

## SECTION VII

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

#### THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

##### Recommended Action to the 2014 Annual Conference

In 2013 we achieved a new recent high in apportionment giving at almost 90%. This reflects a consistent increase over several years. Our Resident Bishop, Jonathan Holston, has encouraged and challenged us to move forward. This year in 2014 his target is 95%. I mailed appreciation cards to all clergy members, Church Council Chairs and Local Church Lay Leaders whose churches paid 100% of their apportionments or increased their giving during the past Conference year. All disciples of Christ are called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank each United Methodist in South Carolina for their generosity of all gifts in 2013.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference in the Calendar/Conference Year 2015. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and most faithful reflection. The overall budget targets help us actually achieve the intended goal of setting this at or around 15% of average net funds by 2015. CF&A seeks 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. We are also very excited about our upcoming Stewardship Summit this fall in the Columbia area.

The Council is making significant progress toward the accomplishment of our goals for the years 2012 – 2016. CF&A is constantly grateful for the calm, effective and efficient ministry of our Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Anthony "Tony" Prestipino and his helpful staff in the use of the resources of our Annual Conference.

*The Reverend David C. Surrent, President, Council on Finance and Admin.*

#### Report No. 1

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2015 will be set at \$96,101. (DS compensation for 2013 was \$91,200, and for 2014 is \$94,217.)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby initially designates 15% (\$14,415) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2015 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) 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 \$12,800 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$153,600. In addition, insurance and pensions is expected to be approximately \$327,742 (\$27,312 per district), and continuing education will be set at the amount recommended by the Commission of Equitable Compensation (currently at \$750 per superintendent).
  - 4) 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.

- 5) 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 requirements of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2015 will be as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>2013 Membership</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Anderson	14,178	3,500
Charleston	24,834	4,500
Columbia	34,203	5,400
Florence	17,789	3,800
Greenville	21,126	4,100
Greenwood	16,033	3,600
Hartsville	18,847	3,900
Marion	22,387	4,200
Orangeburg	18,197	3,800
Rock Hill	16,569	3,700
Spartanburg	15,677	3,600
Walterboro	14,148	3,500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>233,988</b>	<b>47,600</b>

- 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:

<b>District</b>	<b>Parsonage</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Avg. Net Funds</b>
Anderson	\$ 15,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 52,000	.007109
Charleston	23,000	40,000	63,000	.005771
Columbia	25,000	45,000	70,000	.004143
Florence	25,000	45,000	70,000	.009464
Greenville	30,000	30,000	60,000	.005382
Greenwood	45,000	35,000	80,000	.010567
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	.006092
Marion	50,000	25,000	75,000	.007124
Orangeburg	25,000	40,000	65,000	.009564
Rock Hill	10,000	27,000	37,000	.004914
Spartanburg	22,000	25,000	47,000	.006161
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.013756
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 312,000</b>	<b>\$ 421,000</b>	<b>\$ 733,000</b>	

#### Report No. 2

- 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 18, 2015  
 Golden Cross Sunday – February 1, 2015  
 One Great Hour of Sharing – March 15, 2015  
 Native American Awareness Sunday – April 19, 2015  
 Peace with Justice Sunday – May 31, 2015  
 Epworth Children's Home  
 Mothers' Day – May 10, 2015  
 Work Day – September 13, 2015  
 Church school offering first Sunday each month

Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 9, 2015  
Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 20, 2015 (youth offering)  
World Communion Sunday – October 4, 2015  
Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 1, 2015  
United Methodist Student Day – November 29, 2015

- B. 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 2015 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2013 and 2012. Newly organized churches will be phased in over four years, 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 48 through 57 (inclusive) of Table 2 (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 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2015, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 15) That local churches of the conference incorporate. An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at [www.umcsc.org](http://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. 3**

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 2015 to contribute what was apportioned for these funds in 2009. 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. 4**

Whereas, The United Methodist Relief Center (UMRC) exited bankruptcy in 2014 with a balance of \$193,456.17 due to the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Therefore be it Resolved that, Council on Finance and Administration recommends that \$193,456.17 be redesignated from the Annual Conference Trustees, specifically the funds from the Sale of the Asbury Clark property, to the amount due on the UMRC Debt.

**Report No. 5**

Following is a listing of the 2013 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2014 apportionments.

<b>District</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2013</b>
Anderson	7,314,250	Hartsville	8,043,519
Charleston	10,917,528	Marion	10,527,317
Columbia	16,897,362	Orangeburg	6,796,068
Florence	7,396,088	Rock Hill	7,529,647
Greenville	11,149,186	Spartanburg	7,628,425
Greenwood	7,570,734	Walterboro	4,725,178
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106,494,401</b>		

**(CF&A REPORTS 6, 7 AND 8 CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGES)**

Report No. 6

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 6, Report No. 8) shall be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2014	Requested for 2015	Recommended for 2015	% Change
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	20000	20000	20000	0.0%
3 Ministers Book	4000	4000	1000	-75.0%
4 Director of Administrative Services Office (Less Benefits Administration Carry-Over)	717750	717750	717750	0.0%
5 Print Media Services Deficit Reduction	-42000	40000	20000	-100.0%
6 Conference Expense Fund	240000	240000	240000	-50.0%
7 Administrative Committees	3000	3000	3000	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	45000	45000	45000	0.0%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	26000	26000	26000	0.0%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	184197	184197	190000	3.2%
11 General Conference Delegates	5000	5000	5000	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	45000	45000	15000	-66.7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,557,947</b>	<b>\$ 1,599,947</b>	<b>\$ 1,552,750</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

Report No. 7

The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 1, Report No. 8) will be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2014	Requested for 2015	Requested 2015	% Change
<b>A. Connectional Ministries</b>				
<b>1. Conference Advance Specials</b>				
Ministry Programs	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (1)</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2. Board/Agency Programs</b>				
District Councils	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	0.0%
The Board of Church and Society	18,000	18,000	18,000	0.0%
The Board of Education	10,000	7,000	7,000	-30.0%
The Board of Evangelism	1,000	750	750	-25.0%
The Board of Global Ministries	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	33,000	27,000	27,000	-18.2%
The Board of Laity	13,000	13,000	13,000	0.0%
The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	1,250	750	750	-40.0%
The Commission on Religion & Race	1,000	750	750	-25.0%
The Commission on Worship	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
The Commission on The Status & Role of Women	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
The Commission on Archives and History	3,000	750	750	-75.0%
The Committee on ELCC	37,750	37,750	37,750	0.0%
The Committee on Native American Ministry	3,750	3,750	3,750	0.0%
Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%
Disaster Response	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Division on Young People	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (2)</b>	<b>\$ 298,150</b>	<b>\$ 285,900</b>	<b>\$ 285,900</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>

<b>5. Communications</b>									
Electronics	\$	42,500	\$	42,500	\$	42,500	\$	42,500	0.0%
Resource Center		28,000		22,000		22,000		22,000	-21.4%
Public & Media Relations		30,000		20,000		20,000		20,000	-33.3%
<b>Sub-totals (5)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>100,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>-15.9%</b>
<b>6. Advocate</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,192,664</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,151,414</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,151,414</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,151,414</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
<b>C. Other Conference Agencies</b>									
Cabinet Emergency Fund	\$	23,000	\$	23,000	\$	23,000	\$	23,000	0.0%
Bishop's Contingency Fund		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000	0.0%
Episcopal Office		12,000		12,000		12,000		12,000	0.0%
Committee on Episcopacy		1,500		1,500		1,500		1,500	0.0%
Episcopal Residence		20,000		20,000		20,000		20,000	0.0%
Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract		21,700		22,500		22,500		22,500	3.7%
Ordained Ministry									
1) Operations		49,730		49,730		49,730		49,730	0.0%
2) Career Planning Programs		20,000		20,000		20,000		20,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>157,930</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>158,730</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>158,730</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>158,730</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,350,594</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,310,144</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,310,144</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,310,144</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

**Report No. 8**

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

FUND	Approved for 2014	Requested for 2015	Recommended for 2015	% Change	Average Net Funds Factor
1 Conference Benevolences	\$ 2,350,594	\$ 2,415,594	\$ 2,310,144	-1.7%	
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1952536	1952536	1952536	0.0%	
3 District Superintendents Salary	1130606	1097683	1153216	2.0%	
4 Equitable Compensation	425000	650000	550000	29.4%	
5 District Administration	830000	820000	830000	0.0%	
6 Conference Administration	1557947	1572751	1552750	-0.3%	
7 Camps & Retreat Ministries	311907.8	350000	328000	5.2%	
8 Congregational Development	960000	960,000	960000	0.0%	
9 Senior College Scholarships	1167160.5	1,324,832	1167160.5	0.0%	
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	634838	850,000	634838	0.0%	
11 Campus Ministry	637,801	637,801	637,801	0.0%	
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	540228	589713	540228	0.0%	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 12,498,618</b>	<b>\$ 13,220,910</b>	<b>\$ 12,616,674</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.0000%</b>
13 World Service **	\$ 2,060,254	\$ 2,045,912	\$ 2,045,912	-0.7%	
14 Episcopal Fund **	601590	613614	613614	2.0%	
15 General Conference Administration **	248663	246952	246952	-0.7%	
16 Ministerial Education **	707317	702384	702384	-0.7%	
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	55291	54958	54958	-0.6%	



FUND	Approved for 2014	Requested for 2015	Recommended for 2015	% Change	Average Net Funds Factor
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	55291	54958	54958	-0.6%	
18 Black College **	282129	280188	280188	-0.7%	
19 Africa University **	63136	62695	62695	-0.7%	
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	85093.25	85093.25	85093.25	0.0%	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 4,103,473</b>	<b>\$ 4,091,796</b>	<b>\$ 4,091,796</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>0.0000%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 16,602,092</b>	<b>\$ 17,312,706</b>	<b>\$ 16,708,470</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>15.6894%</b>

\*\* Line items marked with \*\* are General Conference apportioned funds.  
# Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.  
\* 15.6894% of the 2013 Avg Net Funds of \$106.5 million

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

**DIRECT BILLING FORGIVENESS PLAN AND APPLICATION FORM**  
**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

***Highlights***

The South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church transitioned to a plan of direct billing to local congregations in 2004 and 2005. As other Annual Conferences within the connection, the purpose was to ask each church to provide full responsibility for their pastor(s)'s pension and health insurance benefits.

In 2006, an apportionment was added to provide for Retiree Health and Pension benefits and more efficiently distribute this expense to local churches. As of April 1, 2014 nearly 40 churches would qualify to enter into this voluntary forgiveness plan.

**Participation is completely voluntary based on the decision of the local congregation, pastor, District Superintendent and Charge Conference.**

***Objective***

To provide both relief and accountability to local churches who have been impacted by the economic turndown and the inability to maintain regular payments due to the aging and weakened financial resources of congregational membership. This forgiveness plan will provide the Annual Conference with additional future funding for Health Benefits and Pension.

Since the establishment of direct billing, arrearages have been covered by the financial returns from funds invested with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

This is not a sound procedure for the long term growth, viability and ministry of all churches and the SC Annual Conference. Imagine how these additional funds can be used to care for the active and retired clergy and their families. These clergy have and will serve the local churches of South Carolina to provide ministry and outreach of the Gospel.

***Keys to Effective Accomplishment of Plan***

The members of the South Carolina Conference Cabinet and the staff of the Administrative Services Office have been very faithful and attentive to assisting churches in understanding of and returning to regular payments of this item. It is a goal of the Resident Bishop, the Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Treasurer that a specified strategy needs to be adopted to both offer to and encourage local churches to returning to responsible payment of the direct billing costs.

***Rationale for Plan***

When the Direct Bill Plan was approved it was hoped that all churches could participate at the full payment level. Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors some congregations became behind in making regular payments toward the pension/retirement and health care/insurance expenses of their appointed clergy.

Below is the history of total balances due from local churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference since 2008:

<b>History</b>	<b>Balance Outstanding</b>	<b>Increase</b>
2008	502,444.35	
2009	1,173,324.49	670,880.14
2010	1,475,252.62	301,928.13
2011	2,062,351.94	587,099.32
2012	2,454,361.09	392,009.15

In order to cover these outstanding unpaid balances pension and health insurance funds which have been placed and deposited with the General Board of Pensions have been applied/used. Below is a history of earnings on the funds (both realized and unrealized):

#### **Earnings**

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Health	1,339,601	837,920	(55,426)	692,191	997,892
Pension	1,084,662	493,488	(96,666)	1,101,751	1,058,983

Using these earnings to pay for congregations unable to pay is acceptable for the short term. However, for the long term this is not a good use or stewardship of these funds. It is not a sustainable model for the long term financial health of our local congregations or the Annual Conference.

In Luke's Gospel chapter ten, we hear these words about properly caring for God's money...." *Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?"*  
(Luke 16:10-12, *New Revised Standard Version*)

As congregational leaders, we are entrusted with the resources which God has provided. We are to use these gifts properly, efficiently and responsibly. Attending to these past obligations shows responsible and faithful stewardship.

#### **PLAN DETAILS**

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##### ***Guidelines for Participation***

##### **Local Churches and/or Charges which desire to participate in this forgiveness plan must:**

1. Have total direct billing arrearage balances of \$ 25,000 or more over any period of years.
2. One quarter of the direct billing arrearage balance will be forgiven completely.
3. Agree to make an initial payment of 10 percent of balance to the Administrative Services Office. Balances due will be determined at the date of the application.
4. Agree to make monthly payments via checking account draft.
5. Monthly payment amounts will be calculated at a maximum term of 60 months. Congregations with debts which exceed \$ 50,000 may *request* a term of 72 months.
6. No interest will be charged.
7. No additional debt whatsoever will be incurred by any local church participating in the Forgiveness Plan without permission of the District Superintendent.
8. It is clearly expected that participating congregations maintain regular, faithful monthly draft payments.
9. The Forgiveness Agreement Plan must be approved by the local congregation Church Council, Charge Conference and the appointed pastor. The signatures of the Church Council Chair, Local Church Lay Leader, Chair of Board of Trustees, Charge Conference Recording Secretary and the pastor must be submitted on the Agreement Plan application and final document.
10. The Forgiveness Agreement Plan application must be completed and submitted to the District Superintendent of the local congregation who will review, approve and sign the plan. Forms then are forwarded to the Administrative Services Office for verification and notarization. A final document explaining the exact agreed upon details and repayment terms will then be issued to the local congregation with a copy sent to the District Superintendent. Notary approval is also required for the final document.
11. All completed agreements will be reported in summary format to the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the Resident Bishop and the Cabinet.

##### ***Supervision***

This plan will be administered, supervised and managed by the Administrative Services/Conference Treasurer's Office with regular consultation with the Council on Finance and Administration. All funds received from the Forgiveness Plan will return directly to the local church's direct billing obligation and to no other funds of the Annual or General Conferences.

***Start-Up Summary***

This plan has been approved by the Council on Finance and Administration on March 17, 2014 and by the South Carolina Annual Conference on June 4, 2014 (PENDING APPROVAL) meeting in session in Florence, South Carolina. It shall be implemented beginning October 1, 2014 as pilot program via application to the Conference Treasurer and District Superintendent. The full plan will begin on February 1, 2015 for any and all eligible congregations.

***Communication of Plan***

Both members of the Cabinet and the Administrative Services Office shall offer this plan to any and all local churches. CF&A and the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits shall be charged with encouraging all eligible congregations to participate. An article shall be submitted to the *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* about the plan, an article will be posted on the South Carolina Annual Conference website and a mailing will be sent to all eligible congregations describing the plan and its benefits. Clergy will be briefed on the Forgiveness Plan at District Clergy gatherings/Set Up meetings in August or September 2014. Laity will be oriented on the plan at the earliest District-wide gathering possible.

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***Appendix***

***RESOURCES/ASSISTANCE***

Office of Administrative Services/Conference Treasurer  
4908 Colonial Drive, PO Box 3787, Columbia, SC 29230  
1-888-678-6272   aprestipino@umcsc.org

***District Offices***

Locations, addresses, and contact information found at umcsc.org (South Carolina Annual Conference website)

***Office of Council on Finance & Administration President***

616 Quincy Road, Seneca, SC 29678  
864-882-2603   dsurrett@saintmarkumcseneca.org

**APPLICATION FORM ATTACHED**

**NEXT PAGE**

DIRECT BILLING FORGIVENESS PLAN AND APPLICATION FORM

Return to:

THE OFFICE OF TREASURER/ADM. SERVICES
P.O. BOX 3787, COLUMBIA, S.C. 29203

MAKE CERTAIN ALL SPACES COMPLETELY FILLED and ALL SIGNATURES OBTAINED!

Name of Church
District Date of Application
Mailing Address of Church
Zip Code
Church Telephone Church E-Mail
Name of Pastor
Pastor's Telephone (Mark: Office or Cell)

- 1. Total amount of arrearage: \$
2. Total amount immediately forgiven (1/4 of line 1 above):
3. Total amount of deposit (10 % of line 2 above): \$
4. Total amount financed (line 1 less line 2 less line 3): \$
5. Monthly payments (line 4 divided by 60 months or 72 months if total debt is above \$ 50,000): \$
6. Date arrearage began:
7. Reason for arrearage:

We have read, understand & will agree to follow "Guidelines for Participation" fully.

Date of Church Council Approval
Date of Charge Conference Approval

Church Council Chair (Signature)
Church Lay Leader (Signature)
Church Board of Trustees Chair (Signature)
Charge Conference Recording Secretary (Signature)
Approval of Local Church Pastor
Approval of District Superintendent
Approval and Acceptance of Conference Treasurer
Notarization: Signature of Notary
Date of Notary Approval: Notary Stamp:

## THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

### “Christ Connecting Communities through Churches”

Conference Connectional Ministries is committed to connecting with local congregations to equip church leadership for ministry beyond them as we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are a bridge between problems and opportunities.

As United Methodists, we are never in ministry alone. We are disciples who are in love with God, seizing every opportunity to tell the story of our love for Jesus as we disciple others. We do good through outreach ministries to those in need. We do no harm as we advocate for the rights of children and the poor. We lead with strong spiritual direction through lay leadership. We honor our Wesleyan heritage daily.

Members of the United Methodist Church are the right people who have joined together as a bridge connecting communities through the Church for Christ.

Eternal God, all good things proceed from you. Teach us to be messengers of peace, healers of broken lives, and bringers of hope to those wounded by the world. May our words be salted with wisdom, and may our lives be living lessons. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully,

*Cynthia Williams, Convener*

#### **Connectional Ministries Executive Committee:**

Rev. Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries  
Cynthia Williams, Convener  
Rev. Stephen King, Secretary  
Rev. Amiri Hooker, Advocacy Area Convener  
Rev. Ross Chellis, Discipleship Area Convener  
Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader  
Rhonda Jones, Outreach Area Convener

#### **ADVOCACY MINISTRY AREA**

Our Advocacy Ministry task is a theological one and not a political one, or even an ecclesiological one. I mean that the work to be done is first and foremost about understanding God's unifying vision for the world, the *Missio Dei*, God's mission and not simply some so-called "church mission" in which we dream up some schemes and strategies, programs and tactics, goals and objectives, and then establish an administrative and bureaucratic mechanism to measure whether we have achieved them. It is God's mission, and that to me means a creative, redemptive, liberating, and reconciling mission of God for the sake of a sinful, broken, and suffering world. South Carolina Connectional Ministry moved during our Fall 2012 meeting in the Area of Advocacy to create "SC John 10:10 Advocacy Ministry Team". This motion was so moved.

The Connectional Ministry came right back during our February meeting and selected John 10:10 as one of two emerging ministries in the conference. The John 10:10 Advocacy Ministry Team has existed to offer education, training, advocacy, and action steps to help local teams and churches promote and implement affordable health care in their communities. We have had some major successes in the John 10:10 ministry:

- Created 2 District John 10:10 advocacy teams.
- Created a Conference John10:10 teams made up of persons from 4 districts across the state.
- Submitted 3 articles about Health Ministry and John 10:10 to the SC UMC *Advocate*.

The SC United Methodist Church in partnership with the South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations (SCACDC) and SC John 10:10 Advocacy Team and Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) held the Coastal Community Empowerment Training in Charleston, SC, on March 23 at the Korean United Methodist Church near Charleston Southern University in North Charleston. The event attracted over 50 members and four district superintendents and church leaders in South Carolina for daylong, grassroots, leadership development training. The Coastal Training encompassed Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Dillon, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties.

The John 10:10 Advocacy Ministry Team partnered with the Health Association and the Nurses Association to inform the public about the Affordable Health Care Act and Medicaid Expansion. We also took part in the Remedy SC Me Petition drive and collected 300 signatures for Remedy SC petition ([www.remedysc.com](http://www.remedysc.com)).

John 10:10 also participated in proclaiming the message that "Health Care Is a Human Right" at the press conference, while also helping to encourage the organization to adopt health care as a human right as our statewide faith Statement for Medicaid Expansion. CLERGY and Congregational Leaders for MEDICAID EXPANSION participated in *SC Day at the State House*, participated in the Congressional Black Caucus Clergy Leadership Day, and partnered in several Town Hall meeting dealing with Health Care. John 10:10 and the Advocacy Areas likewise took part in the *Enough is Enough Rally*. At this pro-Affordable Health Care rally, protesters stood in silence as a white coffin was laid on the State House's steps, representing the more than 1,400 people who demonstrators say will die this year because lawmakers did not expand Medicaid.

The Advocacy Ministry Area also partnered with South Carolina Christian Action Council in Annual Racism Training: "From Talk to Walk: A Workshop on Dismantling Racism" on Friday, October 18-19, at the Lake Catholic Parish in Chapin, SC.

The work we have done is advocacy grounded in the gospel both in form and content; this is advocacy which is justified theologically and which works by identification with the poor, carefully listening to the concerns and seeking to articulate them to the "powers." Such a use of voice can be both a legitimate expression of the gospel and a costly embodiment of it.

### **THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)**

The COSROW committee program by facilitator Sheila Haney agreed that state UMC women would benefit by becoming aware of the committee's purpose, which was to advocate for full and equal inclusion and participation of women in all areas of church life, to monitor, and to serve as an agent of change. A current general COSROW board member and COSROW state committee member, Rev. Cathy Mitchell, spoke of her experience over several years as both pastor and board member. The committee's major project in 2013 was to support Marlene with General COSROW brochures (300+) to distribute to UMW November conference participants. A brief survey was also sought with 6 returned. This very small sample of opinions/needs identified issues of education and domestic violence (cited twice each) and aging and health (cited once each). Additional suggestions were made to emphasize victim testimonials for which a stipend to cover expenses would be a budgetary use as would awareness workshops and courses perhaps at Women's Day local services, district superintendent's monthly meetings, and Annual Conference.

### **THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) is one of four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church. The General Board is defined by its five areas of ministry: (1) Public Witness and Advocacy, (2) Administration, (3) Ministry of Resourcing Congregational Life, (4) United Nations Ministry, and (5) Communications. The South Carolina Board of Church and Society has lived out its ministry in some similar way, focusing on advocacy, poverty, health care, and training. In the past year, Church and Society has contributed to the causes of several ministries related to social justice. We support the work of the Christian Action Council financially with regular monthly distributions. The SCCAC is the only statewide ecumenical partnership in South Carolina; the Council represents the partnership of 16 denominations and 21 regional judicatories, including 4,500 congregations. The primary components of this ministry are advocacy (public policy) and race and cultural relations. A work group of volunteers assesses issues and assists staff in implementing strategies for each component.

With the leadership of our chair, Rev Karen Jones, we also financed the printing of extra copies of *Post and Courier* that were circulated at Annual Conference last year. The article featured the poverty in South Carolina that stems from issues in education and health care. Church and Society also supported the Centennial Celebration of the Eben Taylor Lecture Series with The Reverend Dr. William H. Willimon, former Bishop of North Alabama AC, as lecturer. One of the highlights of the year was an Advocacy Ministry Area Strategy Day, a day spent strategizing to live in the abundance of Gods Kingdom. During this training, a national team of grassroots organizers assembled by the General Board of Church and Society led the South Carolina Advocacy Ministry Area to empower local United Methodist congregations to address social justice issues. The team worked with leaders from South Carolina and the Annual Conference to build strong local networks within the state on specific issues, such as reform of education, health-care systems, and the economy. Through these networks, local church advocates will be able to connect with like-minded United Methodists across the state to collaborate and share resources.

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Native American Ministries continues to make strides through the efforts of the Native American Committee (NAC). The points of interest continue to be outreach, education, and ministry. The NAC continues to provide outreach ministry to all of the tribes of South Carolina. The Cherokee Bear Clan received an \$800 grant to assist with shelves in the opening of a Cherokee Museum in Walhalla, South Carolina. Working with Keepers of the Word, we had a record-breaking year with Elder Baskets. The Elder Basket project provides non-perishable foods, health care items, and other supplies in a laundry basket to native elders during Christmas. This year, 302 baskets were provided to tribal elders across the state.

Rocky Swamp is a native outreach ministry. Great strides were made with our working relationship. Rev. Mary Green's senior adult program went to Rocky Swamp Church to assist the congregation in renovations. Her group helped with making repairs, sealing the floors, and painting. Prior to coming, someone stole the stove out of the church. Mary Green's group not only arranged for a new stove, but also replaced a broken refrigerator. Since the members of the church usually eat together on Sundays, these appliances are vital to the people. The generosity brought tears to the eyes of the Rocky Swap congregation. A closing, joint worship service was held, including traditional native drumming and storytelling. Pinopolis United Methodist Church invited Rocky Swamp drum for Native American Ministries and donated \$200 to assist with Rocky Swamp's efforts to purchase an industrial weed-eater to maintain the cemetery.

*The Discipline* requires each church to appoint a Native American Representative regardless of race. As a major component of our education mission, we provide annual training in February for these representatives and anyone who is interested. Last year, over 70 people attended. Our host church was Windsor United Methodist church.

In July, we provided \$540 in registration scholarships for individuals to attend the American Indian Scouting Seminar as part of our efforts to support Boy and Girl Scouts. The Eastern Shoshone of the Wind River Reservation in Riverton, Wyoming, hosted the seminar. During the seminar, participants visited the graves of Chief Washakie and Sacajawea.

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of the six special Sundays recognized in *The Discipline*. The official date is the second Sunday after Easter. Our committee provides speakers for this Sunday. With limited speakers, we schedule Native American Ministries Sunday throughout the year. A Native American Ministries offering is encouraged with 50% of the funds remaining in conference. The NAC still reaches only about one quarter of the churches, so we would like more churches to schedule a Native American Ministries Sunday. One common misperception is that speakers for this Sunday represent outside agencies or groups, but we are part of the conference and its mission.

As part of our ministry, the NAC provided \$5,880 in scholarships for any South Carolina American Indian to attend the Native American summer conference at Lake Junaluska in June. The keynote speaker was Jonathan Maracle, who provided a benefit concert for the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Native Americans (SEJANAM). In June, our NAC Chair, Zan Tracy Pender, was re-elected for a second 4-year term as SEJANAM Council President. In December, our very own, Rev. Cheryl Toothe became the SEJANAM Executive Director.

While we continue to provide our own Native American Ministries offering envelopes and newsletter, which is published twice annually, the loss of the print shop caused our committee to refocus on how we provide these services. Many natives do not have computer access; yet, we still accomplished our objective in reaching them.

Finally, our committee is requesting help from our Annual Conference, its churches, and its members as we move forward with one major state issue. The South Carolina Department of Education's Social Studies Standards state that there are only three tribes in South Carolina, the Cherokee, Catawba, and Yamesse. Our South Carolina children are taught and tested only on these three. In truth, there is one federally recognized tribe, the Catawba, and eight state recognized tribes. We are also advocating for Native American contemporary and modern issues of poverty to be reflected on other like racial groups.

We appreciate the support of the Conference, its leadership, our Native American Representatives, and all of those pastors and advocates who have supported our efforts, outreach, and Native American Ministries. We strive to be good stewards of the funds placed in our hands.

Submitted by:

Zan Tracy Pender, Chair,  
and SC UMC Native American Committee



## ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

*The Book of Discipline 2014* states in ¶632 the following: “There shall be in every annual conference a conference Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) . . .to provide for these basic functions and to maintain connectional relationship. That’s why we exist. But we exist for more than this mandate. We are to provide the following functions:

- 1) keep the vision of ethnic local church concerns before the annual conference;
- 2) provide guidance and resources to churches in the annual conference as they minister with and to ethnic constituencies;
- 3) coordinate annual conference strategies related to ethnic local church concerns including general church emphases and initiatives;
- 4) provide a forum for dialogue among the ethnic constituencies, as well as with annual conference agencies;
- 5) provide training for annual conference and congregational leaders;
- 6) promote and interpret ethnic local church concerns to the annual conference; and
- 7) work with annual conferences to identify and nurture leaders, lay and clergy, of ethnic communities.

The membership of this committee shall be nominated and elected by established procedures of the annual conference. The annual conference shall determine the number and composition of the membership of the committee. It is recommended that the committee be constituted so that the majority of the membership be representative of racial and ethnic people, reflecting the racial and ethnic constituencies and local churches of the annual conference. Care should be taken, where feasible, to ensure balance of membership with clergy and laity, men and women, youth and young adults.”

Although *The Book of Discipline* clearly delineates the what, how, and responsibilities of ELCC, it has been difficult to live into what is expected, especially with this new conference structure. The South Carolina Ethnic Local Church Committee (SC ELCC) is housed under Advocacy, and with the restrictions in how many can serve (total participates) under Advocacy, SC ELCC has functioned with two persons. Recently, we were elated to have another person be assigned to SC ELCC.

In addition, with the loss of Rev. Sonia Brum, we no longer have a connection with Hispanic Ministries. Further, we do not have a connection with Asian/Korean constituents. The Native American Committee is mandated by *The Book of Discipline* to have its own separate group; however, it should relate to SC ELCC, too. We are in the process of constituting an African American Task Force. What we need is information. Where are there (in what districts) Asian/Korean congregations and Hispanic/Latino congregations or ministries? Where are there Native American churches/ministries? Once these data can be secured, the work of the SC ELCC can be vital and true to the stipulations found in *The Book of Discipline*.

When I chaired SC ELCC eight years ago, we had worked diligently to have our budget set at \$100,000.00 after 6 years of advocacy, of which we received \$80,000.00. With that budget, we were able to carry out the mandate from SEJ ELCC to TEACH (Train, Educate, Affirm, Communicate, and Heal). As I returned to SC ELCC, I found SC ELCC with a budget of \$37,500.00. This budget represents a vast decline in funds. With such a decline, it is difficult to offer the level of scholarships and grants that were once offered. This budget needs to be reviewed with a serious eye if we are serious about leadership development for young and old, laity and clergy, in all the racial ethnic groups. With this decline in funding, we have set our focus on small/smaller membership churches, which are churches that have an average Sunday attendance of 100 or fewer. We are open to requests from churches/organizations with emerging ministries that need a little assistance.

Finally, our SC ELCC Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated. The first plan was written 8-10 years ago. Listening sessions were held across the districts of the Annual Conference; however, to date, the data have not been compiled in a usable format. Since this compilation is the responsibility of ELCC, we need to take responsibility for these data and bring together representatives from all the racial ethnic groups to write a new comprehensive plan for racial ethnic congregations. We seek the guidance of our Bishop and the Congregational Specialist assigned to Africa American Portfolio. In Habakkuk 2:2 ,we are told to “**Write the vision; make it plain . . . so he may run who reads it.**” If we can establish our vision and plainly write it down, then we can run this race together to build up the kingdom of God by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Over the past year, we have used our budget funds to accomplish the following:

- 1) to provide clergy and laity scholarships for:
  - a. three (3) persons to SEJ BMCR

- b. assistance for one (1) clergywoman to attend an Academy in Nashville TN
- c. fourteen (14) youth to attend SEJ Harambee
- d. one (1) layman to attend the UMM National Gathering
- e. seven (7) to attend Older Adult Retreat
- f. six (6) to attend the UMM's Retreat
- g. one (1) ITC Seminary Student to participate in Mission Project
- 2) to provide grants to:
  - a. Wesley UMC, Ladson – GIFTS Ministry
  - b. Murray UMC, Youth Ministry
  - c. Wesley UMC, Columbia – Train One, Teach One Leader
- 3. Advocate Ad
  - a. to promote SC ELCC
- 4. SEJ BMCR Ad
- 5. Support of Granville Hicks Lecture, Claflin University
- 6. EO Tours – Bishop Jonathan Holston's Trip to Africa and Africa University
  - a. supported 9 participants (laity/clergy)

I remind those seeking scholarships and/or grants that accountability is important. Hence, the rationale for our asking for a report that shares your experiences, what pearls you have learned, and how you plan to use the information received to benefit yourself and others. Anyone receiving a scholarship or grant who does not submit the requested report within the time specified will become ineligible to receive further scholarships and/or grants.

NOTE: Support was provided for laity to attend the Summit on the Black Church in 2012 and for clergy to attend the Convocation for Pastor of Black Churches in 2013 and for youth and children to participate in SC BMCR Harambee and Children's Conference.

My sincere thanks to Bernie Mazyck for assisting me in keeping SC ELCC functioning. Visit us at: <http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/elcc/>

*Pastor Carleathea M. Benson, Chairperson*

## DISCIPLESHIP AREA

### COLLEGIATE MINISTRY REPORT FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On behalf of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, I would like to thank the South Carolina Annual Conference for its commitment to collegiate ministry. From the very beginning, the Methodist movement has been committed to education. John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement, began their ministries as campus ministers at Oxford University when they organized the Holy Club. Because the members of the Holy Club dared to use the Bible as their guide for daily living, their detractors accused them of being "Bible moths." Ridiculed because they were so methodical in their piety and social action, the members of the Holy Club were labeled "Methodists" by other students at Oxford University. What began as a term of derision has become a badge of honor. Our denomination has been methodical in its efforts to meet the material and spiritual needs of people from all walks of life.

Through the years, the United Methodist Church has founded all sorts of institutions as a means of having a redemptive influence upon society. In addition to organizing relief agencies and building hospitals, we have founded innumerable institutions of higher education throughout the world. We are proud of the institutions of higher education that are affiliated with the South Carolina Annual Conference. Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Wofford College are among the most highly regarded church-related schools in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. As you read the reports from our University Presidents, you will find a synopsis of the recent accomplishments and current challenges which are being faced by each of the schools.

During the past few years, we have experienced changes in leadership at many of our Wesley Foundations. The following table lists the locations of our Wesley Foundations, the names of our Wesley Foundation Directors, and the years in which they were appointed:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Wesley Foundation Director</b>	<b>Year Appointed</b>
Charleston	The Rev. Lisa Hawkins	2001
Clemson	The Rev. Steve Simoneaux	2013
Columbia	The Rev. Tom Wall	1990
Francis Marion	The Rev. Angela Etheredge-Manly	2012
Furman	The Rev. Edward McCutcheon	2008
Orangeburg	The Rev. Connie Barnes	January 2014
Winthrop	The Rev. Ricky Howell, Jr.	2012

I would like to express our appreciation to the Rev. Larry McCutcheon, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Orangeburg, who served as our interim Wesley Foundation director

in Orangeburg from July to December 2013. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is grateful for those who are initiating collegiate ministry at Lander University in Greenwood and the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg. I am pleased to report that there is a growing interest in exploring ways to begin campus ministry at Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

### THE TASK FORCE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

In the summer of 2013, the Rev. Kathy James, our Director of Connectional Ministries, organized a Campus Ministry Task Force consisting of the Rev. Josh McClendon (Convener of the Task Force), the Rev. William F. Heustess (Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry), the Rev. Mary Teasley (Greenville District Superintendent), the Rev. Robin Dease (Hartsville District Superintendent), the Rev. Ken Nelson (Congregational Specialist for the Columbia and Hartsville Districts), the Rev. Narcie McClendon Jeter (Florida Gator Wesley Foundation Director), the Rev. Walter Cantwell (Council on Finance and Administration), the Rev. Lisa Hawkins (Charleston WF), the Rev. Steve Simoneaux (Clemson WF), the Rev. Tom Wall (Columbia WF), the Rev. Edward McCutcheon (Furman WF), the Rev. Larry McCutcheon (Pastor of Trinity UM Church and interim Wesley Foundation Director at the Orangeburg WF), the Rev. Ricky Howell (Winthrop WF), the Rev. Angela Etheredge-Manly (Francis Marion WF), the Rev. Aaron Meadows (Charleston WF Board), Mr. Brett Beazley (Clemson WF Board), Mr. Michael Cheatham (Furman University WF Board) and Mrs. Linda Honeycutt (Winthrop WF Board).

At our organizational meeting on August 9, 2013, the Campus Ministry Task Force formed three subcommittees: Structure and Accountability; Resources and Logistics; and Connection and Advocacy. The members of the subcommittees shared their research and observations with one another through phone calls, conference calls, and e-mails. The members of the Campus Ministry Task Force met at the United Methodist Conference Center in Columbia on November 1, 2013, and on January 24, 2014.

After a thorough review of campus ministry in the South Carolina Annual Conference and consultation with campus ministry leaders in other Annual Conferences, the Campus Ministry Task Force is beginning to formulate a comprehensive plan for the sustainability and growth of Campus Ministry in the South Carolina Annual Conference. The task force initially hoped to present their proposals to this annual conference but has decided that further work is needed in building consensus toward a common goal. They will be working to initiate changes through existing structures in the coming year and hope to have formal proposals to present at the 2015 annual conference.

As I conclude my report, I would like to thank the members of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and persons who have worked with the board for their invaluable service: the Rev. James Ellis Griffith, Mr. Daniel Canada, Mrs. Maureen Thomas, the Rev. Bob Stilwell, and the Rev. Jennifer Copeland (ex-officio).

*Respectfully submitted, William F. Heustess*

The Board of Education has been looking at the following questions/issues:

1. Who are we as United Methodists? So many people come to the Methodist Church from other denominations. Are we doing an adequate job of helping them to understand our polity and doctrine?
2. How do we pass the faith on to the next generation? Is it possible to add a lay ministry class to the lay servant ministry training that would equip Sunday school teachers?
3. A common thread across our districts seems to be the concern over the decline/struggle of church school/ Sunday school.
4. How can we help our churches with resources in the area of Christian Education? One way of possibly doing this is to identify best practices in Christian education in our Conference. How?
5. We need to do more teaching about discipleship to equip our leaders for the ministry of Christian Education.
6. There is a need for additional persons from across the conference to be a part of this team so that more districts are represented.

Respectfully,

*Rev. Lisa C. Hawkins  
Ms. Juliette Philpott  
Rev. Jerry Harrison*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Our committee, which addresses ministry to children, is supporting the new emerging ministry, Pan Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty, which was approved at our last Annual Conference. The South Carolina Annual Conference Initiative for Children in Poverty promoted the Children's Sabbath Sunday in October. Anne Shelton, on our committee, wrote a worship service for Children's Sabbath, which was printed as a resource in *The Advocate*. Each month *The Advocate* has published an article on Children in Poverty written by Bishop Kenneth Carder. These articles have been very inspiring. Martha Thompson is collaborating with the Annual Conference Committee on planning a literacy event for this year. The Children in Poverty Task Group adopted a Mission Statement, Core Values, and Goals Document which has been posted on the Conference website. A Lenten Calendar lifting up children has been written and will be in the March Advocate.

*Respectfully submitted, Martha F. Thompson*

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

The Youth Ministry area of the Discipleship Committee has had a productive year as we have impacted the lives not only of the teenagers in the SC Annual Conference, but also equipped adults who work with youth in local congregations to offer more effective ministries in their churches and communities. The highlights of the year included hosting our annual events for youth: SC UM Basketball Tournament, Revolution, Spirit Singers, and Immerse. This lineup offers a variety of opportunities for youth from across the connection to participate in worship, discipleship, recreation, evangelism, mission, ministry, and so much more as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We also experienced a great day and evening at Annual Conference 2013 as about 600 youth were a part of the Stop Hunger Now effort and the Tuesday evening worship. In addition to continuing to offer quality events for our youth, we have continued to connect adults who work with you across the Conference to maximize the impact of youth ministry on the local church level. To that end, we have branded the youth ministry area as South Carolina Ministries with Young People or SCMYP and created a new website, twitter account, YouTube channel, Facebook account, and an email newsletter in order to communicate more effectively with youth and youth workers across the Conference.

As we look to a new year, we have several new initiatives we are working to bring to reality. The first is the SCMYP Honduras Mission Trip scheduled for June 27-July 5. We are looking forward to having Bishop Holston join a team of young people ages 16-22 from the South Carolina Conference and a team of young persons and adults from the Kentucky Conference for this landmark event that we hope will become a yearly tradition. In addition to that mission opportunity for youth, SCMYP will host the inaugural Student Leadership Academy (SLA) events in March and April of 2014. Stemming from a felt need among adults who work in local churches, SCMYP developed the SLA as a way to offer an affordable one day training event for student leaders. The expected outcomes are to equip youth to become leaders in the youth ministry and the general life of their local congregations and to develop and identify student leaders to serve on district and Conference youth councils that will begin to function in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The final initiative that we hope to complete this year is a SC Youth Ministry Coaching Cohort Program. We currently have 9 adults who work with youth leaders throughout our Conference participating in the YMCCP with Mark Oestreich (a nationally known speaker, coach, and writer). The vision is to have the persons who are participating in the cohort to develop something similar to the year-long coaching cohort that we could create and implement for youth leaders in the local congregations in the SC Conference.

As you can tell, there is much to be excited about in terms of youth in the South Carolina Conference. We continue to dream God-sized dreams and realize God-sized realities as we seek to strengthen youth ministry within the SC Annual Conference. These initiatives coupled with the work of the local congregations and the great youth leaders in those congregations will ensure that we are continually successful in making disciples of Jesus Christ among the young people of the Conference.

*Respectfully submitted, Chris Lynch*

## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

The Young Adult Ministry area of the Discipleship area has been working to establish a plan to effectively minister to the young adults of our Annual Conference. This committee is seeking to identify potential leaders who can help create and implement relevant ministry that will meet our young adults where they are.

## **OLDER ADULT MINISTRY**

Older Adult Ministries has had another wonderful and active year in the SC Conference. Older Adult Ministries conducts two major events each year: The Older Adult Retreat and The Older Adult Mission Event.

The Older Adult Retreat was held February 4-6, 2014, at Springmaid Beach. Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler (former Director on Aging and Older Adult Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church) served as keynote speaker, delivering uplifting and insightful messages to the over 200 attendees. The committee is already planning and looking forward to next year's retreat, which will feature South Carolina's own Rev. Rodney Powell.

The 2014 OA Missions Event is scheduled for April 28 - May 1. This year's location will be Centennial Thompson UMC in the Anderson District. Last year we had more than 60 folks participate over the four days and expect similar numbers this year.

We also celebrate what various districts are doing, such as Spartanburg and Columbia in hosting Older Adult Celebration Events and are encouraging others to follow these examples.

Regarding finances, the OA Ministries strives to make our events self-supporting but needs assistance with advertisement and other needs. Thus, we are seeking to receive the same financial support as in 2013.

## **THE COMMISSION ON WORSHIP**

In 2013 the Commission on Worship provided leadership and logistical support for the various worship services at the meeting of the Annual Conference in Florence. In 2014 we anticipate doing the same with a plan in place to involve a wider spectrum of participants, both on stage and behind the scenes.

We recognize the valuable work being done by the District Connectional Ministries in support of Worship and are continually evaluating the need for conference-wide events to best resource local churches as they seek to provide vital worship experiences in their community.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Steven King*

## **OUTREACH AREA**

### **THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

In the year of 2013, the Conference Board of Global Ministries continued to make changes as we moved forward to being involved in ministry. The members of the CBGM wishes to thank the Reverend Michael Henderson for his years of having served as the Convener for the CBGM. The Reverend Calvin B. Washington has been elected to serve as the Convener for CBGM. It was also the decision of CBGM to have meetings outside of our regular connectional gathering to review and determine future grant applications. Recently, members of the CBGM have reviewed and made approvals for this year's grant funding cycle. The new deadlines for applying for grant applications are June 15 and December 15. The CBGM has either direct or indirect oversight for several areas, 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, but it is also 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.

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 have their own boards of directors and work together through a "network" meeting. The Conference supports these in several ways. The primary support effort 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 line item is very small, and through the yearly Missions in South Carolina offering. Advance Special Ministries must be approved annually by the Annual Conference. In 2015, CBGM recommends that each Advance Special Ministries participate in a one day training for recertification.

Communities of Shalom As we move forward, we continue to define 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. The Congregational Specialist has been working with these communities and will report to the Annual Conference as soon as this work is finished. Communities of Shalom are community-organizing ministries, helping each community look at issues and problems within this community and addressing those issues using resources from within the community.

Hunger Ministries Hunger Ministries is a program of the CBGM designed to encourage churches and individuals to donate each year to help churches and agencies who work with hunger issues and help to feed people. Due to funding received at the 2013 Annual Conference in regard to Hunger Ministries, congregations were able to apply for Hunger Grants through their districts totaling \$97, 2552.

Church Extension Partnership CEP, originally a program to help smaller membership churches with physical repairs, was expanded this year. Two "calls" each year are made to give people and churches an opportunity to help the selected churches. Formerly, to be eligible to apply, a church must have reported an average attendance to Annual Conference of 50 or less.

This attendance was increased to 100. 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. In 2013 we received applications from Lynwood United Methodist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina, and the Greer Circuit (Bethel and St. Paul United Methodist Churches).

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. Recently, members of Belin Trust along with CBGM have been encouraging congregations to submit grant applications for monies that are available. Therefore, we have received an influx of grant applications since this initiative has been instituted.

Thanks to all the members of the CBGM for their work and dedication as we continue to move forward to being involved in ministry.

*Calvin B. Washington, Convener*

## **THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Communications Committee was proud to endorse the Southeastern Jurisdiction Communicators Conference scheduled for March 25-27 at Lake Junaluska. This project was initiated in the South Carolina Communications Committee of Conference Connectional Ministries. The Conference is organized by the S.C. Conference Communications Director, Matt Brodie, who is also the president of the SEJ communicators group. Two scholarships from the Outreach-Communications Committee were made available for each district in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. The Communications Department is evaluating its effectiveness in reaching across all generations. An audit was taken to determine the best means to brand, advertise, and market the church. Public relations and social media are among other means considered to update the presence of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina.

*Jan Harmon, Outreach – Communications*

## **THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER AND THE LAY LEADERSHIP AREA OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

### **Lay Leadership Area**

Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader

With two years into the new structure of Connectional Ministries, the Lay Leadership Area (formerly the Board of Laity) continues to discern where there are opportunities to engage laity in meaningful dialogue and to offer paths of discipleship in the local church. This past year, the different task force committees from previous years were restructured. The Lay Leadership Area now has three core areas of focus: (1) Lay Servant Leadership Development, (2) Spiritual Formation, and (3) Stewardship. Team leaders from the three task force committees presently comprise the Lay Leadership Executive Committee (ECT): Lay Servant

Leadership Development, Shelia Shanklin, Team Leader; Spiritual Formation, Suzy Spears, Team Leader, and Stewardship, Dennis Sullen, Team Leader. Also, included on the ECT are Donald Love, who serves as Conference Associate Lay Leader; Jenny Rawlings, who serves as Lay Leadership Secretary; and Lisa Livingston, who serves as the ECT convener. In March 2014, District Lay Leaders, District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries (LSM), UM Women, and UM Men Conference Presidents along with the Conference Director of LSM joined Bishop Holston and Connectional Ministries Director Kathy James for a weekend retreat in Columbia. This time afforded these folks the chance to exchange ideas with Bishop Holston and to work on plans that can strengthen our local churches. The Lay Leadership Area has planned a Local Church Mission Fair to be held on Monday, June 2, 2014, at Annual Conference in Florence that will give local churches a time to share their missions and ministries involving children and poverty with delegates and guests at Annual Conference. On the District Lay Leader side, we welcomed two new District Lay Leaders: Betty Void replaced Brenda Hook in the Columbia District, and Bill Click replaced Anna Feagin in the Rock Hill District. Returning District Lay Leaders areas follows: Anderson, Freda Brock; Charleston, David Braddon; Florence, Dennis Sullen; Greenwood, David Salter; Greenville, Michael Cheatham; Hartsville, Max Jackson; Marion, Becky Green; Orangeburg, Gregg Riley; Spartanburg, Earline Powell; and Walterboro, Pamela Goodwine-Glover.

A report from the three Lay Leadership Area of Connectional Ministries follows:

#### **Lay Servant Ministries Area**

Our primary focus this year has been on three areas of emphasis:

1. In Partnership with Clergy, identify, implement and evaluate strategies for developing fruitful, vital, and accountable congregations. It is our opinion that if we are to be a fruitful and vital church, we must have Lay Servant Ministries at the heart of working in partnership with clergy and other laity in being disciples, making disciples, and involving disciples in creating transforming ministries. As Lay Servants, we are ideally suited to equip United Methodist laity to work in partnership with clergy and laity to create transforming congregations proclaiming good news to the youth in poverty, the poor, and the release of the captives.
2. Developing a course on United Methodist Apportionment with appropriate presentation and brochures for easy understanding to familiarize laity with this area of interest. Our hope is to have someone in each district available to ensure dissemination of this information to all local churches throughout their respective districts for easy understanding and to familiarize laity with this area from a laity viewpoint.
3. Clarify changes in "Lay Speaking Ministries" track under the Lay Servant Ministries Umbrella. In 2012, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved legislation to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries. For several quadrennials, various name changes were proposed, none of which adequately described the role of this leadership development program. The term "servant" was chosen because it best describes what Jesus told His disciples in John 13 after He Himself had performed the duties of the lowliest servant. We should be honored to serve our Lord and savior God. We are called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership. While there is no change from the former lay speaker process in becoming a local church or certified lay servant, there was, however, a role of lay speaker added to the program, a role which includes specific preparation and accountability processes that each Conference has been charged to iron out. We have been given certain parameters but the fine-tuning is still in process. This work in process is a well-paved road and is under way. District directors are being included in the Conference Committee planning process.

*Submitted by Jackie Jenkins, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries*

#### **Lay Servant Leadership Development**

The Lay Servant Leadership Team has met once so far this year, and I am delighted to report that there were nine people in attendance representing eight different districts! From a brainstorming agenda, we were able to pinpoint some targets for future concentration. We determined that folks need to have a better understanding of what Methodism really is. This understanding includes not only "that person sitting on the pew in the local church who is not involved," but also people who are currently involved, including some of our leaders. So there was consensus that there is a definite need for further lay servant leadership development. The focus will be on how we supply that need, how the team can be available to help a local

church, how tools can be identified, and how we share these tools. We came to know that because there are events being planned within the different districts, we have agreed to share with the entire team all of such events that are happening in our own districts. This sharing will be done by group email. We agreed that local church lay leaders are the people in the churches who should be strategic contacts and who should be the ones assuming leadership roles. However, we realize that, sometimes, this assumption of leadership is not the case. Therefore, the team needs to be proactive and develop other ways of involvement. Since there has been limited participation in training sessions offered in several districts on occasion, we talked about providing another means of assistance to local churches, perhaps making team members available to visit the local churches and provide assistance. We do agree that word of mouth is the best communication. The team agreed to communicate ideas with each other. We also agreed that each of us would choose one person from our local church whom we identify as "a person who comes but is not involved" and talk with him/her to determine something we can do to help. There was talk of a Toolbox idea, and this idea was well received by the group. Some initial ideas to include in the Toolbox are making team members available to assist in various categories such as Spiritual Gifts Inventory or Small Group Ministry. Already we have courses offered by LSM in place, and perhaps we can find LSM folks who are willing to go out to the local churches and give assistance to the laity.

*Submitted by Shelia Shanklin, Lay Servant Leadership Development Task Force Team Leader*

### **Stewardship**

The Stewardship Task Group of the Lay Leadership Ministry Area of Connectional Ministries continues to seek ways to promote the importance of stewardship in our lives as Christians. We realize the influence faithful givers have on the health of the local church. We want to provide information and available resources for local churches to share with their congregations. It is the hope that churches will begin to see the value and responsibility we have to be faithful not only with our monetary gifts but also with our time, talents, and witness. The committee has worked on stewardship promotional tools which are resources available to assist local churches in their stewardship ministries. The tools currently consist of a resource CD which was developed in 2013, the Stewardship Alive manual available as a download on the Conference website, and a list of workshop leaders who are available to lead district events as well as local church workshops. The task group's primary focus is on the need of disciples to give rather than the churches' need to receive. We are working to provide items for the Lay Leadership Toolbox project that the Lay Leadership Area is working to complete in 2014.

*Submitted by Dennis Sullen, Stewardship Task Force Team Leader, and Donald Love, Conference Associate Lay Leader*

### **Spiritual Formation**

The Spiritual Formation team is working to educate the South Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist churches and equip them in spiritual practices. One way we continue to handle this process is through the Conference website where we have posted descriptions of various spiritual practices that will enrich the spirituality of individuals and local churches. We are also working on an annual workshop for the fall of 2014. More information will be coming as details are worked out. Check the Conference web site later in the summer. In addition to the above items, we are also working on resources to add to the "toolbox" that the Lay Leadership Executive Team has proposed to help our local churches. We continue to explore ways we can be helpful to local churches with their spiritual formation and their spiritual journey.

*Submitted by Suzy Speas, Spiritual Formation Task Force Team Leader*

## **REPORT 2 – PART I SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2015**

### **A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 18
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 25
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2015
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 1
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 8
Women's History Month	March 2015
World Day of Prayer	March 6



Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 8
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 15
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 19
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2015
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2015
National Day of Prayer	May 7
Christian Family Week	May 4-10
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 24
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	May 31
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 4
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance	October 11
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 18
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 8
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 29
World AIDS Day	December 1
<b>B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS</b>	
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 15
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 10
Advocate Awareness Sunday	May 17
United Methodist Men's Day	June 14
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering	August 9
Call to Ministry Sunday	August 16
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	September 13
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 20
Advance Special Ministries Sunday with Offering	November 1

## REPORT 2 – PART II

### THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2015

**ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY:** The Alston Wilkes Society is a non-profit statewide organization founded in 1962. Our mission statement is as follows: **Rebuilding Lives for a Safer Community.** We provide offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at risk youth, veterans, and their families the tools they need to become productive citizens and have a positive impact on crime reduction and prevention. The Alston Wilkes Society provides several services within the state:

**Community Services** providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders, former offenders, family members, and homeless individuals to rebuild their lives.

**Residential Reentry Centers** providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

**Veterans Home** providing housing for homeless veterans.

**Group Care Intensive Services,** a youth housing program, serving young males ages 11 -21 who have emotional and behavioral problems.

**Treatment Foster Care** trains and licenses families to accommodate emotionally troubled youth.

**Clinical Day Program** is an alternative school program for middle and high school students who cannot attend public schools due to behavioral issues.

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

The overall mission of the BCACM is to respond to the increasing call in our communities to continue to light the flame of hope by striving to build and sustain communities of character with youth, young adults, adults, and older adults who have high morality, integrity, and commitment to be leaders for the sake of the present and future generations. 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 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 of Jesus Christ 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 discipleship, outreach, lay leadership, and advocacy.

In addition to the aforementioned, 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 10-18 year-old girls), VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership training, 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.

**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 premier 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 Bethlehem Center is a multi-service agency for residents of Spartanburg City and Spartanburg County in South Carolina.

**VISION STATEMENT:** We envision a future where all individuals will reach their full potential.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To strengthen individuals physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, educationally and intellectually.

**PROGRAMS:**

- Afterschool: Serving youth ages five and up in a year round literacy and enrichment based after-school program.
- Youth Sports participation: Baseball and basketball clinics and leagues (partnership with Upward Sports and the Youth Sports Bureau)
- Outreach: Community Events & Programs, Food assistance (3 days per week)
- Senior Wellness Programs: Active Living, Sewing to Sow & Feed Your Spirit
- Support groups: Weekly NA meetings (Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays) Highland Neighbor Association meetings (monthly)

**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:** The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center's mission is to assist people on their journey toward healing and wholeness. The Center ministers to individuals, couples, and families in crisis through affordable pastoral counseling, education, and consultation.

The Center also promotes and maintains close associations with various churches, faith communities, and clergy in the Grand Strand area. Assisting area business, non-profit, and

ministry leaders, the Center offers relevant educational and consultative services to help create, strengthen, and sustain a culture of excellence that is needed in today's post modern world.

While the Center's main office is in the heart of Myrtle Beach at First United Methodist Church, the Center offers eight convenient satellite locations around the Grand Strand. Beyond these local connections, the Center is affiliated with a national network of faith-based counseling centers called The Samaritan Institute. The Samaritan Institute accredits counseling centers which have a theological purpose, offer basic counseling services, utilize a holistic perspective, and require staff to have professional credentials. The Institute's mission is to help affiliated centers provide team-oriented, cost-efficient counseling, education, and consultation which emphasize the interrelatedness of mind, body, spirit, and community.

**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 are as follows: the faith traditions at the heart of Interfaith Community Services call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This requires 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 honesty 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.:** As a ministry of the United Methodist Church, Killingsworth provides transitional housing to adult women who are going through significant life changes. In 1947 Corrie Killingsworth's vision of a safe, supportive Christian home for young women leaving home for the first time became a reality. In 1972 our focus shifted to women who had experienced significant life crises and were preparing to transition back into the community as more stable, responsible citizens.

Residents are referred from across South Carolina when they leave addiction treatment facilities, in-patient and outpatient mental health facilities, the prison system, shelters for victims of violence, and individual helping professionals and local church pastors. Residents are expected to work or go to school and be able to pay a nominal fee for residency. Residents are provided not only a safe, supportive community, but also life skills, Bible study and spiritual development, work support, educational assessment, parenting skills, and personal counseling as they prepare to return to their homes or create new ones.

**PATH – People Attempting To Help:** 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 four months (maximum three times a year), and this assistance would be applied to rent, electricity, natural gas, water, prescription medications, and other small qualifying needs. The York Lions Club takes 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 in need.

**RURAL MISSION, INC.:** The Rural Mission is in its 41<sup>st</sup> year of serving the needs of the low income families, children, the elderly, and migrants in the rural Sea Islands area near Charleston. The Mission provides faith, a hand up, and a chance to overcome poverty, hardship, and crisis.

The Mission, its staff and volunteers, serve through the operation of the Migrant Headstart Program for migrant children and their families in Charleston and Colleton Counties. Low income substandard homes are repaired, rehabbed, and replaced through the Housing Workcamp Program. Hardship assistance is provided in many forms for daily basic needs. The Mission's prayer ministry serves the faith needs of all in need of comfort, encouragement, and spiritual

growth. There is a place and a calling for all who wish to serve and volunteer, regardless of age or skills.

**THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY – COLUMBIA:** Founded in 1982, The Cooperative Ministry is a unique ministry of the Midlands community created to serve as an instrument of God's love by providing a coordinated, charitable response to assist those in need. We work hard to improve the quality of life for our clients by providing short-term assistance, counseling, prayer, and guidance to other available community resources. With a focus on cultural literacy and an ultimate goal of self-sufficiency, we work to address many of the root causes of poverty.

**THE TRACY JACKSON PROGRAM OF G.I.F.T. (GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR TOMORROW):** The Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT has a mission to feed the bodies, minds, and spirits of children. We serve this mission by providing a free summer day camp type experience, including free breakfast and free lunch and activities when school is not in session.

In the summer of 2013, we served an average of 225 breakfasts a day and 322 lunches a day to children in Abbeville County and in the City of Anderson. In Abbeville, over 60% of the public school children get free or reduced priced meals at school; in our Anderson area, it's over 94%.

For some of the children, their first knowledge of God is the grace said at meals in our program and the care of our site workers.

Our motto is "We do it for the children." Our prayer is to serve Christ by serving God's children.

**UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION:** Volunteers in Mission began as a vision that ordinary people could make an extraordinary difference in the world. South Carolina is proudly the home of these visionaries and the beginning of this amazing ministry that is now worldwide and supported by many conferences across the United States. It has also served as the model for other denominations as they have followed the lead to create hands on ministries through the years.

Today VIM is men and women who are adventurous in their faith. They yearn to not only serve Christ, but also to serve Him in new and exciting ways. They want to broaden their horizons of faith as well as the height and breadth of their lives. They want to go where the need is greatest and meet that need with faith, hope, and love.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is a fellowship of believers – lay and clergy, men and women, adults and youth – who have stepped out in faith to serve the needs of communities around the world.

South Carolina UMVIM consists of people just like you, who have felt and followed the call of Christ in their lives to go out into the world to share this vision and spread the Gospel of Christ through actively working to ease the burdens of others through construction, medical clinics, evangelism, VBS, and many other means.

Acting as the hands and feet of Christ, UMVIM missionaries help others at home and throughout the world through construction, medical assistance, and various other activities. Whether it is building a chapel in the Philippines or building and staffing an eye clinic in Haiti, the men and women of UMVIM, SC, strive to put shoe leather on their faith. There are multiple opportunities for short term or long term service and opportunities year round in many places.

**UNITED MINISTRIES OF GREENVILLE:** United Ministries was founded as Greenville Urban Ministries in June of 1970 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was chartered as an inter-denominational non-profit organization in 1974 and became known as United Ministries in 1982. 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 who are those who help.

A direct service agency intently focused on solutions to poverty and homelessness, we offer financial assistance with rent and utility bills, heating and cooling assistance, medication for life-threatening illnesses, food, day shelter services, case management, job training, job placement, a free GED program, and advocacy.

**WALLACE FAMILY LIFE CENTER:** The Wallace Family Life Center is a family oriented facility. Our mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people who live in the Wallace/Bennettsville communities.

We currently offer the following programs: adult education for those desiring to complete their high school education; arts and crafts classes for adults to engage in various projects; a

Homemakers' Club to explore and discuss relevant issues such as power of attorney and offered through a partnership with the local Clemson Extension Office; an after school program tutoring and enrichment operating Monday-Friday for 25 scholars; summer reading program/Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools program for 25 to 30 scholars during the summer months, providing learning in a safe and fun environment; Youth Council for youth ages 12-18 to help them to become a more active citizen in the community; one week of Vacation Bible School at the end of the summer reading program.

Other ministries and programs are as follows:

- Scouting – (Girls and Boys) Retired leaders and volunteers are welcome to join and help out.
- Food Pantry – (all donations are welcomed) Community food drive is held every year at the Center and BI-LO in Bennettsville, SC.
- Clothes Closet(accepting items year round) Gentle used clothing/towels are collected for those in need.
- Operation Christmas Child(call today for details) You can share with a needy child and his/her family during the Christmas Holiday.

### **ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

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

At Annual Conference, 2013, Bishop Jonathan Holston challenged us to dream a “God-Sized Dream”. **Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry (ASNMM)** took the challenge and began our “God-Sized Dream.”

While at Annual Conference, I received a call from Mrs. Kathleen Baskin, a resident of The Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee. She had long had a dream of an **Aldersgate** Home in Florence—to be called “Rick’s House” in memory of her late son, Frederick “Rick” Howard DeBerry, Jr., a special needs individual. In further conversations, I learned that she and her family would fund the building of the house if **Aldersgate** could provide a site and pay for furnishings, staff training, and start up operations costs.

Over several months The Methodist Manor Board of Trustees considered making a site available for **Aldersgate**. In January 2014, a site was identified, offered, accepted, and surveyed. Legal work on deed and details are in progress.

**Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry will hold a Groundbreaking Ceremony for “Rick’s House,” March 3, 2014.** The site is on Hamer Circle on the Manor Campus in Florence. This home to be built by **ASNMM**, which will house four men with special needs, is expected to be ready for occupancy in early fall 2014.

In the 11 years of its existence, **ASNMM** has built **Aldersgate at the Oaks**, 421 Methodist Oaks Drive, Orangeburg, which is home for 6 men and is filled. **ASNMM** has also built **Aldersgate in Columbia**, 731 Sims Avenue, near the Epworth Campus, which is home for 6 women. It is filled and has a waiting list. The vision of **Aldersgate** is to continue to provide additional homes in other parts of the state as funds and sites are available.

**August 10, 2014, is designated by the Annual Conference as Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday.** Every pastor is asked to give congregations an opportunity to support **ASNMM** by taking an offering on that day or at a time of the congregation’s choice.

**ASNMM** appreciates the generous support given by churches, individuals, and groups. We look forward to greater participation as we raise funds to complete putting “Rick’s House” into operation and to develop a Residents’ Assistance Fund to supplement support in changing circumstances as we move forward with “God-Sized Dreams.”

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.”

Please visit the Conference Web Site for more information about **ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY** or to refer persons who may need our services ([www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org)).

To God be the Glory!

*Betty Moss McGuirt, chairperson*

## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 118 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 accomplished the following:

- I. Opened the Performance and Quality Improvement Department that will keep Epworth on the cutting edge of providing quality childcare to residents and their families. The Duke Endowment awarded Epworth a three year grant of \$190,000 to launch the new PQI initiative. The PQI Department is designed to promote evidence-based practices and measure all outcomes by objective standards.
- II. Celebrated the opening of the Midlands Family Care Center, which is a new venture for helping children stay with their mothers during a time when mothers and children would normally be separated. Epworth, in partnership with Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and in coordination with the S.C. Department of Social Services, is providing residential care and services for mothers who are in danger of having their children removed from their homes. A grant from the Duke Endowment is providing start up funding for this program.
- III. Continued to create a culture of success which is reflected in the following statistics: 100% of Epworth's high school students graduated and were accepted into institutions of higher learning; 76% of residents had no failing grades; 97% of residents had two or fewer behavior referrals; 54% of residents earned academic honor roll at their schools; 50% of students earned Epworth's academic incentive.
- IV. Received the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator is the leading charity evaluator in America. The 4-star rating is the highest rating awarded.
- V. 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.
- VI. Averaged 77 children per day in the residential population plus supported 10 higher education students who lived off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program averaged 21 children per week in a preschool program. This program serves children who experience developmental delays. The EE-IC program also served 62 families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 170 children served at any given time.
- VII. Began year seven 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; increased by \$109,541.59 in 2012; and increased by \$22,000 in 2013. Total giving increased in 2013 by \$102,887. The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children decreased from 239 to 213. There were 340 churches that met or exceeded the minimum of \$6.00 per member average. This is an increase of nine cents per member from 2012. A complete report can be located at [www.epworthchildreshome.org](http://www.epworthchildreshome.org).
- VIII. Adopted a budget of \$5,520,213 for the fiscal year 1-1-14 through 12-31-14. This budget includes \$90,000 in Title I funds and a grant from the City of Columbia of \$50,000 for the Independent Living Initiative.
- IX. 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 reve-

nue and donations. The endowment draw has been reduced by \$1,100,000 per year. The goal of a draw of 5% or less was achieved this year.

- X. Continued to be accredited by EAGLE Accreditation Commission of the United Methodist Association. The EAGLE accreditation is effective for five 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.

- XI. Continued to expand the Higher Education Program by adding resources to the Supervised Independent Living Initiative. This 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.

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](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org).

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

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

## **THE 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. PACE is currently serving 139 participants and has been approved to expand into Bamberg County when more Medicaid slots become available from the State.

Live@Home Choices provides 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 is 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 six 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 21 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 Oaks ARMS (Alzheimer's, Respite, Memory Support) Adult Day Center at The Oaks which is opening in the spring of this year. This program will care for 24 dementia participants from the Orangeburg Area. In the near future, The Oaks will bring on line a 31-bed assisted living dementia unit for those persons who need the specialized care.

Our new home health service and a physician office located on our campus along with an audiologist, podiatrist, and optician provide convenient health care services for our residents.

Our new 11 acre Acorn Lake is part of our long range plans to enhance our amenities as we develop new living options for our residents of the future.

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 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 Charlie Thomas, 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.

Fiscal Year 2013 marked another year of continued progress of our programs and services. We currently serve over 400 residents on our campus. We are very pleased to see our campus occupancy continuing to grow from a steady migration of retirees from across the country. Over 95% of our residential living offerings are now accounted for and growing higher each month. With more than two-thirds of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from more than 100 miles away, we have re-engineered our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Involvement with our resident committees allows us to continuously fine tune the scope of our offerings for the present, while we prepare for the future. In that vein, we are extremely excited and blessed with the addition of our prayer room, which enhances our vibrant worship programs. The cost of the prayer room was funded by our executive staff and board!

With the continued success of our Wellness and Healthy Lifestyle Programs, our campus has remained vibrant and active. Our enhanced wellness complex continues to serve over 250 customers, not including a significant number of employees, every week. Class types range from weightlifting and water aerobics to yoga and massage. Aquatic therapy is also available through our extensive rehabilitation program by skilled physical and/or occupational therapists. Approximately 60% of our independent living residents participate in over 30 different classes each week and roughly 32% of our assisted living residents participate in our programs as well. The skilled nursing facility also participates via satellite Wellness Programs and Moving Masters through the coordination of our Therapy Department and Certified Recreational Therapist. Participation in our wellness programs has added more than improved health for our residents; it has sparked a youthful energy and excitement felt campus wide.

To continue and maintain our growth and lifestyle offerings, we are finalizing plans for expanded and unique dining venues, culinary experiences, and services. Our already active outdoor recreation areas will soon be expanded for opportunities such as pickle ball, bocce ball, picnic/grill areas, and other outdoor spaces for activity and socializing. We are also fine tuning plans for a state of the art inpatient rehabilitation program to include a new therapy gymnasium, long term care facility, as well as plans for additional community living, assisted living, and special care homes and apartments.

In conjunction with our overall growth, we continue our quest to redefine nursing care in a manner that replaces the current definition of a "nursing home." Our vision and efforts have progressed in this area, and we are cultivating multi-function teams to help give birth to this new program in the very near future. The challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, is to design this exceptional program to be affordable and viable for a Medicaid and lower income population. We believe that if we can achieve this goal, it will spread to others, so that, in the near future, a skilled nursing home will look and operate nothing like what we have accepted in the past.



Regrettably, our quest to continue to serve the needy as part of our mission continues to be challenged. Recently, Wesley Commons received a mandate by the State to reduce the number of low income (Medicaid) patients being served by a significant factor. While we support the State's vision to become fiscally responsible, our board and staff stayed true to our heritage of care and refused to turn our backs on those who called Wesley Commons home. To that end, the State fined Wesley Commons almost \$80,000 for not turning our backs on those most in need. While this is a setback in our ability to continue our mission of care to an economically diverse population, we have a renewed passion to seek new and better ways to serve those in need.

As you can see, our ministry to serve our older brothers and sisters continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. In 2013, Wesley Commons provided over \$1,203,288 of subsidized care, with the Methodist Conference providing just over \$181,000. The support of the Conference and other private supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide support for many in need.

Wesley Commons', Methodist Oaks', and Methodist Manor's need for support will only increase as our communities continue to grow and, conversely, our State and federal funding for our nation's seniors continues to be reduced. Wesley Commons' current level of support is extremely taxing on our resources. Our ongoing ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. We thank you for your continued financial support of those who built our great nation and deserve our fullest attention.

In His Interest,

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

#### **CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY**

Recognized as one of the nation's leading liberal arts institutions, Claflin University sustained its commitment to provide an environment for high quality living and learning with a plethora of inspirational and motivational events. The spiritual life of the campus continues to be enhanced and uplifted with traditional activities that included Bishop Jonathan Holston as a panelist during the revered Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy.

Claflin University was ranked for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2013. The University also earned a top ranking among institutions in South Carolina and Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the *Washington Monthly* in its 2013 Best Liberal Arts Colleges rankings and was once again ranked one of the top colleges in the nation by *Forbes.com*

Notable visitors to the campus included Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, the Nobel Laureate hosted by the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and retired U.S. Ambassador James Irvin Gadsden. Ketterle won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2001. Launching the University's Visionary Leader-in-Residence program, Gadsden currently serves as Diplomat-in-Residence and lecturer in public and international affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in Princeton, New Jersey.

Claflin senior politics and justice studies major Ashley Simmons became only the second Claflin student to be awarded the prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The 21-year-old Jacksonville, Florida, native is among 40 men and women – 20 undergraduate and 20 graduate fellows – who will begin their journey towards representing America as Foreign Service Officers through the Fellowship.

The Campaign for Claflin University was bolstered by a \$4.35 million gift from Sodexo Corporation, now the largest single donor in University history. To date, Claflin has raised more than \$70 million toward its \$96.4 million goal.

Claflin also unveiled a new, innovative tool for its enrollment efforts, an interactive view book that can be found online at [www.GoToClaflin.com](http://www.GoToClaflin.com). The traditional, printed, undergraduate admissions brochure has been transformed into a digitized online format for prospective students. The view book can be accessed via personal computer, tablet, smartphone, or other online-capable device and includes a wealth of information about Claflin and the admission process.

Additionally, Claflin announced that it will offer online courses in programs beginning in the summer of 2014. In the fall, undergraduate degrees in organizational management and criminal justice and the Master of Business Administration will be available through Claflin Online.

For the past three years, Claflin University has participated in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge by offering interfaith forums and awareness events that draw hundreds of student participants. This year's event featured a panel discussion that included representatives from Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, and Hindu traditions. The focus was on the healing power of faith.

Bishop Holston led dozens of ministers and lay individuals who participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy in Claflin University's James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. The two-day event included a panel discussion, worship service, luncheon, workshops, and lecture.

Claflin University celebrated Religious Emphasis Week during February 25-27 in the institution's James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. Speakers were Dr. David M. Battle, visiting assistant professor in Claflin's Department of Philosophy and Religion; Dr. Johnny B. Hill, interim department chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Claflin; and Pastor James Rowson, senior pastor of Kingdom Life Ministries in Orangeburg.

Additionally, Claflin continues to offer Sunday services at the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore chapel and a mid-week "Pour Hour" service featuring speakers from the campus and community each Wednesday evening. The chapel remains a place where visitors can seek refuge, meditation, and spiritual growth.

### **COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

Since our founding 160 years ago by the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, Columbia College has supported and encouraged young women in their pursuit of a quality education infused with leadership development and service learning. This past year, we took that preparation to a new level, with the establishment of the Institute for Leadership and Professional Excellence. Through the Institute, Columbia College is delivering a customized four-year program to all students to help them transition first from high school to college, and then from college to their careers.

In addition to a great liberal arts education, every student receives mentoring, coaching, professional development, and real-world work experience so that when she graduates, she is ready for a fulfilling career and economic independence and ready also to make a positive difference in the world. From the time she enters Columbia College, each student has her own personal "board of directors" to guide her and hands-on learning experiences that start in her first year and progress throughout her four years.

Columbia College was recognized in 2013 by *U.S. News and World Report* as a Best Value college, confirming that the return on investment in a Columbia College education is worth it, based on academic quality and cost. We are confident that our new initiatives will further enhance the value of a Columbia College education. New scholarship programs, like the Momentum Scholarship, will help us make that value available to more bright, ambitious, and talented young women for whom Columbia College is the right college choice.

Faith continues to be a cornerstone of Columbia College. Guided by our Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, Reverend Roy Mitchell, we live our beliefs and strive always to be people of character and commitment and advocates for social justice and service to the community. We hold weekly chapel services for students, faculty, and staff, with a wide variety of speakers from various backgrounds.

This past year, members of the faculty, staff, and student body formed a "Compassionate Action Group" to focus the community around the issue of compassion and living by the Golden Rule as individuals and as an institution. We will become the first college in the state to become a member of the Charter for Compassion, an initiative that began as a result of Karen Armstrong's TED prize wish. Its goal is to advance the spirit and practice of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Our weekly chapel services in spring 2014 have centered on topics from Karen Armstrong's book, *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life* and The Charter for Compassion. The action group is also holding a series of weekly discussion groups and distributed free books to campus participants.

We deeply value our connection to the United Methodist Church, and to further nurture that relationship, Reverend Mitchell organized Columbia College Day in 17 churches across the state this past year, including a two-day mini choir tour to different churches. Incorporated into regular Sunday services, these days recognize alumnae and family connections in United Methodist churches throughout South Carolina. Reverend Mitchell gives the sermons, and the Columbia College Hi-C's vocal choir performs.

I have the opportunity to speak with the congregations we visit about Columbia College and thank them for their apportionments to the four UMC colleges of South Carolina. I share information about the wonderful UMC Foundation Dollars for Scholars Program and make congregations aware that Columbia College will also match any Methodist Scholarship from a church or the Conference up to \$1,000, thus their scholarship dollars can be tripled.

Through Reverend Mitchell, Columbia College has connected with Francis Burns UMC to help with the Freedom School they are holding in the summer of 2014, which is a program of the Children's Defense Fund. Columbia College students in our education major plan to teach in the school this summer.

We maintain our partnership through Reverend Mitchell with the Interfaith Partners of SC, providing valuable interfaith dialogue and education on our campus. We are beginning work on several new initiatives in collaboration with our neighbor institution, the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

We are blessed to have compassion and commitment to service and social justice incorporated into every aspect of our student experiences. For two years in a row, our student athletes received the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character Institutional Award with a 5-star status, the highest awarded in our Conference. This year we placed second in the country for the National NAIA Champions of Character 5-Star Award. We are adding two new sports this fall - swimming and cross country - and we look forward to bringing more young women athletes of character to Columbia College.

Thank you to the United Methodist Conference for the support you give us in so many ways. We are doing great things at Columbia College, and I am excited about our direction. We are continuing Columbia College's longstanding commitment to community engagement, social justice, and learning through service to others, as we educate women to be confident leaders who will positively change their own lives and the lives of others.

*Elizabeth A. Dinndorf, President*

## SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

With continued gratitude to the members of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Spartanburg Methodist College is proud to share these noteworthy updates with you:

- **Enrollment:** SMC once again experienced a year-to-year enrollment increase, welcoming 818 students to campus in Fall 2013 (an increase of 7 students over the previous year). The College continues to receive higher numbers of inquiries from prospective students while also noting a continued stress on families to meet the cost of attendance. More than half of the College's student body receives federal support in the form of Pell Grants, and nearly 40% of the student body are members of minority populations. SMC is proud to provide meaningful access to higher education for those who might otherwise not pursue post-secondary education. There is a delicate balance that the college has to maintain, too, of not discounting tuition such that the budget is negatively impacted. The funding SMC receives from the South Carolina United Methodist churches is important for us to maintain our scholarship program.
- **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 nearly 86%. The national average is only 20%. As a direct result of this success rate, colleges like Wofford College and the College of Charleston have established bridge programs with SMC. Other colleges have stepped up their recruitment of our students for senior college completion.
- **Academic Program:** We continue to maintain very strong articulation agreements with a long list of 4-year colleges and are proud of the seamless transfer opportunities our students have. Our reputation as a college with a strong academic program, with highly transferable 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. As a result of new faculty hiring, we are expanding our science offerings (particularly in chemistry) and are at work on a new degree program that we hope to roll out in the next year.
- **Fundraising:** "Pioneering the Future: The Centennial Campaign for Spartanburg Methodist College" is very close to its \$15 million completion. We hope to have the campaign completed by the time of the South Carolina Annual Conference in June

2014. Our next initiatives will be singular projects such as a new science building, residence hall updates, and better fitness facilities for all of our students to use.

- **Athletics:** If you haven't followed Pioneer athletic progress in *The Advocate*, you are missing out! Our cross country, wrestling, men's basketball, softball, and baseball teams all had national rankings as they entered their seasons this year. And, after 103 years, the SMC baseball field received lights this year! A very generous gift from Mr. John Sparrow of Lake City, South Carolina, allowed the College to light the field, and we are now able to not only have night games, but also to wait out rain delays and schedule games such that student athletes do not have to miss classes or labs! The College's success in athletics brings both student athletes and non-student athletes alike to campus, and our student-athletes continue to achieve higher grade point averages than the rest of the student body!
- **Commitment to Service and Worship:** Rev. Candice Sloan, Chaplain of the College and Director of Church Relations, provides extraordinary leadership for our weekly daytime chapel services, which are both creative and well-attended. She also spearheads the College's service opportunities, beginning with a Freshman Day of Service in August. The SMC campus community provides over 5,500 hours of service to the greater Spartanburg community every year and has been named to the President's Honor Roll for Service for the fourth year in a row. For a few years now, Rev. Sloan has implemented alternative Fall and Spring Break opportunities for our students, which have become very popular. We are also pleased to support and encourage her as she pursues a D. Min. at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

Thank you for your faithful support of our mission at SMC. 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

Nationwide, the enterprise of the liberal arts college education is being challenged on many fronts in 2014. Therefore, I am pleased to report to our Methodist Conference friends that the state of Wofford is strong, continuing to be characterized in excellence in everything we attempt, engagement of our students and faculty with the broader world as part of our campus experience, and the transformation of those we serve.

Members of our community are currently working through early stages of strategic planning for the college's future. Over the coming months, we hope to develop a bold vision for the Wofford of the next decade. Through worldwide experiences for a diverse student body, meaningful interaction with a teaching faculty as reflected in outstanding scores for engaged learning, and successful preparation for a world after Wofford through the Space in the Mungo Center, we are endeavoring to find creative ways to keep up with a rapidly changing world of teaching and learning.

Wofford's Center for Community and Global Engagement (administered by our Perkins-Prothro Chaplain, Dr. Ron Robinson) emphasizes (1) Educational Opportunity; (2) Energy and the Environment; (3) Health and Healthy Living; (4) Poverty Reduction and Alleviation; and (5) Diversity and Pluralism. Recently, the center has been instrumental in making Wofford a leader in a revitalization partnership for Spartanburg's transitioning northside neighborhoods. The Rev. Robinson is also a leader in the Interfaith Youth Core movement across the country.

The cost of higher education for students and their families poses difficult questions for all types of institutions. Considering our average financial aid package was \$30,372, United Methodist students received more than \$7.4 million through the Financial Aid Office in 2013-2014. The Conference's Senior College Scholarship Fund is a cornerstone of that effort, and we appreciate the record level of support we received during the most recent calendar year. We will endeavor to put it to good use for United Methodist leaders of the future, such as Palmer Cantler of the Class of 2015.

A religion major from Johnson City, Tennessee, Ms. Cantler went with a Wofford team on an archeological excavation to Horvat Kur in Galilee, Israel. She also has been an intern at the First Broad Street UMC in Kingsport, Tennessee. She plans seminary studies leading to ordination in the United Methodist Church. Here's what she wrote as a retrospective on her college years:

"For me, finding the right college meant walking out on campus and feeling like I was home. My school, Wofford College, because of its relationship with the United Methodist Church, has this atmosphere. Why?"

“Because it is connectional. While not every student is a Methodist, it is easy to find people with common experiences. I have friends who grew up similarly to myself and share my values, especially the ones that I learned at church. However, just like at every college campus, diversity is widespread.

“And because Wofford puts a great emphasis on a lifelong pursuit of knowledge. Through the availability of scholarships and the willingness of mentors, United Methodist institutions promote learning and an informed perception of the world.”

*Nayef H. Samhat, President*

Dr. Nayef H. Samhat became Wofford's 11<sup>th</sup> president on July 1, 2013. He holds a B.A. in international affairs from George Washington University's School of International and Public Affairs, a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University. He brought with him a wealth of experience gained in senior leadership roles at Centre College and most recently at Kenyon College. He and his wife, Prema, are the parents of three daughters.

### **THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

As we enter into our 13<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, our prayers remain with our troops and their families as the conflict in Afghanistan continues. 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 with this Conference, is serving Aldersgate UMC in the Charleston District and as a reserve chaplain on the Charleston Air Force base. Aaron, also, serves as chairperson of the Charleston Wesley Foundation Board. Mallory Forte is being ordained an elder during this Annual Conference and is serving as the associate minister of Union UMC in the Columbia District. Justin Ritter is a third 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 of faith there.

Our ministry at Medical University of South Carolina is now a conduit for connecting those young adults to the various young adult ministries at our local churches. The 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 and Francis Marion Wesley Foundation 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, set up, and breakdown. In January of 2013 13 students from Charleston Wesley Foundation attended the Holston Conference College and Young Adult event called Divine Rhythm. This was our largest delegation to date! Students from 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. Special thanks to Rev. Robert Countiss and Mountain View UMC of Kingsport, Tennessee, who shared their palatial cabin with us. These activities were indeed the United Methodist connection in action.

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

*Lisa C. Hawkins, CWF Campus minister*

## **THE CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

I am in the process of wrapping up my first full year in Clemson as campus minister and director of the Clemson Wesley Foundation. When my family and I moved to Tigertown, I was filled with great expectation and hope for the ministry that would take place on the campuses of Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan, and Tri-County Technical College. In Clemson, Clemson Wesley (CW) and Clemson UMC (CUMC) partner in a covenant relationship to reach the students in our community. As in past years, we have connected with over 600 students this school year. Several hundred students call CUMC home for Sunday morning worship, while hundreds more are active in CW.

On any given week, students plug into 13 different small groups, a Sunday evening and midweek worship service, as well as countless service opportunities. Throughout the year over 100 students will serve on mission trips to New York/New Jersey, New Orleans, Sea Islands, and other places. During spring break of 2014, CW sent teams of 36 and 37 to serve in rural West Virginia and Eleuthera, Bahamas, respectively. In all that Clemson Wesley does - through a variety of worship, social, retreat, small group, and mission opportunities - it continues to be in outreach to students at CU, Tri County and SWU. Our goal in everything we do is to provide a space for students to be welcomed as they are and given opportunities to experience the love and presence of God in their lives. As I complete this academic year, I am even more excited about the future of campus ministry, especially here in Clemson.

A great indicator of the fruit produced by our campus ministries is what happens when our students leave our respective campuses. Many of our graduates have become faithful leaders in their local churches. The disciples who graduate from Clemson Wesley truly go out to transform the world and their communities for the better. In addition to the countless future compassionate teachers, gospel-focused engineers, and grace-filled business people who have come through this ministry, CW also continues to be a place where students discern a call to full-time ministry. Several former students have served as missionaries and youth pastors. Over the last several years CW/CUMC has seen 12 graduates go on to serve as elders and deacons, including seven here in the South Carolina Conference. My own faith and call to ordained ministry were developed and discerned through the ministries of CW. I can personally testify to the importance of campus ministry in the development of our strong church leaders both lay and clergy.

This past year CW has continued this great tradition by endorsing a candidate for ministry who is now a certified candidate enrolling in seminary this fall. We have also seen two more students enter the candidacy process this year. Our college campuses are fertile grounds where the harvest is ripe. Most of our congregants are with us for only 4-5 years, so the sense of urgency is great. It is a great privilege to serve with these students and help them recognize the ways in which God is moving in their lives and calling them to particular vocations.

Investing in vital campus ministries that are bearing tangible fruit is an investment in the future of the UMC and the communities in which we live. It is my hope that the S.C. Conference will continue to fund and even increase funding for campus ministries. Bishop Holston encourages us to dream God-sized dreams, and we desperately need God-sized vision for our campus ministries.

Many of you already understand the importance of this great ministry. All that we do at CW would not be possible without all of the Sunday school classes, men's and women's groups, youth pastors, clergy, individuals, and congregations across the Conference who faithfully support Clemson Wesley through apportionments and special gifts. It is an honor to partner with you as we reach out to our young adults on campus.

*Rev. Steve Simoneaux, Campus Minister*

## **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, and 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 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 ten 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 three times a week after school at the Prosperity Project, a program for at risk, latch key children from Gonzales Gardens. We work with Habitat for Humanity and with ESL for adults and 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 five different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to New Orleans to do urban ministry and still do some work to repair damage done by Hurricane Katrina. We also traveled to Long Island, New York, twice to aid in the work post Super Storm Sandy. Rural Mission on the Sea Islands was also the site of a mission trip. Over spring break we went on mission to Santo Domingo, Ecuador, where we provided a variety services including offering a dental and medical clinic.

About 55 students gather in small groups throughout the week to support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. We have a freshman group, several coed groups, a graduate group, and bible/theology study groups. 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. We include elements of worship in other settings including the small groups.

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 we continue to work with students and other religious organizations to build interfaith relations. The Table of Abraham was one of the projects we sponsored.

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, and UM Men's and Women's groups. We are grateful that they are so helpful. And, of course, thanks to my students and staff. They are what make us as vital and dynamic as we are. Thanks be to God for all of you.

*Tom Wall, Campus Minister  
Columbia Wesley Foundation Director*

## THE FRANCIS MARION WESLEY FOUNDATION

This has been a great new year here at the Francis Marion Wesley Foundation. FMU Wesley's presence has increased by leaps and bounds on this campus. I believe that our group has truly been blessed this year with wonderful new interns, and because of their efforts, the group has become more intergrated, loving, and supportive to all the students who join us.

We continued our year by getting our name out to the students by being active in the schools' events, especially a new Unity Event that included all Christian groups on campus.

Our logo has continued to be our mission on this campus and has been extremely successful: **Learn, Live, Love! We Learn** in our weekly gatherings of worship 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 every day lives: death, dating, cancer, pregnancy, disappointments, etc.). We **Live** by spending time serving others in the community and across the state.

Our groups continue to meet weekly in a classroom that we are growing out of. This semester we average 25 students weekly, even though not all of these are the same students each week because of school requirements and, sometimes, job requirements. We are reaching 60+ students here at FMU Wesley this year. We have added new ways to track students and to contact them for events.

We have had many opportunities to fellowship with one another to build community: participating in school events, outside campus group activities, a fall retreat, and a new winter retreat at Asbury Hills. These experiences were awesome opportunities in team building exercises and faith building community with one another. We continue to support community projects that feed

the hungry and help abused women. One new world outreach is a fundraiser donating money to help supply clean water to families in Africa. We are also looking at adding next year a more in-depth Bible study one day a week for an hour. Some of our students are excited about this plan. Next year, as our current interns graduate, we have some wonderful upcoming students to fill their places, bringing new ideas and gifts to our group. I am excited to see where next year takes this group. Our biggest challenge is to raise funds and awareness of FMU Wesley Foundation. FMU has the most diverse racial makeup of any other school in the state. My intent is to not charge the students who are active participants a fee for participating in our outside activities. The support effort 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 DS who wholeheartedly supports our group and encourages the churches to support us. I have also had opportunities to talk to UMM's and UMW's about FMU Wesley. There are a few 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 grand 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, FMU is now becoming a more established place in academia.

This year it has continued to be 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**

One of our goals at Furman Wesley Fellowship is 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 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.*"

This year our theme has been "Stories": the personal stories of our lives and faith, as well as the stories from our scriptures. In this manner, we have not only learned much about one another [it's interesting how little we REALLY know about one another], but also gained an appreciation for how the biblical stories are really our stories. When we read these familiar stories of our past, we see once again just how similar we, (and all of God's children), really are. One of the amazing opportunities that our group has shared this year was to hear from two of our former students who are/were serving with the United Methodist Mission Intern program. We heard the story of a young man getting ready to go to the Philippines and the story of a young woman who recently returned from South Africa. It was such an inspiration to see their faith put into action, and these stories allowed our current students to get a sense of life in ministry, especially in another part of the world.

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 the following:

- Offered weekly lunch in the Dining Hall
- Kept weekly Office Hours for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Participated in an overnight retreat at Camp Asbury Hills, after working for the day with Habitat for Humanity.
- Visited four local UMC churches: designed to give students an introduction to local churches in the hope that they may find a home of worship while at Furman.
- Offered student lead small groups for those who wanted to go deeper in their faith.
- Offered a Freshman 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 winter retreat in Asheville and a spring retreat at Lake Hartwell.
- Co-sponsored a campus wide event that brought retired Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden to campus to discuss the importance of faith in his life.



- Sent 10 students and adults over spring break on a mission trip to Washington, DC.
- Offered 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 serve. 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 ORANGEBURG WESLEY CAMPUS MINISTRY

*"I will lift up my eyes to the hills - for where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber..." (Psalm 121:1-3a)*

The words of the psalmist are a living testimony of the Orangeburg Wesley Campus Ministry. Now in its thirty-ninth year of existence, campus ministry is alive and well. Thanks be unto to God! Since the world is constantly evolving, the leadership is intentionally involved in continuous assessment of this ministry for efficiency, effectiveness, and relevancy.

The need for a spiritual presence, Christian witness, and ecumenical fellowship on the campuses of higher education is seriously evident. Violence and conflict have become common place, some young adults are questioning the existence and/or relevancy of God, and more young adults are rejecting Christian values.

These concerns are being addressed through a vibrant and informative campus ministry. We are committed to continuation of our current ministry:

- Offering community service-learning opportunities
- Conducting Bible Study and counseling services
- Engaging in missional outreach to local churches and charities
- Inviting Freshman orientation activities
- Participating in conference-district events
- Providing a safe haven to study and fellowship with peers

And development of the following:

- To reestablish the Religious Life Council – a monthly fellowship of faith and religious groups
- To collaborate with other campus ministries to assist young people to respond to God's call to ordained ministry through the GBHEM Young Clergy Initiative
- To expand our presence and become more visible in the community to reach commuter students
- To develop WOW-T ( Wesley Outreach Witness Team) – diverse ambassadors for campus ministry
- To strengthen partnerships and secure committed supports – stakeholders in the community

The Holy Spirit continues to fortify us with insight and determination, and therefore we are committed to continue this vital ministry, which has been entrusted to us. We can do it...*for our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

Your prayers and support of the Orangeburg Wesley Campus Ministry are appreciated.

Blessings,

*Rev. Constance "Connie" Barnes, Director & Campus Pastor  
Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, Interim Director & Campus Pastor*

### THE WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Few things are as gratifying to me as encountering young persons who want to experience the love of Christ.

Now in my second year as director/campus minister of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation, I continue to be blessed to encounter such young persons on a weekly basis. We begin a typical week at Winthrop Wesley on Monday nights with SUPPLY: "Everything you need to start your week off right!" "Everything" includes a meal provided by a local United Methodist church

followed by a laid-back, come-as-you-are worship experience with prayer, music, and discussion of God's Word and relevant issues. Our week continues on Tuesdays with a Winthrop Wesley tradition: Pasta Lunch, a free pasta-based meal provided to students and the Winthrop community. Weekly activities conclude with two student-led small groups on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, respectively. We purposefully do *not* schedule activities on Sundays, instead encouraging students to attend and become involved with local churches.

I have also witnessed the dedication, compassion, joy, excitement, and humility of young persons this school year through many different programs, special activities, retreats, and service projects such as our annual Mission Weekend with Wesley groups from Charleston and Francis Marion University, the York County CROP Walks, a campus-wide Fall Festival for a local children's home, a campus-wide Potato Drop, the Divine Rhythm retreat in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and a number of other group-building/fun activities. Winthrop Wesley continues to regularly provide college students with vital, life-changing experiences while positively impacting our campus, our community, and beyond in the name of Jesus Christ.

Without a doubt, my experiences as director/campus minister of The Winthrop Wesley Foundation have brought me plenty of joy and gratification at seeing young persons excited about following Jesus. My experiences have also brought me plenty of hope for the United Methodist Church and Christianity in general, mainly because of the tremendous outpouring of support that our ministry regularly receives from churches, groups, and individuals like you. Thank you for continuing to show me and our students that you share my heart and passion for helping young persons experience Jesus. Please prayerfully consider continuing your support of Winthrop Wesley and you other campus ministries around the state 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 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.

2013 has been a very active and productive year for the Board of Ordained Ministry. The conference board interviewed 45 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.

Because of faithfulness and generosity of local churches paying apportionments in 2013, the board has been able to assist no fewer than 80 persons at eight different university senate-approved seminaries with the cost of funding their theological education in the amount \$177,675! We further rejoice that the recipients of these resources are local pastors and seminarians. We have been able to offer these resources through the Ministerial Education Fund.

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

2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS			
T. Dennie Smith Scholarship Recipients:		Seminary Students Scholarship Recipients:	
<b>Brian Preveaux</b>	\$1000.00	<b>Sean Michael Kilpatrick</b>	\$1000.00
<b>Walter Strawther</b>	\$1000.00		

We are pleased to recommend 23 candidates for provisional membership and commissioning, and 15 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.

Beginning in July, we begin a new candidacy group mentoring process. Our goal is help candidates navigate the candidacy process with ease while building authentic and enduring covenant relationships with one another. As we live into this new process, we will continue to use individual mentors with our local pastors and with those who are currently certified, but are not under appointment. Candidacy retreats will be held annually in January and July. The retreats are intended to be a time for candidates to learn together what ordained/licensed ministry looks like in the United Methodist Church and the South Carolina Conference, and to discern how God is calling them to serve. To date there are already 50 persons signed up to attend our first retreat in July.

As part of their requirements for ordination, provisional clergy members are to present a project "that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church's mission of 'making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world'" (see ¶¶ 330.4 and 335 in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*). Those seeking ordination in 2015 will be the first class to present the fruitfulness projects. These projects will be evaluated as a part of the work submitted to Called and Disciplined Life Committee.

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 2014 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 2013** are the following persons: Wanda Altman, Willie Cannon, Mike Catoe, Curtis Felkel, Larry McCray, Phillip Reynolds and Muriel Scott.

Transferring to the SC Annual Conference from Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church as an elder in full connection is the **Reverend Kevin Stroop**.

We would like to recognize the following persons for professional/paraprofessional certification:

**Bernett W. Mazyck**-Professional Certification in Ministry with the Poor

**Deborah J. White**-Paraprofessional Certification in Spiritual Formation

**Joan P. Moales**-Paraprofessional certification in Christian Education

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. This work requires a significant commitment of personal and professional time. These persons have served you graciously and honorably. Alas, the work of this Board would be impossible without the support that we receive from the Rev. Karen Radcliffe, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Mrs. Martha Liles, the new 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 on Sunday, June 1, 2014.

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 **\$735** 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 2015. (This rate was \$720 for the year 2014.) 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), **\$4,758,018.00** for the pension

program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, 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 2013, 2014, and 2015 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 2015, 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 \$492 per month for the year 2014.) An amount equal to

3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. This amount must be 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 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2015, 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. Churches/charges participating in the ACH automated payment system will receive up to a \$10.00 per month discount on their pension payment.

- E. For 2015, 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 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 9.0% 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  
2015 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>2013 Budgeted</b>	<b>2014 Estimated</b>
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	2,809,768.00	2,827,655.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,113,097.00	1,226,000.00
CRSP CPP (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,098,627.00	1,123,764.00
Clergy Transition*	154,920.00	126,825.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$5,206,412.00</b>	<b>\$5,334,244.00</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
**UM Publishing House	0	.00
Institutional Payments	395,956.00	419,401.00
Apportionment*	154,920.00	156,825.00
Direct Bill Payments	4,655,536.00	4,758,018.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$5,206,412.00</b>	<b>\$5,334,244.00</b>

**\*Amount to be apportioned**

Clergy Transition*	124,920.00	126,825.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS</b>	<b>\$154,920.00</b>	<b>\$156,825.00</b>

\* 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  
Thelma Hudson, 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 lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses 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 six. This funding will be paid through a Health Reimbursement Account.

### **Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits**

During the year 2014, 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 2014 and 2015. 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. **These wellness and incentive programs support and encourage participants and spouses to choose healthy behaviors that help positive health results.** An active participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to \$400 under this plan.

Some of the highlights of these incentives for 2014 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, **2014**.
- 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, **2014**.
- **Participants can earn points to earn the quarterly targets for demonstrating a healthy or improved level for the following health measures: blood pressure, fasting glucose (blood sugar), triglycerides, HDL cholesterol (high-density “good” cholesterol, waist circumference, body mass index (BMI). These Wellness Points are earned on the WebMD Website and can earn up to \$150 HealthCash.**
- 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 August 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.

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

- Retiree communications 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 1<sup>st</sup> of any year must be completed with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits during open enrollment which is prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>2014 Budgeted</b>	<b>2015 Estimated</b>
<b>Active and Non-Medicare Retiree Group</b>		
Participant Only	2,548,836.00	2,914,440.00
Participant + Spouse	1,904,172.00	
<b>Participant + One</b>		<b>2,422,620.00</b>
Participant + Child	177,840.00	
Participant + Children	96,624.00	
Participant + Family	2,658,432.00	2,678,424.00
Total Estimated Active Group	\$7,385,904.00	\$8,015,484.00
<b>Retired Group</b>		
<b>Medicare Eligible Sub Group</b>		
Participant	506,400.00	506,400.00
Participant +1	681,600.00	681,600.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	7,200.00	7,200.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	\$1,195,200.00	\$1,195,200.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	\$8,581,104.00	\$9,210,684.00
<b>Other</b>		
Incapacitation/Transition	194,616.00	194,616.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	395,600.00	464,172.00
Total Estimated Other	590,216.00	658,788.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$9,171,320.00</b>	<b>\$9,869,472.00</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Billing to salary Paying Units	5,117,163.00	6,000,708.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,603,000.00	1,603,000.00
From Insured	2,215,771.00	2,014,776.00
From Medicare Participants	691,511.00	0.00
From Institutional Payments	284,844.00	284,844.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,965,458.00</b>	<b>\$9,965,458.00</b>
<b>Amount to be Apportioned</b>		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	194,616.00	194,616.00
Post Retirement Health Funding	1,603,000.00	1,603,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,797,616.00</b>	<b>\$1,797,616.00</b>

\* Apportioned to churches.

**Report Number Six  
2015 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2014 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$6,000,708.00 be billed to the local church/charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2015.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,954,441.00:
  - a. \$ 156,825.00 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 estimated below:
  - 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 for both the preferred provider Organization Plan and the Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP).
    - 1. Effective January 1, 2015, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$225.00** per month.
    - 2. Effective January 1, 2015, the participant plus spouse premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$470.00** per month.
    - 3. Effective January 1, 2015, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$622.00** per month.
  - b. 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 six.
    - 2. Retiree Premiums for Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be published no later than October 1, 2014 for the year 2015. 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 six.
  - c. **Churches/Charges who have an eligible appointed clergy will be billed an health benefit fee of \$823.00 per month or \$9,876.00.**
- 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 2015 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, premium for both the preferred provider Organization Plan and the Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP) **are expected to be: For the standard plan and Consumer Driven High Deductible - \$745.00 monthly (\$8,940.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,595.00 monthly (\$19,140.00) yearly for Participant plus one coverage, and \$2,086.00 monthly (\$25,032.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2015.**
- 6. A summary of active health plan rating methodology for South Carolina is available in the Conference Benefits 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  
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS  
2015 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY**

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt, and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2015 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBOPHB for the 2015 conference benefit obligations:

**Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)**

**Plan Overview:** The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement portfolio. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which replaced the Pre-82 for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982.

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by annual conferences. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2013 is \$923.7 million, while total plan assets are \$978.5 million resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 106%. The South Carolina Conference portion of the liability is 2.87% and the 2015 contribution is \$2,827,665. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by: Direct Billing. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 100% under CRSP effective January 1, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2014 CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy will have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP, therefore if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013 and prior. The 2013 CRSP-DC contribution was \$1,226,000 and was funded by: Direct Billed to local churches. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 1.32%, due to: % change in CAC.

**Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)**

**Plan Overview:** The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2013 is \$2.7 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.0 billion resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 109% and no required contribution for 2015. The South Carolina Conference's portion of the total liability is 2.67%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.4 billion and the South Carolina Conference's portion of that balance is \$111.74 million or 2.55% of the total.

**Pre-1982 Plan**

**Plan Overview:** Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. When participants enter a Retired relationship with your Conference, and does not terminate, the minimum benefit payable to them is based on two factors: 1) years of Service with pension credit and 2) Conference pension rate. Years of Service with pension credit are approved by each Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the past service rate (PSR), is the dollar amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of Service with pension credit. Typically, the pension rate changes from year to year. The number of years of Service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan, may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit. At that point the participants benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. As the conference increases the PSR, the participants benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM based benefit does not change.

The 2015 Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the South Carolina Annual Conference will be \$735.00, which represents a 2.08% increase from the 2014 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 2.00%, which is based on: Goal is to increase by 2% per year.

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to (remain/increase/decrease) at the 75% level.

Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as of January 1, 2013 for 2015, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the South Carolina Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2013, as follows:

Funding Plan Liability	\$64,667,019	
Assets in the Plan	\$84,050,038	
Funded status	\$19,383,019	represented by a 130% funded ratio

Funded Status as of 12/31/2014 \$22,191,618

The funded ratio is recalculated each year based on economic and demographic changes. This changes create the possibility that Pre-82 contributions may be required at a future date (even after 2021).

Defined benefit plan liabilities (Pre-82, MPP and CRSP-DB) continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the conference still has a liability (obligation) with the plan.

#### **Active Health Benefit Program**

**Plan Overview:** The South Carolina Conference offers a Self-Insured program to the active participants.

During the 2013 year, the total cost of the program was \$7,805,460 and was funded by Direct Billed to local churches and participants. The projected average increase for future years is expected to be 6%, due to: From Healthflex Actuary.

#### **Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)**

**Plan Overview:** The South Carolina Conference post-retiree medical plan currently offered is a Stipend plan made available to Defined Contribution of \$200 per month for all current retirees and covered spouses and retirees and Spouses retiring prior to 01/01/2016. All eligible retirees and covered spouses retiring on or after 01/01/2016 will receive \$100 a month per covered person.

The current annual cost is anticipated to be \$1,603,000 with the funding sources to be: Apportionments. On a longer term basis the South Carolina Conference intends to Fund through apportionments.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2012, following is the funded position of the post-retiree medical benefits:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$23,485,383
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	\$23,735,198
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$202,100
Assets designated for PRM	\$7,632,610

These values are based on 3.50% long term discount rate, 0.00% long-term expected return, and a current increase trend of 8.00% decreasing to 5.00% by 2019.

#### **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**

**Plan Overview:** The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families and is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, you are eligible to participate in CPP if your conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and you satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time episcopal appointment and plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation whichever is less. The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected to make CPP-eligible clergy, who are appointed at least 100%, have mandatory participation, while 75% appointed clergy have optional participation under special arrangements.

Currently (for 2013) the South Carolina Conference has a required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,123,764, which is anticipated to be funded by Direct Billing to local churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 1.32% per year due to: Change in the Conference Average Compensation.

### **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) for Lay and Clergy**

**Plan Overview:** The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contribution: Plan sponsor may make on the participants behalf and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

Conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are eligible after 0 months for a pension contribution of 9% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to contribute personal funds toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for the South Carolina Conference is anticipated to be \$91,105 and funded through the Apportionments

As of January 1, 2014, the South Carolina Conference is sponsoring UMPIP for clergy serving less than full-time and are eligible for a pension contribution of 9% of salary. The estimated contribution for the South Carolina Conference is anticipated to be \$419,401 and funded through the Direct Billed to local churches.

### **Other Conference Defined Contribution Type Obligations**

**Plan Overview:** The South Carolina Conference currently offers a Conference Lay Employee Death and Disability (UMLife) made available to lay conference employees. The contribution for 2013 was \$16,375 with the funding sources to be: Apportioned to local churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.00% per year due to: No Salary Increases are Budgeted. Any increase would be due to the aging of insureds.

**Plan Overview:** The South Carolina Conference currently offers a Death Benefits for Pre BPP Conference Lay Employees. made available to three retired laay employees. The contribution for 2013 was \$216 with the funding sources to be: Apportionment. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 5.00% per year due to: Historical average increase.

### **Other Conference Defined Benefit Type Obligations**

**Plan Overview:** The South Carolina Conference currently offers a DB Special Grant to Dependents and other special grants made available to clergy. The current liability is anticipated to be \$203 with the funding sources to be until the death of recipient of special grant of \$16.88 per month. The contribution for 2014 is anticipated to be \$203. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be .00% per year due to: Negotiated settlement on special grant and dependent decease November 2012.

### **Conclusion:**

The 2015 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above outlined Summary document incorporates to the best of our understanding , the South Carolina Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the Clergy and Laity of the South Carolina Conference.

Respectfully Submitted:

*David L. Anderson, Conference Benefits Office  
Anthony C. Prestipino, Jr., Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services  
Herman B. Lightsey, Jr., Chair Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
David C. Surrent, Chair, Conference Council on Finance and administration*

## **THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

The Commission on Archives and History is responsible for preserving the records of the Annual Conference, is a responsibility which also includes 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 the Florence, Greenwood, Marion, and Spartanburg districts, biographical directories of clergy, subject files on many churches, and records of some closed churches. We have some

personal papers of former clergy and the records of the United Methodist Women. Current or retired clergy who wish to talk about what to do with their personal papers may contact the archivist.

For the year 2013, we responded to 273 inquiries on the Conference collection. We hosted 27 visitors who came to conduct research in the Methodist collections. My student assistants and I have copied 253 obituaries from the *Advocate* Obituary Index for researchers. To compare, in 2012, we had 286 requests, 19 visitors, and 320 obituaries. Over the past six years, we have had some 1829 inquiries, hosted 247 visits, and have produced 1,941 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. He has helped in the processing of the Adlai Holler and Wain Marvin Owings Papers, copied obituaries, and written biographical notes about clergy in the online pictorial directory, among other tasks. His work continues to help relate the work of the Conference to the ministry of memory.

This year, the Archives accepted the Greenwood District Records and the personal papers of the Rev. Eben Taylor. We hope to be able to process those records soon. The Archives is working to make more of its records available online, and those who are interested may look at the Archives website – <http://www.wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx> – to see what is available. In 2013, Wofford launched an online repository and is gradually making older records and historical addresses available there.

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 2015 awards will be due on February 1, 2015.

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.

The Conference Historical Society will host the annual meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society on June 24-26, 2014, on the Wofford campus. The theme of the meeting will be "Methodism and Education in South Carolina in the 19th and 20th Centuries." Among the presenters will be Dr. A.V. Huff, Dr. Katherine Cann, Dr. Ronald Robinson, Dr. David Mitchell, and Dr. Ted Morton. At the same time, the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church will also be meeting with us in South Carolina.

As we look forward to a number of milestones in the life of our church and Conference, we hope to be involved in planning appropriate celebrations. In 2016, we will commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the 1866 Conference. In 2022, we'll commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of the 1866 and 1785 Conferences into a new South Carolina Annual Conference. The Annual Conference may wish to begin to think of how we should recognize these significant anniversaries.

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*, Paragraph 625.2). The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

**B. Total Compensation for Clergy**

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

**Report Number 2**

**A. Budget Request for 2015**

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$650,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2015. 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.
2. The request for 2015 represents a \$225,000 increase over 2014. To respond to our Bishop's initiative to start new churches, we anticipate that the actual new cost being funded by CEC for new churches in 2015 is \$265,750. It is our hope to be able to absorb the other \$40,000 or take it from reserves.

**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, 2015, 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	\$42,123
b. Full-time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	\$38,291
c. Full-time Local Pastors	\$35,525

The recommendation represents a 1.5% increase over what was approved for 2014. This increase parallels the 1.5% cost of living adjustment made by the Social Security Administration for 2014.

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

**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, or cooperative ministry or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.6(d) are not affected.

**D. Experience Merit Longevity Increases**

A clergy person, who has served for completed 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. (In practical terms, this increase would not be applied until the fiscal year following the completed Annual Conference year. In other words, the first increase would not be applied until the January after the Annual Conference at which the clergy person completed their first year.)

**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

*RATIONALE: This is to clarify current practice.*

**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.

**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.

**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.

For charges receiving CEC supplements, changes to the total compensation may be made for longevity (see D. Experience Merit above), changes in clergy status, and to reflect changes in minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference. Charges are encouraged to increase their portion of total compensation as they are able and thereby reduce the amount of supplement paid by CEC. Such increases in the portion paid by the local charge above the scheduled amounts will result in a reduction of the CEC supplement by the amount of increase.

*RATIONALE: This formalizes and brings clarity to current practice of the CEC.*



**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.

**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 given 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:

<b>Total Years of Service</b>	<b>Number of Weeks</b>
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 or 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 projection to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.
4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person with at least 4 years of experience and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.

*RATIONALE: This comes as a request from Congregational Development to allow the Cabinet to place the clergy person they feel is best qualified to do the job.*

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 situations 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.)

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 provided 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 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 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 five or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 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 the listed dates:

	Dec. 2010		Dec. 2011		Dec. 2012		Dec. 2013	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	4	\$102,645	2	\$44,408	4	\$107,669	3	\$96,815
Minimum	12	\$48,676	12	\$60,787	13	\$89,953	11	\$88,654
"Special"	6	\$84,563	8	\$112,831	6	\$55,803	13	\$103,671
Low Income	1	\$12,000	1	\$12,000	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,800
Hispanic/Latino	2	\$69,250	2	\$70,950	1	\$32,443	1	\$30,735
Cooperative Parish	1	\$7,000	1	\$7,000	2	\$8,750	2	\$10,500
Direct billing costs		\$72,682		\$70,630		\$83,783		\$86,839
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$396,816</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$378,606</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$388,200</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$428,014</b>

Categories of pastors receiving support:

	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014
Effective Members	12	9	15	16
Provisional Members	5	6	5	5
Associate Members	1	1	1	1
Local Pastors (Full Time)	5	7	5	6
Other	1	2	2	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>

*The Commission on Equitable Compensation*  
 Rev. Jeremy L. Howell, Chairperson  
 Mr. Skipper Brock, Vice-Chairperson  
 Rev. Morris Waymer, Statistician  
 Mrs. Lollie Haseleden, Secretary

#### THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference began meeting October 7, 2013, for the purpose to review the evaluations from the last conference and to begin planning for 2014. It was decided at that time to divide the committee into teams to focus on specific areas of the conference. The areas of focus for 2014 consisted of Host Team, Bible Study Team, Theme Team, Logistics Team, Production/Media/IT Team, Agenda Team, Worship Team, and Future Sites Team. Each team set goals and objectives to meet and then collaborated together to create a time, place and function to carry out the business of Annual Conference. This year in an effort for the conference to run smoother there will be more of a presence of ushers and tellers.

The theme chosen for this Annual Conference is "A More Excellent Way, Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope and Love." Each day there will be a focus on the aspects of Faith, Hope and Love.

Last year the mission project was to pack 285,000 meals and that goal was exceeded and the extra money raised was sent back to each district and dispersed for local feeding ministries. This year the God-Size Vision is to collect one million new books in an effort to raise awareness to the literacy and poverty issues that affect some of the most vulnerable children of South Carolina. As this number is broken down, each district would collect approximately 83,500 books. On Tuesday of Annual Conference the ballroom will serve as one of four collection points around the state.

The Commissioning and Ordination Service will be held Monday night, June 2, 2014, at 7:30 pm. The Retirement Recognition will be Tuesday June 3, 2014, at 11:00 am. The Memorial Service will be Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at 2:00 pm. The Tuesday night service will begin at 7:15 pm and will be a celebration of the one million books collection and Young Adult ministries. Then the Service of Sending Forth and The Fixing of the Appointments will conclude the business before clergy and laity are sent out to serve Christ in the world.

The committee is working on creating an Annual Conference not only for the elected delegates and clergy to conduct the business of the AC, but also an event of spiritual renewal to all United Methodists.

Finally, the committee expresses its gratitude to Cumberland United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2014 Session and the spirit of hospitality that they have extended in preparation to carry out the work of the Annual Conference.

*L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson  
Karen H. Radcliffe, Secretary*

#### **THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL**

The Committee on the Conference *Journal* continues to live in the digital age. As the result of this progression, we have moved from printing more than 2000 *Journals* a decade ago to printing only 175 currently. These *Journals* are by preorder. We now produce about 75 copies of the *Journal* on DVD, and this past few years the *Journal* was available in October. For the future of the *Journal* we are currently exploring the possibility of an e-book.

The 2011 edition of the "United Methodist Ministers in South Carolina" has been completed and is available for purchase now. The committee discussed the feasibility of continuing the practice of printing a hard copy of this book every ten years. The cost of printing the 2011 Minister's book was \$18,418.33 and to date we have netted \$3,790.39 in sales. In many ways this book will serve as a historical document for years to come.

With the rising cost of printing and the changing cultural of electronic books, this committee continues to explore forms of media expressions to share the business of the Annual Conference.

*Karen H. Radcliffe, Conference Secretary*

#### **THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

At Congregational Development it is our joy to be a major part of assisting congregations – existing and new – to reach the unchurched and to offer need based ministries in local communities. As the population of South Carolina continues to grow, it is our dream that God would use United Methodists to reach, welcome, include, and minister to our expanding population.

Faithfulness to God cannot be measured simply by numbers. However, it must give us pause to know that our state's population has grown by 3.2% just in the last three years, yet our worship attendance has remained relatively the same. Four hundred and ninety congregations, or 48.7 %, had zero professions of faith in 2012. Perhaps it is time for some serious self-examination. We challenge each church to have at least one new profession of faith next year.

To assist everyone in understanding the shifting populations of our communities, we are pleased to provide *MissionInsite*, an online, faith based, demographic research and reporting program. We encourage each church to sign on for this incredible resource. By mapping your current membership, you can learn new things about your own congregation. By showing the true makeup of your surrounding community, this program can present ministry opportunities that are right on our doorsteps. Note that the Quad report will give you the most information regarding the religious tendencies of your community. Also, district and conference officers can

access a bigger view of our state by contacting Laura Hill in our office. In an addendum to this report are directions to launch you on this journey.

This year, the cabinet will be leading us in starting new projects in Marion, Charleston, Anderson, Greenwood, Orangeburg, and Columbia districts. For next year, our bishop has challenged us to start nine more. Yes, these are God-sized dreams, but we look forward to God's showing us just how big God is. We solicit your prayers for these pastors who will be entering new fields of ministry that God will enable them to meet the challenges that are ahead.

We ask our district committees to work with your superintendent to identify places where God is opening doors of opportunity. We can tap into the creativity of the Holy Spirit, as God needs churches of all kinds: house churches and large churches, traditional and contemporary, and churches in every sort of community. Where is the Spirit moving in your part of the state for new ministry opportunities?

We, and your district committees, appreciate your gifts to congregational development through the apportionments for 2013. Thank you for increasing the percentage of your contributions this year to 88%, which amounts to \$848,732.22. Still, as our apportionment line item was reduced, this is an overall decrease of about \$50,000. By Conference rules, the funds are then split in the following way. The first 20% is returned to each district as that district paid in (\$165,745). The remaining is divided between administration of our office (\$238,605), existing church grants (\$110,095), new church starts (\$220,191), and land acquisition (\$110,095). So as large as our apportionment line item is, the increasing costs in construction, property, and so forth demonstrate that these funds are only mustard seeds.

As with almost all ministries, the need always exceeds the resources. Therefore, we are developing new partners for funding, and we solicit your help in identifying new funding opportunities. For example, this year our new project in the Anderson district will be partially funded by the United Way. This ministry will serve the poor in the community. Perhaps you know of other funding partners. Maybe you know someone who would be honored to make a major donation towards launching a church or ministry that would generate blessings for decades to come. Or perhaps God is calling your church to "mother" a new congregation.

Our work also assists existing churches to grow or launch new ministries. We can provide guidance, training, and sometimes resources. This year we provided grants to seven different congregations. We welcome your church to apply for funds to assist in ministry development. Application forms and directions are on the Conference website. Although our resources are limited, and we cannot fund every application, we do celebrate them all and want to find any way in which we might be able to help.

I would like to bring something else to your attention. Conference standing rules 66 and 81 give us the makeup of the Conference and district committees on congregational development. Therefore, many of our members are sent to our conference committee by districts and other boards and agencies, rather than through nominations. As a result, we cannot ensure that our membership is always as inclusive as it needs to be. If you are in a position to appoint someone to our committee, please keep this need for inclusion in mind. We want to be a committee that cares about all communities in the state.

In conclusion, I lift up a wonderful opportunity for us this year. The national School of Congregational Development will be taking place in Charlotte during August 14-17. This is a fantastic event each year – inspirational and practical. We would like to have a large South Carolina contingent.

Finally, I want to thank our staff members, Sara White and Laura Hill. They really invest themselves in this important work. We are most appreciative and covet your prayers for them.

Blessings,

*Rev. Ken Owens, chair*

---Addendum

**(See next page)**

① Open Your Browser

Navigate to: MissionInsite.com

Click on the **Registration Information** button on the left side of the home page. Opens the Registration Information Page. Click on **Register**. Enter Your Unique AGENCY ACCOUNT ID#



② Begin the Registration Process

- a. Select your city and your church.
- b. Complete boxes creating your unique User Name and Password.
- c. Review terms, check the Accept Terms box and click Register. You will receive an e-mail to verify your registration which contains your Activation Code from MissionInsite. Check your Spam/Junk box if the e-mail does not appear in your Inbox.
- d. Complete Registration as instructed in e-mail. For more help, click Support on the Contact Us tab or use LIVE CHAT.
- e. When you verify your e-mail you will be logged into your study. For future log ins click the Login Tab on the MissionInsite Home Page.

③ Welcome Screen



The Welcome Screen provides a basic orientation and suggested uses to important PeopleView™ System functions and resources. Click each button to view these key resources.

④ Mouse Over the Help Tab (Top Left of Web Page)

The place to look for support. Contains Videos, Documents, How To and Contact information including Live Chat. Review each tab to discover the wealth of material available to assist you in your use of the PeopleView™ System. Resources include: **The Mosaic Household Portraits:**

- **Mosaic USA Group Segment Descriptions by Experian** (71 Individual Segments & 19 Groups)
- **Mission Impact Mosaic Application Guide by Bandy** (Practical ministry application suggestions for each Mosaic segment: Leadership, Hospitality, Worship, Education, Small Groups, Outreach, Property and Technology, Stewardship/Financial Management and Communication)



⑤ Select Report Wizard and Congregant Plot

Mouse Over the Tools Tab (Top Left of Web Page)

The **Report Wizard** will assist users in rapid and easy creation & customization, for all geographies, of **QuickInsite™**, **ExecutiveInsite™**, **FullInsite™**, **Impressions™** or **Quad™** Reports (if licensed).

The **Congregant Plot** tool adds the ability to view congregants on the map and create a **ComparativeInsite™** Report. (Check with your Regional Agency about access rights). See "Compare Your Congregation To Your Community" for details.

⑥ Explore the Map Tools

All PeopleView™ System functions are selected from **Map Tools**. Begin by changing the map background using **Backgrounds**.

Create your first geography in **Shapes** and access information with one of the **Predefined Reports** or **Build Report**. **Build A Report** is ideal for accessing data to answer specific questions such as "How many preschool children live within a mile of the church?"



**THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY**

The Conference Committee on Episcopacy is grateful to Bishop and Mrs. Holston for their gracious support as we work together on behalf of the South Carolina Conference. The Conference Committee on Episcopacy seeks to live out its responsibilities proactively by meeting quarterly for accountability, as well as being available to the bishop for counsel, dialogue, support, and advising our episcopal leader of concerns that affect relationships within the annual conference. While providing honest feedback, we develop a unity of spirit that is important for effective leadership and ministry in our conference.

Throughout this conference year, Bishop Holston has focused our attention towards an Initiative with Children and Poverty and Campus Ministry. This is a "God-Sized" vision with a goal



to collaborate with the Children's Defense Fund, LARCUM and other agencies and groups to raise the level of awareness regarding children and youth in poverty. Also, a special emphasis is given to our Wesley Foundations and Campus Ministries in regards to the opportunities for spiritual formation given on our college campuses.

This year Bishop and Mrs. Holston invited clergy and laity to travel to Africa University in Zimbabwe and South Africa. More than thirty-two (32) members of the South Carolina Conference shared in an incredible trip of compassion, community, and mission. During the summer months, Bishop Holston plans to lead a youth mission trip to Honduras to extend another opportunity to share in the global ministry of our conference. Our episcopal leader continues to give leadership across the connectional church serving as chairperson of the Missional Engagement Team on the Council of Bishops and member of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Board of Directors. Bishop Holston is actively involved in the life of the annual conference. Under his leadership the Conference Staff Relations Committee has revised its personnel policy manual, as well as developed an evaluation guideline for conference staff. While giving leadership to the Ministry Advisory Team, the opportunity to communicate across the conference a shared mission and ministry is an obtainable goal.

As a part of this report, I would like to thank Dr. Timothy McClendon and Dr. Joseph Heyward, who serve as our representatives on the SEJ Committee on the Episcopacy (COE). This quadrennium the SEJCOE has created for our use a document for episcopal review and evaluation that will allow uniformity in the review process for all bishops. Also, we thank the Episcopal Residence Committee who addresses the needs of the episcopal residence in providing a comfortable living space for our episcopal family.

In conclusion, we give thanks to God for the leadership we have in Bishop and Mrs. Holston and their attention to the opportunities for mission and ministry in the South Carolina Conference. It is a blessing to have leaders who are visible, attainable, and personable. They are teaching us the importance of having a "God Sized" dream, setting high goals, and believing that all things are possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rev. Barbara L. Reid, 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.

A thorough walk through was conducted on March 17, 2014 of the Episcopal Residence which is located in Northeast Columbia. The home is in good working order and a project list was composed of relatively minor items which need addressing. These needs will or already have been addressed. It is hoped that this project list will continue to be utilized in the proper, consistent and appropriate maintenance and upkeep of the home.

The Residence Committee greatly appreciates the efforts of our Bishop, Jonathan Holston and his wife, Felecia to maintain the Episcopal Residence in an excellent and very clean condition. Mrs. Holston's assistance has been invaluable 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 again to the Annual Conference that proper maintenance will take place regularly and consistently including inspections and meetings of the Committee as needed. The Committee again appreciates the financial support of the Annual Conference for the recent renewal of the Episcopal Residence in 2012 and 2013.

*The Reverend Barbara Reid, Chair, Committee on Episcopacy*

*Mr. Brian Braddock, Chair, Conference Board of Trustees*

*The Reverend David Surrent, President, Council on Finance and Adm.*

#### **THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Conference Staff Relations Committee (CSRC) has met regularly this year to care for the personnel needs of the annual conference. The committee has functioned in an advisory and supervisory capacity as we have revised the personnel handbook for conference and district employees, a document given to all employees, as well as implementing an evaluation process for conference employees. When staff changes are made in the districts or at the

conference level, this committee receives information about the process and makes recommendations related to compensation and job descriptions. The committee also considers what information local churches need in the area of human resources. I am appreciative of the proactive leadership exhibited by the CSRC members as we have worked to put into place policies and procedures that give support to employees and foster good stewardship of the annual conference resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bishop Jonathan Holston*

### **THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES**

At the 2013 Annual Conference Mrs. Bonnie Speas, who had been the only administrative assistant in the Office of Clergy Services announced she would be retiring December 20, 2013. For 13 years Bonnie has been a cheerful voice to all who called this office. To everyone who had been through the process she referred to them as her children. She remembered everything about their families and especially their children. On Friday December 6, Mrs. Martha Liles began as the new administrative assistant and, with training from Bonnie, I am sure this office will continue to serve the needs of this Annual Conference as it related to ministerial affairs well into the future. Her primary responsibilities will be to maintain our database and oversee the process of requesting and receiving the annual reports for which this office is responsible.

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 member of the Ministry Advisory Team.

It has been a joy to work with Bishop Holston and the 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 vivacious 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."

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

We continue to measure specific outcomes at Asbury Hills as a way of strengthening child and spiritual development. Here are a few of your 2013 responses:

- 98.8% stated that they now have a closer relationship with God.
- 95.7% said that they now feel more confident in themselves.
- 96.7% tried something new.
- 95.7% said they can use what they learned at camp and apply it at home.

Asbury Hills had the largest Fall Festival ever, giving away lots of apple butter. Our social media sites continue to grow, so if you are not part of the action, then we encourage you to log on and take part. We had a very successful day camp at Rock Hill, with plans to continue in 2014. A new low ropes course was added, and the overall evaluations from summer camp came back with great reviews!

About six years ago, monies was put aside in hopes that someday we would be able to purchase the remaining 10 acres of the Sky Ranch property at Asbury. And now, hope no more, Sky Ranch is no longer divided, and we look forward to future programming on the new site.

We are excited to announce Jean Fisher, our new part-time Accounts Payable/Receivable clerk. Jean has been a wonderful asset to our ministry and we are still in awe of how we ever made it without her. And Sarah Kelley has changed positions from Business Services Director to Events & Marketing Director, thus pulling our marketing in-house and allowing us to increase our exposure.

And to top things off, we held our first successful Camps & Retreat Ministries Golf Tournament the day before Annual Conference in Florence, SC, with the Florence District taking home the traveling trophy. Who will it be in 2014?

In December of 2013 the Camps & Retreat Office was moved from just off Woodruff Road to just off Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville.

Our Board continues to assess the demand for and feasibility of future development of Sewee Coastal Retreat Center as an adult retreat center. After meetings with the Bishop and Cabinet early this year, the board is facing the monumental task on how to accommodate large UMC groups such as United Methodist Women's School of Missions retreat, United Methodist Men's Spiritual Retreat, or other large youth events and the annual Bishop's School of Ministry. For a number of years, Clemson University conducted marine biology camps at Sewee during the summer. Currently the Board has expanded that relationship by leasing Sewee to Clemson year-round for a variety of community youth outreach programs.

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

*Les Pritchard, Chai*

## **THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The primary work of the Conference Board of Trustees ("Board") is to oversee the maintenance and ultimate disposition of the property of discontinued and abandoned churches. These properties normally come to the Board from one of two major sources. One source of properties is the churches which are discontinued by the duly passed resolution of the Annual Conference. In these instances, effort is made to transfer the property to other United Methodist churches or other appropriate entities. The other major group of properties includes those properties of churches discontinued or abandoned some years ago but which have never been transferred or disposed of. Some of these properties come to the attention of the Board through inquiries or requests of third parties.

The Board receives no apportionment money. Rather, it operates from reserves, from rental income of property, and from a portion of the money generated from the occasional sale of properties. Most properties that the Board handles 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*.

Properties held in Trust by the Conference Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The property of the discontinued Concord UMC, Greer, SC. Currently leased.
2. The property of the discontinued Rocky Swamp UMC, Livingston, SC.
3. The property of the discontinued Orrville UMC and parsonage, Anderson, SC.
4. The property of the discontinued Liberty UMC; SC Church property under contract for sale.
5. The property of Old Calvary UMC, Laurens, SC, which includes two auxiliary buildings.

6. The property of McKinney Chapel, Pickens, SC, conveyed to the Conference Board of Trustees by the caretaker church.
7. The property of Cameron UMC, Cameron, SC.
8. The property of Old Galilee UMC, Bennettsville, SC.

#### **THE JAMES L. BELIN BOARD OF TRUST**

The Belin Board of Trust exists to manage, 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, during 2013 the Belin Board 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 Ministries to fund new mission projects in South Carolina. Beginning in 2012, the Board perceived a need to expand awareness of the availability of Belin Trust grant funding throughout the Conference. The Board instituted in 2013 initiatives to promote awareness of the grants available from the Trust. Additionally, the Board adopted policies to substantially increase the amount of funds available for grants on an annual basis.

The Board utilized the services of Debnam Wealth Management Group to assist in the management of the Trust’s portfolio and to carry out the socially responsible investment policy. At the October meeting, the Board adopted an updated investment policy as proposed by the Finance and Investment Committee.

The Board continued to engage 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 2014 year were as follows: Chairperson, Stuart Ford; Vice-Chairperson, Reverend 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 the South Carolina Conference. Additionally, I wish to acknowledge the dedicated and faithful service of the members of the Belin Board.

Reverend Belin’s legacy should be an inspiration and example for present day disciples seeking to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Stuart W. Ford, Chairperson  
James L. Belin Board of Trust*

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

The *Advocate’s* newspaper ministry has helped connect this Annual Conference for 177 years; indeed, our mission is to “connect United Methodists by independently reporting news, engaging readers, and providing a forum for dialogue.” All that we do is meant to glorify our Lord and Savior, helping to make stronger, better, deeper, and more numerous disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our newspaper ministry is one that comprises communication, awareness, education, and inspiration. We help give voice to churches and individuals in every corner of this state, and we are committed to making sure all viewpoints are heard in a Christian and prayerful manner. We are also intentional about ensuring every aspect of The United Methodist Church is within our pages, on our website ([AdvocateSC.org](http://AdvocateSC.org)), and in social media: local, district, conference, jurisdictional, and global.

The last several years have seen fresh, exciting new growth for the *Advocate* during a time of great revitalization echoed generally in the UMC. We continue to take our newspaper up another notch each year. We have won 50 writing, general excellence, photography, and other awards since 2010. Most recently, we were honored as “best newspaper” in our division both by the South Carolina Press Association and by the United Methodist Association of Communicators, these awards say much about the caliber of this newspaper.

Financially, ad sales have grown from \$29,318 in 2010 to \$66,818 in 2013—a 128.4% increase. Circulation is holding steady, with a 2.9% increase from 2010 to now in an era when many print publications are folding. Website traffic has seen an incredible 277.66% increase in

the last few years (34,668 visitors overall in 2011, 64,400 in 2012, and 130,927 in 2013). The *Advocate* also continues to contribute to the communications ministry of the denomination, both on a conference and a global level, working in tandem with the Conference Communications Director and Connectional Ministries, along with the global United Methodist News Service, the *United Methodist Women's Response* magazine, United Methodist Men, General Board of Church and Society, Ministry with the Poor (MinistryWith.org), and others.

Currently, we estimate that one-fifth of S.C. United Methodists read the *Advocate*. We hope one day every United Methodist in the Conference will read the *Advocate*, fully understand all the issues facing our denomination, and be inspired by all the wonderful and transformative stories of God at work among the people of this conference.

One day, perhaps, we can afford to distribute the *Advocate* for free. For now, we are doing what we can to make it extremely affordable. We have developed new church-wide plans where people receive the *Advocate* for \$10/person per year with 10+ people participating in a church. For churches who do a lot of emailing, online church plans are even less: just \$1/person per year, based on the average weekly church attendance as recorded in the Journal (e.g. if you have 100 people each week in worship, you get a license to distribute the *Advocate* via email to your members for just \$100 total for the whole year).

Our deep thanks goes to every member of Annual Conference—clergy and laity—for reading, contributing to, and supporting the *Advocate*.

*The Rev. Angela Ford Nelson, chairperson, and Jessica Connor, editor*

#### **THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during the year. Tenants of the Methodist Conference Center include Annual Conference Offices and the *Advocate*. Rent increase for 2014 was needed due to rising operations cost. The Trustees will continue 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 installed cameras on the exterior of the building and began to modify the schedule of security personnel.

*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 again emphasize the importance of incorporation for local churches. I also want to emphasize the importance of annually reviewing all insurance policies to make sure the coverage is comprehensive and up to date. Incorporation and insurance protect the assets of the church, trustees, and individual members.

I also want to ask each church to ensure that someone looks at the deeds of your church and other property records for the proper trust cause mandated by the *Book of 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 with complete documents.

Please carefully review your congregational Safe Sanctuary Policies and ensure that the policies are complied with at all times.

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

### Leadership

At the October 6, 2012 meeting of the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Men, new officers and a new cabinet representative were installed. In the Installation of Officers service, Rev. Anderson reminded us that our loyalty is to Jesus Christ alone and this loyalty must define us as a group. He also asks 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 meetings 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.

South Carolina UMMen leadership is as follows:

President	Herman Lightsey	Columbia District
Vice President	Marvin Horton	Rock Hill District
Secretary	Alvin Glen	Walterboro District
Treasurer	Vacant	
Chaplain	Rev. David Anderson	SC Conference
Prayer Advocate	Dennis Sullen	Florence District
Retreat Coordinator	L.W. Smith	Columbia 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 (Herb Hames) & Greenwood (DS James Friday)  
Florence (Tony Friday), Hartsville (Dyron Anderson) & Marion (DS Dickie Knight)  
Orangeburg (Steve Lathrop), Walterboro (Alvin Glen), & Charleston (Leroy Blake)

Our new Conference prayer advocate is Dennis Sullen, Florence District. Dennis also currently serves as the Florence District lay leader. This is an important function within the men's ministry, and after much prayer, we feel God has led us to the right person. Clayton Easter, Greenville District, has set the standard nationally as a prayer advocate for many years. We want to thank Clayton for his many years of service and look forward to his working with Dennis to continue this great ministry.

### 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 course 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 effort needs to be promoted by Conference Lay Servant Ministries.

### EVENT CALENDAR 2014

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
January 19, 2013	Executive Meeting	Ashland UMC
February 28- March 2, 2014	Spiritual Retreat	Springmaid Beach
February 27-March 2, 2014	NACP Meeting	Nashville, TN
June 1-4, 2014	SC Annual Conference	Florence Civic Center

### CHARTERS

We are encouraging our districts' 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, a connected church's charter enables world-wide ministries related to hunger,

Scouting programs, our military, and many, many more that would not be possible without the charter fees, which is only \$85 per year. To check your district for churches that are chartered, go to [WWW.GCUMM.org](http://WWW.GCUMM.org) and go to resources> ministry to men, resources> chartered churches for UMMen. **South Carolina was recognized as third in the nation for chartered churches by the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) in Nashville on February 28, 2014.**

#### **MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

From the mountain top experience the weekend at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC, in February 2013 where Bishop Holston challenged SC UMMen to "Dream God-Sized Dreams" to the movement of men disciplining men for Christ. He said it is better to set high goals and not meet them than to set low goals and trip over them.

**With the Bishop's encouragement to Dream God-Sized Dreams, we issued five 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, July 12-14, 2013

We did not meet all of these goals, but remember that the Bishop said it is better to set high goals and not meet them than to set low goals and trip over them.

Here are the results of these God-Sized goals:

- Have 500 men and women at our Spiritual Retreat in 2014: We had 535 men and women in attendance.
- Have a District President and leadership team in every district: Charleston District after five years has leadership.
- Individually expand our witness, starting with improving yourself as a witness: The numbers of attendees and the movement of the HOLY spirit attest to this goal.
- Participate in Stop Hunger Now meal packaging program at the SC Annual Conference (285,000 meals): Over 300,000 meals packed and districts received donations to help in districts to feed the hungry.
- Have 200 men in attendance at the National Gathering, Nashville, July 12-14, 2013: We had about 25 men and ladies attend and the only Bishop to attend with his men. I count the Bishop as 175.

How did we accomplish these goals? We finally did two things: (1) We asked and listened to God for guidance to do his will. (2) We used the United Methodist Churches "ACE," better known as "connectionalism,".

We utilized a new concept in the South Carolina Conference. We stepped out of the box on faith. We met with Bishop Holston, Rev. James Friday (Cabinet representative to UMM), L.W. Smith (retreat coordinator), Marvin Horton (VP SC Conf. UMM), and several pastors from across the SC Conference that have growing churches and believe that ministry to men (discipleship) is important to growing the Church. The pastors were George Ashford, Journey; Jeff Kersey, Mt. Horeb; Darren Hook, Covenant; Bob Howell, Bethany; and Mack McClam, Cannan-Sand Hill Charge. These pastors served as "coaches" for the weekend. The Spiritual Weekend was the kick off for teaching churches, with emphasis on discipleship of men, over the next three years. We chose pastors and churches in different parts of the Conference that were also of different sizes with different ministries. We solicit your prayers for God's guidance as we embark on this "God-Sized Dream." We are seeing a renewed interest of clergy and laity working together.

At our SC Annual Conference, the SC Conference Laity (Lay Leader, Lay Servants, UMWomen, UMMen,) had a joint luncheon celebrating Local Church Ministries. This was a first and a great success. We continue to support and work with each other to strengthen the Church. We finally have a group of lay leaders that understand that we are all "fishing" out of the same pond, for the same fish, and for the same reason, discipleship for Christ. This is paying dividends.

Partner with us (SC UMMen) 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 & Peace..... The Harvest is Plentiful, the Labors are few!

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

## THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In 2013 the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women has been full of changes on the local, district, and conference levels. As United Methodist Women, we have striven to find our balance with new structures, renamed and "tweaked" events, and some events beyond our control. We continue to pledge ourselves to fulfill our purpose: ...to know God and 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 and to support the global ministries of the church.

The year 2013 started in January with extremely sad tidings. We lost our own dear Sharon McTeer, Chair of the Conference Committee on Nominations, at the end of January. Debbie Giles, Treasurer of the Rock Hill District, finished a courageous battle with cancer, and there were other losses throughout the year. But, while we miss them dearly here on earth, we are calm in the assurance that we will meet again. Shirley Teaster, class of 2013, stepped up to fill the role of chair, and Mary Johnson, immediate Conference Past President, filled out the team.

January continued with various meetings of committees planning and preparing for 2013. Eleven officers, including incoming district presidents and conference CON attended the first Leadership Development Days held by United Methodist Women national. The meeting was held at Lake Junaluska.

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 263 UMW attended Legislative Day "**Justice for Our Neighbors**," held at Epworth Children's Home. Rev. John E. Holler, Jr., President of Epworth Children's Home, brought greetings and spoke about children's protection and care. Ellie Setser of AAUW gave a "Legislative Up-Date." Our luncheon speaker was Rev. Emily Scales-Sutton of Bethel and Philadelphia UMC, who spoke on "Justice for Our Neighbors." Workshops were held on Preventing Bullying, Immigration Advocacy, and Women and Children's Health Care. Our program was featured in the June 2013 edition of the *Response* magazine on pages 29-31.

In April, 35 women of the SC Conference set out on a Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement, one of five Mission agencies within the Red Bird Missionary Conference located in Frakes, Kentucky. This was hands-on mission participation, as we worked in the greenhouse and in the seniors' sewing room; clipped coupons; helped in the craft shop, the food pantry, and in the thrift store; and visited with and did light housekeeping for some of the elderly residents. It was truly an eye opening trip, and we did put our love into action!

The Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska featured Reverend Arnetta Beverly, whose topic was "**A Woman's Place**," and she brought down the house! Evaluations were high in her praise. Retreat I, May 3 & 4, had 315 participants (five under 40, 35 first timers); Retreat II, May 4 & 5, had 278 (25 under 40 & 45 first timers).

Edisto Fork UMC in Orangeburg was the host church for our annual fun day "Come Together Be Together." We wore red and had our hearts on our sleeves and all over as we celebrated our supportive sisterhood! The theme was "**Living the Heart of God**," and District Superintendent Susan Leonard Ray of the Anderson District brought our keynote address. Three hundred five women took part.

In June, at the South Carolina Annual Conference meeting in Florence, South Carolina, Conference United Methodist Women honored Reverend Lillian Washington, our outgoing Cabinet Representative, with a Special Mission Recognition Pin, the highest honor UMW can bestow. We chose to recognize her outstanding service to UMW and thank her publicly. She leaves big shoes for Reverend James Friday, District Superintendent of the Greenwood District, to fill as he becomes the Cabinet Representative to Conference United Methodist Women.

This year, the School of Mission at Spartanburg Methodist College changed its name to Mission u, and, in addition, we were offered a school within a school, or two different sessions, one taking the traditional four days and the other only two. The theme was "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World." The spiritual Growth study was **The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly**; The Geographic study **The Roma of Europe**; and the Social Issue topic was **Poverty**. Total for the four-day students was 174, and 72 took the two-day route. The Craft room at Mission u took off in a fabulous way with \$2,258.13 collected. It was wonderful to walk around the room to see the many wonderful crafts and "re-giftables" that were donated to support the five Mission projects in SC.

The Mission u Youth Event was held August 10<sup>th</sup> in four areas around the Conference. There were 140 youth and chaperones who took part. They wrote and produced PSA's and participated in hands on mission work. Additionally, the *Limitless Redefine Tomorrow Team* represented UMW at Revolution, held workshops at Annual Meeting and Come Together, Be Together, and produced a flyer aimed at informing and attracting young women to membership. They serve on the Membership Nurture and Outreach Committee.



As fall approached, we celebrated the over 16,000 United Methodist Women in South Carolina as reported to our MNO Coordinator, and we are so pleased that we met and exceeded our national pledge to Mission.

Bethel UMC in Spartanburg was the site for our 41st Annual meeting on October 25 & 26, 2013. The total attendance announced was 406. Silver Hills UMC hosted the Executive Committee meeting on Friday morning, and the Annual meeting officially got underway at 7:00 p.m. with a brief business session followed by worship and communion. Bishop Jonathan Holston was our Communion Celebrant. The theme for the 41st annual meeting was "With God, Nothing is Impossible," and our scripture was Luke 1:37. Keynote speaker was Rev. Tiffany Knowlin, Pastor of College Place UMC, and the Bible Study was led by Rev. Candice Sloan, chaplain at Spartanburg Methodist College. During the meeting, 152 units were awarded Diamond Unit status by the Social Action Coordinator; 650 UMW members completed one or more levels on the reading program; and 266 units were named as Mission Today units. The Treasurer reported that SCCUMW contributed \$205,010.58 to our five mission projects and that of the national pledge of \$350,165.00 we achieved \$376,712.96 or 107% in undesignated giving. We made 97% of our Conference goal of \$472,825.50. During the Friday morning business session, a memorial service was held to remember those sisters who have gone before us. Retiring officers Shirley Teaster, Chair of the Committee on Nominations; Ann Efird, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; Susan Jones, Chair of Education and Interpretation; and Mary Agnes Jenkins, Social Action Coordinator, were recognized and thanked for their service, and new officers were elected. They are Doris Sullivan, Chair of Committee on Nominations; Evelyn Pauling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; Sue Owens, Chair of Education and Interpretation; Betsy Graham, Social Action Coordinator. Members of the Committee on Nominations class of 2016 were as follows: Mary Johnson, and 2017, Ellen Schumpert. A Special Love Offering from local UMW members across South Carolina, "*It's All About Mission II*," was a highlight as members of the Education and Interpretation Committee presented each of the five Mission Coordinators with a check for \$2000 to be used as needed in that mission project. The women of the Spartanburg District, President Barbara Holley and the Women of Bethel UMC, President Linda Mauzy, the Staff, and members of UMM were excellent hosts. It was a wonderful conference.

We wrapped up 2013 with 118 in attendance at officers training, which was held at Grace UMC in Columbia. District officers attended to receive counsel and training by their Conference counterparts.

Shalom and Grace and Peace for the Journey

*Linda DuRant, President, SCCUMW*

### **THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM REPORT**

The Ministry Advisory Team has met this year with the appointive cabinet and additional elected and staff leaders of the conference for the purpose of learning together about organizational health and how leaders might collaborate across the various areas of responsibility, all for the benefit of the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Working with a consultant from The Table Group, this team has been studying *The Advantage*, along with its complimentary resource, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni, and is working to implement these principles of organizational health within and across the various ministry groups of the annual conference. The team is in the process of identifying some strategic initiatives for our common work together as an annual conference with the goal of strengthening the ministry of local churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The intent of the team is to communicate widely across the churches of the annual conference opportunities for shared mission and ministry rooted in our common identity and core values as United Methodists.

The 2012 General Conference expanded the traditional role of District Superintendents to include the role of Mission Strategist in the district. The team and the district superintendents have begun to think about how to organize the work of the annual conference to resource district superintendents and support the mission strategies as they are developed in each district. Having staff and elected leaders take the time to come together to think about the big picture of the annual conference has proved to be a creative and fruitful effort. I believe we are laying a good foundation for working together across the various areas to both address the challenges facing us, as well as to embrace the new opportunities for ministry that we encounter.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bishop Jonathan Holston*

## THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

“Dream God-sized dreams!” That’s the challenge Bishop Jonathan Holston has been conveying to United Methodists throughout the South Carolina Conference over the past year! As members of the cabinet, we believe pastors, congregations, and districts are “stepping up to the plate” and responding to the bishop’s challenge! Here are some examples:

- 1) Arcadia UMC in the Spartanburg District hosts an after-school program for 45 Hispanic children in the neighborhood with help from students at Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College;
- 2) The Greeleyville Parish in the Florence District continues to reach its entire community with a mid-week service in the town’s park;
- 3) Lynwood UMC, located in Lancaster in the Rock Hill District, after praying, “Lord, help us to learn to love our neighbors and help our neighbors to learn to love us,” have joined other churches in the community to provide food, clothing, fellowship, and worship each Tuesday evening;
- 4) Williston UMC, a very small congregation in the Orangeburg District, paid 100% of their apportionments, support many mission projects, and took on the matching challenge of donating \$2,000.00 to the General Conference to help feed the hungry;
- 5) The Walterboro District has the “God-sized dream” of paying 92% of their apportionments in 2014;
- 6) Chapin UMC in the Columbia District is dreaming of starting a satellite campus in a high-growth area that is underserved by The United Methodist Church;
- 7) Landrum UMC in the Spartanburg District provides 900+ free meals for the surrounding community one Saturday each month;
- 8) Charleston Korean UMC in the Charleston District is launching her first English-speaking service with Goose Creek UMC in order to reach all persons in her community;
- 9) Churches in the Greenville District are partnering with families with children who fall below the poverty line, building relationships and learning together what it means to seek justice and do mercy;
- 10) First UMC, Marion, in the Marion District, opens its doors every Saturday for “Glorious Grits,” a ministry that feeds a hearty breakfast to persons in the community;
- 11) Central UMC in the Florence District is dreaming of increasing its average worship attendance by 200 over the next five years;
- 12) The Orangeburg District has the “God-sized dream” of building an Information Technology Center for The Methodist Church in a village in Ghana, West Africa, as a tool for evangelism.
- 13) From February 28 to March 2, 2014, over 500 persons attended the Men’s Spiritual Weekend at Springmaid Beach – another “God-sized dream” realized by the help of God and the hard work of many lay persons and clergy throughout the South Carolina Annual Conference.

United Methodists in South Carolina are “dreaming God-sized dreams” and are discovering the reality of this year’s theme for Annual Conference: “A More Excellent Way – Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope, and Love.” As United Methodists, if we are going to replace “corridors of shame” and “pockets of shame” with “corridors of faith, hope, and love,” then we need to start at the local level and encourage and challenge congregations to

- 1) ...engage in ministries with the poor – not to the poor – especially with children in poverty;
- 2) ...seek ways to reach out to the unchurched, the inactive, and especially those who don’t know Christ;
- 3) ...develop creative ministries to reach youth, young adults, and young families with children;
- 4) ...offer some helpful service to others in every community, i.e., a soup kitchen ministry, a ministry to the homeless, a transportation ministry for the elderly, etc.;
- 5) ...partner with schools to assure a quality education for every child – not just a “minimally adequate” education;
- 6) ...discover innovative opportunities to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The mission of The United Methodist Church has not changed! As we “make disciples” through ministries that reach children in poverty and their families, the depressed, the younger generation, the lonely, the “underserved,” the unemployed, the elderly, the homeless, the imprisoned, the lonely, and many others, “corridors of faith, hope, and love” will be “created” – and “corridors and pockets of shame” will disappear. Are we committed to this “more excellent way”?

As district superintendents, we are committed to the task of encouraging and challenging our pastors and congregations to “dream big” and to discover “A More Excellent Way” by “Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope, and Love”! Of course, we have some challenges before us as “chief missional strategists” in each of our respective districts:

- 1) We will seek to work cohesively and collaboratively with the Conference and District Connectional Ministries teams and with the newly-activated Ministry Advisory Team (MAT) to assure that local churches are adequately resourced for mission and ministry. (The MAT consists of representatives from various Conference boards, committees, organizations, and teams.)
- 2) With mounting administrative demands, we will be asking ourselves what we need to stop doing or do differently in order to free up time and energy to develop missional strategies in our districts. At the same time, we want to be good pastors to our clergy and congregations and effective administrators in our districts.
- 3) We want to see our clergy and laity at every level – local, district, and conference – having conversations about the most effective ways to be in mission and ministry TOGETHER!
- 4) We need to be intentional about finding time to pray and to reflect and to discern God’s strategy for mission and ministry in our districts – mission and ministry that will impact peoples’ lives in positive ways.

If we do not address these challenges, it will be difficult to carry out our role as “chief missional strategists” effectively.

To end this report on a VERY positive note, we are excited about some of the priorities that Bishop Holston and the cabinet have identified, priorities that will help The United Methodist Church in South Carolina become the “healthy” church that God wants us to be:

- 1) Thanks to the counsel of Rev. Sara White in the Office of Congregational Development, Bishop Holston and the cabinet have selected several “new places for new people” for 2014. It is our hope and prayer that these “new places” will impact the lives of many people and will be instrumental in helping to grow and strengthen The United Methodist Church in South Carolina. (Bishop Holston’s goal to begin NINE “new places for new people” in 2015 is one of those “God-sized dreams” that we will certainly support.)
- 2) Addressing issues surrounding “children in poverty” throughout the Annual Conference is an ongoing challenge and will be a priority for Bishop Holston and the cabinet in the months ahead. “Children in poverty” are among the most vulnerable in our society, and the Church, including The United Methodist Church, may be their last great hope to escape poverty’s grip upon their lives.
- 3) While we may not have reached the 92% payment of our apportionments for 2013, we will be supportive of reaching Bishop Holston’s “God-sized” goal of 95% in 2014. We will be having conversations with clergy and church leaders in our districts to inform and educate them about the importance of connectional giving and how payment of apportionments impacts the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church locally, Conference-wide, nationally, and globally.

While other priorities will surface as we move forward in ministry together, these are three very important ones Bishop Holston and the cabinet will be emphasizing over the next year and into the future of South Carolina United Methodism.

If the mission of The United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” – and it IS – then we have some significant opportunities to grow in our discipleship as we seek to discover “A More Excellent Way” and “Create Corridors of Faith, Hope, and Love” in South Carolina. Let’s “dream God-sized dreams” and give the glory to God for everything that happens!

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard H. (Dickie) Knight  
Dean of the Cabinet*

### **THE SOUTH CAROLINA METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION**

The South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union was chartered on September 19, 1955, and in the 59 years that we have served our members, much has changed. Last year the South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union extended the United Methodist connection to every member of every church. As members of the Credit Union, individuals and their family members can benefit from the member-owned, not-for-profit, service-driven, relationship-

oriented, stewardship model that is at the core of our financial ministry. The Credit Union continues to offer share certificates of deposit although interest rates remain lower than ever before. The primary business continues to be new and used automobile loans for our members, as well as personal loans.

The Credit Union remains safe, strong, and steadfast in its mission to serve. New lending services for members were added in 2013, including low interest loans for Conference sponsored activities like mission trips. The Credit Union has made business loans for a district parsonage and for large office equipment. One of our United Methodist institutions has financed a new automobile at the lowest rate available, and another one of our institutions has financed a used automobile also at the lowest rate available. Your Credit Union has developed the ability to offer church loans. The Board of Directors has implemented new policies and enlisted the services of a partner organization to provide the expertise necessary to fund capital improvement and renovation projects: roofing, replacing heating and air conditioning systems, flooring, painting, etc. The SC Methodist Conference Credit Union can be a prime source for needed funds for local churches. Let us help.

Our website - [www.scmccu](http://www.scmccu) - provides protected access to personal accounts, and an interactive feature allows members to transfer funds from one of their Credit Union accounts to another. Additional features are forthcoming including simplifying the process of applying for a loan and improving access to account information.

Finally, we are hopeful that as you get to know us better, you will want to share with other United Methodist friends the news of the Credit Union's expanding services, and we appeal to you to become ambassadors for us as we continue to serve our SC United Methodist Conference.

#### Balance Sheet Comparison

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash in Bank	\$ 275,689.94	\$ 489,790.75
Investments	\$ 2,178,486.64	\$ 2,496,487.80
Loans Receivable	\$ 3,088,245.80	\$ 2,786,200.81
Land	\$ 48,400.00	\$ 48,400.00
Building	\$ 33,014.70	\$ 36,498.78
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 11,619.96	\$ 9,536.80
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 14,167.96	\$ 12,918.30
NCUA Deposit	\$ 53,146.21	\$ 53,222.79
Other Assets	\$ 9,780.26	\$ 14,196.56
Allowance for Loan Losses	\$ (24,061.73)	\$ (34,873.87)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,688,488.86</b>	<b>\$ 5,912,378.72</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Shares	\$ 5,106,693.42	\$ 5,314,620.60
Other Liabilities	\$ 5,860.77	\$ 5,724.29
Guaranty Reserve Fund	\$ 304,175.02	\$ 304,175.02
Undivided Earnings	\$ 271,759.65	\$ 287,858.81
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>	<b>\$ 5,688,488.86</b>	<b>\$ 5,912,378.72</b>

- The Board of Directors, Committees, and staff of the SCMCCU are grateful for the trust placed in us as our members' financial stewards.
- Directors: Mr. James Bradley Jr., Mr. William D. Britt, Jr., Rev. Eugene L. Curry, Rev. Roger M. Gramling, Rev. Dennis R. Lee, Ms. Lisa K. Livingston, Rev. Ronald A. Pettit, Rev. Robert M. Vincent, Rev. Lillian H. Washington
- Credit Committee: Rev. Michael L. Guffee, Chairperson; Mr. T. Andy Cox, Mr. Parker Evatt
- Supervisory Committee: Mr. Anthony C. Prestipino Jr., Chairperson; Rev. Tiffany D. Knowlin, Rev. Sara A. White

*Mr. James Bradley, Chairperson  
Rev. Reginald D. Wilson, Jr., President Board of Directors*

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY

The year 2013 can best be described as a watershed year for Africa University. At 21, the impact of this trailblazing, Holy Spirit-inspired ministry of The United Methodist Church transcends the brief span of its existence.

Africa University owes its vitality to local congregations such as yours, in the South Carolina Conference. For the first time, the South Carolina Conference invested 100% of its asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment. It was one of 25 annual conferences whose leadership in giving resulted in an overall performance of 91.77% for the AUF in 2013, the highest level of any of the general church funds.

Thank you, South Carolina, for your faithfulness and generosity and for the extraordinary efforts made by individuals and churches to reach 100% for the AUF in 2013. Your contributions to the AUF and second mile gifts for scholarships are providing crucial resources for nurturing global leaders.

### 2013 Highlights:

- Enrollment: Sustained by the steadfast investment of annual conferences of The United Methodist Church, Africa University's enrollment grew to 1480 full-time students from 25 African countries in 2013. Female students now account for 53% of that total enrollment.
- Scholarships: Second mile giving by individuals and churches enabled Africa University to distribute more than \$1.8 million in scholarships and financial aid to its students. Africa University also launched the Girl Child Scholarship Fund in order to provide more African women with access to higher education.
- Through new initiatives that include a "\$50 million Campaign for Endowment" and outreach to increase financial contributions from its alumni and others in Africa, the institution is working towards greater sustainability.
- Graduates: 450 students were awarded degree certificates in June 2013, growing the number of Africa University graduates currently at work in communities to around 5,000. Every day, these graduates manifest the promise and power of the Gospel to bring light and hope to a troubled world.
- Discipleship: In August, three 2013 graduates were commissioned as young adult missionaries by the General Board of Global Ministries, pushing the total number of Africa University alumni serving internationally as mission interns to seven in just two years.

"The church has a tremendous role to play in the transformation of the world," said Jacques Kazemb, an AU graduate and mission intern who worked in outreach to at-risk children and youth in Brazil. "Through a project like the Shade and Fresh Water in Brazil, the Methodist Church is contributing to a positive change in many children's lives."

Kazemb has returned to his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a plan to start a similar initiative for marginalized children and youth.

The Africa University community—students, faculty, staff, and trustees—thank you and celebrate your ongoing investment in changing lives for the better. We pray that you will maintain your commitment to this ministry:

- **Keep your investment in the AUF at 100% of the asking or higher.** This level allows for the university to meet its day-to-day and operational expenses without uncertainty.
- **Encourage your local church to become an annual scholarship donor.**
- **Consider leading an effort to have your district invest in an endowed scholarship** which can support one student a year in perpetuity.
- **Take advantage of our new Dream Insurance program**, which allows individuals to donate all or a portion of the proceeds of an affordable Term Life Insurance plan to Africa University.
- As you make your estate plans, **remember to include Africa University in your will.**
- **Pray without ceasing** for the ongoing success of this important effort to equip disciples to contribute to a rich, impactful, and vibrant future for their nations and for our global church.

Thank you and God bless you.

*Mr. James H. Salley  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement  
Africa University Development Office*

## LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

For over 100 years Lake Junaluska has been a *place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body*. How grateful we are that throughout our history we have been inextricably linked to the United Methodist Church of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (and its predecessor bodies). Last year we reflected on the number of people who have come to Lake Junaluska in the last century and whose lives were transformed and renewed. While it would be impossible to come up with an exact number, we are confident that it is well over one million people. How many other United Methodist organizations would be able to claim that number? We have absolutely been an integral part of fulfilling the mission of the United Methodist Church, *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*.

The year 2013 was, arguably, one of the most significant in our history as we celebrated our centennial. Events were planned and carried out throughout the year that celebrated our glorious past and envisioned our very bright future. People are still buzzing about the experiences they had here in 2013. During the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, we had 59 events scheduled over eight days; and while we had 8 ½ inches of rain, not one event was cancelled and everyone who came seemed to have a marvelous time.

For the second year in a row, we ended the year "in the black." This is particularly significant when you realize that in 2009, just four years earlier, we received over 11% of our income for Operations from the Southeastern Jurisdiction through Apportionments, and in 2013 we did not receive any Operational Apportionment support. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and will work diligently to always "live within our means." Not only have we ended the last two years "in the black," but we have also shared a majority of our "profits" with our staff. In 2012 every employee, adjusted for percentage of full-time hours worked, received \$1,000 (before taxes). In 2013 the average full-time employee received \$1,421 in profit sharing, again, regardless of base pay. In 2013 a quarter of the profit shared was adjusted based on work performance. And 2013 was another great year for charitable giving. We received \$801,519 from 1,226 individuals. This amount represents a 17.5% increase in total giving over 2012 and a 21% increase in number of donors. Since 2009 our Annual Fund giving has increased by over 400% to \$269,633.

Not only was 2013 a great year for Lake Junaluska, but 2014 also promises to be even better. We continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our grounds, facilities, and programs. Continued improvements are taking place to the Terrace Hotel. We are making the Jones Dining Hall into a year round facility by replacing windows and adding a heating and air conditioning system. Thanks to the generous support of the Junaluska Associates, we are renovating the children's playground at the Wilson Children's Building. We are also building a new boat storage area along with a boat dock and fishing pier just to the north of the swimming pool.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction, you should know that "your" asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us.

Pick up a copy of our 2014 program, *Experience Lake Junaluska*, if you do not already have one. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to see our calendar of events. We do hope you can come to visit us this year to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

## 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, providing ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler celebrates its Centennial in 2014, marking our 100th anniversary with commemorative events that reflect on our past and a conference on theology and the church that envisions the future. The yearlong celebration begins in August with the opening of the second phase of Candler's new 128,600-square-foot, LEED-certified building, seven years in the making.

Not only is Candler expanding its physical space this year, but it is also expanding degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler is introducing five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees pairing divinity and social work and divinity and development practice. With these newest additions to our degree programs, Candler graduates truly will be ready to lead wherever God calls.

Candler's student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 441, with 340 seeking the Master of Divinity, 47 the Master of Theological Studies, 21 the Master of Theology, and 15 the Doctor of Theology, with 18 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student population is 32% U.S. ethnic minority and 49% women. The median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 39 denominations, with half identifying as United Methodist.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context and now offer 14 academic exchanges with theology schools in 12 countries across five continents. In addition, Candler has an ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas and participates each year in travel seminars to the Middle East and in World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars, traveling in 2014 to Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

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](http://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 2013–2014 has been an exciting year in which we completed an intensive period of hiring new faculty. We believe that a strong faculty is at the heart of any great theological school, and we are thankful that the men and women who have joined us are characterized by excellent scholarship, generous character, and a deep commitment to the church. In the past three years, we have hired 18 new faculty, which means that 36 percent of current faculty have been hired since 2010. Half of those appointments are United Methodist, bringing our total regular-rank faculty to 42 percent Methodist.

Some of our new faculty hires were in response to retirements or departures; others were in response to the growth in our new degree programs, the Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.), Master of Arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S.), and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). Other hires help expand our expertise into crucial areas. Xi Lian, professor of world Christianity, is a leading scholar of Christianity in China; Meredith Riedel, assistant professor of the history of Christianity, studies Byzantine Christianity and its engagement with the Muslim world; and Luke Bretherton, associate professor of theological ethics, works in Christianity and contemporary politics and community-building in a pluralistic culture.

Other new faculty build on our traditions of strength in historical, theological, ministerial, and biblical studies. Ross Wagner and Brittany Wilson both have Wesleyan commitments to reading Scripture that influences their scholarship in New Testament; Valerie Cooper, a self-described "fifth-generation Methodist," does singular work in historical studies and biblical hermeneutics. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, assistant professor of Christian theology, continues our rich legacy of engagement between Methodist and Catholic theologies; and Jeff Conklin-Miller brings a wealth of experience as a United Methodist minister and youth programs director to his position in Christian formation.

All of our faculty members in all of our academic programs are committed to training talented, committed men and women for ministry. We continue to welcome students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2013, our total enrollment was 635 students: 434 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 60 in the M.T.S.; 18 in the Th.M.; 43 in the Th.D.; 36 in the D.Min.; 25 in the M.A.C.P.; 17 in the M.A.C.S.; and 12 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4.5 percent

from other Wesleyan traditions. Eleven percent are Baptist, 10 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, 6 percent are Roman Catholic, 6 percent are Presbyterian, with the remaining 6 percent from other denominations or nondenominational churches.

In addition to the ongoing excellent academic and field education work done by students each year, several students had notable achievements. Griff Gatewood M.Div.'13 was awarded a fellowship by the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, one of only 14 seminarians selected for the award. Andrew Barnhill M.Div.'13 was selected by a Duke University campus committee to deliver the student speech at the university's 161<sup>st</sup> Commencement Ceremony in May, the first time a Divinity student has been selected for that honor. Two M.Div. students, Kayla Harward and Carmen Gonzalez-McKernie traveled to South Korea to represent the Divinity School at the World Council of Churches 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Duke Divinity School does not view our work as only academic or "ivory tower." Our departments, centers, initiatives, and programs continue to engage with the church and social and cultural issues. The important work of the Clergy Health Initiative will be extended, thanks to a \$5.74 million grant from The Duke Endowment. In August its research was published in the *Journal of Primary Prevention*. Findings include that the rate of depression among clergy is nearly double the national rate. Factors contributing to depression include job stress, sense of guilt about not doing enough, and social isolation. In response to these findings, the Clergy Health Initiative has introduced a theologically framed curriculum for United Methodist Churches. Pastor and Parish is designed to strengthen relations between clergy and congregations, and it provides a scriptural foundation for Staff-Parish Relations Committees to engage in constructive ways to promote health and unity for the church and pastor.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) co-sponsored the Dean's Songwriter Series with the Dean's office. The series promotes an ongoing conversation about songwriting, performance, and music in relation to Christian faith. Guests included singer-songwriter Pierce Pettis and his daughter Grace Pettis, David Wilcox, and Carrie Newcomer. Events include lunch concerts and discussion with students and evening concerts open to the community. DITA also introduced an informal film study for Divinity School students, "Image & Word," hosted by postdoctoral fellow Daniel Train. The study includes short lectures, film viewings, and group discussion in order to deepen imaginative and pastoral acumen.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity (LEADD) has launched a new website that describes its programs in denominational leadership and resources to strengthen institutional resources: <http://leadership.divinity.duke.edu>. The online journal *Faith & Leadership* continues to draw hundreds of thousands of readers. Greg Jones, senior strategist for LEADD and professor of theology, has been named to the leadership team for the Duke Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative, where he will serve as a senior strategist for education.

The Center for Reconciliation sponsored the fifth annual Summer Institute at Duke Divinity School, hosting nearly 145 Christian leaders involved in diverse reconciliation ministries around the world. Participants included representatives from World Vision International, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, and organizations in South Korea, Japan, Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda. For the first time the Summer Institute featured a seminar on Muslim-Christian dialogue, led by Professor Ellen Davis and Duke's Muslim chaplain, Abdullah Antepi.

The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation (DYA) is expanding to a yearlong program that combines a week of summer residency at Duke University with a year of ongoing engagement and practice. The new format will allow high-school students to build on the intensive summer residency experience throughout the year with the support of the DYA community and a local mentor. The program includes lectures by Divinity School faculty, workshops, theological reading, online community forums, and a self-directed final project on Christian practice.

The second phase began of Thriving Rural Communities, a partnership between Duke Divinity School, The Duke Endowment, and the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences to help divinity students, pastors, laity, districts, and conferences cultivate and strengthen Christian leadership and United Methodist congregations in rural North Carolina. Eight new partner churches are participating, and over the next five years approximately 70 Thriving Rural Communities Fellows will be serving in United Methodist Churches across North Carolina. Brad Thie has been named the director; he has previously served as pastor of United Methodist churches in Charlotte, Asheboro, and Newton, N.C.

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](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Richard B. Hays



**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

Perkins School of Theology is thankful for our connections with the South Carolina Annual Conference, including one student currently enrolled in our Master of Divinity degree program.

Perkins celebrated a record spring 2014 enrollment of 24 new students, in addition to 81 new students who enrolled in fall 2013. Among all Perkins students, approximately two-thirds are United Methodist, and more than one-third are ethnic minority students. Our gender balance between male and female students in Master's degree programs remains almost exactly 50%. The Doctor of Ministry program continues to grow with students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program includes two Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions.

Rev. Jeannie Treviño-Teddle was honored for faithful service as director of the Mexican American Program and UM Regional Course of Study School from 2002 until her retirement in 2013. Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo, currently professor of Religion at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, has been named new director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program, effective June 1, 2014. Dr. Wingeier-Rayo also will be nominated to serve as director of the regional Course of Study School and will hold the title "Professor of Christian Mission and Intercultural Studies."

Perkins was excited to welcome two new faculty members in fall 2013: Tamara Lewis (Ph.D., Vanderbilt, 2014), instructor, History of Christianity; and Natalia Marandiu (Ph.D., Yale, 2013), assistant professor of Christian Theology.

Perkins recently received two significant grants from the Lilly Endowment. A \$500,000 grant will support our newly established Center for Preaching Excellence, with Alyce McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship, serving as director. A second grant of \$249,981 will support research to study the indebtedness of theological students and help improve the economic well-being of future ministers.

Perkins is 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.

Perkins asks for your prayers and support as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Grace and Peace,

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

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

SMU is commemorating a major milestone as the University celebrates the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915.

- SMU's total fall 2013 enrollment was 10,929, including 6,357 undergraduates and 4,572 graduate students. Enrollment continues to increase in ethnic, socio-economic and geographic diversity. Ethnic minority students made up 25% of total enrollment in fall 2013. A record international enrollment of 1,445 students represented 97 foreign countries, with the largest numbers coming from China, India, and Saudi Arabia.
- SMU consistently ranks in the top one-fourth of "best national universities" in *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2014, SMU ranks 60th among 281 national universities.
- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies SMU as a "high research activity" university. During 2012-13, SMU received \$19.9 million in external funding for research and sponsored projects worldwide. Current research subjects include natural hazards, water quality, cyber security, and treatments for cancer and diabetes.
- Because of the early success of SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign, the campaign goal was raised from \$750 million to \$1 billion. To date, SMU has received more than \$844 million in gifts and pledges for scholarships, academic programs, endowed faculty positions, and campus improvements and facilities.
- Campaign gifts are helping to fund renovations of existing facilities and new construction. Moody Coliseum reopened in December 2013 after extensive renovation and expansion.
- SMU's new Residential Commons complex, to open in fall 2014, consists of five new residence halls and a dining facility. The complex will enable SMU to implement a residency requirement for sophomores along with first-year students. The new halls will

- include classrooms and accommodations for live-in faculty. Six other SMU residence halls are being modified as Residential Commons.
- The year 2013 was designated the Year of the Library, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of SMU's library collections, which recently passed the four-million-volume mark. Major renovations are planned for Fondren Library Center and Bridwell Library of Perkins School of Theology.
  - The George W. Bush Presidential Center, consisting of Library, Museum, and independent Institute, was dedicated at SMU in April 2013, with all five living U.S. presidents participating. Under sponsorship of the Bush Institute, symposia have been conducted on subjects that promote economic growth, education reform, global health, and human freedom. Dr. Eric Bing, a renowned expert on global health issues, is the first to hold concurrent appointments as a new SMU faculty member and senior fellow of the Bush Institute.
  - SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.

*R. Gerald Turner, President  
Southern Methodist University*

### UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Is God calling you or someone you know to the ministry of Jesus Christ? If so, we invite you to explore how United can assist you in fulfilling God's purposes for your life and how you can help others in this journey. Come and check us out in person or online at [www.united.edu](http://www.united.edu)!

United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They are doing so because United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important or exciting?

In addition to expanding our service in the Midwestern United States, United will continue to enhance its use of technology to deliver theological education in underserved regions in North America and beyond. United's hybrid/online UMC FLEX Master of Divinity degree was designed specifically to meet the requirements of the UMC for ordination, and it is accessible anywhere with good Internet service. Our hybrid/online UM Course of Study is expanding each semester, along with UM Certification offerings.

What's new at United? Three new professors joined our excellent team of faculty in 2012, and a search is underway for yet another. United and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries have developed a new partnership, and we have piloted a new certification program focused upon ministries with persons with disabilities. Each year, United's doctoral program adds new mentors and focus groups for advanced ministry study.

Please let us know if you have questions about how we can best assist you or if you would like to help make it possible for an American or international student to study at United.

Enrollment at United continues to grow, and we invite you to call or visit soon!

For more information, please contact [admissions@united.edu](mailto:admissions@united.edu).

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service, and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

*Wendy J. Deichmann, President  
[www.united.edu](http://www.united.edu)*

### WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Washington, DC – [www.WesleySeminary.edu](http://www.WesleySeminary.edu)

The past year has brought many blessings, change, and growth to Wesley Theological Seminary. We continue to focus our work on preparing our students for leading churches that go out into the world and moving people to live the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Here are a few of the newest developments at Wesley:

- The Rev. Dr. **Robert K. Martin** joined the seminary as Dean and Professor of Christian Formation and Leadership.
- The Rev. Dr. **F. Douglas Powe** joined Wesley as the James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism and Urban Ministry. He directs the Urban Ministry program and Course of Study. **Paul Kang-Kul Cho** serves as assistant professor of Hebrew

Bible. The Rev. Dr. **Doug Tzan** is now teaches Church History part-time and is mentor to United Methodist students.

- **Mike McCurry** (former press secretary in the Clinton presidency) has been named Distinguished Professor of Public Theology and co-director of the National Capital Semester for Seminarians. The Rev. Dr. **H. Beecher Hicks**, senior minister of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Largo, Maryland, will serve as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Homiletics. With support from the Lilly Endowment Inc., the Rev. Dr. **James P. Wind** (former president of the Alban Institute) has joined the faculty as Visiting Distinguished Professor. He joins our faculty for three years to lead a research project studying large congregations and the leadership they and their pastors wield in church and society.
- Wesley continues to partner fruitfully with Pfeiffer University through the Center for Deacon Education, a unique program completely focused on deacon ordination for certified candidates within the UMC.
- The Lewis Center for Church Leadership celebrated ten years of offering resources to help congregations reach more people and fund their ministry. See [www.ChurchLeadership.com](http://www.ChurchLeadership.com).
- Our Heal the Sick Initiative has graduated its inaugural classes for the Health Minister certificate and the Faith Community Nurse Certificate. The initiative is a unique program at Wesley to help congregations become involved in public health initiatives in their parish, part of our Center for the Missional Church.
- Lewis Center director the Rev. Dr. **Lovett Weems** and Wesley Board of Governors Chairman the Rev. **Tom Berlin** released the book *Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance & Bear More Fruit*.
- Completed construction of a new, LEED-certified residence hall.
- Now offers course auditing for \$100 per credit hour and CEUs for \$100 per unit.
- Five pastors from Beijing, China, joined us for the spring semester in a special program of study through the work of the Rev. Dr. **Kyunglim Shin Lee**, Vice President of International Relations.
- Wesley was named to Faith3.org's list, Seminaries that Change the World. This list was announced in the *Huffington Post* on November 12, 2013. One of the several reasons for the attribute was Wesley's Center for the Missional Church, which is headquartered at Wesley Downtown in the heart of Washington, D.C.
- Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Wesley a grant to research and develop a program to strengthen United Methodist elders' and future elders' financial literacy and financial-management skills.

Please be in prayer for Wesley Theological Seminary. We cannot do our ministry alone, and your participation with us in the greater mission of God enhances us mightily. We are striving to provide you with the kinds of educational opportunities that will take your ministry to the next level. In turn, we depend upon your participation in and contribution to our ministry as well. *So, pray for us often, avail yourself of the school's offerings, give to Wesley, and identify and send us persons who are called and who have a high capacity for fruitful ministry.*

*David McAllister-Wilson, President*

## THE HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

"Retreat, Reflect, Renew"

The Hinton Rural Life Center is a mission agency of the SEJ and is located in rural Western North Carolina. The Hinton Center, a year round Christian mission and retreat center, is located on breathe-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, cottages, group retreat houses, and RV sites. In addition to the accommodations, Hinton hospitality includes an Executive Chef with mouth-watering meals, often straight from the garden, throughout your stay. 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 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 home repairs, minis-

tries to end generational poverty, and programming that focuses on building healthy and effective communities of faith. Our core ministries include Rural and Small Membership Church Vitality, Year-Round Volunteer Missions, Affordable Housing, and Conference and Retreat Center.

For many years, through Rural and Small Membership Church Consultation, Hinton has held a reputation for leading many churches through visioning and planning sessions leading to new life in the church. Our new vitality ministry continues to build on our history of success. With financial support from The Duke Endowment, we are working with district superintendents and districts throughout the SEJ in their role as missional strategist and with small and rural congregations. We facilitate a process of learning, discernment, and planning for transformational ministry and congregational vitality. Each initiative is customized for the unique needs of the district or church. Ministry consultants guide each congregation and/or district through the process and provide follow-up for at least a year to insure ongoing success.

Year-Round Volunteer Missions, referred to as the "Cadillac of mission experiences," by Rev. Brad Thie of Duke's Thriving Rural Communities Initiative, includes the repair work, times for spiritual formation and reflection, soft beds, beautiful surroundings, and awesome food! The price for the week-long experience has been reduced to be more in-line with other mission experiences and individualized trips can be designed upon request. Our 2014 summer slots were nearly 100% booked by December of 2013. This spring, we hosted our first interfaith mission experience as well as alternative spring breaks for college students. Hinton hosts over 1,000 volunteers each year with weeks specifically for youth and other weeks for of all ages in mission together. We offered 83 worship services for our summer volunteers alone. Whether working on a home or in our firewood ministry, volunteers are helping to meet the needs of this rural community where 1/5 of the population lives below the poverty line.

As our ministries continue to strengthen, so does our financial position. This strength was evidenced in 2013, as we entered into the black. Hosting nearly 17,000 overnight stays, we have a 24% increase in lodging and continue to grow our volunteer mission ministry into a year-round experience with over 1300 registered for 2014 summer alone. With assistance from the SEJ and donations through our Capital Campaign, we are working on paying down our debt. Furthermore, we are addressing much needed upgrades to our facility, vehicles, and tools. In our Capital Campaign, we are over half-way to our minimum goal of \$150,000 and have aspirations to reach our celebration goal of \$400,000. Upgrading our facilities, providing fresh, healthy meals, and increasing our marketing will help Hinton become more financially secure, ultimately, providing Hinton with the opportunity to expand its ministries and sharing the Love of Christ.

To learn more about Hinton Center, please visit our website at [www.HintonCenter.org](http://www.HintonCenter.org), like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

*Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO*