 2013, we are hosting another 5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation. This is a great opportunity for laity and clergy to start, renew or supplement their spiritual practices. A new banner and page on the conference web site will enhance our programs.

Submitted by Suzy Speas, chair, Spiritual Formation Task Force

As you see, these groups are working together under the new structure of the Conference Connectional Ministries to offer programs and workshops for the purpose of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Barbara Ware, conference lay leader

DISCIPLESHIP AREA

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry for the Discipleship Area is promoting Children's Sabbath in October 2013. This is on the Conference Calendar and each local church in the conference will be encouraged to participate. At Annual Conference the Children's Ministry Area will have a booth to promote Children's Sabbath, Weekday Ministries in Local Churches, and Children in Poverty. Guidelines for promoting weekday programs will be available for local churches.

Submitted by Martha Thompson

Older Adult Ministry

The Older Adult Ministry held its Spiritual Life Retreat at Springmaid Beach February 5-7, 2013. The 230 attendees were inspired by the messages brought by Dr. John

Ed Mathison on the theme "Living Life at the Next Level." In addition to the worship sessions, participants enjoyed Christian fellowship as they enjoyed the activities offered each day and browsed Cokesbury and Shop the World Gifts. The Mission Event for this year will be at a Native American Church in Orangeburg County on April 22-25, 2013.

Submitted by Betty Shuler

CCM – Discipleship – Worship

The worship subcommittee is providing resources and working with the Committee on the Annual Conference. We are also studying how best to resource the 12 District Connectional Ministries in their efforts to support and promote worship in our local churches. At this point, we have not identified any conference-wide worship related projects.

Rev. Steve King

OUTREACH AREA

The Board of Health and Welfare – Rev. Sandra King, Convener

The Board of Health and Welfare has \$3,200 annually to distribute among requests, however this year they received requests totaling \$20,250. We have never had anything like this amount of money requested in recent years. We need to let requesting pastors know that we just could not meet all the requests through our funding criteria and resources.

Applications for the fall funding are due June 10, please ensure that your funding request are within our funding criteria.

Disaster Response – George Olive, Disaster Response Coordinator

This has been a year of training and "getting ready." The Conference Disaster Response Coordinator attended the national UMCOR training at Sager-Brown in November and the SEJ training event in Atlanta in February. The Hartsville District has trained its local churches and now requires every church to present a Church Disaster Response Plan at Charge Conference time. Most importantly, the Conference Disaster Response Committee, including district coordinators and several key staff members, held a 3-day training, led by UMCOR, in March. A new Conference Plan was then drafted and is to be presented to the Annual Conference for adoption. Finally, we have been blessed in many ways by the arrival of Bishop Holston, but none more importantly than that, as a former Disaster Response Coordinator in the North Georgia Conference, he brings both knowledge of and passion for this mission.

ADVOCACY AREA

Our tradition of salvation, education and empowerment brought by Jesus Christ binds us together as a church people and sends us forth to bring healing in the midst of strife, justice in the midst of brokenness, and love in the midst of hate.

As United Methodists, Advocacy is our call to invite people to enter into a community of faith responsive to a vision of justice ministries that is biblically and theologically grounded. The South Carolina Advocacy Ministry Area invites United Methodist congregations in our annual conference to play a prophetic role in bringing God's vision to reality. Our mission is to advocate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the church and society. We celebrate signing up a minimum of 27 churches (23 of which received mini grants to establish policies) to be tobacco-free and to encourage others in that direction.

Members from the Advocacy team were invited and participated in an important training offered by the SC Annual Conference. This training, titled "Building God's Beloved Community," was designed to help congregations and individuals learn competencies needed for reaching out and building relationships with persons in our local communities across racial, ethnic, and cultural boundaries. The training, led by representatives from the General Commission on Religion and Race and the i-Relate- Intercultural Leadership Institute, was designed to be a "train the trainers" event. The intention was to equip leaders who can resource congregations that are seeking to be more relevant and relational in their community given the growing diversity in our neighborhoods.

On October 25-27, 2012, John 10:10 leaders and health care advocates gathered for a national training event to learn principles of organizing and applying them to health care advocacy. Participants developed an advocacy plan and were equipped to build a team in their local congregation, community, district, and/or annual conference. The Advocacy Ministry Area is working to develop a conference program and will host events dealing with Health Care Advocacy.

The Board of Church and Society sent a four-member advocacy team to Washington, D.C., joining more than 100 other United Methodists from 40 annual conferences and 30 states for the Imagine No Malaria campaign. The teams swarmed Capitol Hill Dec. 2-3,

2012 to advocate for continued support of foreign aid funding to fight the mosquito-borne illness. The Rev. Amiri Hooker, the Rev. Karen Jones, the Rev. Jeri Katherine Sipes and Conference Communications Director Matt Brodie spent two days learning about malaria-related issues and how to be an advocate on Capitol Hill. They also met with staff members at Sen. Lindsey Graham and Sen. Jim DeMint's offices. Church and Society have been working to provide training for the conference in the areas around the legislative agenda of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).

The board also participated in the GBCS Young Clergy Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. February 4-8, 2013, which included orientation to the ministries of the GBCS; advocacy and organizing training; and Capitol Hill visits. Two young clergy were sent to the forum from this annual conference, the Rev. Mallory Forte and the Rev. Karen Jones. They met with staff members of Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Tim Scott, Rep. Trey Gowdy, Rep. Jim Clyburn, and Rep. Joe Wilson, regarding legislation to end gun violence.

The Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) in partnership with the SC Annual Conference Districts Committees, Advocacy teams, John 10:10 Advocacy team and The South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations (SCACDC) will hold the Coastal Community Empowerment Training. The training will focus on the impact that racism, anti-immigration and poverty has on the prosperity of the local communities. Participants in this training will receive information on the social and economic disparities of ethnic minority groups, state and federal policies that could help and hurt ethnic minorities, along with federal, state and local resources that are in place to fight injustice, inequities and poverty. The training will also provide participants with tools to organize congregations and communities to achieve social justice. The training will end with a Call to Action to participants to engage in efforts with policy makers to fight policies that negatively affect ethnic minorities and protect state and federal anti-poverty programs from budget cuts. Grants of \$500 will be available for participants to apply through a competitive process for local community and advocacy projects.

ELCC was delighted to be able to sponsor 22 scholarships for the South Carolina Conference Summit on the Black Church held in Columbia October 11-13, 2012. The desire is to assist churches that cannot afford to send laity to educational events such as South Carolina Black Church Summit, South Carolina Caucus Black Methodists for Church Renewal Harambee (SC BMCR Harambee) Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal Harambee (SEJ BMCR Harambee), South Carolina Laity Convocation, IMMERSE and Granville Hicks Lecture Academy

The Native American Committee has three major areas: outreach, education, and ministry. This ministry area continues to provide outreach to all of the tribes of South Carolina. Traditionally, we have offered \$800 grants to the tribes for assistance in their areas of needs in compliance with our Native American Comprehensive Plan. This past year, the Pee Dee Indians of Upper South Carolina received assistance with restocking their food bank again. The Elder Basket program was continued by providing needy supplies to seniors during Christmas.

The Native American Committee persists in efforts to educate through resources including a newsletter. The committee held their 11th annual Native American Representative training on the first Saturday in February. They were proactive in writing the State Department of Education with our concerns about how Social Studies standards address American Indians. General Conference encouraged the support of Boy and Girl Scouting programs. With our ministry component, we continue to provide speakers for Native American Ministries Sunday. We provided over \$3,400 in scholarships for South Carolina Indian people to attend the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Native American's (SEJANAM) Summer Conference at Lake Junaluska. We've also begun our new mission church project.

Rev. Amiri Hooker

Report 2 – Part I
SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2014

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|---|------------------|
| A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE | |
| Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBGS, CORR) | January 19 |
| Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC) | January 19 |
| Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC) | January 18-25 |
| Black History Month | February 2014 |
| Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM) | February 2 |
| Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM) | February 9 |
| Women's History Month | March 2014 |
| World Day of Prayer | March 7 |
| Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM) | March 9 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM) | March 30 |
| Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM) | May 4 |
| Asian Pacific American Heritage Month | May 2014 |
| Christian Home Month (GBOD) | May 2014 |
| National Day of Prayer | May 1 |
| Christian Family Week | May 5-11 |
| Heritage Sunday (Archives and History) | May 18 |
| Peace with Justice Sunday (GBGS) | June 15 |
| Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM) | Sept. 15-Oct. 15 |
| World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR) | October 5 |
| Children's Sabbath: A National Observance | October 10-12 |
| Laitry Sunday (GBOD) | October 19 |
| Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM) | November 9 |
| United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM) | November 30 |
| World AIDS Day | December 1 |
| B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS | |
| Women in the Pulpit Sunday (COSROW) | March 2 |
| United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday | March 16 |
| Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home | May 11 |
| United Methodist Men's Day | June 15 |
| Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering | August 10 |
| Call to Ministry Sunday | August 17 |
| Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home | September 7 |
| Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering | September 21 |
| SC United Methodist Advance Special Ministries Sunday | November 2 |

Report 2 – Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2014

ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY: Founded as the SC Therapeutic Association in 1962 by the Rev. Eli Alston Wilkes, Methodist minister, the Alston Wilkes Society's original mission was to provide rehabilitative services to adults released from correctional facilities in South Carolina. Through the years, the Alston Wilkes Society has expanded its focus to include at-risk youth, homeless veterans, other homeless individuals, and the families of these groups of people. AWS is a statewide nonprofit and fully accredited agency, working every day to fulfill our mission statement – *Rebuilding Lives for a Safer Community*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER – COLUMBIA: The Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is an historic multi-service agency now serving residents of the Riverview Terrace and Broad River Terrace communities in Columbia, South Carolina.

VISION STATEMENT: We envision that the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center will be the premiere community center for children and families in the Midlands.

MISSION STATEMENT: To educate and enrich the lives of individuals and families in the Midlands to help them achieve their own success.

PROGRAMS: Afterschool partnership program with Riverside Apartment Community (Lucius Road) Fall/Spring 2012; Kids for a Better Community Summer Camp 2012; Introduction to mini-film production for children (summer 2012 and spring 2013).

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER – SPARTANBURG: The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's daycare facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of 2 and 5. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts (dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults includes Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKERS FIELD SHARE: A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries – Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

COASTAL SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER provides counseling, pastoral and spiritually integrated psychotherapy, education, and consultation to individuals and families in crisis due to mental illness. The Center works hand-in-hand with pastors and local churches to stabilize families and improve mental health. Fees for services are adjusted according to a client's income, and the Center is dependent upon generous donations and grants to supplement low-fee or indigent clients.

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

KILLINGSWORTH INC.: Killingsworth is a transition home for women in crisis. Our ministry is to support, empower, and advocate for women recovering from crisis within a safe, nurturing Christian environment. In addition to room and board, we offer counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and work support, life-skills training, and community re-orientation.

RURAL MISSION, INC., an ecumenical nonprofit, faith-based organization, was chartered in September 1969 with the Secretary of State in South Carolina. We have been in continuous operation serving the people of the Sea Islands since that year. We address the basic human needs families have such as decent housing through renovations and construction, educational, spiritual and emotional concerns they face. We offer crisis assistance in the form of vouchers for prescription, food and transportation as funds are available. We network with other community-based organizations, churches, schools and businesses. We are open to work camp volunteers looking for challenging opportunities year round in the area of housing services.

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY is fighting poverty by working to increase the economic self-sufficiency of people in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs. In 1982 The Cooperative Ministry was founded by five congregations in downtown Columbia. Their goal was to establish a collaborative method of administering assistance to those in need, while also preventing duplication of services. Since then The Cooperative Ministry has grown to encompass congregations of all faiths, over 120 partnering agencies, and countless civic and social organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals.

We believe in the honor of all work, we show individuals the respect they deserve.

THE TRACY JACKSON PROGRAM OF G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow): This is an ecumenical Christian mission providing children with food for the body, mind, and spirit. It serves children during the summer months at sites located in Abbeville and Anderson counties. All services are free. For the children's bodies it provides SCDSS-approved lunches weekdays and physical activities at each site. For the mind it provides games, activities, speakers and field trips that the children would not experience without the program. It also provides back-to-school supplies to program children. For the spirit the sites are led by caring Christian people. Some sites have Bible study and all sites say grace.

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: Its mission is to provide opportunities for South Carolinians to get personally involved in short-term mission projects at home and abroad. Its services include construction, medical care, education, agriculture, early response to disasters, long-term recovery teams, and supportive services.

UNITED MINISTRIES OF GREENVILLE: United Ministries is a direct service agency focused on solutions to poverty and homelessness. United Ministries' mission is to provide life changing opportunities and advocacy for people in our community who lack education or employment skills, who are in financial crisis, who are homeless, and those who can help. United Ministries accomplishes this mission through four programs:

- Emergency Assistance provides utility and rent assistance and funds for life-saving medication. The program also operates a food pantry.

- Place of Hope, a day shelter for the homeless, provides showers, laundry, lockers, and telephones on a walk-in basis to participants. Case management is provided to address the major issues that keep a person homeless: substance abuse, mental illness, disability, and lack of identification papers.
- Adult Education provides GED training from staff and volunteer tutors. A study hall approach is used to provide an environment that removes as many barriers as possible to the student. Once a student passes the GED, he/she is awarded a High School Equivalency Diploma that is in equal standing with a high school diploma and is accepted by colleges and employers.
- Employment Readiness provides employment assistance through a weeklong class focusing on employment issues ranging from resume building to work place etiquette. One-on-one counseling is provided by employment specialists to those who complete the class. The advanced program provides tuition for specific job training to qualified participants.

P.A.T.H. – PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO HELP

P.A.T.H. - Our mission at PATH is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give financial aid to those in crisis. We serve York School District #1, which is York, Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna, and McConnells. We have a food pantry to supply a week's groceries to qualifying households once a month. We give financial aid for basic needs up to every 3 months (maximum 4 times a year), and this would be for rent, electricity, natural gas, water, prescription medications, and other small qualifying needs. The York Lions Club takes their referrals through us for optometric care, and two dentists here provide emergency care to our clients when we call. We have our own thrift store to provide clothing and household needs every two months to each client who needs it.

WALLACE FAMILY LIFE CENTER: This is a family-oriented facility whose mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people in the Wallace community.

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

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

Happy 10th Birthday - Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry!

It was in 2003 that the South Carolina Annual Conference approved an oral resolution to enable the start of **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry**.

Aldersgate now has two homes for adults who have developmental disabilities. There they receive loving care in a safe environment under a trained, dedicated and professional staff.

Aldersgate in Columbia and Aldersgate at The Oaks in Orangeburg are presently filled. The Columbia home for six women is located at 731 Sims Avenue by the corner of the Epworth Children's Home campus. Aldersgate at The Oaks, home for six men, is on the campus of The Oaks, The United Methodist Retirement Home in Orangeburg.

We thank the churches and members of the South Carolina Annual Conference and all the individuals, Sunday School classes, and other groups who have so generously supported Aldersgate with your prayers, gifts and services. We ask your continued support with these.

Many of us have family members or friends with developmental disabilities who need or will need more care than can be provided in the family home. Aldersgate offers a starting place that can grow to meet more of these needs. Interested persons across the state are seeking ways to do more. Sites have been offered for new homes in some areas and locations have been suggested in others. Aldersgate looks to develop ways to assist families with information, education and services as well as future new homes.

South Carolina United Methodists have been serving the needs of the young, old, and disadvantaged for over 100 years. This newest ministry is still in its infancy. There is a great need which will require great efforts and resources. Developing the ministries and building the homes will be done as support is available. South Carolina United Methodists have been very generous with their gifts, helping Aldersgate get off to a good start.

Aldersgate invites each of our 1,000 churches to consider with us ways to celebrate its **10th BIRTHDAY on ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2013.** (or a Sunday of your choice)

Suggestions for your consideration:

1. Pray for **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry.**
2. Have 10 members or families give \$10.00 each as a birthday gift.
3. Have 10% of your members give \$10.00 each as a birthday gift.
4. Have 100% of your members give \$1.00 each as a birthday gift.
5. Have your church, Sunday School class, UMM, UMW, Choir, or Study Groups adopt **ALDERSGATE** as a project. Then as each person has a birthday celebrate it with a gift to **ALDERSGATE.**
6. All of the above or a method of your choice.

Please visit the conference website www.umcsc.org for more information about **ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY** or to refer persons who may need our services.

We thank all volunteers who help to carry out the work of Aldersgate, the Board of Trustees, the staff in each home, and the parents and guardians of our residents. Their tireless efforts enable the men and women of Aldersgate to "live in peaceful dwelling places, secure homes and undisturbed places of rest."

Betty Moss McGuirt, chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 117 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina who cannot remain in their own homes.

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

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued to implement the CARE (Children and Residential Experience: creating conditions for change) model developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principles that form good residential group care. The Cornell University Residential Care team continues to train, and observe our staff members at regular intervals.
The CARE research and implementation team from Cornell University once again visited the Epworth campus and during that visit commended Epworth for being a "star" CARE program, and congratulated staff members for excellent work with the CARE model. Two Epworth staff members were invited to participate at the International CARE Conference as presenters.
- II. Continued to implement data and other program information obtained from the Residential Services Outcomes Project. The Residential Services Outcomes Project is a research project that is sponsored by the Duke Endowment and implemented by researchers from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. The goal of this research is to implement a successful outcomes strategy in selected agencies in North and South Carolina in order to strengthen the system of care for children and youth, and to enhance the quality of programs and services.
- III. Averaged 76 children per day in the residential population plus supported eight higher education students who lived off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program averaged 22 children per week in a preschool program. This program serves children who experience developmental delays. The EEIC program also served 63 families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 169 children served at any given time.
- IV. Began year six of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of increasing per church member giving to a minimum of \$6.00 per member. Church giving increased by 72,868 in 2011 and increased by \$109,541.59 in 2012 which is an 8.14% increase. The number of churches that failed to respond to

Epworth's financial appeals for children decreased to 239. 321 churches met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average. This is an increase of forty seven cents per member from 2011. A complete report can be located at www.epworthchildreshome.org.

- V. Changed the fiscal year from an October through September year to a January through December calendar year. Adopted a budget of \$5,535,624 for the fiscal year 1-1-13 through 12-31-13. This includes \$90,000 in Title I funds, and a grant from the City of Columbia of \$50,000 for the Independent Living Initiative.
 - VI. Continued the work of the Early Intervention Funds Committee that is charged with raising the amount of money each year that will enable the EEIC to operate at its current capacity. The EEIC Committee raised or generated \$30,000 and Epworth was able to include the remainder of the EEIC expenses in the 2013 Epworth budget.
 - VII. The Epworth Board of Trustees continued the policy of reducing the amount drawn from the endowment and transferred to budget expenditures by \$200,000 each year until the maximum draw is 5% per year. The difference in the amount drawn from the endowment and operating costs has to date been covered by a combination of reducing operating costs and by increasing revenue and donations. The endowment draw has been reduced by \$1,100,000 per year.
 - VIII. Epworth Children's Home continues to be accredited by EAGLE Accreditation Commission of the United Methodist Association. The EAGLE accreditation is effective for the period of five (5) years, July 2010 through July 2015.
- The United Methodist Association serves more than 380 health and human service organizations and professionals nationwide. The Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence or EAGLE accreditation involves meeting a set of high standards that are designed to enhance the governance of and the quality of services provided by an institution.
- IX. Continued to expand the Higher Education Program by adding resources to the Supervised Independent Living Initiative. This new program is designed to serve youth between the ages of seventeen (17) and twenty-one (21) who are "aging out" of child care, yet need limited supervision, guidance and a home as they learn job skills and transition into the adult world.
 - X. At the time this report was written the firm of DeLoach and Williamson, LLP was conducting the annual independent audit, thus no audit information was available. By the time this report is published the audit information should be available at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.
 - XI. Emphasized witness and service through church school, worship, retreats, UMYF, the Good News Bible Club, cottage devotionals and service projects. Residents of Epworth are expected to give as well as receive therefore they participate not only in campus services but also in off campus projects such as Salkahatchie summer service, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Washington Street UMC Soup Kitchen and Homeworks.
 - XII. Completed year two of a new mastery based online charter school on campus for high school students. This is a small supervised school where students who may be in danger of not completing high school have the opportunity to earn a diploma through individualized instruction and self paced learning.
 - XIII. Opened renovated Doug Gray Cottage which is now home for mid-teenage boys. This cottage had been out of service for nine years until it was renovated by volunteers from Leadership Columbia.
 - XIV. 32% of Epworth's income is generated from a combination of state and federal money, and fees for service payments. This is far lower than most other homes. It is largely through the generosity of South Carolina United Methodist that once again Epworth has been able to provide over four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families in South Carolina.

John E. Holler, Jr., President, CEO

THE METHODIST MANOR

Methodist Manor mission is to provide an extraordinary Continuing Care Community offering exceptional selection of living option and personalized services. We recognize that aging is a normal process people experience in different ways. We want to provide a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person, wherever he or she may be in that process. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination.

Methodist Manor opened its doors December 1991 guided by traditional values, strong commitment to service, hospitality, community, friendship, and care. Residents enjoy a lifestyle that embraces spiritual, social, emotional, and physical well-being. The Community Campus is located in Florence, South Carolina. The Manor offers Independent Living in the form of Patio Homes and spacious one- or two-bedroom apartments; Assisted Living suites for those looking a supportive environment; Magnolia Terrace for dementia, memory support and Alzheimer Care; and the Healthcare Center, which provides skilled Nursing Care. Home Health services as well as additional programs designed to provide personal assistance to residents and enable them to retain their independence longer, in the comfort and privacy of their independent home or apartment.

Methodist Manor is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, a not-for-profit Senior Living Community. The Manor currently serves about 230 residents. It is guided and directed by Methodist Manor Board of Trustees, elected through the SC Annual Conference who works closely with the Management Company, Executive Director and staff to ensure support and continually strategic planning for the growth of current and future residents' needs of Methodist Manor.

The Manor is continuously upgrading and refurbishing its accommodations in order to maintain the level of quality expected by people seeking retirement housing. A number of services, activities and programs enhance the resident's quality of life. The Manor embraces a customer-focused model for service delivery that redirects the variety of services and amenities being provided so that resident's choices and conveniences are incorporated. Methodist Manor regularly offers enriching cultural programs and entertainment, along with organized programs such as shopping and sightseeing excursions, intergenerational programs, a variety of fitness and wellness programs. A superior dining service offering a culinary trained chef and professional staff who deliver an elegant dining experience to our residents. The Manor provides numerous offerings, multiple dining options, expansive service hours and special events and catering services.

The South Carolina Methodist Conference contributes monies to the Residents Financial Assistance fund. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. The Manor provided assistance to six residents for the year 2012.

With continued leadership from Methodist Manor Board of Trustees, management and staff we are committed to providing a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination for our current population and future older adults.

*John Orr, chairman, Trustees
Teresa L. Tabor, Executive Director, Methodist Manor*

THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE OAKS

Mission Statement

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

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

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

On campus, the Oaks offers many activities that nourish residents and clients physically, mentally and spiritually. These activities are now available to the community through the Passport to the Oaks, which allows these clients who do not live on our Campus to participate in activities and use facilities such as the swimming pool and fitness center. Live@Home Choices also available on campus, allowing residents to stay in the Independent Living and Assisted Living options longer. As part of the Oaks broader Christian mission, space and support have been provided for the first Aldersgate Home in South Carolina. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is a ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church that provides residence and support for adults with developmental disabilities. The Oaks site provides for 6 male residents.

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

We are excited about our new Adult Day Center@The Oaks which is opening in the Summer of this year. This program will care for 24 Dementia participants from the Orangeburg Area. In the near future, more programs to assist seniors in aging well are on the way.

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

The Reverend Barbara Reid, Chairperson of Board of Trustees

WESLEY COMMONS

On behalf of our residents, customers, employees and board members, we want to thank the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for its continued support of our mission.

The past year has been one fraught with seemingly never ending challenges; yet with each challenge came opportunity. For the first time in our history, we are faced with being forced to serve fewer low income people under the Medicaid program or face increasing penalties from our state. While at first we fought this draconian decision to limit how many poor we can serve, the state has continued to increase its fines for doing so. Regrettably, we are now operating at a level lower than our capacity.

This challenge has sharpened our resolve to reach out and serve low income adults in need through other venues. These venues are both exciting and new. We are proud to report that our Ministry of CARE and Vision of the Future remains as vibrant and solid as ever before. Our continued success is built on the solid foundation of our mission which is to *enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles*. That is only possible through the support of our wonderful employees who live and breathe that charge every day at Wesley Commons.

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

As our consumer demand and expectations have continued to evolve, we have also adapted our offerings. As the economy has ebbed and flowed, we have fine-tuned our operations. Wesley

Commons is known to be a community of great value and superb offerings. We strive every day to keep that balance and market awareness.

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

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

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

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

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

In the service of others,

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

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Claflin University began the 2012-2013 academic year with a renewed commitment to remaining a relevant influence in higher education. This year, the institution convincingly demonstrated its mission to train young men and women to become leaders and change agents in a highly competitive global society. To that end, academic programming, as well as social and spiritual programming and activities continue to emulate a shift to globalization that demands our students be more prepared than ever to innovatively and aggressively meet the growing challenges of our world.

The University has an enrollment of 1,946 students from 27 states and 17 foreign countries. In the 2012-2013 academic year, Claflin University enrolled its highest number of international students.

Under the leadership of its eighth president, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University's academic programs and faculty continue to garner national acclaim as the University strives toward its mission to be recognized as one of the premier teaching and research institutions in the world. Among such accolades, *Forbes.com* ranked Claflin in the top 12% among the nation's colleges and universities while *U.S. News & World Report* highlights Claflin's high standing among nationally ranked institutions. The *U.S. News & World Report* publication also ranked Claflin number one for its annual alumni giving rate at 44% among the nation's historically black colleges and universities.

The University was approved for continued listing as a United Methodist-affiliated academic institution by the United Methodist Church Senate, and Claflin's Department of Education received re-accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). These achievements come on the heels of Claflin University's reaffirmation of accreditation by its regional accrediting body, SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Additionally, Claflin celebrates having for the second year in a row, a faculty, Dr. Nan Li, selected a finalist for the South Carolina Governor's Professor of the Year Award.

Claflin University continues to demonstrate its strong connection to The United Methodist Church and its commitment to the spiritual edification of its students. The University appointed a new chaplain and a new chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department. Rev. Dr. Ken J.

Walden was named University Chaplain. Rev. Walden is the former senior pastor of Lakewood First United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, CA. He also pastored at Wilshire United Methodist Church in the Hollywood, CA, area. He is a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves attached to the Joint Bolling Anacostia Base in Washington, D.C. He received his master of divinity degree from Duke University, a doctor of ministry in ecumenical ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, IN, and a Ph.D. in practical theology from the Claremont School of Theology.

Rev. Walden has brought to Claflin a goal to create an exciting worship experience for Claflin University students and hopes to boost community involvement, attracting more worshippers to the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel on the Claflin campus. Rev. Walden will also initiate and implement mission programs where Claflin faculty, students, and alumni will embark on mission work around the world; creating an exceptional spiritually enhanced learning experience for everyone who takes part.

Rev. Dr. Robin Dease is the new chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. A 1992 graduate of Claflin, Rev. Dease holds a doctorate in ministry and master of divinity degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She was the senior pastor of John Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville. She is currently co-authoring a book titled, "In Search of Holy Orders: Preparing for the Board of Ordained Ministry." In addition to making sure faculty and staff in the department are fully equipped to provide the best education to students, Rev. Dease's primary goal in her new position is to raise enrollment. She estimates that some 90 percent of South Carolina's African-American United Methodist pastors have ties to Claflin and she wants to continue the legacy of Claflin being the major supply source of future well-educated church leaders.

Claflin continued its longstanding tradition of holding Religious Emphasis Week that also features the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy. The weeklong spiritual engagement included round-table discussions and worship services centered on the theme, "Finding Relevancy in a Changing World." A special guest presenter at the academy was Rev. Jonathan Holston, bishop of the S.C. Annual Conference. Other participants in the week's events included Gammon Theological Seminary President Dr. Albert Mosley and the Rev. Granville Hicks, after whom the academy is named.

Claflin continues to hold its weekly one-hour worship services on Sunday mornings. The worship series consists of music by the Claflin University Gospel Choir with sermons led by Rev. Dr. Walden, students, guest pastors and lay persons.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

The year 2012 brought exciting changes to Columbia College. President Caroline Whitson announced her retirement and, following an extensive search, I was named the 18th president, effective July 1, 2012. I bring to Columbia College a strong background with single-gender education. I received my undergraduate degree from College of Saint Benedict, a women's college in Minnesota. While receiving my juris doctorate by attending school in the evening and working in the banking industry, I continued my involvement with College of Saint Benedict on the Board of Trustees for 17 years, serving as chair for two years. Not only do I believe in single-gender education, but I believe in the strong relationship between education and the church.

To further strengthen that relationship, Reverend Roy Mitchell, Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, launched Columbia College Day in churches across the state this past year. Incorporated into regular Sunday services, these days recognize alumnae and family connections in United Methodist churches throughout South Carolina. Rev. Mitchell gives the sermons, and I have the opportunity to share with the congregation information about the new strategic direction of the college focused on combining a liberal arts education with career preparation, as well as our new Momentum Scholarship. Rev. Mitchell also assisted the Columbia College Choir in executing a Columbia College celebration of President Emeritus R. Wright Spears' 100th birthday in 2012. Rev. Mitchell continues to offer a variety of topics and speakers for weekly chapel services as well as other religious life opportunities for students, faculty and staff. One of the highlights of the spring schedule is the highly anticipated Founders Day Chapel February 6 when we welcome Bishop Jonathan Holston to the pulpit at College Place Church.

The College is blessed to have faculty, staff, students and alumnae who have earned awards and recognition both on and off campus. Dr. Calley Hornbuckle, Assistant Professor of English was the recipient of both the *2011-2012 Faculty Excellence Award* and the *2011*

2012 Students' Choice Award for Teaching Excellence. Students participating in The Washington Semester joined me and members of the faculty and staff, to accept the 2012 National Civic Engagement Award from The Washington Center for establishing a successful community initiative to promote healthy lifestyles and raise awareness of diabetes. Students continue to be involved in social justice and service learning projects such as mission trips to Ecuador and Guatemala as well as local initiatives, such as Homeworks and Adopt-a-Street programs.

Columbia College has embarked on a bold new direction to more fully integrate professional preparation with a liberal arts education. From the day young women enter the College and throughout their four years, their educational experience will be infused with mentoring, coaching, professional development and real-world work experience, so our graduates will be fully prepared for engaging and fulfilling careers. We have many stories of students who have had precisely this experience at Columbia College. Now we will give every student this experience, as they grow, transform and transition in their lives from high school to college and from college to a career. We are committed to educating women to be confident leaders so they can effect positive change not only in their own lives, but in their families, careers and communities.

As part of our new direction, we introduced the *Momentum Scholarship*, designed for engaged high school seniors whose personal determination to succeed may outshine their standardized test scores. Momentum Scholarship candidates have great leadership potential and are involved in extracurricular activities. This is an ideal program for students who are active in their churches, and we have been promoting this opportunity to the SC Conference as well as individual United Methodist churches. The first class of Momentum Scholars will be admitted in fall 2013, receiving scholarships from \$14,000 up to full tuition.

We are doing great things at Columbia College, and I am excited about our new direction. By helping young women channel their ambitions intelligently while gaining broad knowledge and practical skills, Columbia College can change their lives forever and boost the overall quality of life for everyone in South Carolina.

Elizabeth A. Dinndorf, president

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Pride and transformation are the words of the year at SMC, with the biggest point of pride and transformation being the grand opening of our first building dedicated solely to academics to be built on the campus in nearly 50 years! The Rev. Dr. Edgar H. Ellis Jr. Hall officially opened in November 2012 and classes began in the building on January 9, 2013. The overall "feel" of the campus is transformed with this new teaching and learning venue. Rev. Dr. Ellis is a 1956 graduate of (then) Spartanburg Junior College and went onto a long and distinguished career serving several churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Other news of note for this year includes:

- **Fundraising Campaign:** "Pioneering the Future: The Centennial Campaign for Spartanburg Methodist College" continues to make progress toward its \$15 million goal, with two-thirds of the goal in hand.
- **Enrollment:** SMC continued its record high enrollment in fall 2012, welcoming 811 students to campus. Overall, the college is experiencing higher numbers of inquiries from prospective students than in past years, which is translating into higher numbers of applications and more students accepted. Students and families continue to be impacted by the nation's economy, with more students needing to borrow money to attend college and more local students choosing to live at home to save on costs. We continue to keep a close eye on the cost of attendance and are grateful for the financial support from the South Carolina Annual Conference that helps us to provide student financial aid. We do what we do because of you.
- **Success Rate:** Our success rate, defined as students who begin their college career at SMC and then continue on beyond SMC, continues to exceed that of other two-year colleges at 85.2%. This is up .5% over last year. The national average is only 20%. We are particularly proud that we are increasingly being considered as a college that other colleges want to receive students from.
- **Academic Program:** Our bridge agreements with colleges such as Wofford College, Newberry College and the College of Charleston continue to thrive. We continue to maintain very strong articulation agreements with a long list of four-year

colleges and are proud of the seamless transfer opportunities our students have. Our reputation as a college with a strong academic program, with highly transferrable courses, seems to be on the rise, with several colleges approaching SMC about agreements. We are particularly pleased and proud that several of our students and faculty are involved with the Upstate Research Symposium each year and are winning awards for their research there.

- **Athletics:** Pioneer athletics continue to thrive! Our cross-country program went to its national competition this year and is currently ranked 10th in the nation for the second year in a row. Our wrestling team sent 5 young men onto national competition. Our men's basketball team completed a PERFECT 30-0 SEASON and is ranked #1 in the nation as they head off to their national tournament for the second year in a row. Heading into baseball season, our ever-amazing baseball team is also ranked #1. Our other teams have all competed at their regional level. Fewer than 350 student-athletes attend SMC but in the past four years a student-athlete has been named the Outstanding Graduate at the College's annual commencement.
- **Commitment to Service and Worship:** Under the continued leadership of Rev. Candice Sloan, chaplain of the College and director of Church Relations, weekly daytime chapel services are both creative and well-attended. Rev. Sloan also offers tremendous support and direction for our very popular Thursday evening service called "Overflow," which is a student-led service. In addition, Rev. Sloan spearheads the college's service opportunities, beginning with a Freshman Day of Service in August. The SMC campus community provides over 5,000 hours of service to the greater Spartanburg community every year and has been named to the President's Honor Roll for Service for the third year in a row.

We offer you, the members of the Annual Conference, our continued gratitude for your faithful support. Our success is shared with you. We are also keenly aware that the hand of God is upon us in our work. We are pleased to be in the second century of a blessed partnership with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D. president of the college

WOFFORD COLLEGE

As 2012 drew to a close, Wofford celebrated the news that the college had produced its sixth Rhodes Scholar, Rachel Woodlee. A member of Advent United Methodist Church in Simpsonville, she graduated this spring with a bachelor's degree in Chinese and business administration and will spend the next two years pursuing advanced studies at Oxford University in England. She also claimed the Palmetto Chinese Star of the Confucius Institute for her achievements in advanced studies in Chinese language and culture. She earned the right to represent South Carolina in the national competition in Washington, D.C.

As I was honored years ago to be named a Rhodes Scholar, I took special pride in the accomplishments of Rachel Woodlee as a climax to my administration as Wofford president. After 13 enjoyable years as chief executive officer, I announced my retirement in 2012, although I will remain on the faculty as the Chapman Professor of the Humanities. As this is written, a search process for my successor has been underway for several months, and the transition to new administrative leadership will occur on June 30, 2013.

Wofford has been able to record some important progress over the first years of the 21st century. I signed the Presidents' Climate Commitment, and we followed with some impressive "green" projects, including the Goodall Environmental Studies Center, the first LEED platinum academic building in South Carolina. We have planned and added new majors in environmental studies, theatre, and Chinese language and studies. We have grown the full-time teaching faculty from 84 members in 2000 to 128 in 2012-2013, achieving a faculty to student ratio of 1:11. In recent years, Wofford students have participated in programs abroad in 68 countries on all seven continents. The efforts of many faculty and staff, including Perkins-Prothro Chaplain Ron Robinson, have made us a recognized leader in applying the precepts of religious pluralism to our residential campus life. The new "Space in the Mungo Center" offers liberal arts graduates remarkable support in career planning and preparation. We have been able to improve the international visibility of Wofford through a variety of activities, such as my 2007 TED talk on "the Passionate Life of Sandor Teszler," and Wofford is the host partner for South Carolina's

Liberty Fellows program. Wofford continues to score well in all of the guides that rate “high value colleges.”

In these changing and challenging times, the new Wofford president will solicit the prayers as well as financial support of United Methodists across South Carolina and the nation. Methodists remain the largest single religious group in our student body. There are 257 students who designate United Methodist as their religious preference, and the Senior College Scholarship Fund is helping to meet the demonstrated financial need of 73 of those students. It is very important to Wofford's future that we remain part of the United Methodist network of colleges and universities, the source of so much that is good about Wofford's academic traditions and current status as one of “America's Best Colleges.”

Benjamin B. Dunlap

THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

As we enter into our 12th year of ministry our prayers remain with our troops and their families as the conflict in Afghanistan continue. We are especially mindful of our alumni who serve in the military: Jonathon Lance, Matthew Williams, Anthony Reynolds, Christopher Waldrop, Jeff Throckmorton, Rachel Rogers, Ben Risher and Bill Houpt. May God continue to keep you and your families!

Our alumni in the ministry continue to make us so proud: Aaron Meadows, Mallory Forte and Justin Ritter. Aaron Meadows, an elder in full connection of this conference, is serving Aldersgate UMC in the Charleston District and as a chaplain on the Charleston Air Force base. Aaron also serves as vice chairperson of the Charleston Wesley Foundation Board. Mallory Forte is now a certified candidate serving as the associate minister of Union UMC in the Columbia district. Justin Ritter is a first-year student at Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Our four campuses here in Charleston continue to thrive. Bethel UMC-Charleston continues to be the home of our College of Charleston programming. Thank you for your awesome support and faith in us. The Charleston Southern University group continues to be in transition as we build a new family faith there.

Our ministry at MUSC is now a conduit for connecting those young adults to the various young adult ministries at our local churches. Citadel continues to be our largest group with a weekly average between 40-60 members at the weekly gatherings.

Charleston Wesley Foundation in Mission had another busy year. We sponsored an adolescent in the Halos holiday-giving event. The College of Charleston and the Citadel Wesley groups prepared and sent 23 Operation Christmas Child boxes in November. Our Mission weekend with Winthrop Wesley Foundation at Winthrop and the Rock Hill community was a blessed time of Christian love in action. Charleston Wesley Foundation was one of the organizing groups for the Charleston area Crop walk in November. We created signs, paced the walking path and assisted with the giveaways. In January 2013 Charleston Wesley Foundation spearheaded the SC student delegation attending the Holston Conference College event called Divine Rhythm. Students from Furman and Winthrop joined us as we crossed conference lines to worship, learn and serve with our brothers and sisters from the Wesley fellowships/foundations of Tennessee. Five CWF student leaders attended the NEXT conference in St. Louis in November. They returned full of new ideas for Wesley programming and a renewed commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

To the beloved churches of the Charleston district thank you for another year of unwavering support in gifts of food, time, finances but most of all prayer. Trinity UMC-Charleston, thank you for yet another year of selflessly giving us physical space and office support. As our college students say, “you rock!” Much gratitude goes to the Charleston Wesley Foundation Board of Directors for your endless support and faithful giving of your time and talents. As always we are so grateful to all of the prayerful, generous churches of the Charleston District and of the South Carolina conference for your unceasing prayers and continuing support. We thank God for you daily.

Rev. Lisa C. Hawkins, CWF campus minister

THE CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

For decades now Clemson Wesley Foundation and Clemson UMC have partnered to reach students at Clemson University, Tri-County and Southern Wesleyan along with other young adults through a highly cooperative approach. We offer a variety of worship, small

group, service/mission, retreat and social opportunities, and each academic year we typically make connections with 900-1,000 students and other young adults in our area. Several hundred students call CUMC their “church home away from home,” and several hundred others are active in CW. Dozens of students are active in Bible study groups. Each year we send several hundred students to places like Long Island, New Orleans, the Sea Islands and the Bahamas to share the love of Christ. Our cup surely does runneth over, and for this we give thanks to God for the churches of the South Carolina Conference who support us through generous, often sacrificial, apportionment giving.

As my 12th and final year serving as the Director/Campus Minister in Clemson draws to a close, my wife and I have been celebrating all that this opportunity has meant to our family over the years. While we have poured our hearts and lives into this community, we have also been enriched in priceless ways. Clemson Wesley, Clemson UMC and the greater Clemson community will always hold a special place in our hearts.

As I write my last report to Annual Conference on behalf of CWF, I want to share these six concluding reflections on campus ministry for your consideration:

1. **Young adults are our future.** If the UMC has any hope of being a viable and fruitful church in the coming decades, our ministries with and to young adults must improve. Local churches must not only seek out the young adults in their communities but also give them meaningful opportunities for living out their discipleship NOW.
2. **Campus ministries are key.** A key component to retaining our youth and reaching other young adults with the Gospel happens through the efforts of campus ministers and college chaplains. The UMC’s investment in this work pales in comparison to what other churches are doing. And while money is not the only answer, more funding is absolutely essential to grow a campus ministry over time from a size of 15-25 students to 75-150 or more.
3. **New campus ministries are needed.** Each campus around the state of the SC should have some kind of campus ministry or chaplaincy presence. If full-time positions are not feasible, smaller grants should be offered to local churches who are interested in taking on this ministry.
4. **Campus ministries need more aggressive goals.** The days of continually supporting campus ministries that only reach a handful of students needs to end. If a Campus Minister or Chaplain is not yielding fruit (and not all fruit is quantitative in nature), then a change in leadership is needed.
5. **New funding strategies are essential.** As the level of apportionment giving has leveled off or dropped over the last few decades, funding for campus ministries has dropped as well. Campus ministers and local boards must develop new strategies for funding campus ministry above and beyond the levels that the SC Conference can supply. For too long we have allowed a theology of scarcity to dictate how we do campus ministry.
6. **Campus ministry should be viewed as an attractive appointment.** Rather than being considered a “dead end” appointment, campus ministry should be viewed as some of the most valued work needed in our Church today. It should be an area that our best and most gifted younger pastors are encouraged to pursue without the threat of being labeled “junior” ministers or worse.

Just as strongly as I felt called to Clemson 12 years ago, I now feel called to step down to make way for new leadership. I am excited for the future of Clemson Wesley and Clemson UMC, and I pray that campus ministry will become an even greater priority for the SC Conference in the years to come.

Thanks again for all of your support over the years,

Rev. C. Lane Glaze

THE COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION-METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

The reign of God is breaking in upon us, even now, Jesus proclaimed. As people are healed, the good news proclaimed, the captives set free and the blind made to see, the reality of God’s healing, reconciling and transforming power is manifest in our midst. The reign of God is breaking into the lives of students at the University of South Carolina and into the campus ministry called the Methodist Student Network (Wesley Foundation) as we worship, serve each other and especially the “least of these,” learn about the mysteries of faith, offer hospitality, work for justice and work for the full realization of God’s rule. The Methodist Student Network is

a Pentecost community of faith comprised of students from many faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds. It is a community striving to be hospitable to all regardless of background, language, sexual orientation or maturity of faith. We are young, imperfect but passionate about the spiritual life and are intentional about living it out in practical and faithful ways. These are some of the signs of the reign of God breaking in among us.

We serve on eight occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, entertain through music and offer words of encouragement. We tutor and mentor each week after school at the Prosperity Project, a program for at-risk, latchkey children from Gonzales Gardens. We work with Habitat for Humanity weekly and have weekly assisted West Metro Hispanic Ministry with ESL for adults and caring for the children. Additionally we serve on many other occasions and contexts such as Epworth Children's Home, the Tucker Center, Rural Mission, and Harvest Hope.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year we took four different mission trips to demonstrate and share the Gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to New Orleans twice to do urban ministry and some work to repair damage done by Hurricane Katrina and most recently, Hurricane Isaac. We also traveled to Long Island to aid in the work post Super storm Sandy. Over Spring break we went on mission to the Rio state in Brazil.

About 55 students gather in small groups throughout the week support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. This year Shane Claiborne's "Becoming the Answer to our Prayers" and Henri Nouwen's "Turn My Mourning into Dancing" have focused our study and faith growth. We have based these groups on a Covenant Discipleship model. This year we held four retreats to allow students more time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God.

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

The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and meet to talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries. We have a dinner group for internationals that meets biweekly and have started an Interfaith Group with leaders from seven other faith groups on campus to promote education and peace making.

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

*Rev. Tom Wall, United Methodist campus minister
Columbia Wesley Foundation director*

THE FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

This has been a great new beginning here at the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation. As we have transitioned from one Chaplain to another this year, FMU Wesley has grown by leaps and bounds. I believe by the grace of God, the enthusiasm of the students and the foundation started by the previous chaplain.

We began our year by getting our name out to the students by being active in the schools events. The logo I inherited has become our slogan: **Learn, Live, Love!** We **learn** in our weekly gatherings of worshipping and Bible study. We **live** by being a supportive and cohesive community not only during school time but during breaks as well. (We have had to address many issues with the students in their everyday life; death, cancer, pregnancy, disappointments, etc.) We **live** by spending time serving others in the community and across the state.

Our group meets weekly in a classroom that we are growing out of. We started with 17-20 students and two weeks ago we had 39. Not all of these are the same students each week because of school requirements and sometime job requirement. So we reached 60+ students here at FMU Wesley this last semester.

We have had many opportunities to fellowship with one another to build community: participating in school events, outside campus group activities, and a fall retreat. We continue to support community projects that feed the hungry and help abused women.

Our biggest challenge is to raise funds and awareness of FMU Wesley Foundation. FMU is has the most diverse racial makeup of any other school in the state. My intent is to not charge the students that are active participants a fee for participating in our outside activities. This has been the most difficult part of my job; getting the churches in the district to understand and connect with our group, not only financially but physically. I am excited about our new DS who wholeheartedly supports our group and encourages the churches to support us. I have also had opportunities to talk to UMM and UMW about FMU Wesley. There are a few very faithful churches that continue to surprise me with their support, and I want to thank them for the continued encouragement.

Our student representatives have helped get our name out to new students who know nothing about our program. We have a great opportunity here at FMU Wesley as the school's dynamics are growing academically and athletically. The school has expanded its dorms, academic buildings, academic programs, and athletic complex to become a more competitive school in the state. Once a small commuter school, it is now becoming a more established place in academia.

Coming in as a new chaplain and not knowing what to expect, it has been an honor to follow in so many great footsteps and listen to the wisdom of other Wesley Chaplains across the state. I do not know what God has in store but He is moving here in our group. I am excited to say that FMU Wesley has its first, of hopefully many more, inquiring candidates!

In the Grip of God's Grace:

Rev. Angela Etheredge-Manly, campus minister

THE FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

It is a pure joy to be serving in ministry on a college campus and especially at Furman. As each new year begins, there is an air of excitement and joy as we seek to experience the Divine in new and exciting ways. It is extremely important to us to be known as an inviting group on campus. We hope to be a place where students are invited to be themselves, a place where all are invited to wrestle with beliefs that may be challenged by the campus life, and a place where we are invited into a relationship with God and one another. Furman Wesley seeks to be a place to "Be, Belong, Engage, and Connect."

In order to highlight this emphasis, we started this year with a focus on the "Invitations of our Faith." This included [but not limited to] the invitations to: community, missions, humility, be special, be fearful [in the biblical sense of respect], and share our story of love and grace. The hope was that through conversation and study, we would not only accept the invitations of God in our lives, but also share these invitations with others. As we began our second semester, we turned our focus to what it looks like to be a student on today's college campuses. The basis of our weekly gathering was Dixon Kinser and Donald Miller's *Exploring Blue Like Jazz*. This study, based on the book and movie, is designed to highlight the struggles that students face and how to best deal with issues like – culture, partying, evangelism, alcohol, doubt, consumerism, etc. One of the things that is highlighted over and over in the study is the need for students to have folks to maneuver these issues with and a plan for how to deal with them ahead of time. It is our hope that Wesley can be that grace-filled place to discuss these matters beforehand or help our students deal with them in the event of a problem – all in the community of faith and friends.

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

- Weekly Lunch in the Dining Hall
- Weekly Office Hours for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Began the year with an overnight retreat at Camp Asbury Hills, and enjoyed the adventure of their Canopy Tour.
- During the first month of classes, we visiting four local UMC churches – designed to give students an introduction to local churches in the hopes that they may find a home of worship while at Furman.
- Offered student-led small groups on the Book of James.
- Offered a Freshmen Small group to begin the year – designed to help new students assimilate into college life.
- Offered a Senior Small group – designed to provide graduating seniors a place to wrestle with issues of life after college.
- Participated in the Greenville District Great Day of Service and Furman's Relay for Life
- Hosted a Fall Retreat at Lake Hartwell, participated in the Divine Rhythm Conference in Gatlinburg, TN, and a Spring Retreat at the beach.

- Co-sponsored a campus-wide series designed to educate our students on the importance of civil discourse when dealing with people of differing faith backgrounds.
- Hosted a food drive to provide food to local food pantries in preparation for the holidays.
- Sent 17 students and adults over spring break on a mission trip to New Orleans, LA.
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Progressive Dinner, Movie Nights, Senior Luau

We try to offer students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship, and service. In this way, they can easily plug into our group and continue to grow in their faith and life.

We are truly blessed, and thankful, for all of the love, support, and prayers that we have been afforded by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, campus minister

THE LANDER WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Lander Wesley Fellowship held its last meeting (for now) at the end of Lander's 2012 spring semester. As this chapter goes into hiatus, it is a good time to reflect on the ministry and opportunities that Lander Wesley experienced. At its peak, Lander was the home to more than 30 students from a wide range of denominational backgrounds. Students from the ministry participated in several mission trips to New York City. Three students held internships in local church youth ministries in the Greenwood area. One student is pursuing full-time ministry, and another student became involved in a missions experience. During the 2012 semester, Lander continued to remain a home for 7 to 10 students who met weekly for Bible studies. Many of the Lander Wesley alumni are active members of their own local churches today and continue to find ways to serve God and to share that love with others.

At Annual Conference in 2012, my appointment was changed to no longer include the Lander Wesley Fellowship and I have since moved from Greenwood to Prosperity.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the SC Annual Conference and many local churches for their support and assistance with the Lander Wesley Fellowship during my time as campus ministry director.

Rev. Dean Lollis

THE ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

*"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again."
Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NIV)*

In many ways, campus ministry at the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation is like the image in this passage from Ecclesiastes. So often, we reach out to the young people in our midst, earnestly and in compassionate love and care, with no idea what (or who) will come. Yet, sometimes in small numbers, other times in larger numbers, they come, and Hallelujah! - our "casting out" is not in vain! In faith, trust and with thankful hearts, we report on some of our "returns."

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation (OWF) perseveres in offering full-time campus ministry in the Claflin University and South Carolina State University campus communities. As the church's presence on campus we place high value on PEOPLE: meeting needs, fostering spiritual growth, and acceptance of all persons as members of God's beloved community. Our efforts continue to be concentrated in these areas: 1) being the presence of God to students in the Claflin and South Carolina State University campus communities; 2) sustaining community and relationship building efforts on both campuses and in the greater Orangeburg area, and 3) strengthening OWF's governance and instituting a viable administrative and fiscal infrastructure of the ministry. Our heart's desire is serving in the campus community through welcoming, holistic and healing ministries for mind, body, and soul. Significant ministries and activities include, but are not limited to the following:

Ongoing Programs/Ministries and Student Involvement: Some of the significant activities and accomplishments include a growing ministry of counseling and care; establishment of the OWF Facebook page, participation and/or collaboration in a variety of campus and programs and activities. Other activities include, but are not limited to:

- OWF Student Leadership Team
- Messengers in Mission (Mission Focused Bible study)
- Claflin Community Service site
- Pastoral Care and Counseling Services
- Special Events and Seminars
- Mid Term and Finals Week "Study Hall"
- Missions: May Mission (New Orleans) and Students in Mission (SIM)
- Student-led tutoring/mentoring for youth in the local community

A significant development during the past year is furthering ministry in the South Carolina State University (SCSU) campus community. Beginning in the fall 2012 term, the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation formed a partnership in ministry with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at SCSU. This collaborative ministry has as its primary aim offering programs and activities that foster fellowship and unity, affirm commonalities among students, and strengthen the historical connection between these two great universities. This small, but fertile start in creating and cultivating community among the diverse students at Claflin and South Carolina State Universities opens new opportunities to celebrate God's gift of diversity and for forging loving and lasting bonds.

Expanding Our Missional Efforts: We are pleased to report significant progress in the implementation of the Belin Trust grant ("The World is My *Cyber* Parish"), which has a purpose to expand our missional efforts. The initial phase of the Spiritual/Technology Club, and the Cyber Café was completed for the Fall 2012 term, and we anticipate initiating "Tea for the Soul" during the Fall 2013 term.

Fundraising/Interpretation/Administrative Functions: With gratitude I am pleased to report that our endeavors in fundraising and interpretation continue with tangible results. The Orangeburg District, members of the Board of Directors, local churches and other supporters of the OWF made cash donations as well as gave of their time, gifts and skills to advance the ministry. With much gratitude, we acknowledge the steadfast support of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Orangeburg for their faithful support for the past two years. This steadfast support is indeed meaningful. We also give special recognition to Alpha Omicron Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for ongoing material and financial support. We acknowledge Panera Bread for donations of banners which are being used in an art project to decorate the building, as well as for pastries for our "Sweet Escapes" midterm treats.

Board Development: In April 2012, a board retreat was held, where a number of board members, including students, undertook the work of visioning and tactical planning for the ministry. This represents a major accomplishment as gains are being made in building and strengthening the organization's competence in governance. There is yet much work to be done to recruit and retain active, committed members who share a vision of the vast, reconciling possibilities of a ministry such as this. Even in the face of myriad challenges, through the grace of God, my faith is that the work necessary for the board to have a larger vision of the ministry and an accurate understanding of their role as a governing board will yet be realized.

The "casting" continues, as we abide in the assurance of God's abundant grace for this ministry.

Rev. Genova McFadden, director/campus minister

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Change is tough. Transitions can be difficult. Nonetheless, in the midst of uncertainty we lean on and give thanks to God for God's abiding presence, patience, and guidance.

In June of last year my family embarked on a new adventure; for the first time in my then seven-year ministry career I found myself without a parsonage and without a congregation to serve. I had accepted God's call to move to Rock Hill to commit myself full-time to campus ministry at Winthrop University, a proposition that both excited and frightened me.

Now, over half a year later and with one and a half semesters under my belt, I am pleased to reassure you that Winthrop Wesley is indeed alive and well. While this school year so far has probably been a bit "quieter" than previous years as I've tackled the giant learning curve that is campus ministry at Winthrop (not to mention the "ins and outs" of Winthrop Wesley itself), God has very much been present in, through, and around our students. We've encountered God weekly through music, prayer, and reflection upon God's Word during worship on Monday nights, in the midst of laughter and fellowship at Pasta Lunch on Tuesdays, while "digging deep" into the Bible at our DELVE Bible Study on Wednesday nights, and through the blessing of meals served by district churches at REPLENISH on Thursday nights. God has also showed up

in big ways during our participation in Winthrop's Day of Service at Green Street Plaza, Mission Weekend with Wesley groups from Charleston and Francis Marion University, the York County CROP Walks, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, the Alyce T. Guettler Hunger Run, the Divine Rhythm retreat in Gatlinburg, TN, and numerous other projects and activities.

When I first sat down in my new office and began planning for the new school year, I struggled with worries and fears concerning how the transition would affect the vital ministry of Winthrop Wesley – particularly with regard to the support of district churches. Would churches and individuals still contribute? Would I have to beg potential donors? Would we have the funding to continue operating as an active and relevant ministry? I have been humbled to discover that my worries and fears were unfounded, and I have been overwhelmingly proud of and encouraged by the outflowing of support the Rock Hill District and the South Carolina Conference have provided for Winthrop Wesley. The lives of students have been positively impacted, our community has been bettered, God has been glorified – and you have been a part of it. Thank you, members of the South Carolina Conference, for showing me and our students that you share my heart and passion for ministering to young people. Please prayerfully consider continuing your support of your campus ministries as we continue to serve God on our respective campuses. May God bless you abundantly for all of the ways that you have been a blessing to us.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Ricky Howell, campus minister

THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Last year, 2012, was a year of transition for all the program boards of the Connectional Ministries, and the CBGM handled the transition well. There are several areas that the CBGM has either direct or indirect oversight, and this report will briefly cover them. Several have their own reports given at other places.

Spartanburg Methodist College - SMC is not only a highly regarded educational institution, it is an outreach ministry of the South Carolina United Methodist Church, providing opportunities for growth and learning for many who would not otherwise have them. The CBGM nominates the Board of Trustees (in coordination with the president of the college) and recommends the line item for the conference budget for SMC. Dr. Colleen Keith, president of SMC, has provided the conference with a report on the college. We encourage all churches to support the line item for this often overlooked star in our conference.

Salkehatchie Summer Service - Salkehatchie Summer Service operates through their steering committee and reports to the CBGM. Each year this program grows, and their report to the Annual Conference highlights what they are doing to make Christ's love real to God's people in need.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - like Salkehatchie, UMVIM has their own steering committee and reports to the CBGM. They are to be commended for their work this past year, as they have sent teams out through the state, country and world.

Disaster Response - The Disaster Response Coordinator and the conference committee were part of the CBGM until the restructuring at Annual Conference of 2012. They now operate as an committee on their own under the Outreach area of Connectional Ministries. Their report can be found elsewhere.

Advance Special Ministries - Advance Special Ministries are missional organizations within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference that have been approved by the CBGM and the Annual Conference. These organizations each have their own board of directors, and work together through a "network" meeting. The Conference supports these in several ways. The primary one is giving our churches and groups within the churches the opportunity to partner with them in ministering in their own specialized area. We encourage each church to look into these vital ministries and get involved with them. We also support through a conference line item in the connectional ministries budget, though this is very small, and through the yearly Missions in South Carolina offering. Advance Special Ministries must be approved annually by the Annual Conference. The recommendation for 2014 is listed separately. In addition to recertifying those from last year, we are proposing a new one, People Attempting To Help (PATH), in York (Rock Hill District). The Rev. Stephen Gaither has led our board in this area.

Communities of Shalom - This past year has been one of defining the relationship between the Annual Conference and the Communities of Shalom. Although the annual conference has supported the COS since its inception, we have never defined that relationship. A task force has been working on this, and will report to the Annual Conference as soon as it is finished. Communities of Shalom are community-organizing ministries, helping each community look at issues

and problems within their community and addressing those using resources from within the community. The CBGM awarded \$10,000 to COS for 2013.

Hunger Ministries - (formerly known as Hungrief) Hunger Ministries is a program of the CBGM where we encourage churches and individuals to donate each year to help churches and agencies who work with hunger issues and help to feed people. Grants are made through the CBGM. The Rev. Jerry Hill has led the CBGM in this area. This past year grants totaling \$13,500 were made to:

- Sharon United Methodist Church (Greenville District) for a Backpack program
- Monaghan United Methodist Church (Greenville District) for a community supper program
- Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church and Columbia College (Columbia District) for meals at a joint tutoring program.
- Shandon United Methodist Church (Columbia District) for a senior feeding and nutritional education program
- Wampee United Methodist Church (Marion District) for a Children's Resource Center
- Rehoboth United Methodist Church (Columbia District) for a food pantry.
- Asbury United Methodist Church (Florence District) for a United Methodist Men's Soup kitchen.
- St. John United Methodist Church (Florence District) for a United Methodist Men's soup kitchen.
- Oro United Methodist Church (Hartsville District) for a food bank.
- New Hope United Methodist Church (Walterboro District) for a lunch program at a medical clinic ministry.
- Wesley United Methodist Church (Columbia District) for Manna Station.

Church Extension Partnership - CEP, originally a program to help smaller membership churches with physical repairs, was expanded this year. Three "calls" each year are given to give people and churches an opportunity to help the selected churches. Formerly, to be eligible to apply, a church had to have an average attendance reported to Annual Conference of 50 or less. This was increased to 100. And formerly requests were made only for help with physical repairs to churches or parsonages. Now a church may request help with physical repairs or with ministries "extending" their outreach into the local community. There were no applications in 2012.

Renfro Trust Grants - The Renfro Trust, a program helping churches located in the Appalachian mountain regions, is administered by Lake Junaluska. Applications must be approved by the CBGM. There were no applications in 2012.

Refugee/Immigrant Ministry - R/IM ministry is a program of the CBGM. This past year, under the guidance of the Rev. Emily Scales Sutton, we began working with Lutheran Family Services in helping refugee and immigrant families primarily in SC. Rev. Sutton has been working with a committee to establish advocates for R/IM ministry across the state, to lobby the state legislature and Congress for just laws, and for setting up warehouses to collect household goods for newly immigrated families.

James M. Belin Trust Grants - The James M. Belin Trust fund supports new missions within the United Methodist Church in South Carolina. The Board of Trustees for the fund (nominated by the CBGM and elected by the Annual Conference) gives the CBGM monies each year for grants for new missions in South Carolina. These can be new missions started by a church or new group, or they can be new mission programs within an existing agency. To help with better accountability, the CBGM implemented a policy this year of giving one-half of a grant, and then after receiving the receipts and a report of the work thus far, giving the other half of the grant. In 2012 grants totaling \$34,920 were awarded to The Bennettsville-Cheraw Cooperative Ministry (Hartsville District) for a Summer Enrichment Program and to St. John UMC (Florence District) for an exercise ministry in the Lynchburg community.

Thanks to all the members of the CBGM for their work in a year of great transition!

Michael Henderson, Chair

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

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

2012 has been a very active and productive year for the Board of Ordained Ministry. The conference board interviewed 42 candidates seeking commissioning or full conference membership while our district committees on ministry have met with hundreds of candidates who are seeking certification as candidates for ministry in the United Methodist church or who are serving as supply, part-time, or full-time local pastors.

As a board, we are convinced that this annual conference lacks no good thing in its theology or its mission, but instead is in dire need of visionary leaders. We know that the power of God is the primary catalyst to renewal and revitalization in the church; however, we are convinced that leadership is a key driver in congregational vitality. We believe God's intention for people and congregations is to bear fruit. Congregations expect and deserve competent leaders who can produce results, who can "advance the ball down the field." We envision leaders who dream and articulate God-sized visions and boldly partner with our laity in making those dreams a reality. Effective pastors are those who develop, coach, and mentor laity in leadership roles; influence the actions and behaviors of others to accomplish change; work with congregations to achieve significant goals and provide inspirational, preaching, and teaching. Our goal is to help produce those kinds of leaders.

A pastor may be called by God, of sound character and learning, but if he or she cannot advance the ball down the field, we may never reach the end zone! But we cannot achieve this work alone. We also need laity who partner with and are supportive of the work of clergy. Nobody likes change but a wet baby! At times, clergy are confused and challenged by laity who call for change, leadership, and new ideas that then wilt like lettuce in the hot sun in the face of any change or any resistance from fellow laity in the congregation. By God's grace, we have this ministry together and in the strength, power, and presence of the Holy Spirit, together we shall become what God's intends for us to be!

Because of faithfulness and generosity of local churches in paying apportionments in 2012, the board has been able to assist no fewer than 84 persons at eight different university senate-approved seminaries with the cost of funding their theological education in the amount \$175,000! We further rejoice that the recipients of these resources are both local pastors and seminarians. We have been able to offer these resources through the Ministerial Education Fund.

Additionally, we have full-time students who are recipients of scholarship from the Board of Ordained Ministry. These recipients are:

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------|
| T. Dennie Smith Scholarship Recipients: | | Seminary Students Scholarship Recipients: | |
| Brian Preveaux | \$1000.00 | James Cattenhead | \$750.00 |
| Timothy Soucy | \$1000.00 | William Wallace Culp | \$750.00 |
| Sheri Yvette White | \$1000.00 | Elizabeth Murray | \$750.00 |
| Bessie Bellamy Parker Recipient: | Rhonda Jones | | \$1250.00 |

We are pleased to recommend 17 candidates for provisional membership and commissioning, two candidates for associate membership, and 16 candidates for full membership and ordination. These persons have been nurtured through the candidacy process and have shown themselves ready and effective for a life of licensed, commissioned, and ordained ministry. We will celebrate with these persons tonight as they are commissioned and ordained for the work of ministry in Christ holy church.

We rejoice that to date, 225 persons have received the training needed for service as mentors to candidates and clergy navigating the candidacy, licensing, and ordination process. We are deeply indebted to these persons who serve in this capacity who give sacrificially of their time and energy. In addition, the board has offered an opportunity for our clergy to participate in sexual ethics training for this new quadrennium. Better than 500 persons have participated in this most recent training on developing and maintaining healthy boundaries and honoring our sacred trust as leaders.

We celebrate the journey of persons called to serve the church through the process of licensed ministry at this particular moment in their journey. Today, we recognized those persons who have participated in the 2013 School of Pastoral Ministry and now offer themselves for service in Christ holy church as first time licensed local pastors. At this time, I would ask those persons, along with the Bishop Holston, our conference Lay Leader, Barbara Ware, and our District Lay Leaders to gather here at the stage. As these persons come, allow me to recognize several categories of person who have reached important milestones in their journey.

Having completed the five years **Basic Course of Study in 2012** are the following persons: Leslie Edwin Gardner, William Edward Herlong, Randall Walter Horres, Bonnie Farias Miller, Sidney Wells Mims III, Frances Lee Roper, Paul Yvone Thomas, and Myrna Kay Westfall. Additionally, three persons have completed the **Advanced Course of Study**: Blondell Stephenson Miller, Allen Nesmith, and Charlie Thomas.

Transitioning from the order of deacon to the order of elder are the Don Brown and Alice Mackiel. Transferring to the SC Annual Conference from other annual conferences of the United Methodist Church as elders in full connection are the Reverends Randall Haase and Wendy Hudson Jacoby, and Donald Edwin Huss, Jr.

In our continuing efforts to recruit and maintain younger clergy leadership, the Board of Ordained Ministry has designated funds to undergird the cost of a group of young adults age 18-26 to attend and participate in 2013 *Exploration Gathering* in Denver Colorado, November 15-17, 2013. These persons will gather with youth from across the nation to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. Featured speakers will include Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey and the Rev. Jorge Acevedo.

We continue to earmark funds for candidates and seminarians from this annual conference to participate in a summer ministerial internship experience in SC. This year, there are three seminarians and four partner congregations participating in our ministerial internship program.

| Ministerial Intern | Partner Congregations | Pastors |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Brandon Lazarus | Trenholm Road UMC | Rev. Wayne Horne and Rev. Mollie Reddic |
| Kacey Mull | First UMC-Conway | Rey. Kyle Randle |
| Meredith Dark | North Charleston and Cherokee | Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby and Rev. Ellen Yonkers |

Policy Guidelines Proposed Amendments for 2013

Each year, the Board reviews the policy guidelines of the Board of Ordained Ministry and offers to the Annual Conference recommendations for review, action, and adoption. This year, the changes are cosmetic and intended to bring our policy guidelines into alignment with the *2012 Book of Discipline*. At the start of this new quadrennium and after meticulous revision and editing, the board has chosen to print the entire document for review, action, and adoption. Pending its adoption by the annual conference, the new guidelines will be posted on the conference website on the Clergy Services page. Bishop at this time, I move the adoption of the 2012 Board of Ordained Ministry Policy Guidelines.

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

Alas, the work of this Board would be impossible without the outstanding support that we receive from the Rev. Karen Radcliffe, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Mrs. Bonnie Speas, the administrative assistant to that office. These persons go above and beyond the call of duty in making effective the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and deserve our gratitude.

Bishop Holston in response to business question 17 or ¶ 604.4, 605.6- Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration? The answer is yes with the exceptions which have been noted or acted upon in the clergy session held earlier today, Sunday, June 9, 2013.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth L. Nelson, Chair*

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

PENSION SECTION

Report Number One

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **\$720** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers under the Supplement One of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (otherwise known as Pre-82) for 2014. (This rate was \$705 for the year 2013.) This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.

- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$4,566,536.00** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

C. **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the South Carolina Annual Conference**

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 by each active, retired, **terminated**, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

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

- D. For 2014, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to \$492 per month for Full-Time clergy for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for all full-time clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local

church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. (This rate was \$578 per month for the year 2013.) An amount equal to 3% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. This amount must be matched by matched by a contribution of 1% by the participating pastor in his/her United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Any surplus funds collected will be used for actuarial and collection smoothing. An amount equal to 3% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2014, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister under appointment is current.

- E. For 2014, each institution, organization or district to which a part-time minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to twelve percent for participation in a defined contribution 403b pension program called the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). For all clergy who are who are under Episcopal appointment and considered part-time (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. An amount equal to 9% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the matching portion of the defined contribution portion of the UMPIP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 3% by the participating pastor in their United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Each church with a less than full-time clergy will be required to complete an adoption agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits prior to November 1, 2013. The pension cost, both the church's share and the participant's match, will be billed from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- F. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- G. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one-time moving expense reimbursement grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers, **participants in the Voluntary Transition Program**, or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one-time reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

**Report Two
2014 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

| Requirement | 2013 Budgeted | 2014 Estimated |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Past Service Payment | | |
| Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit Amount | 4,208,996.00 | 2,809,768.00 |
| CRSP Defined Contribution (3%) | 1,355,461.00 | 1,113,097.00 |
| CRSP CPP (3%) or Benefits Funding | 1,337,367.00 | 1,098,627.00 |
| Clergy Transition* | 154,920.00 | 154,920.00 |
| Grants/Contingency* | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Total Estimated Requirement | \$7,086,744.00 | \$5,206,412.00 |
| Estimated Income | | |
| **UM Publishing House | 0 | .00 |
| Institutional Payments | 401,894.00 | 395,956.00 |
| Apportionment* | 154,920.00 | 154,920.00 |
| Direct Bill Payments | 6,529,930.00 | 4,655,536.00 |
| Total Estimated Income | \$7,086,744.00 | \$5,206,412.00 |

***Amount to be apportioned**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Clergy Transition* | 124,920.00 | 124,920.00 |
| Grants/Contingency* | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS | \$154,920.00 | \$154,920.00 |

* To be apportioned

**The Board recommends that Jurisdictional Conference Publishing House Distributions be directed to Central Conferences to fund pension programs.

*Herman B. Lightsey Jr., chairperson
Mary Agnes Jenkins, secretary*

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

GROUP INSURANCE SECTION

Report Number One

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

1. Those fully employed and funded by a local church either as Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full-Time Local Pastors, Provisional Elders, Provisional Deacons, Provisional Deacons/1992, Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full-time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Students appointed as full-time local pastors appointed to and funded by a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference and actively at work.
5. Lay persons who are full-time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
6. Retired clergy who have been under full-time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference **and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.**
7. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full-time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference **and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.**
8. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as laypersons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions **and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.**
9. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations and other denominations under Episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South

- Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.
10. Full-time employees and their eligible dependents enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the Annual Conference on the current advanced premium.
 11. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full-time employment by the Annual Conference, full-time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference. **Funding shall be \$200.00 per month for single participant and \$400.00 per month for Married participants and an additional \$200 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of Paragraph 6. This funding will be paid through a Health Reimbursement Account.**

Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits

During the year 2012, the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, the board recommends the following:

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

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected for active HealthFlex BlueCross/BlueShield – **Option B1000 HealthFlex Pharmacy Plan P2 (percentage copay) as the Standard Health Care Plan. The yearly health plan deductible is \$1,000 individual and \$2,000 for family.** And as an option the Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP). The yearly CDHP deductible is \$2,000 individual and \$4,000 family, but a Health Reimbursement account is funded at a \$1,000 individual and \$2,000 family level.

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2012 and 2013. Details of this plan are available on the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits website under the Healthflex tab which describes the current incentive program. An active participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$300 under this plan.

Some of the highlights of these incentives for 2013 are as follows:

- Blueprint for Wellness Screening earns \$100 HealthCash through Virgin Healthmiles program. This must be accomplished during the dates determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits which are usually: April 1-July 31, 2013.
- Completion of the HealthQuotient™ (health risk assessment) must be accomplished to avoid a higher deductible (\$250/\$500) during the dates determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits which are August 1-September 30, 2013.
- Walking and meeting quarterly activity targets earn \$150 in HealthCash through the Virgin Healthmiles program. These quarterly deadlines are March, June, September, December

The incentive plan for 2014 is expected to continue to emphasize Completion of the HealthQuotient™ during April to September, Blueprint for Wellness Screenings during the period April to July, and participation in wellness activities year round.

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

Report Number Three Retiree Medicare Primary Benefits

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering their Post 65 retirees two group Medicare supplement options through **AmWINS Group Benefits. One medical plan option will be similar to the current retiree plan and will be called the Standard plan. The additional option will be at a lower cost plan with a higher deductible, and that option will be referred to as the Economy plan. There will be corresponding Rx options with both plans.**

AmWINS Group Benefits will be the administrator for the retiree benefit plans. AmWINS Group Benefits specializes in retiree benefit programs for companies, municipalities and religious organizations. AGB has over 700 retiree benefit clients nationally.

AwWINS Group Benefits will provide the following services for the retirees of The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church:

**Retiree communications-announcement letter, enrollment kit
Group retiree meetings
Retiree call center services
Retiree website
Billing and collecting of premiums
Ongoing service and support for retirees**

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

Report Number Four Administrative Procedures

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

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Health Care Division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church, 1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 660025-1604.

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

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

Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries: It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the "institutional share" of the insured's premium. This provision shall apply to the district superintendents, conference staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the quarterly "Statement of Account." Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

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

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

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

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

| Requirements | 2013 Budgeted | 2014 Estimated |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Active and Non-Medicare Retiree Group | | |
| Participant Only | 2,450,520.00 | 2,548,836.00 |
| Participant + Spouse | 1,880,304.00 | 1,904,172.00 |
| Participant + Child | 156,372.00 | 177,840.00 |
| Participant + Children | 106,428.00 | 96,624.00 |
| Participant + Family | 2,574,300.00 | 2,658,432.00 |
| Total Estimated Active Group | \$7,167,924.00 | \$7,385,904.00 |
| Retired Group | | |
| Medicare Eligible Sub Group | | |
| Participant | 1,008,288.00 | 506,400.00 |
| Participant +1 | 1,288,368.00 | 681,600.00 |
| Participant less Part D Medicare | 8,400.00 | 7,200.00 |
| Total Estimated Medicare Eligible | \$2,305,056.00 | \$1,195,200.00 |
| Total Retired and Active Groups | \$9,472,980.00 | \$8,581,104.00 |
| Other | | |
| Incapacitation/Transition | 194,616.00 | 194,616.00 |
| Mandatory Coverage Charge | 372,224.00 | 395,600.00 |
| Total Estimated Other | 566,840.00 | 590,216.00 |
| Total Estimated Requirement | \$10,039,820.00 | \$9,171,320.00 |
| Estimated Income | | |
| Billing to salary Paying Units | 5,117,163.00 | 5,170,332.00 |
| Apportioned to Churches* | 1,603,000.00 | 1,603,000.00 |
| From Insured | 2,223,688.00 | 2,215,771.00 |
| From Medicare Participants | 1,427,115.00 | 691,511.00 |
| From Institutional Payments | 311,956.00 | 284,844.00 |
| Total Estimated Income | \$10,682,922.00 | \$9,965,458.00 |
| Amount to be Apportioned | | |
| Incapacitated and Transitional Funding* | 194,616.00 | 194,616.00 |
| Post Retirement Health Funding | 1,603,000.00 | 1,603,000.00 |
| Total | \$1,797,616.00 | \$1,797,616.00 |

* Apportioned to churches.

**Report Number Six
2013 Group Health Costs**

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

1. That the sum of \$5,170,332 be billed to the local church/charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2014.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,952,536.00:

- a. \$ 154,920.00 for Transitional Pension Funding
 - b. \$ 194,616.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - c. \$1,603,000.00 for Post Retirement Health Funding.
3. That participant premium payments be set as follows:
- a. Active personal group insurance health premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be approximately 30% of the total coverage premium.
 - 1. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$210.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$491.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$701.00** per month.
 - 2. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus spouse premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$445.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$1,038.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$1,483.00** per month.
 - 3. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus child premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$296.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$692.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$988.00** per month.
 - 4. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus children premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$403.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$939.00** per month. The total premium shall **\$1,342.00** per month.
 - 5. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$593.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately of the rate. This is expected to be **\$1,385.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$1,978.00** per month.
 - b. Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP) premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be 30% of the single or family coverage premium.
 - 1. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$210.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$491.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$701.00** per month.
 - 2. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus spouse premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$445.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$1,038.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$1,483.00** per month.
 - 3. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus child premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$296.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$692.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$988.00** per month.
 - 4. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus children premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$403.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately 70% of the rate. This is expected to be **\$939.00** per month. The total premium shall **\$1,342.00** per month.
 - 5. Effective January 1, 2014, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$593.00** per month. The salary paying unit share shall be approximately of the rate. This is expected to be **\$1,385.00** per month. The total premium shall be **\$1,978.00** per month.
 - c. **Retiree Premiums Non-Medicare Premiums**
 - 1. **Active Premiums would be the Total Premiums for Active Participants less the Defined Contribution. The Defined Contribution would be \$200 per single participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it**

would be \$400 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph 6

2. **Retiree Premiums for Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be published no later than October 1, 2013 for the year 2014. The Defined Contribution would be \$200 per single participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be \$400 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph 6. Premiums for the new Medicare Primary plans are estimated to be Standard Plan \$284 per month per person and the economy plan would be \$221 per month.**
4. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One.
5. The estimated 2014 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full-time, full-time Diaconal Ministers and full-time Lay Employees of local churches, **are expected to be: For the standard plan - \$701.00 monthly (\$8,412.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,483.00 monthly (\$17,796.00) yearly for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$988.00 monthly (\$11,856.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,342.00 monthly (\$16,104.00 yearly) for participant plus children coverage, and \$1,978.00 monthly (\$23,736.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage.** The estimated 2014 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full-time, full-time Diaconal Ministers and full-time Lay Employees of local churches, are expected to be: For the CONSUMER Driven High Deductible Plan - \$701.00 monthly (\$8,412.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,483.00 monthly (\$17,796.00 yearly) for Participant plus spouse coverage, \$988.00 monthly (\$11,856.00 yearly) for Participant plus child coverage, \$1,342.00 monthly (\$16,104.000 yearly) for Participant plus children coverage, and \$1,978 monthly (\$23,736 yearly) for participant plus family coverage Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2014.
6. A summary of active health plan rating methodology for South Carolina is available in the Conference Benefits Office for review.
7. It is recommended that the South Carolina Annual Conference delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits the authority to adjust rates and plan designs to meet the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

*Herman B. Lightsey Jr., chairperson
Mary Agnes Jenkins, secretary*

SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN TEMPLATE

The South Carolina annual conference has the following benefit obligations:

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP) DEFINED BENEFIT (DB) AND DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC)

The total liability for CRSP DB annuities as of 1/1/2012 is \$737 million, the total plan assets are \$744 million, and the current funded ratio for the plan is 101%.

The South Carolina Conference's portion of the total liability is 2.86%, and the conference has elected to include 100% for FTE eligibility for 2014. As a result, the required contribution due as of 12/31/14 is \$2,809,768.

It is anticipated that the amount will be funded from Future Incoming Money totaling \$3,241,296.

The total account and/or future incoming money covers the required contribution.

Additional comments around payment of CRSP-DB: Amount to be direct billed to local churches

The contribution for 2012 CRSP DC is anticipated to be \$1,210,016 and will be funded by Direct Billed to local churches.

It is anticipated that increases for future years will be 1.32% (anticipated increase %). This increase is anticipated because % change in CAC

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

The total liability for MPP annuities as of 1/1/2012 is \$2.538 billion, the total plan assets are \$2.639 billion, and the current funded ratio for the plan is 104%.

The conference's % of the total liability is 2.72%. There is no required contribution for 2014.

Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.324 billion as of 1/1/2012. The conference's portion of this account balance at 1/1/12 is \$109.566 million or 2.53% of the total.

SUPPLEMENT ONE TO THE CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (PRE-82)

For 2013, the PSR is \$705.00. For 2014, the conference is increasing its PSR to \$720.00. On average, the conference expects future increases to be approximately 2%. The rationale for our expectation is:

Goal is to increase by 2% per year

The expectation for future average increases to the PSR has not changed from the past.

Key assumptions: 7.0% discount rate, using the RP2000 mortality table with a AA generational projection.

The conferences does not intend to increase its contingent annuitant percentage from 75%.

Funding Plan Liability as of 1/1/2012 (\$63,197,799)

Plan Assets as of 1/1/2012 \$79,701,042

The current funded status is \$16,503,243 with a 126% funded ratio.

Conference does not intend to redirect Pre82 surplus

The conference is fully funded in the Pre 1982 pension plan for this funding plan.

The Total Balance is positive, all liabilities have been accounted for.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Post Retiree Medical Plan currently offered and anticipated for 2014 can be described as: HealthFlex

A more detailed description of this plan is: Medicare Companion 2

Strategic plan for funding obligation is as follows: Funded through apportionments

The conference intends to retain the plan on an ongoing basis. The following is based on the most recent actuarial valuation dated as of 12/31/2012, prepared by Towers Watson

Total value of assets assigned to the PRM program is: \$12,488,015. The source of additional funds to pay for this program is: Apportionments.

The most recent PRM valuation showed the following liabilities:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) (net conference cost) \$23,485,383

Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) (net conference cost) \$23,735,198

Service Cost (SC) (net conference cost) \$202,100

Key assumptions: 3.50% discount rate, N/A return on assets, 8.0% trend rate, ultimately going to 5.0% trend rate in the year 2019.

Source for paying for obligations: Apportionments

Additional comments around PRM: Recommending change to stipend in 2014.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

The South Carolina conference offers the following active health program to its participants: HealthFlex.

During the calendar year 2012, the total cost for the active health program was \$6,985,424. The active health program was funded from Direct Billed to local churches and participants. Future increases are expected in the range of 2.0%.

Rationale for anticipated increases to this obligation: From Healthflex Actuary

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN

Currently (for 2012), the South Carolina Conference has an annual required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,109,124.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 1.3% per year. This expected increase is due to: CHg in Cac

It is anticipated the unfunded obligation will be funded as follows: Direct Billed to Local chuches

OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS TO CLERGY AND STAFF

The South Carolina conference has the following other benefit obligations

Section A. United Methodist Personal Investment Plan

Currently (for 2012), the South Carolina Conference has an annual estimated contribution to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan of \$93,831.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately .0% per year. This expected increase is due to: No Funding for salary Increases. This will be funded by: Apportionments

Additional Comments concerning this obligation: 2.0% projected increase in 2014.

Section B. Other Benefit Obligations

The South Carolina Conference has an benefit obligation that can be described as DB Special Grant to Dependents and pother special grants.

For this obligation the annual estimated contribution is \$1,883. This obligation is funded: Till death of recipient of Special grant of \$16.88 per month.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately .0% per year. This expected increase is due to: Negotiated settlement on special grant and dependent decease November 2012.

Section C. Other Benefit Obligations

The South Carolina Conference has an benefit obligation that can be described as UMPIP DC Contribution for Part-time clergy effective 1/1/2014

For this obligation the annual estimated contribution is \$413,937. This obligation is funded: Direct Billed to local churches.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 1.32% per year. This expected increase is due to: Avg of increase in CAC.

Additional Comments concerning this obligation: This is a 12% contribution of Compensation. Church provides 9 %, Participant provides 3%.

Section D. Other Benefit Obligations

The South Carolina Conference has an benefit obligation that can be described as Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability (UMLife)

For this obligation the annual estimated contribution is \$16,054. This obligation is funded: Apportioned to local churches.

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 2.0% per year. This expected increase is due to: No Salary Increases Budgeted increase is from increase in age of insureds.

Section E. Other Benefit Obligations

The South Carolina Conference has an benefit obligation that can be described as Death Benefits for Pre BPP Conference Lay Employees.

For this obligation the annual estimated contribution is \$251. This obligation is funded: Apportionment

The anticipated increase in obligation for future years will be approximately 5.0% per year. This expected increase is due to: Historical avg increase.


Additional Comments concerning this obligation: This is a fully insured term life product for four participants.

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the conference's obligations and funding of the following benefits provided to clergy and laity. Signatures included below are: Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent), Conference Treasurer (if separate) and the Conference Board of Pension Chair, and others as appropriate.


- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRSP DB | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRSP DC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPP Annuities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Obligations Section A |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MPP Future Annuities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Obligations Section B |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre 1982 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Obligations Section C |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-Retirement Medical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Obligations Section D. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Obligations Section E |

 4/4/13
Signature, conference title, date Treasurer

 4/4/13
Signature, conference title, date Chair, CBPHB

 4/4/13
Signature, conference title, date CEO

Signature, conference title, date

 **General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
Caring For Those Who Serve

Opinion on South Carolina Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

This Funding Plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by the General Board, and the requirements for a favorable opinion of a Funding Plan.

Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by the General Board do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable Conference to fulfill the obligations included in the Funding Plan.

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Glenview, Illinois

THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History is the agency of the Annual Conference that bears responsibility for preserving the records of our past, collecting the records of the present, and ensuring that these records are available for use in our future. The commission also helps the churches of the Annual Conference learn about their rich histories and works to connect South Carolina Methodists to each other and to their past.

The Commission maintains repositories for records at Wofford College and at Claflin University. These records include everything from the minutes of Annual Conferences, copies of the *Southern Christian Advocate*, records of some conference boards and commissions, records from several districts, biographical directories of our clergy, subject files on many churches, and records of some closed churches. The records of our conference United Methodist Women are in the archives as well. The personal papers of several former ministers in the conference, such as the Rev. Melvin K. Medlock, the Rev. A. C. Holler, and the Rev. Allan R. Broome, are part of the collection. Current or retired clergy who wish to talk about what to do with their personal papers may contact the archivist.

For the year 2012, we responded to 286 inquiries on the Conference collection. We hosted 19 visitors who came to do research in the Methodist collections. My student assistants and I have copied 320 obituaries from the *Advocate* Obituary Index for researchers. To compare, in 2011, for the full year, we had 323 requests, 44 visitors, and 377 obituaries. Over the past 5 years, we've had some 1,556 inquiries, 220 visits, and have produced 1,688 obituary copies. Our researchers have included everyone from local church historians and family members seeking information on clergy ancestors to professional historians who are doing scholarly research. We also note that since the fall of 2011, the Rev. Luther H. Rickenbaker has served as a volunteer in the archives at Wofford, assisting with reference inquiries and paper processing projects.

The archives is also working to share more of its resources digitally, and those who are interested may look at the archives website – <http://www.wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx> – to see what's available.

The Commission presents the Herbert Hucks Award for Preservation and Interpretation of church history annually to churches and individuals who have made great strides in keeping and sharing our rich history. These awards are presented during the awards session at Annual Conference. Information on applying for the Hucks Award or nominating an individual or a publication for the award is available on the archives website. Materials for the 2014 awards will be due February 1, 2014.

We urge the members of the Annual Conference to take history seriously. Each local church bears the responsibility for maintaining its own records. When churches close, the commission takes on that responsibility, though those records do not always make their way to the archives. Board and commission officers may call on the conference archivist, Dr. Phillip Stone, to talk about the proper disposition of their board or commission or committee's records.

As we look forward to a number of significant anniversaries in the life of our church and conference, we hope to be involved in planning appropriate celebrations. In 2016, we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the 1866 Conference. In 2022, we'll commemorate the 50th anniversary of the merger of the 1866 and 1785 Conferences into a new South Carolina Annual Conference. It is never too early to begin to think of ways to reflect on these significant milestones.

We thank the conference for its continuing support and look forward to helping share our ministry of memory.

*William L. Kinney, Jr., chairperson
R. Phillip Stone II, PhD, conference archivist*

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

**[Please note that significant changes in wording have been noted
with strikeouts and insertions are underlined.]**

Report Number 1

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

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of full-time clergy in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the commission has been guided by the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*; the latest

version states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference." (*The Book of Discipline, 2012*, Para. 625.2) The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

B. Total Compensation for Clergy

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

Report Number 2

A. Budget Request for 2014

The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$425,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2014. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

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

In accordance with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2014, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

| Category | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| a. Full-time Clergy in full connection | \$41,500 |
| b. Full-time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members | \$37,725 |
| c. Full-time Local Pastors | \$35,000 |

The recommendation represents an approximate 2.5% increase over not only what was approved for 2013, but also what was approved for 2011 and 2012.

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

C. For Deacons in Full Connection

Those persons who have responded to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments and are full-time ordained deacons in accordance with Paragraph 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the annual conference. (See Paragraph 331.10(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2012*.) Deacons who are employed by the congregation, charge, or cooperative parish less than full time shall be compensated proportional to the percentage of time being served. (Half-time would receive not less than half the minimum salary.) Deacons not employed by a congregation, charge, cooperative ministry, or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.6(d) are not affected.

D. Experience Merit

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

Example:

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

E. Housing Allowances

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

F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance

The district superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the district superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the district superintendent indicating income from all sources. Grants shall be made based on fiscal years (January to December), and unless otherwise designated, shall decrease 25% annually. For grants beginning in July, 100% of the approved amount will be provided for the first eighteen (18) months and will decrease 25% annually thereafter.

RATIONALE: This formally acknowledges the general practice and procedure we have been following for many years but had not been written in our policy.

G. Cross Racial Appointments

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

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

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

RATIONALE: This change is needed to clarify that cooperative parish funding will not begin again each time there is a pastoral change.

I. Disbursement of Supplements

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

J. Utilities Allowance

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Under IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.

K. Investment of Reserve Fund

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account. In accordance with guidelines established with CF&A in 2013 and presented to the 2013 Annual Conference, the "floor" of the reserve is to be set at **\$300,000** in order to meet general projection

shortfalls, to allow for the unanticipated start of a new church or missional situation, or to deal with an unexpected disaster.

RATIONALE: This change is recommended by the conference treasurer and CF&A. Growth in the reserve fund has it approaching this level.

L. Interpretation

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

M. Compensation Guidance

The commission recommends that district superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work-load packages in accordance with Paragraph 419.4, 419.6 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*.

N. Ineligibility

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

Retired supply pastors

Part-time local pastors

Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99

Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of the United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1 a, b, c of *The Book of Discipline 2012*.

Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2012* (except as appointed under Report 3 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties. Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 56.5 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the district superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Continuing Education

Each charge shall place in its budget an amount of \$750 or more per year to be used by the pastor as a continuing education fund. If the full amount is not used in a given year, the unused portion may be carried forward from year to year during the tenure of a pastor, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's continuing education allowance inclusive of the current year's amount.

Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

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

R. Vacation Policy

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

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

In addition to the above, it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week. "Years of Service" reflect number of

years under appointment in the ministry of The United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

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

Report Number 3 Mission Situations

A. Definition

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

B. Eligibility

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

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation, and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.
4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergyperson with at least four years of experience and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.
5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by December 15th preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

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

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

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

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

1. If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.
2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1st.

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

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

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

Part 1. Schedule for New Church Starts Begun in 2008 and Thereafter

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

Year 1 and 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits. (New church starts that begin in July will receive 100% funding for the first two and a half years.)

RATIONALE: This would bring this policy in line with current practices for other types of grants and make it agree with Report 2.F above.

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

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

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

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

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| First year and a half: | up to \$4,000.00 annually |
| Second full year: | up to \$3,000.00 annually |
| Third full year: | up to \$2,000.00 annually |
| Fourth full year: | up to \$1,000.00 annually |

Part 2. Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will operate in light of the Annual Conference's decision to make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority. Support for clergy working in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall be made in accordance with the Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income (Report Number 3E, Part 2). The Commission recognizes that adjustments may be necessary on a case-by-case basis. The district superintendent, after consultation with the Cabinet and the Conference Hispanic Committee may request adjustments in the following areas:

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the district superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.

4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years full-time service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 14 years of service.

Example:

Year 6: \$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 7: \$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 8: \$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 9: \$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 10: \$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 11: \$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 12: \$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 13: \$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 14: \$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
 Year 15+: \$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit

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

Report Number 4

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

| | Dec 2009 | | Dec. 2010 | | Dec. 2011 | | Dec. 2012 | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | No. | Amount | No. | Amount | No. | Amount | No. | Amount |
| New church | 5 | \$197,567 | 4 | \$102,645 | 2 | \$44,408 | 4 | \$107,669 |
| Minimum | 18 | \$88,597 | 12 | \$48,676 | 12 | \$60,787 | 13 | \$89,953 |
| "Special" | 8 | \$92,840 | 6 | \$84,563 | 8 | \$112,831 | 6 | \$55,803 |
| Low Income | | | 1 | \$12,000 | 1 | \$12,000 | 1 | \$10,800 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2 | \$63,700 | 2 | \$69,250 | 2 | \$70,950 | 1 | \$32,443 |
| Cooperative Parish | | | 1 | \$7,000 | 1 | \$7,000 | 2 | \$8,750 |
| Direct billing costs | | \$115,652 | | \$72,682 | | \$70,630 | | \$83,783 |
| TOTALS | 33 | \$558,356 | 26 | \$396,816 | 26 | \$378,606 | 27 | \$388,200 |

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

| | Jan 2010 | Jan 2011 | Jan 2012 | Jan 2013 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Effective Members | 21 | 12 | 9 | 15 |
| Provisional Members | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Associate Members | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Local Pastors (Full Time) | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 33 | 24 | 25 | 28 |

Rev. Jeremy L. Howell, chairperson

Mr. Skipper Brock, vice chairperson

Rev. Morris Waymer, statistician

Mrs. Lollie Haseleden, secretary

ARREARAGE POLICY FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. In the event that the local church treasurer becomes aware that the church will be unable to provide to the pastor full payment of a regularly scheduled payroll, accountable reimbursements, or housing allowance installment, the church treasurer shall immediately notify both verbally (within 24 hours) and in writing (within three days) the Pastor, the Lay Leader, the Lay Member of Annual Conference, and the Chairs of S/PPRC, Finance, Trustees, and the Administrative/Church Council of the impending arrearage. Upon receipt of such notice, the Chair of S/PPRC and/or the Pastor shall immediately (within three days) notify the District Superintendent of the impending arrearage. It is the pastor's responsibility to keep copies of all such written notifications, and to provide additional written confirmation to the District Superintendent when an arrearage has taken place.

Failure to document salary or benefit arrearages may result in a loss of compensation and/or forfeiture of pension and benefits. If the church is unable to remit to the Conference Treasurer full payment for regular direct billed benefit payments such as pension and health benefits, the procedures in Item 6 below shall be followed.

2. Upon receipt of notice of a pending arrearage, the Chair of S/PPRC shall immediately (within 72 hours) schedule and hold a meeting of the Pastor, Lay Leader, and Chairs of Finance, Trustees, and the Administrative/Church Council to discuss the financial situation and seek remedies to prevent an arrearage from occurring. Such remedies might include:
 - a. drawing from invested funds,
 - b. an emergency appeal for special giving from the congregation,
 - c. emergency grants or loans from the District or Conference.

According to the *Book of Discipline* ¶624, such remedies cannot include a reduction in the Pastor's compensation until the beginning of the next Conference year.

3. If, after consultation among the Lay Leader and Chairs of S/PPRC, Finance, Trustees, and the Administrative/Church Council, it becomes apparent that the church may be facing a long-term financial crisis, the Chair of S/PPRC shall notify in writing the Pastor and District Superintendent that:
 - a. an Equitable Compensation Subsidy Grant may be necessary to maintain compensation for the remainder of the conference year; or
 - b. a change in pastoral compensation or appointment may be necessary at the beginning of the following conference year.
4. If the local church becomes delinquent in the pastor's compensation (i.e., more than 30 days delinquent), then the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation, which on its own initiative may do any or all of the following, but not limited to:
 - a. sending a representative from CEC to meet with the local church and pastor to seek resolution of the issue.;
 - b. developing with the local church a payment plan so that the pastor receives full payment of compensation by the end of the conference year.

The District Superintendent shall be a participant in this process.

5. If the local church is already receiving a subsidy grant from the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Commission may also:
 - a. determine if all subsidy grant funds allocated to the church were used to pay the pastor's salary;
 - b. examine the original subsidy grant application to determine if the amount requested to meet minimum compensation was reduced;
 - c. require an outside audit of all church funds in compliance with GCFA Guidelines (www.gcfa.org);
 - d. notify the District Superintendent of its findings and recommendations in writing.
6. If a local church becomes delinquent in the payment of the pastor's direct billed pension and health benefits (i.e., more than 90 days delinquent), then the Conference Treasurer shall notify the Conference Benefits Officer, the District Superintendent, and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. On behalf of the Conference the Benefits Officer and/or District Superintendent shall develop a written payment plan with the local church so that the conference receives full payment of pension and health benefits by the end of the conference year.
7. Paragraph 2542.1 of the *Book of Discipline* makes clear that no real property on which a church building or parsonage is located shall be mortgaged to pay for the current or budgeted expenses of a local church (including arrearages) nor shall the principal proceeds of a sale of any such property be so used. This provision shall apply alike to unincorporated and incorporated local churches.
8. In extreme and unresolved circumstances, the local church and/or pastor may petition a session of the annual conference, following proper procedures, for assistance in payment of the arrearage not to exceed the minimum conference compensation standards. However, it is the responsibility of the local church to provide a minimum compensation for its appointed clergy (¶624).
9. It is the responsibility of the pastor to provide evidence of an arrearage by providing documentation such as: Treasurer's Reports, Charge Conference reports of adopted salary and compensation, check stubs, W-2 forms, etc.
10. The statute of limitations for filing a claim for funds from the Annual Conference (i.e., notification to the District Superintendent of the arrearage) for any salary arrearage is one year from the date of the initial arrearage. Once an appointment ends the Pastor no longer has claim on the local church for compensation funds (¶342.4).

11. The District Superintendent shall provide a report of the matter and actions taken to be placed in the permanent files of the church and the pastor.

Approved by the Commission on Equitable Compensation, 01/12/2013

Supported by The Cabinet, 02/13/2013

Supported by CF&A, 02/26/2013

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference met Monday, October 15, 2012, to evaluate the 2012 Annual Conference and to begin planning the 2013 Annual Conference. We met again on Monday, December 10, 2012, and worked in small groups dealing with issues of the 2013 theme, accommodations, worship, awards and the overall flow of the Annual Conference. The Executive Committee on the Annual Conference met on Monday, November 12, 2012, and Monday, February 11, 2013, with a follow-up visit to the Florence Civic Center. During this last visit it was decided that the stage would be moved to the side, creating a more intimate setting while improving sound and sight lines.

Through the efforts of the Stop Hunger Now steering committee, the mission project of the Annual Conference this year will focus on hunger ministries. The delegates and members of local churches will be invited to sign up for one of three packing times on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. The goal is to pack 285,000 meals that will be sent to Haiti. We will also be collecting non-perishable food during Annual Conference for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

The Commissioning and Ordination Service will be held on Monday night, June 10, 2013 at 7:30 PM. The Retirement Recognition will be Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 11:00 AM. The Memorial Service will be Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 2:00 PM. Most of the Awards will be recognized during the Report of the Connectional Ministries on Tuesday morning, June 11, 2013.

The Committee has been exploring the possibilities of a different venue for the future, however for 2014 the Committee recommends the Florence Civic Center in Florence.

Finally, the Committee expresses its gratitude to Pisgah United Methodist Church and to Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2012 Session. Their spirit of hospitality was felt throughout the entire session, enabling the work of the Annual Conference to be carried out in a productive manner.

L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson

Karen H. Radcliffe, Secretary

THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The Committee on the *Journal* continues to live in the digital age. As the result of this progression, we have moved from printing over 2,000 *Journals* a decade ago to printing only 200 currently. We now produce about 200 copies of the *Journal* on DVD, and for the past few years the *Journal* has been available online.

The 2011 edition of the United Methodist Ministers in South Carolina has been completed and is available for purchase now. In many ways this book will serve as a historical document for years to come. We are grateful to all that have made contributions to 2011 The Minister's Book all under the leadership of the editor and past secretary of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Rogers.

Karen H. Radcliffe, Conference Secretary

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In speaking with the newest congregations and the oldest congregations across the South Carolina Annual Conference, I speak of an "embarrassment of riches" around us. South Carolina's diversity, its continuing population growth and the many places of real need present in our local communities and in our state mean that a rich harvest is possible. We have only to focus, strategize and seek to listen for God's voice of direction for our work to become agents of the disciple transformation that is a part of our United Methodist mission.

United Methodists around the globe are called to a particular ministry of creating "New Places for New People." In local congregations and across the annual conference, the Committee on Congregational Development is an intentional partner for helping with these new places. Funding for the committee is provided by the apportionment line item on Congregation-

al Development. In 2013, the Committee has been funded by the amounts collected on the line item in 2012. The work is carried out in 5 separate areas: District 20% Funds; New Church Funds; Existing Church Funds; Land Acquisition; and Operations.

- District 20%: 20% of every dollar given to the line item by a district is returned for district use among local congregations.
- New Church Funds: in partnership with Equitable Compensation provides funding for nine new faith communities.
- Existing Church Funds: provides grants for local churches engaging in creation of new places and new ministries.
- Land Acquisition: assists with the purchase of land for new projects.
- Operations: provides funding for Clergy Discernment Academies; continuing education for clergy and congregations; staff and office support.

Grants totaling \$121,479 were distributed to seven existing churches for creation or expansion of ministry. Grants of \$219,000 were divided among the new church start with an additional \$75,000 designated for particular projects. \$138,200 was set aside for Land Acquisition. \$180,594 was distributed to the district in 20% funds. The Operations budget was funded at \$238,605, a very slight decrease from 2012.

We celebrate that at the end of 2013, two projects will have come to an end of funding and will be strong United Methodist presence in their communities. We celebrate the Spanish speaking communities that are engaging in worship and service through our conference support. We celebrate the local congregation that is multiplying into a second site and the two local congregations who are sharing worship space. We celebrate the hard work of local congregations who are seeking to be faithful in communities that do not look the same today as five years ago. And, we celebrate the local congregations and the pastors who are today hearing God's voice and preparing the next year's work of creating "New Places for New People."

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Sara A. White, Director of Congregational Development

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The 2013-2016 Committee on Episcopacy was convened by Bishop Jonathan Holston Tuesday, January 22, 2013, which is the first of three planned meetings for the year. A copy of Para.637 and 638, Conference Committee on Episcopacy will be distributed to each member.

During the meeting, each member of the committee was asked to introduce himself or herself to Bishop Holston. Bishop Holston gave a brief history of his ministry in the Methodist Church, and stated that he is happy to be with us and the members of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Since September 1, 2012, Bishop Holston has met with many work areas in the Annual Conference and has had the opportunity to discuss some of the concerns, challenges, and vision for the Conference. Bishop stated that he has asked each group that he met with to answer five questions.

1. What are the challenges we are facing or will face in the SC Annual Conference?
2. Why are we facing or will face these challenges?
3. What is the untapped potential in this Annual Conference?
4. How are we to maximize that untapped potential?
5. If you were me, what would you focus on?

These questions not only affect work area groups but the conference membership. We, as one body in Christ, should consider answering these questions as well.

Bishop Holston shared some of the activities he is currently involved with. He is the chairperson of "Mission on Engagement" and is working on "Ministry with the Poor," which is a project for the 2013 Annual Conference.

We heartily and warmly welcome Bishop and Mrs. Holston to the SC Annual Conference.
Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Barbara Lee Reid, Vice Chairperson

THE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

The Episcopal Residence Committee is charged with the maintenance and proper upkeep of the home provided for the Resident Bishop of the Columbia Area. As the Annual Conference

experienced a change in Episcopal leadership in September 2012, this was a time of particular attention to the needs of the residence.

A thorough inspection was made of all systems and portions of the Episcopal Residence. Funds had been budgeted for the transition as well. Various contractors were engaged to paint, re-carpet, reduce landscaping and complete varied necessary repairs to the residence inside and out which is located in Northeast Columbia. Much of the work was due to previous delayed maintenance and the required updating at the transition of residents. Also, Bishop Taylor owned many of her own furnishings. Therefore, it was also necessary to purchase proper and complete furnishings for the home.

The Residence Committee greatly appreciates the patience of our new Bishop, Jonathan Holston, and his wife, Felecia, during this process. Mrs. Holston's assistance has been invaluable as has that of Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Tony Prestipino and his staff.

As of the writing of this report, the Committee believes that the Episcopal Residence is properly furnished, repaired and updated. The Committee, along with our Episcopal family, pledges to the Annual Conference that proper maintenance will take place regularly and consistently including inspections and meetings of the Committee as needed. The Committee also appreciates the financial support of both the Annual Conference and the Council on Finance and Administration in the completion of the renewal of the Episcopal Residence.

Rev. Barbara Reid, Vice Chair, Committee on Episcopacy

Mr. Bill Moody, Chair, Conference Board of Trustees

Rev. David Surrent, President, Council on Finance and Adm.

THE COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

The Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling continue to strive to meet the needs of clergy and their families. We assist in providing a fee supplement for counseling by one of our approved counselors for a minimum of ten sessions. A list of approved counselors may be requested from the Office of Connectional Ministries.

Rev. Mike Bruce

chair of the Psychological Review Committee

Conference Board of Ordained Minister

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee met by conference call in May 2012 for the purpose of approving the hiring of Chris Lynch as Congregational Specialist for the Rock Hill and Spartanburg districts with responsibility for Ministries with Young People. The newly elected committee met several times in early 2013 to review and revise the conference personnel policies, approve job descriptions for all conference staff and give input into staff structure and evaluation procedures. The Conference Staff Relations Committee was established in 1998 to care for the personnel matters of the annual conference. The committee appreciates the work of the annual conference staff and seeks to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to the annual conference by local churches.

L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

Once again the 2012 Annual Conference saw another change in the Office of Clergy Services. It is with a great deal of humility and respect that I begin my appointment as coordinator of Clergy Services. Since The Reverend Dr. Ted H. Walter started this important position in 1998 this office has been able through our database to track the clergy in our Annual Conference in a more efficient matter. Today, I have the privilege to work in this office because of the dedication of Dr. Walter, Rev. Frank Griffith and more recently Dr. Tim Rogers.

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

Mrs. Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to the district offices and candidates with patience and kindness. She main-

tains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports for which this office is responsible for. I am grateful to Bonnie for the patience she has extended to me as I have transitioned to this position.

It has been a joy to work with our new Bishop and Superintendents and their Administrative Assistants on matters that relate to our clergy on this journey we call ministry. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to:

- All the churches in our Annual Conference who have nurtured men and women to answer their call to ministry.
- Every Local Pastors, Deacons and Elders who have encouraged and mentored these candidates for ministry on their service path.
- Members of the District Boards of Ordained Ministry who have a personal relationship with each candidate and help them to navigate our process.
- Members of our Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, under the leadership of The Reverend Ken Nelson, for the excellent job they perform credentialing candidates for ministry and handling all clergy matters with a great deal of confidentiality.

This office has continued with its normal, annual work by helping to organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning and ordination; assisting in organizing and holding the Bishop School of Ministry, providing support for three meetings of the full BOM and meetings of the Executive Committee of BOM. Daily I respond to requests by phone, e-mail, Facebook, text and regular mail correspondence related to licensing, ordination and all matters that relate to clergy and their status within the Annual Conference.

It has been with great joy to have the privilege of serving the Annual Conference in this way.

Karen H. Radcliffe, Coordinator of Clergy Services

THE BOARD OF CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

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

The conference year 2012-2013 continues to be sparked with much enthusiasm and excitement. We completed our outdoor Lakeside Chapel, and thanks to so many of you that participated in helping to make this a reality. The Chapel was dedicated June 3, 2012.

Asbury Hills has continued to grow its summer camp and group conference ministries, serving more than 4,000 guests in 2012. We believe the continued focus on improved programming, staff leadership, and facilities have really made the difference.

The staff has continued to measure specific outcomes at Asbury Hills as a way of strengthening child and spiritual development. Thank you to all camper parents who took the time to fill out the surveys. Here are a few of the 2012 results:

- 97.6% stated that they now have a closer relationship with God.
- 96% stated that they tried something new.
- 95.3% said they learned something new about their faith.

In 2012, a new Giant Swing and a 25-foot Leap of Faith were added, allowing the adventure programs at Asbury Hills to continue to soar to new heights. Plans for a waterslide into the lake are in the works, and registration for 2013 is looking strong. Gifts to the ongoing programs at Asbury Hills would be a wonderful way for individuals or congregations to honor a loved one's and enhance the ministry of the camp.

A special thank you to numerous volunteers who have spent countless hours helping complete much needed projects including repairing the lake trail bridge, updating the Mountain Chapel and pool bathhouse, creating a staff parking lot, and opening and clearing miles of new trails along our 2,000 acres.

Our Board continues to assess the demand for and feasibility of future development of Sewee Coastal Retreat Center. As reported at last year's conference, and in this specific order, we the board are looking to develop, collaborate on a development, trade, or sell the property. At present, efforts on development or collaboration have not been exhausted.

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

Les Pritchard, chair of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

The Board transferred out the title to one piece of property since its last report. The property of the Sharon United Methodist Church was transferred to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

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

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

THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST

The Belin Board of Trust exists to preserve and extend the missional legacy of the Reverend James L. Belin. According to the rendering of his will, Reverend Belin stated that it was "the long fixed and settled purpose of my life, to devote all that I possess to the promotion of the Glory of God, in advancement of the Missionary Cause." Accordingly, the Belin Board during 2012 worked to protect the corpus of the trust and direct the income of the trust to benefit missions within the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Belin Board works in partnership with the Conference Board of Global Missions to fund new mission projects in South Carolina. The board allocated \$110,000 for grants and \$37,420 was paid out during the year for three projects. At the end of the year one grant for \$9,500 remained outstanding pending a request for payment from the recipient.

The board perceived a need to expand awareness of the availability of Belin Trust grant funding throughout the Conference. The board began to consider promotional options in conjunction with the Board of Global Missions. Additionally, the board began to look for ways to become more aware of the results of the projects funded by the Trust.

The board utilized the services of Debnam Wealth Management Group (Raymond James/Morgan Keegan) to assist in the management of the Trust's portfolio and to carry out the socially responsible investment policy. At the October meeting, a Finance and Investment Committee was appointed to assist the board in the ongoing evaluation of the management of the portfolio.

The board engaged Webster Rogers LLP to perform accounting services including the preparation of quarterly and annual financial statements. DeLoach & Williamson, LLP performed an Agreed Upon Procedures engagement related to the financial accounting and related statements.

Officers elected for the 2013 year were: Chairperson, Stuart Ford; Vice Chairperson, Rev. Marty Nason; Secretary, Arch Yeager; and Treasurer, Frank Sanders.

On behalf of the board, I express sincere appreciation for the assistance of the Conference Board of Global Missions in the work of expanding missions within our Annual Conference. Additionally, I wish to acknowledge the dedicated and faithful service of the members of the Belin Board.

May the work begun by Rev. Belin inspire all who seek to open new avenues of mission in South Carolina for the Glory of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Stuart W. Ford, Chairperson

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For 176 years, the *Advocate's* newspaper ministry has connected the South Carolina Annual Conference. Our mission is to connect United Methodists by independently reporting news, engaging readers and providing a forum for dialogue. All of this we do to lift up the Lord throughout the state and showcase the ministries and other God-inspired activities our churches and Christian leaders are doing in every corner of South Carolina.

Last year, the *Advocate* marked 175 years of existence in two special ways: We published an award-winning book, "In the World, Not of the World: 175 Years of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate," which not only sold out of its first print run within days, but is nearly sold out of its second run, and is now also an eBook. Secondly, we held a 175th Birthday Party and published a commemorative 175th anniversary edition of the paper, complete with congratulatory advertisements and messages from churches and ministries all over the state.

Now partway through 2013, the *Advocate* continues its mission to create and nurture better, stronger disciples for the transformation of the world. Our pages, website and social media efforts are chock-full of news about every aspect of The United Methodist Church: local, district, conference, jurisdictional and global. We actively reach out to churches and ministries seeking news and information so we can be an instrument of communication for the conference – and stay relevant, fresh and vibrant for our readers. We believe a better-informed church is stronger and more vital, ultimately doing more to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and we are doing our very best to keep our readers as knowledgeable and excited about our faith as possible.

We continue to win writing and general excellence awards (in 2012 alone, 18 from the United Methodist Association of Communicators and four from the S.C. Press Association). We also continue to contribute to the communications ministry of the denomination, both on a conference and a global level.

To every member of Annual Conference, we extend our deep thanks for reading and contributing to the *Advocate*, and keeping our newspaper ministry alive and growing through nearly two centuries.

Rev. Steve King, chairperson

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during they year. This specifically included replacement of various parts to extend the lives of several HVAC units and steam cleaning all the carpet and selected furniture. Tenants of the Methodist Conference Center include Annual Conference offices and the Advocate. For 2013 rent will not increase, however a 4.5% increase will be needed in 2014 due to rising operations cost. The Trustees will continue in 2013 to evaluate building usage and may seek to find additional tenants to repurpose now vacant areas such as the print shop. In an effort to be better stewards the trustees are planning on installing cameras on the exterior of the building and will begin to modify the schedule of security personnel.

Rev. Paul Wood, Chairperson

Anthony C. Prestipino, Treasurer and Director of Administration

THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

It is my privilege to serve this conference as Conference Chancellor, legal advisor to the Bishop and the Annual Conference. By Standing Rule 98, requests for my services are made through the Episcopal office.

Reflecting back and looking forward, I want to emphasize the importance of incorporation for local churches. One of the primary things I do in my law practice is defend people and institutions when they are sued. I mostly represent doctors and hospitals but I have, over the course of my career which spans over 30 years, defended churches, church daycare centers, universities, and many charitable institutions. Just as buying insurance is not shirking responsibility, incorporating also is not. It is a legal and appropriate way to manage risk. The corporate entity acts as a level of shield not against fairness or responding to legitimate claims but to protect trustees and individual church members. Incorporation and insurance protects the assets of the church, trustees, and individual members.

I also want to ask each church to insure that someone looks at the deeds of your church and other property records for the proper trust cause mandated by the *Discipline*.

We continue to grapple with issues around church cemeteries, daycare centers, playground safety, and facility leases. Please enter into your relationships with care and complete documents.

Please carefully review your congregational Safe Sanctuary Policies.

This past year I have answered questions about discretion spending and travel reimbursement. The GCFA has excellent materials which can be found at <http://www.gcfa.org/tax-packet>.

There is ongoing litigation at this time against several of our churches. At this time, the known litigation is covered under existing policies of insurance. Please remember as individual churches your obligations to forward any kind of legal papers both to your insurance carrier and your District Superintendent.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Conference. I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue work with the dedicated clergy, staff and laypersons of the Conference.

Kay G. Crowe, Conference Chancellor

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

NEW OFFICERS

At the October 6, 2012 meeting of the SC UMMen, new officers and a new cabinet representative were installed. In the Installation of Officers service, Rev. David Anderson reminded us that our loyalty is to Jesus Christ alone and it must define us as a group. He also asked us as, members of the SC UMMen, to pledge ourselves to support the officers and each other, to make this organization a priority, and to attend the meeting and activities of the UMMen. Most important of all, he challenged us to rededicate ourselves in service to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He lastly asked us to support each other with prayers, devotion, loyalty and cooperation. We can do great things if we all do our part.

I am so pleased and excited to have Reverend James Friday as our new Cabinet representative. His devotion was on fire with enthusiasm for our Lord and Savior. He is also on fire about Ministry to Men in the SC Annual Conference and the world. He recognizes the value of bringing men to Christ. Welcome, Reverend Friday! Reverend Friday follows Reverend Charles Johnson who retired last year.

Our new officers are:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| President | Herman Lightsey | Columbia District |
| Vice President | Marvin Horton | Rock Hill District |
| Secretary | Alvin Glen | Walterboro District |
| Treasury | Chuck Sovick | Columbia District |
| Chaplain | Rev. David Anderson | SC Conference |
| Prayer Advocate | <i>Praying for a man called by God to step forward</i> | |
| Scouting Coordinator | Pat Long | Greenville District |
| Retreats Coordinator | Dale Sherrin | Rock Hill District |

We face a continued challenge to establish district leadership in our vacant districts. We will be working with district superintendents and lay leadership in these districts to establish district leadership teams. In order to address this issue we have established district clusters, clustering an active District President with the DS of the inactive district. Below are the clusters.

District Clusters:

Greenville (Steve McGahee) & Anderson (DS Susan Leonard-Ray)

Rock Hill (Marvin Horton) & Spartanburg (DS Paul Harmon)

Columbia (Chuck Sovick) & Greenwood (DS James Friday)

Florence (Edd Cunningham), Hartsville (Dyron Anderson) and Marion (DS Dickie Knight)

Orangeburg (John Gaither), Walterboro (Alvin Glen), and Charleston (DS Patricia Parrish)

Our search for a conference prayer advocate continues. This is an important function within the men' ministry and we are praying to find the right person. Clayton Easter has set the standard nationally as a prayer advocate for many years. He is assisting us in this search.

UNDERSTANDING MEN'S MINISTRY

Understanding Men's Ministry is now an advance course in Lay Servant Ministries. It also is a certified course for the Men's Ministry Specialist designation. Dick Strachan, one of the developers of the course, has instructed and certified several SC UMMen to facilitate this

course. Over the past couple of years several districts have offered this as an advance course for lay speakers. I invite Lay Servant Ministries to contact us and we will be happy to provide instructors for this course. **We need to dispel the myth that this course is only for men.** It is a course about understanding how to minister to men. This needs to be promoted by Conference Lay Servant Ministries.

EVENT CALENDER 2013

| When | What | Where |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 19, 2013 | Executive Meeting | Ashland UMC Church |
| February 22-24, 2013 | Spiritual Retreat | Springmaid Beach |
| February 28-March 3, 2013 | NACP Meeting | Nashville, TN |
| April 20, 2013 | Executive Meeting | Ashland UMC Church |
| June 9-12, 2013 | SC Annual Conference | Florence SC Conference Center |
| July 12-14, 2013 | National Gathering | Belmont University, Nashville, TN |
| October 19, 2013 | Annual Business Meeting | Ashland UMC Church |

CHARTERS

We are encouraging our district presidents to visit churches that have been chartered in the past and present the strength and benefits of chartering. Through the General Commission of UMMen, as a connected church, charters enable worldwide ministries related to hunger, Scouting programs, our military, and many, many more that would not be possible without the charter fees, which are only \$85 per year. To check your district for churches that are chartered, go to www.gcumm.org go to resources> ministry to men resources > chartered churches for UMMen.

ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

SC UMMen are excited and delighted with Bishop Holston. We experienced a mountain top experience the weekend of February 22-24, 2013 at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. For the first time that I know of, the SC Bishop not only attended but participated in our retreat. We had two up and coming young preachers (Rev. Michael Turner and Rev. Will Malambri); our new cabinet representative, Rev. James Friday; and our new bishop, Bishop Jonathan Holston. The theme was "Walking in the Light of God." As Christians we all begin by experiencing the Light of God; we walk in the Light, share the Light, and eventually become part of the Light. All workshops and worship services centered on this theme. This was a new format for us and we have received great remarks about the weekend. The Bishop challenged the SC UMMen to "Dream God-Size Dreams" and to not think of why we cannot reach goals but how will we reach them. Our offering to support the Upper Room Prayer Ministry was \$1,700. We also answered the Upper Room Pray Line for several hours on Saturday afternoon. Participants give up their "free time" to participate in this ministry. Our retreat is strictly for "Spiritual Enrichment of Men" so that they can be better disciples for Christ.

With the Bishop's encouragement to Dream God-Size Dreams, we issued 5 challenges to SC UMMen:

- Have 500 men and women at our Spiritual Retreat in 2014
- Have a District President and leadership team in every district
- Individually expand our witness, starting with improving yourself as a witness
- Participate in Stop Hunger Now meal packaging program at the SC Annual Conference (285,000 meals)
- Have 200 men in attendance at the National Gathering, Nashville in July 12-14, 2013

Before I left the retreat, I had men from three districts without leadership come up to me and say they were praying about these positions. I have had two pastors contact me since the retreat about re-establishing their church's men's group. I solicit your prays for this ministry. We are excited about the future of men's ministry!

Partner with us (SC UMM) to disciple men for Jesus Christ, and I promise you many of the Church's problems will be resolved. We look forward to working with laity and clergy to achieve the challenge of the "The Great Commission."

Grace ... The Harvest is Plentiful, the Laborers are few!

*Herman Lightsey, President,
SC Conference of United Methodist Men*

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

This year has been one of challenge and change for the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. As United Methodist Women we continue to pledge ourselves to be a supportive group of women...a community of sisters who nurture and encourage one another in our spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We began our year in January with various committee meetings and a report of 14,684 members throughout the state. The first statewide event was our Legislative Advocacy Day held at Epworth. Dr. Mitch Zais, SC Superintendent of Education, brought us his view of the State Department of Education's vision for educating students in South Carolina. Following his discussion he entertained questions from the audience. Three workshops on social action topics were offered: **Going Green—Care Takers of God's Creation; Legislative/Advocacy Youth Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse; There are Strangers Among Us – "The Dream Act."** During our working lunch session, Rev. Brenda Kneece, South Carolina Christian Action Council, spoke on the latest legislative actions affecting South Carolina and several Legislators came by to welcome us. Following lunch was keynote speaker, Gayle Crabtree, author, speaker, advocate for victims of domestic violence, and UMC-Holston Conference domestic violence awareness trainer. Mrs. Crabtree's presentation was *Hope for Healing* as she laid the foundation regarding advocating for victims and instilling hope for their future.

May 4th, 5th and 6th the annual Spiritual Retreat was held at Lake Junaluska, and our speaker was Jean Paget. Her theme was *Make Room for God*. A wonderful, spirit filled event, the retreat saw 573 women in attendance.

May 18th was the date for our "Come Together/Be Together" event organized by the Membership Nurture and Outreach Committee. It was held at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Charleston with 295 in attendance. Rev. Linda Gadsen of John's Island Rural Mission was our keynote speaker and eight entertaining workshops were packed with fun and information. The "play dress-up" fundraiser fashion show/contest raised \$1,018.22 for Rural Mission, Inc.

For United Methodist Women, as in most of the world, change is a given. At General Conference in May, United Methodist Women became a fully autonomous organization reporting directly to the United Methodist Church. While we remain missionally connected to GBGM, what was known as Women's Division, the national policy making body, is being renamed United Methodist Women national. A 25-member Board of Directors elected by our members governs our organization. This board is responsible for managing program policies, finances, property and our chief executive, Harriett Jane Olson. At the SEJ meeting in Birmingham, Michelline (Miki) Cooper was elected to this 25-member Board of Directors and we are SO PROUD!!! In addition to the BOD a 70-80 member Program Advisory Group ensures that every conference has representation. Disciplinary oversight of United Methodist Deaconess and Home Missioner programs has been placed under United Methodist Women national. This action confirms United Methodist Women's direct administration of national and international work that has been funded by us for so long. What will NOT change is our long standing commitment to Mission and our fulfillment of the PURPOSE.

Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting was held in Birmingham (June 1st & 2nd) and about 35 of us enjoyed Bishop Violet Fisher's Bible study and vowed to always add a leaf to the table rather than exclude anyone! We clapped and sang and laughed with the Triumphant Quartet and participated in the election of the Southeastern Jurisdiction officers as well as six members of the Board of Directors. Janice Eaddy of the Hartsville District was elected as treasurer of this body.

We also celebrated Selena Smith's ordination as a Deaconess at General Conference in May. She is a member of the SCCUMW Committee on Nominations and a firefighter in Sumter. And Ann Alexander made the entire South Carolina Conference proud as she completed her term as dean of the Regional School of Mission in June at Huntingdon College in Montgomery. It was one of the best schools the SCCUMW has ever attended, and Ann made it all look easy!

Our School of Christian Mission was held at Spartanburg Methodist College August 2nd through the 5th. Our theme was *That All May Have Life* and the three studies were *Immigration and the Bible, Poverty and Haiti*. Enrollment for the School was 235. In 2013 the School of Christian Mission will be re-named **Mission U** to encourage greater participation from all age groups. The craft room at SOCM raised \$1,483.90 to be divided among our five Mission Projects and the three classes studying Poverty worked together to donate enough money to fund one water buffalo, one heifer, two pregnant goats, and 14 flocks of chickens to be sent to impoverished areas around the world. Gently worn shoes were brought in by those in attendance and were distributed through our five mission projects and were gratefully received.

Four women represented the SCCUMW at the first "Limitless Re-Define Tomorrow" meeting at Duke University August 2nd through the 5th. The team consisted of Chanel Santerin Brown, Teen Member-Anderson District; Azaviea S. Brown, Young Adult Member-Orangeburg District; Xiamoria Avreil Luckey, Teen Member-Hartsville District; and their Mentor, Gwendolyne Brown-Anderson District. This is a core group of young women who will work as a team for the next two years to reach out to more of our young women who are not involved in United Methodist Women.

The 2012 Youth Event was held in four different areas of the state. A total of 158 young women took part in this hands-on mission project decorating little girl pillowcase dresses for Africa and Haiti and making layette kits to go to UMCOR. The adults were thrilled with the opportunity to work with these young women.

On October 7th Bishop Jonathon Holston was installed as our new Resident Bishop at Union UMC in Irmo and many UMW attended the service. UMW served refreshments at the reception following the service and welcomed Bishop and Mrs. Holston to the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Our 40th Annual Meeting was held at St. John United Methodist Church in Rock Hill on Friday and Saturday, October 26-27 and was truly a wonderful experience! The Rock Hill District and the United Methodist Women of St. John's and the staff and many husbands of UMW were attentive to our every need. The welcome was warm and the Church itself was beautiful and inviting. The workshops were outstanding with topics ranging from: "Mission Impact"--held in the afternoon and featuring our five SC Mission projects--to the Friday evening workshops which covered a wide variety of topics. The theme for the Annual Meeting was "Stir the Flame" as Timothy was exhorted by Paul.

On Friday night the processional of the mission team began at 7:00 and was followed by a brief business session. The District Superintendent of Rock Hill, Rev. Joe Long, was the Liturgist for our Communion Service with a wonderful message focusing on the song of Mary found in Luke and challenging us to keep the song alive. Rev. Debra Quilling Smith shared her beautiful voice with us singing "How Beautiful" and was the Communion Celebrant. It was a wonderfully moving service. The evening ended with a birthday cake celebrating 40 years as United Methodist Women in South Carolina.

Saturday started out with a truly inspiring Bible study by Rev. Sheila Elliott, pastor of the York-St. James Charge who challenged us to keep the fire burning! She reminded us that the saying "Where there's smoke, there's fire" is not necessarily true. Many times a fire that is being smothered puts out more smoke than one burning brightly! The morning continued with the business meeting, recognition of special guests and greetings from our Bishop, Jonathan Holston, and his wife, Felicia. Bishop Holston reminded us that he, too, is a United Methodist Woman and that he is proud of what we are and what we do. A memorial service for those sisters who have gone before us touched our hearts and special Music from the St. James UMC Adult Choir brought us to our feet! Rev. Narcie Jeter, an ordained elder in the South Carolina Conference, pastor/director of the Gator Wesley Foundation in Gainesville, Florida, and Wesley Foundation Director at Winthrop University for the past six years, was our keynote speaker on Saturday. She shared her message from Jeremiah 20:9, charging us to be so on fire for the Lord that it would feel as the writer stated "... his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones ..." The children of Philadelphia UMC sang for us in the afternoon, and we were touched and thrilled with their music. Throughout the Annual Meeting our souls were stirred as we were challenged to be true to our purpose and to truly step out in faith to be the arms, legs, hands, and feet of Christ in this world.

I would be amiss if I did not mention the many losses that our Conference has suffered in this past year. Past Conference President Lois Burkhalter and Former Conference Vice President Virginia Smith have both been called home, and we dearly miss their presence at Conference events.

It has been a busy year and a privilege and honor to serve as President of the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women.

Linda J. DuRant, President

THE DISTRICT STUDY TASK FORCE REPORT

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

In accordance with the resolution, during the 2011-2012 Conference year the District Study Task Force:

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

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

Of the conferences in the SEJ that have reduced the number of districts we found no noticeable impact on the vital statistics of the churches in the conference. In fact, one study indicated that a reduction in the number of Districts resulted in a steeper decline in worship attendance and mission involvement of local congregations. For the most part it appears that Annual Conferences in which professions of faith and worship attendance had been declining before redistricting have continued to decline after redistricting.

In addition, information we gathered with regard to the workload of individual superintendents in the South Carolina Annual Conference indicated that there is no substantial difference between the districts. Those who have larger geographical areas and more congregations tend to have a higher percentage of multiple-point charges, and the discrepancy in the number of pastors per district is not as great as the discrepancy in the number of churches per district. The workload is also evened out by assigning superintendents of larger areas fewer responsibilities beyond the district, such as attending meetings of conference boards and committees.

The Task Force reported its findings to the 2012 Annual Conference, and recommended no changes in District lines. We concluded that the motivation for any changes must be on increasing our effectiveness in pursuing the church's mission, and drastic structural changes at the District level implemented for the sole purpose of relieving budgetary pressures may in the end result in even less effectiveness in pursuing our mission of making disciples. We believe that a large part of our focus should therefore be on identifying those churches and locales where the involvement of district superintendents and others will produce the greatest results.

Because district offices are inextricably part of the larger administrative system of the annual conference we recommended that the Task Force should be continued so that we could take those connections into consideration. That recommendation was passed. In June 2012 Rev. Willie Teague retired, and was replaced on the Task Force by Rev. Kathy James. Otherwise the Task Force membership remained the same.

During the 2012-2013 Conference year the Task Force has continued to study the data gathered. We determined that other Conference staff positions are dedicated to tasks that do not duplicate the work of District offices. For example, Congregational Specialists, added in 2005 to Conference Connectional Ministries, were put in place to facilitate that body's resourcing of local churches, but none of the duties of the Congregational Specialists were taken from the list of duties of District Superintendents.

After two years of study the Task Force recommends no changes in the current arrangement of Districts in South Carolina. We do encourage the Bishop and the Extended Cabinet to continue to pursue ways in which the District offices can be more effective in helping local churches to pursue their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ; to exercise a growing emphasis on the use of emerging technologies to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings; to

improve training for superintendents in world management principles; to accelerate the development of new congregations, especially exploring innovative ways of doing so; and to aggressively seek to revitalize existing congregations where the impact on surrounding communities is not currently as vital as needs be.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Paul Harmon (Chair)

Rev. Robin Dease

Dr. Joseph Heyward

Rev. Ken Nelson

Ms. Earline Ulmer

Dr. David Braddon

Dr. Thomas Edmonds

Rev. Kathy James

Rev. Timothy Rogers

Rev. Sara White

Ms. Freda Brock

Mr. Roger Hayes

Ms. Mary Johnson

Rev. Michael Turner

Rev. Neil Yongue

THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

What a very special privilege and blessing to serve on the bishop's cabinet in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church! There is a spirit of genuine collegiality among the members of the cabinet, and we celebrate that! While we have our differences as individual cabinet members, we take very seriously the responsibilities of leadership that have been entrusted to us, and we work closely together and support one another as we address issues, concerns, and challenges in our respective districts and in the Annual Conference.

The 2012-2013 conference year began with the ongoing leadership of Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor. Bishop Taylor gave the South Carolina Conference very capable leadership for eight years, and then in July, 2012, she was assigned to the Holston Conference, her "home" conference. We are very grateful for the episcopal leadership Bishop Taylor provided for us, so she was certainly "sent forth" with our appreciation and with God's blessings.

On July 18, 2012, at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, The Reverend Jonathan Holston, Senior Pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Atlanta, was elected to the episcopacy on the very first ballot, receiving 312 votes and needing 254 for election. The newly-elected bishop immediately moved into a posture of prayer! A few days later, much to the delight of the South Carolina Conference delegation and others from South Carolina, Bishop Jonathan Holston was assigned as the episcopal leader of the Columbia Area of The United Methodist Church. We were thrilled with his assignment to our great Conference, and we are delighted to have Bishop Jonathan and Felecia Holston as United Methodism's bishop and "first lady" in South Carolina!

As a cabinet, we are very thankful for Bishop Jonathan Holston and for the spiritual and administrative leadership he is giving to the clergy and laity of the South Carolina Conference. From the moment he began his ministry in South Carolina on September 1, 2012, Bishop Holston has been working hard to "connect" with United Methodists throughout the Conference. He has spent numerous hours meeting with Conference boards, committees, and commissions, with Conference leaders, and with individuals, including one-on-one consultations with each member of the cabinet. Bishop Holston indicated early in his tenure that he wanted to concentrate on listening, visiting, and observing as much as possible, and he has certainly done that. One of the many ways Bishop Holston has "connected" effectively with South Carolina United Methodists has been through Listening Sessions in every district. Laity and clergy alike have been inspired by Bishop Holston's sensitivity to the needs of congregations and clergy in the Annual Conference, and everyone is so appreciative of his accessibility, availability, and visibility! As members of the cabinet, we want to encourage all United Methodists in the Conference to pray daily for Bishop and Mrs. Holston as they continue to provide the wonderful leadership they have been sharing with us. We are very blessed to have these two awesome people among us!

When Bishop Holston arrived in South Carolina, he asked some very significant questions in his conversations with groups, individuals, and cabinet members: *What are the biggest challenges the South Carolina Annual Conference is facing (or will face) in the future? Why is our Annual Conference facing (or going to face) these challenges? What are the most promising untapped growth opportunities? What would we need to do to bear the potential of these opportunities? If you were me, what would you focus your attention on?* The responses to these questions were certainly as different as the persons who answered them.

As cabinet members, we agree that we're facing many *challenges* as an Annual Conference and that these challenges need to be addressed as openly, as honestly, and as effectively as possible. At the same time, we believe that we need to look at these challenges as *opportunities*

to dialogue with one another, to pray and work in a spirit of unity and love, and to move forward together in mission and ministry. Bishop Holston's vision for The United Methodist Church in South Carolina is indeed to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," and we share that vision and hope that United Methodist clergy and laity share that vision as well. Everything we do in our churches and in the Conference should be done to fulfill the mission of our denomination. In the Listening Sessions over the past several months, Bishop Holston has been challenging pastors and churches to be on "the cutting edge" of mission and ministry. It's time to change the culture of how we do ministry. Congregations need to move beyond the "status quo" and do ministry differently in order to reach "more people, younger people, and more diverse people." If we do ministry "the way we've always done it," we will not be able to reach our growing and diverse population, but if we're willing to "dream big" and "think outside the box," The United Methodist Church in South Carolina will surely "make a difference" in transforming our state, nation, and world. Of course, any "movement" that brings glory to God must begin with a personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ and to Christ's ongoing redemptive mission, so as cabinet members, as laity, and as clergy, each of us is challenged to take inventory of our lives to be sure we are personally committed to the ministry and mission of the Church – and then let's band together in a strong partnership to do God's work!

One of the major concerns among the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference is direct billing. Be assured that Bishop Holston and the cabinet are concerned as well and are listening to those congregations that are struggling financially during these tough economic times. We will be in ongoing conversation with Tony Prestipino, our Conference Treasurer, and with Rev. David Anderson, our Pensions and Health Benefits Officer, and together we will be looking for positive ways to address the issues surrounding direct billing. We feel it is very important to do something to help our small and mid-size churches that are struggling the most. A number of these congregations are "over their heads" with direct billing deficits, and this "burden" has become a distraction from focusing on effective ministry in the communities where they're located. As a cabinet, we are very aware of the financial struggles that many of our churches are facing, so we are committed to find ways to offer them relief. While direct billing is not going to "go away," we feel that the time has come to DO something so that every church in the South Carolina Conference can direct more attention to "Kingdom work" and not be so overwhelmed by financial concerns and stress.

While direct billing is a concern of the cabinet, there are other matters that are frequently on our agenda. Bishop Holston and the cabinet will continue to address issues surrounding the effectiveness of clergy and congregations and the appointment of "the right persons to the right places," using Bishop Holston's words. We will have ongoing conversation about the development of a plan of ministry appropriate for South Carolina United Methodism. Movement toward paying a greater percentage of apportionments and telling the story about how that can "make a difference" in the Church, in society, and in peoples' lives will be a focus for the cabinet in the year ahead.

THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE has redefined the role of the district superintendent. Paragraph 419 says, in part: "The Church expects, as part of the superintendent ministry, that the superintendent will be the chief missional strategist of the district...working with persons across the Church to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world." As district superintendents and "chief missional strategists" in our respective districts, we will be "living into" this new role, and we will seek to be the leaders that our clergy and laity desire and deserve. We want to provide a level of leadership that focuses on people. We believe the development of partnerships between clergy and laity in each district will help United Methodism to move forward in ministry and in making disciples. We will be encouraging and challenging the pastors and the members of congregations in every district to seek "a more excellent way" as they respond to the call to discipleship through "serving, giving, and living" – and *loving* like Jesus as they respond to that call!

As cabinet members, we are very excited about the future of South Carolina United Methodism under the episcopal leadership of Bishop Jonathan Holston. Let's "hold him up" in prayer, let's pray for each other, and let's work together toward "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. (Dickie) Knight
Dean of the Cabinet

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

In 2012, twenty-seven annual conferences invested in Africa University at the level of 100% of their general church asking for the Africa University Fund (AUF). Other annual conferences increased their support and the overall effort pushed giving to the AUF to a new record of 93.35%.

Africa University relies on the church's ongoing investment in the AUF to provide for the day-to-day and operational expenses of the institution. **The university is deeply grateful to the South Carolina Conference for investing 90% of its asking to the AUF. The conference fell short of a 100% investment in the AUF by \$6,105, the equivalent of a year's tuition fees for two students.**

We commend the conference for increasing its investment in the AUF by 9% over the past two years. **Please make a 100% investment in the AUF your goal for 2013. Encourage your local congregation to give generously this year because demand for an Africa University education is growing.** More than 1,200 qualified applicants sought admission in August 2012. The university had space for only about 400 freshmen. Currently, women account for 52% of the total enrollment, which stands at 1,386 students. In addition, 25 African nations are represented in the student body.

Scholarships and financial aid grants are vital to access. More than 90% of the students at Africa University need assistance – scholarships, financial aid grants and work study – in order to pay their tuition and other fees. For the vast majority, a direct or endowed scholarship award made possible by your generosity is their only means of attending university.

Throughout 2012, the 20th anniversary celebrations highlighted the crucial role that Africa University is already playing in the life of our global church. The Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya, for example, is superintendent of the Zambia Provisional Conference and a member of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church for 2013-2016. Across Africa, more than 4,700 graduates are helping to eradicate hunger, poverty, disease, conflict and hopelessness.

For its third decade of ministry, Africa University is focusing on accessibility and impact. Increasing the availability of scholarships for students and developing online distance learning programs are the university's highest priorities as it seeks to equip more Africans to change lives and transform communities.

South Carolina United Methodists have a wonderful record of engagement with Africa University. You have provided scholarships for needy students and a valuable teaching resource – the Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey Faculty of Theology Building. Your ongoing contributions keep the lights on and ensure that Africa University has dedicated faculty to inspire, train, and nurture a generation of new leaders.

We thank you for giving Africa University a solid foundation. Help us to build on that foundation in ways that will continue to uplift African communities and grow the church. **Thank you for your investment in the "School of Dreams" – Africa University: Changing Africa: Learning here. Living here. Leading here. Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.**

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

On June 25, 1913 the first conference was held at Lake Junaluska, NC. Several thousand people attended the event focused on raising awareness and money for the missionary movement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Despite having no lodging facilities, no completed dam, but a nearly finished auditorium the participants were deeply inspired and gave generously for the work of the church. In today's dollars \$3.5 million was raised for missions. What a wonderful beginning that was for this amazing place that has served the United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies for 100 years. We have much to be thankful for and we have much to be hopeful for as we celebrate our centennial year.

How grateful we are for the partnership we have had over the years with the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church and with the annual conferences associated with it. We began as a place to serve the Church and we continue to do so today. While the relationship between Lake Junaluska and the SEJ continues to evolve, we are excited about our ability to continue to strengthen the UMC through fulfilling our mission *to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.* Thank you for the generous support you have provided to Lake Junaluska over these 100 years with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your witness.

2012 was a wonderful year for Lake Junaluska. The highlight of the year for all of us was the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in July. What a thrill it was for all of our staff to be responsible for providing great Christian hospitality as the delegates selected five new bishops of the United Methodist Church. 2012 was a very good year for us financially. While we received \$750,000 less in operational apportionment support than we did in 2009, we ended the year with a balance of nearly \$100,000. The main message we tried to convey to the delegates who attended the SEJ Conference was that we have been good stewards of the resources that were provided. One symbolic and functional reflection of our mission of *renewal* was the presence of 100 new Lake Junaluska branded rocking chairs spread throughout the campus. Thousands of hours of *renewal* have taken place in these rockers in the last year.

The future is very bright for Lake Junaluska. Not only did we balance our budget in 2012, we are off to a great start in 2013 and believe that we can continue to provide high quality service and experiences while living within our means. We have a renewed commitment to Christian hospitality. Our vision document states that we want to be *the standard against which other organizations measure themselves for Christian hospitality*. We have improved greatly in this area, but we will get much better. We are streamlining systems and focusing extensively on the needs and desires of our guests.

A campus master plan has been approved by our Board of Directors that will include an addition to and renovation of historic Lambuth Inn, the complete renovation of Jones Dining Hall, the completion of the renovation of the Terrace Hotel, and the replacement of the Harrell Center. The first and most important project is Lambuth Inn. We will be adding a conference center to the north side of Lambuth that will accommodate up to 400 people. In addition, all of the sleeping, meeting, eating, and gathering spaces will be renovated. It is our hope that we can break ground on this project in 2013 and have it completed in early 2015.

Another very significant event occurring in 2013 may be the transfer of municipal services from Lake Junaluska Assembly to the town of Waynesville. Waynesville and Lake Junaluska have been inextricably linked together from the beginning and this transfer of municipal services is being pursued as a culmination of a yearlong process engaging all property owners and the leadership of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. The "DNA" of Lake Junaluska will not be changed as a result of this transfer, formally known as annexation.

Pick up a copy of our 2013 Program Book, if you do not already have one. Peruse its pages to relive some of the great history of Lake Junaluska and read about our bright future. Review the numerous activities planned for our centennial year and determine when you can come and visit us this year to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Grace and Peace,

Jack Ewing, Executive Director and CEO

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

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

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 478, with 365 seeking the Master of Divinity, 50 the Master of Theological Studies, 30 the Master of Theology, 18 the Doctor of Theology, and 15 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 10 percent international, and 50 percent women. Half of MDiv students are United Methodist, with forty-three denominations represented in all programs. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 27, with 58 percent under 30.

Candler remains steadfastly committed to making theological education financially feasible, dedicating nearly \$5 million to financial aid. Eighty percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 66 percent of tuition.

Construction preparations for the second phase of the Candler's new building got underway at the end of 2012 thanks to an extraordinary gift of \$15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation. The new building, which will house Pitts Theology Library, community space, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel, will be completed in late spring of 2014 in time for Candler's Centennial Celebration. Candler's phase one building was named in memory of Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake, in honor of its generous financial gift.

Candler had an excellent presence at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa. In addition to my attendance, Associate Dean Anne Burkholder took a class of 20 students so they could learn firsthand about United Methodist governance. Assistant Dean Mathew Pinson and Dr. Alice Rogers attended as delegates, and the Candler Singers, directed by Barbara Day Miller, performed at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry reception and the plenary session.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 19 academic exchanges with theology schools across five continents and 15 countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, this year's travel seminars included the Middle East and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to Zimbabwe, Peru, and Israel.

Our public events supported our commitment to strengthen the church by offering opportunities for clergy and lay people to hear fresh, new voices. Last fall we hosted Christian activist and bestselling author Shane Claiborne for two major addresses, "Jesus for President" and "Resurrecting Church," with nearly 1,000 in attendance. Our Spring Conference, "The Singing Church," gathered experts to lead an exploration of the best practices and emerging trends of congregational song.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

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

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The academic year 2012-2013 has been a time to set a vision for the future of Duke Divinity School and to clarify our mission of serving Jesus Christ and His church. This has been the first full academic year of the full-term appointment of Dean Richard Hays and Executive Vice Dean Lacey Warner. Our academic programs continue to train talented, committed men and women for ministry. Our centers, programs, and initiatives continue to build bridges between the work of the Divinity School and the needs of the church, academy, and the world. But we have identified challenges to our central mission of preparing future leaders for the church, and we have also identified steps that we can take to meet those challenges in this year and the years ahead.

One of the greatest challenges we face is helping students financially afford a seminary education. Like nearly every other seminary and divinity school, our students face rising costs and limited means to pay for their tuition and expenses. Ninety percent of our students qualify for financial aid, yet we are currently unable to provide enough aid to meet their needs. This has resulted in our students being forced to take out student loans. Among those who graduated in 2012 with student loans from their divinity school education, their average student-loan debt was \$44,500. For men and women who desire to enter ministry, whether as pastors or nonprofit service or hospital chaplains, this amount of debt is a tremendous burden and inhibits their ability to pursue vocations that are not financially lucrative.

We believe that it is critically important for the future of the church to have pastors and leaders who are trained and formed by both rigorous academics and a deep commitment to Scripture and the rich tradition of the church. Duke Divinity School is participating in the comprehensive

campaign launched by Duke University in 2012, Duke Forward. We have designated almost half of our overall campaign fundraising goal for student financial aid. We want to remove the barrier of finances from qualified students receiving an education at Duke Divinity School, and we want to eliminate the burden of student-loan debt from graduates being able to follow their calling into ministry. To date, the campaign has received \$15 million toward our goal of \$36 million for student financial aid.

Duke Divinity School continues to welcome energetic, diverse, and talented students to our degree programs. In 2012, our total enrollment was 650 students: 449 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 50 in the M.T.S.; 18 in the Th.M.; 44 in the Th.D.; 36 in the D.Min.; 27 in the M.A.C.P.; 14 in the M.A.C.S.; and 12 who are special students. Forty-one percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 18 percent from other Wesleyan traditions. Fifteen percent are Baptist, 9 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, 6 percent are Roman Catholic, 5 percent are Presbyterian, with the remaining 6 percent from other denominations or nondenominational churches.

Our faculty at Duke Divinity School continues to demonstrate excellent scholarship and passion for the church. Anthea Portier-Young, associate professor of Old Testament, received one of 10 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Awards for Theological Promise (formerly known as the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise). This prestigious international prize honors the most outstanding doctoral or first postdoctoral books; Portier-Young received the award for her book, *Apocalypse against Empire: Theologies of Resistance in Early Judaism* (Eerdmans, 2011). Lauren Winner, assistant professor of Christian spirituality, received several awards for her book *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*. It was named a "Best Book of 2012" in the religion category by *Publishers Weekly*, and *Christianity Today* awarded it Book of the Year honors in the spirituality category. Other faculty awards include Henry Luce III Fellowships for both Richard Lischer and Paul Griffiths, a grant from the Lilly Endowment for Mark Chaves, and a Lilly Theological Research Grant for Kate Bowler.

In addition to their prestigious academic work, our faculty members have participated in projects that demonstrate the intersection of faith and theology with pressing issues in our world today. Ellen Davis and Norman Wirzba received a grant to support a conference on food security in Africa. Douglas Campbell co-directed the Restorative Justice Studio with the Duke Center for Civic Engagement, which brings together members of the Divinity School community and local Durham community practitioners of restorative justice. Esther Acolatse co-taught a Duke Law course that traveled to Ghana to meet with religious leaders and women's rights groups about proposed legislation that would alter spousal intestate succession and property rights. These are only a few examples of the wide participation of our faculty across Duke University, the Durham community, and the global church.

Several new faculty joined us in 2012. Luke Bretherton was appointed associate professor of theological ethics and senior fellow with the Kenan Institute for Ethics. His current area of research focuses on the intersection between Christianity, grassroots democracy, responses to poverty, and patterns of interfaith relations. Craig Dykstra joined the faculty as research professor of practical theology and senior fellow at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. Since 1989 he has served as senior vice president for religion at Lilly Endowment. Luke Powery was named dean of Duke Chapel and associate professor of the practice of homiletics at Duke Divinity School. His teaching and research interests include preaching, worship, pneumatology, performance studies and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora. Meredith Riedel was appointed assistant professor of the history of Christianity. She has a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford and studies the medieval Middle East, especially military and diplomatic interactions between Christendom and Islam. Beth Sheppard became the new director of the Divinity School Library and associate professor of the practice of theological bibliography. She has degrees in library science and a Ph.D. in biblical studies, and she publishes in both fields. Two additional new faculty members began their service with us in January 2013. Jeffrey Conklin-Miller earned his Th.D. from Duke Divinity School and was named assistant professor of the practice of Christian formation. He also is the director of the Master of Arts in Christian Practice degree program. David Marshall joined us as an associate professor of the practice of Christian-Muslim relations and the director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies. He is a priest in the Church of England and has served as chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from Birmingham University.

In addition to the research and work of our faculty, our departments, centers, initiatives, and programs engaged with the church and social issues in 2012. To increase our ability to provide spiritual and ministerial formation for our students, Susan Pendleton Jones was appointed associate dean for United Methodist initiatives and ministerial formation. Her role allows

the Divinity School to participate in substantive conversation with the bishops, boards of ordination, and divinity students. Matthew Floding was appointed director of field education and ministerial formation, particularly to work with our non-United Methodist students as they prepare for ministry.

The work of the Clergy Health Initiative received national attention this year for its findings about health interventions for clergy. Their research has indicated that preventive care programs for clergy must be done in the context of their beliefs, congregations, and institutional structures. To implement this, the Clergy Health Initiative has launched Spirited Life, a multi-year health initiative funded by The Duke Endowment. The first group of participants, who completed the program in 2012, lost significant amounts of weight and lowered their risk for metabolic syndrome.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts presented director Jeremy Begbie and London-based concert pianist Cordelia Williams in a two-piano concert in Goodson Chapel featuring Olivier Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen*. They first performed this work during the Holy Week celebration at Kings College Chapel at the University of Cambridge in England. Representatives including faculty, students, and friends of Duke Divinity School collaborated with colleagues in Cambridge on both theological and artistic projects. In January 2013 they sponsored "Engaging Eliot: *Four Quartets* in Word, Color, and Sound," an event that featured art, music, and theological conversation inspired by T.S. Eliot's masterpiece, *Four Quartets*. Duke Chapel hosted an exhibition of paintings by artists Makoto Fujimura and Bruce Herman, and Jeremy Begbie played with Duke's own Ciompi Quartet in a performance of a new piece, "At the Still Point," composed for the event by Christopher Theofanides.

The Center for Reconciliation hosted leaders from China, Korea, and Japan for three days of meetings and conversation. Participants included Lung-kwong Lo, president of the Methodist Church of Hong Kong, and Nora Bynum, associate vice provost for global strategy and programs and managing director for Duke Kunshan University and China initiatives. The meetings followed a yearlong engagement with Christian leaders in Asia to assess the possibility of beginning a reconciliation project in the region modeled after the Summer Institute held at Duke and the African Great Lakes Initiative Leadership Institute held in Uganda.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity introduced a new service called Generative Solutions, designed to equip institutions with a process for doing research, defining challenges, and proposing experiments in order to move forward in the face of complex institutional situations. *Faith & Leadership* (www.faithandleadership.com), the online journal of LEADD, had more than 200,000 unique visitors this year.

The Divinity School Library has received a \$110,000 grant from the State Library of North Carolina for the digital project, "Religion in North Carolina," which will be a collection of primary materials of religious bodies in North Carolina. Project partners are other libraries at Duke University and the libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University. The collection will preserve and provide access to 8,000 volumes of the main materials of religious bodies from every county in the state.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Dean Richard B. Hays

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

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

African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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

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

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Included below are just a few of the examples of how this great historic institution of the church has lived out its mission and furthered its vision:

- 1) In last year's report to this Annual Conference, we shared the great news of Gammon enrolling its largest entering class on record in the fall of 2011. This record was shattered as Gammon enrolled an even larger first year class in the fall of 2012. In fact, under the leadership of the current President, Dr. Albert D. Mosley, Gammon has experienced over an 80% increase in enrollment, and the average age of entering students continues to be younger and younger. Gammon is privileged to serve as a training ground for the next generation of prophetic leaders who will engage in the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- 2) In August of 2012, Gammon hosted its first ever Racial Justice Institute. The Racial Justice Institute is a component of the Gammon Center for the Study of Religion and Race (a program funded by a generous grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race). Over 35 college students, professors, social activists, and community leaders from around the country gathered on Gammon's campus for a week-long intensive immersion experience that explored issues of health care reform, unemployment, affordable housing, immigration policy, and marriage/gender equality. The Racial Justice Institute concluded with a very successful Immigration Reform Rally on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol using GCORR's theme – "*Drop the I-Word: No Child of God is Illegal.*" The Racial Justice Institute enabled Gammon to continue its great work of addressing issues of cultural competency, advocacy and education in areas that further racial justice and equity.
- 3) This past fall, in advance of the 2012 Presidential Election, Gammon launched a comprehensive Voter Registration/Voter Education Campaign in the Atlanta University Center. This campaign enabled Gammon students to register students at Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark-Atlanta University, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. In addition to registering to over 500 previously unregistered college students, Gammon also sponsored a series of *Issues Sessions* that were designed to enlighten voters about the prevalent social, political, and economical issues in advance of their participating in the election process.

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

Dr. Albert Mosley, President-Dean

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Perkins received positive evaluations from all three of our accrediting bodies during the past year: The Association of Theological Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

New faculty and staff members are strengthening our mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry. D. Max Whitfield was named Bishop in Residence for 2012-2016, while Dr. Brad R. Braxton joined our faculty as Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics and Dr. James Kang Hoon Lee joined our faculty as assistant profes-

sor of the History of Early Christianity. Dr. Arlene Sánchez Walsh, associate professor in the Graduate School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University, was 2012-2013 visiting professor. Dr. Mark W. Stamm, Christian Worship, and Dr. Rebekah Miles, Ethics and Practical Theology, were promoted to full professor. Rev. Connie Nelson was selected as director of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations, and Dr. Rebecca Frank Bruff became director of our Center for Religious Leadership. Dr. Ruben Habito, professor of World Religions and Spirituality, was named Interim Coordinator of the Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction programs, an administrative transition shifting these important responsibilities to a highly qualified full-time faculty member. Searches for new faculty members in the fields of History of Christianity and Christian Theology have resulted in candidates with exceptional promise, and we anticipate filling those positions for the start of the 2013-2014 academic year.

Our 2012 entering class has a median age of 29 – the first time in nearly a decade that the median age has been under 30. Among all Perkins students, more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than one-third are persons of color. The Doctor of Ministry program continues to grow with new cohorts of students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and in Dallas. Our Ph.D. program, one of only two highly rated doctoral programs among the 15 at SMU, includes two Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of Latino/Christianity and Religions.

To be sure, Perkins is not immune from the challenges faced by schools of theology and seminaries across the United States. However, we are blessed with gifted faculty and staff members, inspiring students, beautiful facilities, and vibrant ministries. We thank our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for continuing generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

Grace and Peace,

William B. Lawrence, Dean and Professor of American Church History

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

The Hinton Rural Life Center is a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church and located in the Smoky Mountain Conference with a budget of \$1.2 million. The Hinton Center, a year-round Christian retreat, is located on breath-taking Lake Chatuge on the North Carolina-Georgia line. The retreat has a wide range of accommodations including houses with lake views, the mountain lodge, hermitage cottages, group retreat houses, and RV sites. Whether you're looking for overnight accommodations for private retreat and renewal or seeking facilities for a church group, Hinton is sure to have something for you. Our retreat includes multiple conference rooms, a serene setting for weddings and receptions, a Fair Trade and Local Artisan Gift Shop, dining rooms, trails, complimentary wi-fi service, a lake-side pavilion with dock, indoor and outdoor chapels, and a rocking chair porch overlooking beautiful Lake Chatuge! Perhaps the best thing about staying at Hinton is your opportunity to pay it forward. The revenue generated through Hinton Center accommodations helps to fund housing repairs, firewood ministry, and programming that focus on building healthy and effective communities of faith.

These core ministries include: Small Membership Church Consultation, First Parish Project (FPP), Volunteer Mission Experience, Self-Help Affordable Housing, Firewood Ministry, and the hospitality of our Conference and Retreat Center. Providing over 13,000 overnight stays last year alone, we were able to provide time for rest, reflection, and renewal for guests in a place that is embraced by God's creation. For over 100 families of Appalachia in the small western corner of North Carolina, we were able to send God's love through volunteers who helped make the houses warmer, drier, and safer. In the winter, our staff and volunteers delivered firewood to over 30 families in our community who often make a choice between heat and food or heat and medicine.

In addition to these ministries listed above, Hinton has been meeting the needs of small membership and rural life congregations for fifty-two years. In the 1950's and 1960's, we encouraged these congregations learn to establish Sundays Schools, in the 1970's and 1980's we assisted congregations to reinvent worship and praise services in the 1990's and after the turn into the 21st Century, we consulted with these congregations to develop clergy and laity leader skills, lay speaker and presentation skills, innovative teaching and learning skills for those of all ages.

Today Hinton Center Consultants are collaborating with these congregations through district and other organizational means to build sustainable congregations. Congregations are

being equipped to understand their identity, the Calling from God, reconnecting with their local community and neighbors and meeting the most underserved needs locally. Congregations all across the Southeast are responding joyfully to fan the Methodist flame to spread God's reign right there in the local areas. These congregations are the backbone of our North American witness and critical for the contagious Methodist movement to continue.

For more information about Hinton Center, please go to our website at www.hintoncenter.org or follow the QR Code on your mobile device! To support our ministries, donations can be sent directly to the Hinton Center or offered through The Advance #731372. Thank you for your support.

Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb