

SECTION IV

SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Organized 1972

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

Sunday, June 7, 2015 – Wednesday, June 11, 2015

Florence Civic Center
Florence, South Carolina

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding

CONFERENCE THEME:

“A More Excellent Way: Becoming Disciples God Can Use”

The First Day – Sunday Evening
June 7, 2015

Registration: Registration began at 1:30 p.m. at the Florence Civic Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, an electronic voting device, a registration booklet including additional reports and other information, and information regarding the Florence area.

Clergy Session: The Clergy Session was called to order by Bishop Jonathan Holston at 5:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Holston opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Reverend Wayne Horne thanked those who serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees for their service in the past year. Reverend Ted Walter made the report of the Administrative Review Committee.

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

Business Questions 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24 were presented as information and moved to record, as no vote was required. The Consent Calendar, which included Questions 25, 26, 29, 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, and 57-59 (statistical data questions calculated after clergy session), was presented on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry by Reverend Arant as Motion 1 of the Clergy Session Memorandum. It was approved by more than two-thirds vote of the Clergy Session.

The Clergy Session acted to approve each of the following Business Questions separately: 18a, 18c, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 42, 45, 46, 48, 50 and 73. Questions 32, 33, and 50 were approved by more than a two-thirds majority. Question 76 was approved by more than a three-fourths majority.

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

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

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

Lay Orientation: An Orientation Session was conducted for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference by the Board of Laity at 5 p.m. in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. The session began with a welcome by Ms. Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader.

All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures, and parliamentary process of the 2015 Annual Conference.

The **Opening Service of Worship** began at 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Center with Bishop Jonathan Holston presiding. The Bishop's sermon entitled "Who Could Ask for Anything More" was based on Romans 5:1-5. His message was a passionate reminder of two essentials of faith: hope and the presence of the Holy Spirit. He challenged those in attendance to become

disciples God can use. "God can use a good disciple," he said, "one who will stand in the midst of the gaps of life."

Music during the service was presented by the Africa University Choir. Following the sermon, the attendees celebrated Holy Communion.

The offering received during this service assisted the *Burdine Lodge Restoration Project*, an effort to restore and preserve an 18th Century log home in which Bishop Francis Asbury stayed and in which a Methodist Society was organized.

Delegates departed from the Civic Center for the evening.

The Second Day – Monday Morning June 8, 2015

At 7:30 a.m., the Conference began in the Civic Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. **The Reverend Dr. Sheila Elliott**, pastor of the York-St. James Charge, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:30 a.m., **Bishop Jonathan Holston** called the Conference into order and invited those in attendance to sing the historic opening hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive."

Delegates watched a welcome video from South Carolina **Governor Nikki Haley**.

The Florence District Superintendent, **Reverend John Hipp**, welcomed conference attendees to the city of Florence and the Florence District. Rev. Hipp reminded delegates of the themes of previous conferences and the challenge of making disciples God can use. He thanked those who are working behind the scenes in volunteer capacities.

Reverend Barbara L. Reid, speaking on behalf of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, welcomed Bishop Holston and his wife, **Ms. Felicia B. Holston**, to the South Carolina Annual Conference. She talked about the numerous ways Bishop Holston is involved in missions and ministry throughout South Carolina. She also welcomed **Bishop Marcus Matthews** and his wife, Barbara, to the Conference.

Bishop Matthews thanked Bishop Holston and the S.C. Annual Conference for the invitation to be a part of the Monday evening worship service.

Reverend Ken Nelson, Secretary of the Conference, offered a series of organizational motions.

The first motion was to elect the tellers nominated by their district superintendents for the 2015 Annual Conference session as nominated without reading and to publish their names in the 2015 Conference *Journal*.

Clergy Tellers: Eddie Abraham, Tony Adams, Anthony Alford, Barry Allen, Wanda Altman, Shawn Armstrong, Louis Ashley, Carleathe Benson, Don Boshell, Don Brown, Kathy Carr, Kenneth Carter, Nellie Cloninger, Meg Cook, Wallace Culp III, Meredith Dark, Emily Davis, Linda Dunn, Donna Eidson, John Evans, Jason Everson, Terry Fleming, Becky Forrest, Kenneth Freeman, Robert Gilbert, Rusty Godfrey, Michael Goldston, Pattie Gordon, James Grant, Mary Green, Matt Greer, Robin Griffith, Davon Harrelson, Kathy Hudson, John Jordan, Ann Kovan, Nels Ledwell, Kevin Lindley, Vivian Lingard, Miriam Mick, Dwight Nelson, Eric Shepard, James Smith, Palma Thomas, Arthur Vick Jr., Merritt Wentz, Sandra Whetsell, Horace White, Laura Whitt, Carley Wicklund, John Williams III, Daniel Woods Jr.

Lay Tellers: Annie Bailey, Bill Barber, Liz Barber, Queen Bowman, Cathy Bratton, Inez Bright, Genevieve Burgess, Carolyn Coffey, Judy Dorn, Sherry Eisom, Bob Elwood, Mike Evans, Travis Feagin, Gwendolyn Folk, Emily Ghassemzadeh, Tommy Glenn, John Glover, Sylvia Harris-Greene, Gay Hawkins, Francis Hipp, Barbara Holley, Roger Hovis, Osbourne Inabinet, Clayton Jones, Suzanne Jones, Karen Keels, Ed Kennedy, Genora Kennedy, Robin Kirtsey, Eddie Knox, Sylvia Landrum, Carstina Lebbly, Vivian Lee, James Lewis, Fran Lewis, Willis Lee, Alicia Little, John Loving, Marlene Lowery, Del McAdams, Dorothy McClam, Myron Middleton, Robin Miles, Leonard Moses, Myra Nuttall, Eartha Pinckney, June Prince, Will Randall, Jim Redmond, Daniel Sanders, Duane Senf, DeVante Simon, Alex Sims, Jim Smith, Pam Smith, Dianne Snarski, Rich Sweazy, Jeffery Tadlock, Vernita Thomas, Richard Thompson, Cathy Trevino, Sylvia Watson, Tony Watson, John Wells, Malachi Wilson, Jackie Woods-Bailey.

The other organizational motions were as follows: that the attendance registers signed at the time of registration be designated as the official roll and record of attendance for the 2015 Annual Conference Session, and that the Conference program printed and distributed in the

pre-conference materials, along with such scheduling adjustments and additions which the President and the Secretary have since made, be adopted as the Agenda for the 2015 Annual Conference Session, provided that the President may further adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session. An additional motion set the bar of the Conference. These organizational amendments were approved.

Bishop Holston thanked **Ms. Bettye Rivers**, the Bishop's Secretary, for her work and assistance.

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

- The first proposed change was to Standing Rule 65c to amend the date for having the Conference *Journal* ready for the printer from October 1 to November 1. The rationale for this change is to allow for adequate time to complete the materials and reports. Bishop Holston called for the vote and the change was approved.
- The second request was to create a new standing rule that would require the individual presenting a resolution on conference to study an issue to be appointed to the study committee. The rationale for this new rule is that the maker of the resolution has an interest and specific knowledge of the resolution and would be in a position to assist the study group. The committee voted unanimously against creating this new rule.
- In addition, the committee is asking the Conference Secretary to create a task force to review all of the existing standing rules.

At 9:10 a.m., **Dr. Paul Harmon** led the conference in a Bible study. The study, "Becoming Disciples God Can Use," focused on Luke 9:51-62 and Luke 10:1, 8-9. He said that disciples don't get even, disciples are not judgmental and disciples do not punish others for their perceived mistakes. He said that, in this world, disciples are often rejected, friendless and alone. However, he said, disciples are never truly "alone" in the presence of God. Disciples, he said, always face the Kingdom of God.

Following the Bible Study, the Conference received instruction from **Reverend Ken Nelson** in the electronic balloting process and a test vote was conducted. After numerous questions on the system and three test votes, the Conference held its first vote for laity delegates to General Conference and **Ms. Barbara Ware** was elected.

The laity took part in a second ballot and there was no election. Following the two laity ballots, the clergy took part in their first ballot. There was no election.

Reverend John Hipp made a motion that Bishop Holston would only read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more on the clergy ballot. The motion was amended so that the Bishop would only read the names of those receiving 50 or more votes. The motion was approved.

The conference recessed for a lunch break.

Monday Afternoon –The Second Day June 8, 2015

Bishop Holston called the Conference back into session at 2:30 p.m.

Clergy participated in the second ballot for General Conference Delegates. **Reverend Timothy McClendon** and **Reverend Ken Nelson** were elected as clergy delegates.

Following the vote, clergy were asked to reconsider the previous motion for the Bishop to read only the names of those receiving 50 or more votes. **Ms. Wendy Hudson Jacoby** made a motion that the Bishop only read the names of all clergy who receive 25 or more votes. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

Reverend Wayne Horne presented the report for the **Board of Ordained Ministry**. Rev. Horne pointed to the use of technology and its impact on ministry. He recognized those who are members of the Conference's Board of Ordained Ministry.

Reverend Jim Arant recognized John Farhney for completing the Professional Certification in Youth Ministry and Val Kenney for completing the Paraprofessional Certification in Youth Ministry.

Rev. Horne presented those who will be commissioned and ordained during the Ordination Worship services. Those presented as **Provisional Elders**: Eugene Aaron Aiken, Lawrence Cantey, James Derrick Cattenhead, Meredith Marie Dark, Kristen Marie Dollar, Ernest Winfred Frierson, Brandon Lee Fulmer, Enrique Roberto Gordon, Daniel Robert Griswold, Cheryl Giles Johnson, Brandon Craig Lazarus, Travis Aaron Pearson, Tenny Hutchinson Rupnick, Edward Tyler Strange, Walter Edward Strawther, William McClary Wrighten, and LaSheila Mack Wyatt.

Presented as **Ordained Deacons**: Adrienne Hamm Fink, Angela Renee Johnson, Margaret Hughey Wilkes, and Paige Matthews Wolfe.

Presented as **Ordained Elders**: Megan Danielle Augustine, Heather Stewart Baird, Frances Sarah Connell, Jerry Lewis Dicks, Jonathan David Harris, Ronnie Lee Jeffcoat, Laura Allen Kerlin, Kevin Bruce Lindley, Blondell Stephenson Miller, Christopher Lee Thompson, Joseph Alva Wilson and Andrew Roy Wolfe.

Rev. Horne thanked Rev. Ken Nelson and Ms. Martha Liles for their assistance through the Office of Clergy Services.

During the presentation, the following were licensed as **Local Pastors**: John Britt Adams III, Todd Brawley Alexander, Robert Earl Barr, Norma Deirdre Bartelle, Graham Miller Bennett, Theodore Avery Brown, Vaughn Edison Chichester, Gregory Lee Cole Jr., LaTonya Monique Dash, Daniel Kyle Eplee, Hazel Lathonya Epps, Chenita Yvette Frierson, Arthur Linburg Gamble, Jeffery Russell Godfrey, Lamonte Darnell Hodges, Jon August Hoin, Jerry Dean Jackson, Lee Marrot Johnson, Cameron Thomas Levi, James Russell Lewis, Susan Biggert Maddox, Deborah McKnight Patterson, Bryan Wray Pigford, Sara Elizabeth Relaford, Benjamin Ross Rogers, Lucinda Lyon Saylor, Guy Michaels Scales, Andrew Warren Sizemore, Thessa Goodwin Smith, Sanda Guild Stillinger, Rickey Levon Stuckey, Susan Yvonne Sullivan, Monica Kay Tilley, Frederick Allen Wilson, Cheri Elaine Yates.

Following the service of licensing, Bishop Holston thanked the Board of Ordained ministry for its work.

Mr. John Gibbons made a motion to restrict the reporting of laity votes to those who have received 90 votes or more. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the motion was approved.

Bishop Holston called for votes from laity on ballots three and four. There was no election.

Reverend David Surrett presented the report of the **Council on Finance and Administration**. The report was provided for consideration and review prior to approval later in the week. Rev. Surrett said that monitoring of spending had resulted in the permanent reserve fund surpassing \$1 million. The Stewardship Summit was well attended and included lay persons and clergy and focused on stewardship. The summit will continue in March 2016. In addition, he said 102.9 percent of allocated apportionments were paid to Africa University. The proposed budget is \$16,789,386 an increase of 0.48 percent. David thanked **Mr. Tony Prestipino, Jr.** for his service and awarded him with a plaque. **Ms. Elizabeth Westbury** was introduced to the conference as the nominee for new conference treasurer. The conference approved her nomination.

Bishop Holston called for a third clergy ballot and there was no election.

Mr. Darrell Ricketts presented the report for the **Committee on Nominations**. He reminded the conference of the voting process, and challenged each district to submit at least 10 nominations next year. He provided the names of the nominees for the Committee on Health Benefits, Trustees, the Advocate, and the Methodist Center. Mr. Ricketts offered congratulations to Rev. Dickie Knight on his retirement. The vote on this report was scheduled for later in the week.

Dr. Marvin Caldwell presented for information the report of the Committee on Resolutions. He presented a resolution entitled "Anti Bullying Resolution". An additional resolution entitled, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING, RECOGNIZING, AND HONORING THE SERVICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, was presented to the Committee on Resolutions. The committee asked the creators of the resolution to provide 2000 copies by Tuesday morning and that both resolutions would be acted upon by the body on Wednesday. The following resolution was withdrawn before Wednesday.

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING, RECOGNIZING, AND HONORING
THE SERVICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a total of 1,539 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty over the past 10 years, an average of three deaths every week or 154 per year.

WHEREAS, recent statistics ranking has South Carolina 50th out of 51 as the most dangerous places to live just ahead of Mississippi and just behind Washington, DC.

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers in this state and throughout the nation are routinely called upon to serve and protect their fellow citizens by responding to horrendous events and acting heroically to save the lives of others;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon public officials and the law abiding public to proactively support our law enforcement officers who regularly face threats of violence and danger, and routinely put their lives in jeopardy to defend others potentially resulting in injury, disability, or even death to keep our neighborhoods safe, enforce the rules of law, protect our property, and respond in times of crisis;

WHEREAS, a number of Clergy and Members of the South Carolina Annual conference are current or former members of the law enforcement community and dedicate their lives and wellbeing to their official duties, and are sworn to protect and to serve the citizenry of this State, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bishop and Members of the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference, that they declare their support and solidarity with the men and women and their families who serve, or who have served, as law enforcement officers, and in particular to those who reside in the state of South Carolina, for their distinctive service and dedicated efforts, earning our highest respect and deepest gratitude, which must be recognized and honored for their selfless and heroic service and invaluable contribution to upholding justice, enforcing the rule of law, and protecting the innocent of South Carolina and the Nation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Bob Huggins
Rev. Wanda Altman
Rev. Tony Rivers
Rev. Bruce Adams

Dr. Carolyn Briscoe presented for information, the Report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals. There are two petitions which we will need to act upon on the last day of annual conference. The first is titled "**A petition to the 2016 General Conference to Amend ¶161F of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church**". The second petition is titled "**A petition to the 2016 General Conference to Withdraw the United Methodist Church from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)**". The petitions will be acted on by the body on the last day of annual conference (Thursday).

Bishop Holston called for the fourth laity ballot. The following persons were elected: **Mr. James Salley, Mr. Joseph Heyward, Mr. Herman Lightsey, Jr. and Ms. Jacqueline Jenkins.**

Bishop Holston called for the fourth clergy ballot and **Reverend Timothy Rogers** was elected. **Ms. Lauren Reinhardt** asked for a point of personal privilege. She asked the body to consider voting for a young adult to be a part of the laity delegation.

Bishop Holston called for the fifth laity ballot and there was no election. Bishop Holston called for the fifth clergy ballot and **Dr. Robin Dease** was elected.

At 5:30 p.m., the Conference went into recess for dinner.

Monday Evening –The Second Day June 8, 2015

The Conference participated in the **Commissioning and Ordination Service**. Bishop Holston presided over the service and **Bishop Marcus Matthews** preached the sermon entitled "When He Calls" based on Isaiah 6:1-8. He encouraged congregations to answer Jesus' call and to go where we are sent, feeding His lambs, tending His sheep, and feeding His sheep (John 21:15-17). The offering received during the service was designated for the *Seminary Students Scholarship Fund*, an endowment which provides scholarship awards to South Carolina students attending United Methodist seminaries.

During the service, the following were commissioned as **Provisional Elders**: Eugene Aaron Aiken, Lawrence Cantey, James Derrick Cattenhead, Meredith Marie Dark, Kristen Marie Dollar, Ernest Winfred Frierson, Brandon Lee Fulmer, Enrique Roberto Gordon, Daniel Robert Griswold, Cheryl Giles Johnson, Brandon Craig Lazarus, Travis Aaron Pearson, Tenny Hutchinson Rupnick, Edward Tyler Strange, Walter Edward Strawther, William McClary Wrighten, and LaSheila Mack Wyatt.

The following were celebrated as **Ordained Deacons**: Adrienne Hamm Fink, Angela Renee Johnson, Margaret Hughey Wilkes, and Paige Matthews Wolfe.

The following were celebrated as **Ordained Elders**: Megan Danielle Augustine, Heather Stewart Baird, Frances Sarah Connell, Jerry Lewis Dicks, Jonathan David Harris, Ronnie Lee Jeffcoat, Laura Allen Kerlin, Kevin Bruce Lindley, Blondell Stephenson Miller, Christopher Lee Thompson, Joseph Alva Wilson and Andrew Roy Wolfe.

A reception was held in the downstairs ballroom of at the conclusion of the service of ordination.

**Tuesday Morning – The Third Day
June 9, 2015**

The Annual Conference opened at 8:30 a.m. with the delegates joining together to sing, “Shine, Jesus, Shine.”

Dr. Paul Harmon then led the delegates in a Bible Study on the theme of “Becoming a Disciple God Can Use.” The concentration for this study was on being disciples to those who are in poverty. He challenged delegates to see the struggles of the poor and working poor. He concluded with the challenge that the body and blood of the poor is Christ being broken again and again. The study ended with delegates sharing in John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer.

The business session of the Conference resumed at 9 a.m. Following several announcements, the clergy participated in their sixth ballot and no one was elected.

Speakers asked the conference to consider electing a young adult to the laity delegation and a deacon to the clergy delegation.

The laity then participated in their sixth ballot and there was no election.

Reverend Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary, provided information on the Consent Calendar and the method through which reports can be moved from the Consent Calendar and presented to the delegates.

Ms. Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader, presented her report. She discussed the Bishop’s Road Shows that were held in each district across the state. Ms. Ware thanked Bishop Holston for his commitment to the laity and to the Road Shows. **Mr. Donald Love**, Associate Conference Lay Leader, recognized the district lay speaker leaders, lay leaders, leaders of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women. He talked about the creation of the lay leadership toolbox that has been developed to help laity and ministries within the local church. As part of the report, delegates watched a video on the Local Church Missions Fair. An additional video shared the efforts of many lay ministries across the state. The Bishop asked the delegates to approve the report and it was approved.

Following the report, the clergy participated in their seventh ballot and there was no election. The laity participated in their seventh ballot and **Mr. Michael Cheatum** was elected.

Reverend Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries, and **Mrs. Cynthia Williams**, Convener of Connectional Ministries, presented the Connectional Ministries report. The report included a video on many of the Connectional Ministries taking place across the conference. The report included information on disaster response plans and a report from the Children in Poverty Task Force.

During the report, Rev. James recognized those who were presented with awards during Annual Conference. Those include.

Students in Mission (SIM): Christina Paradis, Connor Jewett, Joseph Kovas, Murphy Belton, Hanna Morehead, Tripp Edwards, Vanessa Ballard.

Joseph B. Bethea Distinguished Service Award: Rev. Hayes Gainey Jr.

Denman Evangelism Award: Rev. Michael Turner.

Barbara Boultinghouse Bride Builder Award: Rev. Phil H. Reynolds.

Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award: Rev. Dr. Webb Belangia V, Mr. Danny Thompson

South Carolina Annual Conference Seminary Student Scholarship: Sean Michael Kilpatrick

T. Dennie Smith Scholarship: Meegian Alicia Gossard, James Allen Vaught.

Bishop’s Award of Excellence for Scouting Units: Charleston District: Stallville UMC (Cub Scout Pack 750, Boy Scout Troop 750). Columbia District: Asbury Memorial UMC (Cub Scout Pack 397), Red Bank UMC (Girl Scout Troop 2323, Cub Scout Pack 518, Boy Scout Troop 518); Greenwood District: Grace UMC (Girl Scout Troop

5775, Cub Scout Pack 7, Boy Scout Troop 7); Orangeburg District: Trinity UMC (Cub Scout Pack 190, Boy Scout Troop 190).

Robert Hucks Award from Commission on Archives and History: Pisgah, Aynor; Mountain View, Taylors; Broad Street, Clinton; Emmanuel, Sumter; Green Pond, Gray Court; John Wesley, Charleston; Nazareth, Leesville.

Bicentennial Churches: Zion, Pageland; Shiloh, Marion; Mt. Zion, St. Matthews; Limestone, North; Sardis, Union; Swallow Savannah, Allendale.

Centennial Churches: Johnsonville, Johnsonville; Bethlehem, Pamplico; Pamplico, Pamplico; Franklin, Denmark.

South Carolina Methodist Advocate Scholarship: Jordan Geddis.

Janie Robinson Thomasson Memorial Scholarship Fund Recipients: Samuel Patrick Murphy, William Loren Gallien.

The South Carolina Conference Merit Scholarship: Mary Burgess Harrelson.

Bishop's Five Star Award: Advent UMC, Greenville; Bethel UMC, Charleston; Bethel UMC in Columbia; Chapin UMC in Columbia; Christ UMC in Marion; Fair Lawn UMC in Columbia; First UMC Clover in Rock Hill; Little River UMC in Marion; Mays Chapel UMC in Orangeburg; Mauldin UMC in Greenville; Mt. Carmel UMC in Greenwood; Mt. Zion UMC/Bishopville in Hartsville; New Life UMC in Walterboro; Saint Matthew UMC in Greenville; Trinity UMC in Marion; Trinity UMC in Greenville; Trinity UMC in Greenwood.

Reverend Amari Hooker presented the efforts of the **Racial Reconciliation Design Team**. He thanked the team and its efforts. **Reverend Tiffany Knowlin** and **Reverend Ryan Spurrier** presented the efforts of the team. In their report, they shared stories of experiences of realizing racial identity and biblical images of working together and acceptance of differences. Rev. Spurrier said, "Different doesn't mean wrong." The report included a video on issues of racism.

Bishop Holston asked for approval of the report and it was approved.

The Conference heard a letter from the United Evangelical Methodist Church in Ecuador thanking the South Carolina Annual Conference and the Charleston District for its partnership in mission efforts for the past four years.

Reverend Kenneth Nelson announced the progress of the *Stop Hunger Now* meal packing effort thus far. He reminded delegates of the ongoing blood drive.

Reverend Thomas Pearson closed the session with prayer. At 10:45 a.m. the session took a break to set up for the service for retirement

The Conference held the **Service of Recognition for Retiring Ministers** and the "Passing of the Mantle."

The following pastors retired at this Annual Conference: Joseph Abram Jr., David Arthur Brown, Joanne Elizabeth Brown, Barry Webb Cannon, Brenda Isaacs Curtis, Joseph Lynn Curtis, Edmond Daniel, Melvin Wilbur Flail Jr., Yu Fong Chong, Patricia Ann Gannaway, Franklin Rayfield Garrett, Clara Martin Gary, Daniel McKay Hall, Lois Jean Helms, Kathryn O'Shields Hunger, James Campbell Hunter, Richard Hays Knight, Young in Lee, Joanne Lockard-Hawkins, Randall Aaybe Madsen, Linda Joyce McNatt, Paul Cantwell Mitchell, Colin Alfred Moore, Freddie Wells Parker, Larry Randall Parker Sr., Lewis Carroll Pope Jr., David Eugene Reed, Marsha Rhodes Roberts, Francis Lee Roper, Marguerite Kempe Shepard, Calvin Lee Smith, David Stamon Smith, Ray King Smith, Nelson Lawton Stokes Jr., Randy Mark Taylor, Betty Susan Ulmer, Lillian Hymes Washington, Joseph Alva Wilson II, and Carol Peppers Wray.

Retired pastor, Rev. Melvin Flail, Jr. passed the mantle of service to the newly ordained Rev. Laura Allen Kerlin.

Tuesday Afternoon – The Third Day June 9, 2015

The business session resumed for the afternoon, opening with song.

Reverend Kathy Carr made a motion that the time for voting be changed to 45 seconds. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the motion failed.

The laity participated in their eighth ballot and no one was elected. The clergy participated in ballot eight and **Reverend Tiffany Knowlin** was elected.

Reverend Ken Owen and **Reverend Sara White** presented the Congregational Development report. They commended the District Committees for their work. Rev. White asked, "Why is one group able to catch hold to the fire and more forward, while another congregation cannot? It is the work of the Holy Spirit." She said that, last year, nine projects began and three were new church starts. **Reverend Daniel Burbage** provided information about St. Andrews-By-The-Sea, a new church start in Bluffton. He said the church began as a movement to express the grace of God. He said, in the beginning, the church was a stranger to a lot of people in the community. Three years later, however, he said, 70 percent of the congregation is new members. **Rev. Randy Madsen** shared the story of Grace Community Church, a church start in Fort Mill. He said God is in the business of calling together the most unlikely people and making the impossible possible. **Reverend Tiffany Knowlin** spoke about College Place UMC and her experience with the congregation. She said that diversity is not a liability and that the church created a new vision statement: "to be on fire for God." She said the church created a road map, leveraging a model used by Grace Church in Florida and pastor, Reverend Jorge Acevedo.

Mr. Herman Lightsey gave the report of the **United Methodist Men**. He presented a video in which Bishop Holston praised the work of UMM in SC. Mr. Lightsey reported that the South Carolina UMM is ranked as the top unit in the United States. He asked the Annual Conference to display the award for the honor at the Conference Center.

Dr. James Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for the Africa University provided the **Africa University Report**. He thanked Bishop Holston and the Annual Conference for supporting Africa University with 103 percent in apportionment payments. He reported that Bishop Holston plans to lead a spiritual experience to Africa University in January 11-20, 2016. He introduced Bishop Marcus Matthews who is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Africa University. He asked Bishop Holston for a moment of personal privilege so that Bishop Matthews could bring greetings.

Bishop Matthews brought greetings on behalf of the faculty and staff of the university, and thanked Dr. Salley for his continued work. Patricia, a psychology student from Africa University, spoke about her family and thanked the conference for the scholarship she received. **Reverend James Elbert Williams** and **Reverend Carleathea Benson** presented a \$7,000 check from the African American Task force.

As part of the report, the Africa University choir sang "Kum Ba Yah". Dr. Salley announced that an annual golf tournament will be held on September 28.

Bishop Holston called for the ninth clergy ballot and no one was elected. Bishop Holston called for the ninth laity ballot and **Mrs. Martha Thompson** was elected.

Bishop Holston called for the 10th clergy ballot and **Reverend Narcie Jeter** was elected. Bishop Holston called for the 10th laity ballot and there was no election.

Following a brief break, the conference reconvened and continued business.

Ms. Kay Crowe, the **Conference Chancellor**, advised that a trust clause must be in deeds when churches purchase property. In addition, she said that all churches should have received a letter regarding bond coverage. After August 15, 2015, bond coverage will no longer be available from the conference and will need to be sought through the local church's insurance providers. She reported that local church audits are required. The report was adopted into the record.

Reverend Ken Nelson reported that 50 units of blood were collected by the Red Cross and 285,000 meals were prepared for *Stop Hunger Now*.

Rev. Dr. Jan Love, the Dean of the **Candler School of Theology** provided her report. She began with a video detailing the benefits of a theological education and Candler. She reported that the Doctor of Ministry degree is now available as an online program. She spoke on behalf of the 13 other Methodist Seminaries and thanked the Annual Conference for its donations to the Ministerial Education Fund.

In a special report to the Conference, it was reported that Ms. Nell Eleazer, 107, died on Tuesday Evening. She had been active in ministry in the Methodist Church. **Reverend David Anderson** offered a prayer for the family and for the family of Sydney Young – a giant in Boy Scouting ministry.

Bishop Holston adjourned the afternoon session at 5:10 p.m.

**Tuesday Evening – The Third Day
June 9, 2015**

Evening worship began at 7:30 p.m. and featured praise and worship led by the Journey UMC Praise Team, where **Reverend George Ashford** is the pastor, and the Youth Praise Team from Columbia Korean UMC where **Reverend Miyoung Paik** is the pastor. The message was preached by **Reverend Jonathan Tompkins** who inspired worshippers of all ages to be disciples God can use.

**Wednesday Morning – The Fourth Day
June 10, 2015**

At 7:30 a.m., delegates gathered for **Holy Communion** led by **Reverend Joel Jones**, pastor of Simpsonville United Methodist Church.

Following opening music, delegates participated at 8:30 a.m. in a **Bible Study** led by **Dr. Paul Harmon**, Spartanburg District Superintendent. He continued the week's theme of "Becoming Disciples God Can Use." This study concentrated on the theme of becoming disciples to children. Dr. Harmon presented statistics and information on the state of children in South Carolina and across the world. He challenged delegates to see all children as "our children."

Reverend Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary, shared several announcements. He said that "South Carolina is very generous." So far, the offerings received during worship at Conference: \$7,530 for the *Burdine Lodge Restoration*, \$11,233 for the *Seminary Students Scholarship Fund* and \$19,204 for *Stop Hunger Now*.

Following the announcements, the laity took part in their first ballot of the day. **Mr. David Braddon** was elected. A motion was received and approved to raise the number to 50 votes for the names read following each laity ballot.

The clergy then participated in ballot 11 and there was no election.

Following the ballot, **Reverend Marvin Caldwell** made a presentation for the **Committee on Resolutions**. The committee recommended concurrence on the "Anti-Bullying Resolution."

ANTI-BULLYING RESOLUTION

Whereas, Many people are hurting from the effects of bullying in the forms of physical and verbal harassment, intimidation, oppression, and exclusion (meaning a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, or physical act, that is perceived as harming the person, insulting/demeaning the person or placing a person in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage); and

Whereas, the effects of bullying can halt the healthy development of all people socially, emotionally, and spiritually. According to a study by Iowa State University, "Individuals who are bullied experience severe emotional consequences such as anxiety, passivity, academic problems, social deficits, and low self-esteem." Bullying leads especially young people to isolation and depression which prevents them from creating healthy friendships with their peers. This isolation can lead to participation in high risk behaviors and suicide; and

Whereas, 33 youth ages 10-19 and 83 persons ages 15-24 within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference committed suicide due to a mental illness (leading cause is depression which can be an aftermath of bullying) during 2013; and

Whereas, ¶162 of the *Book of Discipline* states:

"We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or economic status. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights;" and

Whereas, Jesus taught, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39).

Therefore be it resolved, that the following resolution is adopted by the 2015 South Carolina Annual Conference:

That we vow, as churches and people of faith, we will no longer be silent about the value of each and every life.

To that end, we categorically oppose the practices of bullying in all its forms. We urge our SC UMC Conference, Churches, Committees, Campus Ministries and Camps and Retreats Ministry to create safe space for each and every child of God, without regard to religion, race, ethnicity, culture, citizenship, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation and physical or mental ability.

Further, in the spirit of advocating for safe sanctuary, we call upon every United Methodist to respond to acts of bullying with acts of compassion. We will take a public stand against speeches of hate, excharassment and acts of intimidation and violence filled with long-held prejudices against all persons.

Finally, we call upon all congregations of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference to intentionally validate, support, and empower persons being injured by bullying behavior in workplaces, in schools, and in all environments.

1. Mark A. Altman, St. Matthews Charge, St. Matthews
2. Ginny Argue, St Mark UMC
3. Gary W. Ayers, Carteret Street UMC, Beaufort
4. Karen Ayers, Church of the Palms UMC, Okatie
5. Barbara Borom, Ashland UMC, Columbia
6. W. Robert Borom, St. Mark UMC, Columbia
7. Betty Bowers, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
8. Robert O. Bowers, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
9. James Bradley, Jr., Ashland UMC, Columbia
10. Nancy Jones Bradley, Ashland UMC, Columbia
11. Drucilla Brookshire, Trenholm Road UMC, Columbia
12. Charles B. Buchanan, Union UMC, Irmo
13. Judy Buchanan, Union UMC, Irmo
14. Becky L. Buie, Windsor UMC, Columbia
15. Sam Caskey, Windsor UMC, Columbia
16. Susan M. Caskey, Windsor UMC, Columbia
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27. Sue Dillon, Windsor UMC, Columbia
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30. John Evans, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
31. Rev. Carl D. Evans, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
32. Becky Falls, Lexington UMC, Lexington
33. Carol Fowler, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
34. Don Fowler, Ph.D., Washington Street UMC, Columbia
35. Sarah Gaddy, Belin UMC, Murrells Inlet
36. Dr. Jerry Gatch, Lexington UMC, Lexington
37. Katie Gatch, Lexington UMC, Lexington
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47. Perry Vandiver Henson, Central UMC, Spartanburg
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49. Nancy Higgins, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
50. Rev. Jerry Hill, Buncombe Street UMC/Dunean UMC, Greenville
51. Fredda Hind, Dunean UMC, Greenville
52. Nonie Hudnall, Central UMC, Spartanburg

53. Dr. James C Hunter, Elder, SC Annual Conference
54. Kathryn Hunter, Hibben UMC, Mt. Pleasant
55. Boyd Jackson, Lexington UMC, Lexington
56. Jennifer Jackson, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
57. Jonathan Jackson, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
58. Vicky Gatch Jackson, Lexington UMC, Lexington
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60. Kinsey Jenkins, Ashland United Methodist Church
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62. Judy King, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
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95. Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Summers, Retired Clergy/Washington Street UMC, Columbia
96. Hillary Taylor, Shandon UMC, Columbia/Lee Road UMC, Taylors
97. David G. Teague , Lexington UMC, Lexington
98. Mary Jane Teague, Lexington UMC, Lexington
99. Dr. Tommie C Toner, Trenholm Road UMC, Columbia
100. Donna Vandiver, St. John's UMC, Anderson
101. Rev. Dr. Michael L Vandiver, Retired Clergy
102. Brenda Verdell, Inman UMC, Inman
103. Jan B. Vestal, St. John's UMC, Anderson
104. Sabrina Walker, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
105. Paula Walters, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
106. Sandy Warren, Mt. Vernon UMC, Hickory Grove
107. Dottie Webber, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
108. James T. Webber, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
109. Rev. Diana Westerkam, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
110. Nancy Whittle, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
111. Chip Williams, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
112. Janet Lyda Williams, Buncombe Street UMC, Greenville
113. Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., McCormick UMC, McCormick
114. Amanda Woods, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
115. Rev. Ellen A. Younker, Cherokee Place UMC, North Charleston
116. Fran H. Zupan, Washington Street UMC, Columbia

Mr. John Gibbons made a motion to remove the word, "exclusion," from the resolution in line 45. **Reverend Cathy Jamieson-Ogg**, Columbia District Superintendent, said that in the wording of the resolution, "exclusion" is related to speeches. **Reverend Dave Fields** spoke in favor of the amendment.

Reverend Clayton Childers spoke against the amendment and said that deleting this section would change the intent of the resolution. The delegates voted and amendment failed, 848-366.

Mrs. Martha Thompson, of Mt. Horeb UMC, spoke about the resolution and wanted to share that South Carolina ranked 47th in well-being of children. She spoke in favor of the resolution.

Reverend Drew Martin said that we could agree that we are opposed to bullying but had concerns over the language used to describe bullying. He asked whether we approve this resolution if we can still affirm the language in the *Book of Discipline* that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." He said he was in favor of the resolution but would like for a clarification on bullying. Bishop Holston pointed out that only General Conference can make changes to the *Book of Discipline*.

Reverend Daniel Flessas, proposed an amendment. He asked to insert the words, "we especially urge these same entities to intentionally strengthen and enforce their Safe Sanctuary policies so that the appropriate adult supervision will occur in all their spaces, on campus and off campus, in order to prevent child-on-child bullying by sight and sound."

Ms. Martha Thompson asked to amend the amendment. She said that Safe Sanctuary policies talk about supervision of children by sight. She said that we need to supervise children by sight and sound. **Mr. John Howell**, Cowpens charge, asked a question concerning the amendment. He asked whether this resolution was just for bullying of young children or across the board.

Delegates voted on the amendment to the amendment and it was approved 827-368. The delegates then voted on the amendment and it was approved, 895-273.

Ms. Vickie McCartha spoke in favor of the resolution.

Reverend Clayton Childers made a motion to move the definition of bullying from line 15 in the resolution to line 45 to clarify the definition of exclusion. The delegates then voted on the amendment and it was approved 795-317.

Delegates voted on the amended "Anti-Bullying Resolution" and it was approved, 997-180. The clergy participated in ballot 12 and there was no election.

The laity participated in their first ballot for Jurisdictional Conference. **Mrs. Lollie Haseldon**, **Mrs. Emily Rogers Evans** and **Mr. Donald Love** were elected.

The clergy then participated in the 13th ballot for General Conference and **Reverend Mel Arant, Jr.** was elected.

Reverend Dickie Knight and **Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray** presented the **Report of the Cabinet**. Rev. Knight said the Cabinet collaborates and works together as a team. He says that the Bishop has challenged them to work as a team. Rev. Leonard-Ray says that she appreciates the culture of the cabinet that has been fostered by the bishop. That culture, she said, involves a heart offered to God and setting our sights on a "more excellent way."

Rev. Knight asked for delegates to take out the puzzle piece they received at registration. He read 1 Corinthians 12. He said that every piece of a puzzle you are putting together is unique and important for completion of a puzzle. The church is made of many parts, he said, but is to be "one" body in Christ. No follower of Christ, he said, can claim independence from the body of Christ. Rev. Knight said that we are all gifted and the body of Christ is not complete without the piece that we bring.

Prior to the approval of the report, **Ms. Sandy Horne** spoke on the issue of the puzzle. She said that we are "throwing people away" and spoke on the issue of inclusiveness. She said that the church is throwing away those who are gay and lesbian. She requested that this be named in the report.

The report of the Cabinet was approved.

Rev. Knight asked for a point of personal privilege. He is retiring this year and said that he is thankful to God for this journey. He thanked the members of the Cabinet for being a family. He also thanked Bishop Holston for his leadership in South Carolina.

Dr. Colleen Keith, of **Spartanburg Methodist College**, presented the report of Methodist Colleges and Universities. She thanked the Conference for its support of the Methodist schools and talked about views of inclusiveness.

Following her report, Bishop Holston thanked her for her service and reported that Dr. Keith will begin working for Pfeiffer University as of July 1.

Following the presentation, clergy participated in ballot 14 for General Conference. And no one was elected.

Reverend Terry Fleming asked if a copy of the totals for each clergy nominee could be made available. Bishop Holston said that the team would check during the lunch break to see what could be done to fulfill the request.

The laity participated in ballot two for Jurisdictional Conference and there was no election.

The Conference recessed for a lunch break.

Wednesday Afternoon – The Fourth Day June 10, 2015

Following the lunch break, delegates participated in the **Memorial Service** with friends and family of those connected to the South Carolina Annual Conference who died since the last meeting. **Reverend Dr. Timothy McClendon** provided the homily, "Balcony People," based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

The following were remembered during the memorial service:

Active Ministers: Curtis Lee Felkel Jr., Calvin Burdell Washington

Retired Ministers: Carl Douglas Clary, Edward Laney Davidson, Charley Glen Dudley, Dixie Lamar Gamble, Adlai Cornwell "A.C." Holler Jr., Ralph Stuart Kaney, Harry Van Nesmith, Joseph Webster Pridgen, Lindsey Eugene Rivers, Robert Wright Spears, Wendell Wilkie Sumter

Spouses: James Wylie Alford, Martha Anne Burke Bigelow, Julie Kelly Canady, Marilyn Bishop Fisher, Patricia Tyler Lare, Ruth Elizabeth Lott Medley, David Quinton Stafford, Paula Jeanne Everett Tanner.

Surviving Spouses: Marian Bralley Cooke, Erma Mae Geissinger, Sarah Nalley Hartley, Elva Morris Huggins, Fannie Mae Johnson, Elizabeth Jordan Miller, Catherine Jeanette Pierce Morrison, Ida Spann Nelson, Sybil Glenna Moore Ray, Thomasine Gatlin Shuler

Others: John Cleveland Barr, Keith Allen Hiott Sr., Nicholle Rivers, Paulette Stevens

Following the Service of Remembrance, the Annual Conference returned to the business session. The clergy participated in ballot 15 for General Conference. There was no election.

The laity participated in ballot three for Jurisdictional Conference. **Ms. Jennifer Price** was elected.

The clergy participated in ballot 16 for General Conference. **Reverend Susan Leonard Ray** was elected and this completed the General Conference delegation.

The laity participated in ballot four for Jurisdictional Conference. **Mr. Chris Lynch, Mrs. Carolyn Briscoe** and **Mrs. Linda Durant** were elected.

Mr. Arthur Spriggs, director of Asbury Hills provided the report of **Camps and Retreats**. He said Asbury Hills is a mission field, serving all people for Christian work and renewal. He provided testimonies about the impact of the camp on the lives of campers and their families. The national meeting of camp directors will be held at Asbury Hills. Mr. Spriggs showed a video highlighting the many benefits of Asbury Hills. He provided an update about the recent golf tournament. **Reverend James Friday**, Greenwood District Superintendent, presented the trophy to **Reverend George Howle**, Greenville District Superintendent. Mr. Spriggs introduced Mr. Les Pritchard, the board chair for Asbury Hills, to present the resolution to authorize the sale of the Sewee Coastal Retreat center. The sale of the property would be contingent upon the requisite vote by the board, the bishop and the cabinet.

Reverend Jeri Katherine Sipes, field coordinator for *No More Malaria*, presented the report for **No More Malaria**. She presented statistics about the devastation of malaria across the world. She said our goal is to provide hope and that malaria is treatable and beatable. The team presented a video about the efforts of the **Reverend Fran Elrod** and Wesley UMC, Hartville to raise funds to support No More Malaria. **Reverend Mike Alexander** and **Mrs. Felecia Holston** will serve with Rev. Sipes on a national committee to raise \$1 million as part of this initiative.

Reverend Jeremy Howell provided the report from the **Committee on Equitable Compensation**. He directed the conference to report 1A and report 2A1 where \$550,000 is the requested budget. The budget was approved by the conference. He directed our attention to report 2B which was approved by the conference. He asked the conference to move the reports to record including a report that the continuing education for pastors amount affirms is \$750. Bishop Holston called for the vote and it was approved.

Mr. Herman Lightsey provided the report of **Pensions and Health Benefits**. He renewed the committee's vow to enact the best programs that can be provided. He introduced his team and thanked them for their service. **Reverend David Anderson** asked for approval of Report 1. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved. Rev. Anderson asked for approval of Report 2 and it was approved.

Rev. Anderson said Report 3 removes the economy plan and replaces it with a retiree benefit choice plan. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the report was approved. Rev. Anderson said that Report 4 outlines the timely payment policy for paying premiums. The report was approved. In addition, Report 5, which includes the Group Health Insurance Operating Budget, was approved.

He presented Report 6 which includes the 2016 Group Health Costs. The report was approved. Rev. Anderson then presented the Annual Conference's 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding plan for approval. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was approved.

The **Hispanic Ministries Task Force** began their report with a song, "know that you can, want that you can, get rid of your fears...paint the future with your heart!" **Reverend Elizabeth Murray, Reverend Richard Reames, and Reverend Emily Sutton** presented the report for the task force. They thanked the team for its passion to be in ministry with Hispanic and Latino communities. The team presented a video including testimonies from those impacted by Hispanic and Latino ministries in South Carolina. Rev. Sutton highlighted churches with Hispanic ministries and challenged each church to assess whether it is ready to embrace the Hispanic and Latino communities. Rev. Murray said she is available to assist churches in preparing ministry plans. Rev. Reames said individuals do not have to speak Spanish to be involved in this ministry. He said that language is an excuse and not a barrier.

Dr. Jeffery Salley presented the Black College Fund report. He introduced Jaylen Lawson a student at Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C., and recipient of the Black College Fund scholarship.

Mrs. Emily Rogers Evans made a motion that the first two clergy and lay delegates elected to Jurisdictional Conference serve as alternates to General Conference and these persons would be paid the same per diem as allotted other delegates. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the motion was approved.

Reverend Karen Radcliffe asked the clergy to elect a deacon to the delegation.

Bishop Holston called for ballot 5 for the laity delegation to Jurisdictional Conference and there was no election.

Bishop Holston called for ballot 1 for the clergy delegation to Jurisdictional Conference. **Reverend Telley Gadson** was elected.

Reverend Kenneth Nelson provided general announcements.

Reverend Kathy James offered a prayer of thanks for the proceedings of the day and a prayer of blessing for what is to come including dinner this evening.

Bishop Holston adjourned the session at 5:56 p.m.

Wednesday Evening – The Fourth Day June 10, 2015

Bishop Holston convened the evening session at 7:30 p.m.

The laity participated in ballot six and **Ms. Lou Jordan** was elected. **Mrs. Cynthia Williams** and **Mrs. Marilyn Murphy** were elected as alternates.

The clergy took part in ballot two and there was no election.

Following the vote, the delegates were led in worship by the members of the **Africa University Choir**.

Thursday Morning – The Fifth Day June 11, 2015

At 7:30 a.m., delegates celebrated **Holy Communion** in a service led by **Reverend Andrew Wolfe** and **Reverend Paige Wolfe**.

At 8:30 a.m., **Dr. Paul Harmon** led the delegates in a Bible Study with the theme of "Becoming Disciples GOD Can Use." This study focused on becoming disciples to the stranger. Dr. Harmon

concentrated on the need for racial reconciliation and the need for love and compassion for others who are our neighbors and not strangers. He addressed many areas in which we can view others as strangers including race, age and gender. The study ended with a hymn and a time of passing the peace.

Following the study, the clergy participated in ballot three for Jurisdictional Conference and **Reverend Michael Turner** was elected. The clergy then participated in ballot four and **Reverend Kathy James** and **Reverend George Ashford** were elected.

Following the vote, **Reverend John Holler** gave the report for **Epworth Children's Home**. He reported that Epworth has had a 100 percent high school graduation rate for the fourth straight year (The national average for those in a group home is less than two percent). He thanked the conference for its support of the ministry of Epworth and shared a video of those who are a part of Epworth.

Dr. Carolyn Brisco presented the petitions to General Conference. She presented, first, "A Petition to the 2016 General Conference to Amend Paragraph 161F of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church." The committee recommended concurrence with the petition due to what it saw as a conflict with other statements in the *Book of Discipline*.

**A PETITION TO THE 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
TO AMEND ¶161F OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Whereas, from its adoption, the incompatibility statement found in ¶161F of *The Book of Discipline* has been argued by biblical scholars and theologians as inaccurate and in conflict with what many Christian educators indeed teach; and

Whereas, ¶161F contradicts ¶162 of *The Book of Discipline* which states: "We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or economic status. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights"; and

Whereas, from its adoption, the statement has not fully represented all United Methodists; and

Whereas, in each subsequent year since adoption this statement is rejected by more and more United Methodists as an insufficient way of communicating our most honest and forthright understanding of human sexuality and human value; and

Whereas, the statement has been the source of tremendous harm to countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) persons, families and friends; and

Whereas, this harmful statement is used by many to justify the rejection, exclusion and discrimination against LGBT persons in and outside of the church

Whereas, medical science has established that homosexuality is a state of being and not a personal choice (See *Amicus Brief* filed by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and other widely respected and authoritative medical, psychological and psychiatric associations in the recent case of *Hollingsworth v. Perry* before the United States Supreme Court) and therefore homosexuals (LGBT) including their sexual orientation - are part of God's creation; and

Whereas, the previous understanding of homosexuality as treated in ¶161F of the *Book of Discipline* presumed that it is a choice, and the current understanding is that it is a state of being which therefore can be affirmed in a life-long, covenant relationship that embodies "celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage";

Thus, the South Carolina Annual Conference petitions the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to amend ¶161F of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* by deleting the sentence, "~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~"

Endorsed by the Advocacy Area of Connectional Ministries

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104. Marcia L. Scott, Christ United Methodist Church
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110. Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Summers, Retired Clergy/Washington Street UMC, Columbia
111. Hillary Taylor, Shandon UMC, Columbia/ Lee Road UMC, Taylors
112. David G. Teague , Lexington UMC, Lexington
113. Mary Jane Teague, Lexington UMC, Lexington
114. Dr. Tommie C Toner, Trenholm Road UMC, Columbia, SC
115. Donna Vandiver, St. John's UMC, Anderson
116. Rev. Dr. Michael L Vandiver, Retired Clergy
117. Brenda Verdell, Inman UMC, Inman
118. Jan B. Vestal, St. John's UMC, Anderson
119. Sabrina Walker, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
120. Paula Walters, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
121. Sandy Warren, Mt. Vernon UMC, Hickory Grove
122. Dottie Webber, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
123. James T. Webber, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
124. Rev. Diana Westerkam, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
125. Nancy Whittle, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
126. Chip Williams, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
127. Janet Lyda Williams, Buncombe Street UMC, Greenville
128. Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., McCormick UMC, McCormick
129. Amanda Woods, Washington Street UMC, Columbia
130. Rev. Ellen A. Younker, Cherokee Place UMC, North Charleston
131. Fran H. Zupan, Washington Street UMC, Columbia

Reverend Keith Ray spoke in favor of the committee's recommendation. He shared experiences of working as a college chaplain and with students at Clemson. He said changing the wording might save lives and he shared his experiences in ministry with those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc. He said this is not an issue, this is about people. **Reverend Smoke Kanipe** spoke in opposition to the petition. He said that we have distorted the gift of human

sexuality in our culture. He said the practice of homosexuality is the question of the petition and the question is whether it is compatible with Christian teaching. He says that he turns to scripture for answer and that love trumps law. However, he said Jesus broke ceremonial laws. He says that Jesus can love and say no at the same time and that he holds together truth and love. He sees that in the *Book of Discipline*.

Reverend Jim Nates spoke in favor of the deletion. He shared the experience of his daughter sharing her story with him. He said that over time, he has changed. His study, he said, took him through scripture and through science. His daughter later felt called into ministry but was unable to serve in the UMC. He said she found a home in another denomination. **Reverend Jeff Dunn** spoke against the petition. He said that he does not feel homosexuality is compatible with Christian teaching. He shared that he has a son who is gay and does not want to see him bullied. He said his response was to love him as he and his wife have always loved him. Rev. Dunn talked about sanctifying grace and argued against changing the language.

Reverend Norman Brown asked a question about how this relates to decisions related to Boy Scouts.

Reverend Deborah Armstrong spoke in favor of the resolution. She said she speaks in favor of the resolution because it singles out and discriminates against one sin. She said she does not believe in any form of discrimination. **Reverend Robert Cox** spoke to answer the question on Scouting. He said that Scouting is not an outside ministry. The churches own the charter and Scouts must follow the rules of the church in which they participate.

Reverend Bruce Adams spoke in favor of maintaining the language as it is in the *Book of Discipline*. He pointed to places in the world where the church is growing and maintains that homosexuality is a sin. He said that God has called his people throughout history to stand against sin.

Dr. Briscoe reported that the committee was in unanimous agreement on concurrence with this petition.

The vote was held and the petition failed 716-519.

Dr. Briscoe then presented "A Petition to the 2016 General Conference to Withdraw the United Methodist Church from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)." The Committee felt that it was important that the United Methodist Church continues to have a voice at the table. This would enable us to continue to witness to who we are and what we believe. She said no dues are involved and no funds from the UMC are given to this group. The committee recommended non-concurrence.

A PETITION TO THE 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE TO WITHDRAW THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE (RCRC)

WHEREAS, RCRC condones abortion as an acceptable means of birth control¹, in opposition to the Book of Discipline, which finds abortion as a means of birth control to be unacceptable;

WHEREAS, RCRC opposes parental notification laws², in opposition to the *Book of Discipline*, which supports parental notification;

WHEREAS, RCRC lobbies the government and participates in legal action for the preservation of partial-birth abortion³, in opposition to the *Book of Discipline*, which opposes partial-birth abortion and calls for the end of such practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger;

WHEREAS, the "members of our denomination are not of one mind over the precise conditions in which abortion can be supported"⁴ and therefore agencies of The United Methodist Church should not be permitted to join a political lobby for abortion, such as RCRC;

WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline calls us to "assist the ministry of crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers that compassionately help women find feasible alternatives to abortion" and;

WHEREAS, other mainline denominations, with positions on abortion similar to that of The United Methodist Church, have either never chosen to be members of RCRC (e.g. the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Disciples of Christ) or

severed past ties with RCRC (American Baptist Churches USA and the Northern Province of the Moravian Church);

WHEREAS, at the 2012 General Conference, the Church and Society B Committee voted to recommend that Petition 20989 (withdraw UMC from RCRC) be adopted but although a week of voting remained, the petition was not allowed to be debated for plenary vote;

Thus, the South Carolina Conference petitions the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church withdraw immediately the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries/Women's Division from membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC).

SUBMITTED BY
Memorial UMC (Greer), Covenant UMC (Greer)
Gramling UMC, Slater UMC

* Unless otherwise specified, all references to the *Book of Discipline* refer to paragraph **161J** of the *2012 United Methodist Church Book of Discipline*.

References

¹ "Work to end poverty. Work to improve education. Work to create jobs. Work to improve health care. Make these choices and you will improve the choices women have and **reduce the need for abortion.**" –RCRC website blog "Choose Life", by Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton-RCRC Board Member (<http://rcrc.org/?p=761>) [Petitioner comments: Poverty, education and health care are not cited in the *Book of Discipline* as legitimate reasons for abortion. Abortion in these cases is using it as a means of birth control.]

² "Because the Act does not contain an explicit health exception, it will require some minor women in endangered health to forego or postpone an abortion while they wait for parental notification or judicial bypass to occur."- See U.S. Supreme Court case "Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood", No. 04-1144, Amicus Brief of the RCRC (http://washingtonpost.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/04-1144/04-1144.mer.ami.rcrc.pdf) [Petitioner comments: The health of the mother is not cited in the *Book of Discipline* as a legitimate reason for abortion. Health does not trump the life of the unborn.]

³ See U.S. Supreme Court case "Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood", No. 05-1382, Amicus Brief of the RCRC, (http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/05-1382/05-1382.mer.ami.rcrc.pdf) [Petitioner comments: The health of the mother is not cited in the *Book of Discipline* as a legitimate reason for abortion. Health does not trump the life of the unborn.]

⁴ #2027, *The Book of Resolutions [2008]*, p. 123

*All weblinks current as of 9/10/2014

Ms. Sandy Horne spoke in favor of non-concurrence of the petition. **Ms. Marian Beech** spoke against non-concurrence and said that the views of RCRC are too extreme. She pointed to the language in the *Book of Discipline* concerning abortion. **Reverend Drew Martin** spoke against the committee's recommendation. **Ms. Joy Strange** spoke in favor of the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence. **Ms. Frances Hopkins** asked whether a vote of non-concurrence means that the petition would not go to General Conference and Bishop Holston affirmed her understanding of the question.

Mrs. Carolyn Briscoe stated that the coalition is focused on many issues other than abortion.

Mr. Phil Watry asked about whether this would stop a donation to organizations that support abortion. Bishop Holston said that this petition does not speak to that particular issue.

Bishop Holston reminded delegates that a vote for "yes" was vote for non-concurrence and a vote for "no" was a vote for concurrence. Bishop Holston called for the vote and non-concurrence was affirmed, 674-544.

Following the vote, the Conference took a 15-minute break.

Reverend Joseph James presented the report of the **Committee on Nominations**. The conference approved and elected those nominated by the committee with the changes presented on Monday.

Reverend Kenneth Nelson presented an update on The Committee on the Annual Conference's work and purpose. He said the purpose of Annual Conference has expanded and that leads to questions of things that can be done in the conference and places where it can meet. He presented a proposal for possibly relocating the conference to Greenville, S.C., to address space constraints and other issues. **Reverend Eric Shepherd** expressed concerns about moving locations, specific to costs for the clergy, delegates and the churches. He said there not as many hotel rooms within walking distance. Rev. Nelson said an analysis has been conducted on possible costs of the new location. **Reverend Larry McCutchen** shared the concerns regarding costs and location and asked the conference to consider the costs to the churches. **Ms. Maureen Purkett** said she did not see a convenience in terms of location and she is a Greenville resident. **Mr. Randy Smith** said delegates should give the committee the benefit of the doubt and asked about what events cannot be held at the Florence Civic Center. Rev. Nelson said there are more opportunities for space at the new setting and less need for additional events to be moved to area churches. **Reverend Willie Wilson** said, just a few years ago, there were concerns about coming to Florence. The report was approved.

Rev. Nelson asked for the approval of the Consent Calendar. Bishop Holston called for the vote and it was approved. He reported that the Imagine No Malaria Offering taken the previous night was \$15,000.

Reverend Jim Arant made a motion that the top four vote-getters be elected to complete the Jurisdictional Delegation and the next top two be elected as alternates on the clergy ballot. **Reverend Richard Reams** spoke against the motion. Bishop Holston called for a vote and it was not approved.

Reverend Amri Hooker asked whether there was a way to identify deacons and elders in the top vote getters. **Reverend Larry McCutchen** advised that the information is available in the Journal.

Bishop Holston stated that the original request was not in order to provide the requested information. He recommended the body to refer to UMCSC.org.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on clergy ballot five for Jurisdictional Conference after a prayer offered by the Reverend Susan Leonard Ray. There was no election.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on clergy ballot six. **Reverend James Friday** and **Reverend Sara White** were elected.

Reverend David Surret presented the report of the **Council of Finance and Administration** and its proposed budget for 2016. He said a Stewardship Summit is scheduled on March 5, 2016, in Simpsonville. He moved for adoption of the budget. Bishop Holston called for the vote and the budget was approved.

At 12:33 p.m., **Bishop Holston** adjourned for the lunch break.

The conference was reconvened by Bishop Holston at 2:10 p.m. with singing of a hymn.

Bishop Holston called for clergy ballot seven for Jurisdictional Conference and there was no election.

Bishop Holston called for clergy ballot eight for Jurisdictional Conference. **Reverend Linda Duncan** made a motion that the top two vote getters finalize the voting. Bishop Holston called for a clergy vote on Rev. Duncan's motion and it was not approved.

Bishop Holston again called for clergy ballot eight and **Reverend Hayes Gainey** was elected.

Bishop Holston called for clergy ballot nine for Jurisdictional Conference and there was no election.

Bishop Holston called for clergy ballot 10 for Jurisdictional Conference and **Reverend Emily Sutton** was elected. **Reverend Jeffery Kersey** and **Reverend Constance Barnes** are alternates.

Reverend Cathy Jamison-Ogg presented the Charge Line Changes and Discontinued Churches She advised that nine churches close every day in the United States. For every church that is closed, Bishop Holston would like us start three new churches. She recommended to delegates to read the book, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church."

Rev. Jamison-Ogg directed the conference to the information concerning churches to close or to change charge lines. These changes are under the authority of the District Superintendents and do not require vote by the conference.

**APPROVAL OF THE MERGER OF
JOHNS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH and
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MERGED CHURCH WILL BE
HOLY TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BEAUFORT CIRCUIT, WALTERBORO DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, The Church Conferences of *Johns Chapel United Methodist Church* and *Bethel United Methodist Church* have voted to merge into one Congregation to be known as *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*.

WHEREAS, Paragraph 2546 of the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (2012) authorizes the merger of local United Methodist Churches.

WHEREAS, I have reviewed provisions of the *Book of Discipline*, am familiar with these churches and I approved the merger of these congregations.

WHEREAS, The merged church desires to operate under the name of *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*.

As Superintendent of the Walterboro District of the South Carolina United Methodist Church, I approve the merger of *Johns Chapel United Methodist Church* and *Bethel United Methodist Church* and to their operation as *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*. I direct that they move forward with the preparation of deeds to include the required Trust Clause to be approved by me and then to be executed and recorded transferring all the property held by *Johns Chapel United Methodist Church* and *Bethel United Methodist Church* to *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*.

I authorize the use of this document to allow the opening of bank accounts in the name of *Holy Trinity United Methodist Church* and for the transfer of the existing bank accounts and funds to Holy Trinity UMC.

The Reverend Thomas Pearson, Jr., Walterboro District Superintendent
Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet

The conference is required to vote on closure of churches. The following churches were approved by the conference for closure: Florence District: Bethesda-Cades, Trinity from the Johnsonville Circuit, Beulah from the Kingstree Circuit; Greenville District: Grace Woodruff; Hartsville: The Old Mt. Zion UMC (discontinued), Twitty. Marion District: Floyds; Rock Hill District: First Church; Walterboro District: Jerusalem.

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
BETHESDA-CADES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Williamsburg County, South Carolina
Florence District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Bethesda-Cades United Methodist Church, located in Williamsburg County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend John W. Hipp, District Superintendent of the Florence District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Bethesda-Cades United Methodist Church be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Florence District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Bethesda-Cades United Methodist Church; and

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Bethesda-Cades United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and-be it further

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

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Florence District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Bethesda-Cades United Methodist Church and be it further

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

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Florence County, South Carolina
Florence District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Trinity United Methodist Church located in Florence County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend John W. Hipp, District Superintendent of the Florence District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Trinity United Methodist Church be discontinued, and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Trinity United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and be it further

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

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

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

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
BEULAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Williamsburg County, South Carolina
Florence District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Beulah United Methodist Church located in Florence County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend John W. Hipp, District Superintendent of the Florence District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Beulah United Methodist Church be discontinued, and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Beulah United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and-be it further

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

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

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

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WOODRUFF, SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENVILLE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff located in Spartanburg County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend George K. Howle, District Superintendent of the Greenville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Greenville District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff; and

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff shall be transferred to Emma Gray Memorial United Methodist Church and

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Greenville District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff and be it further

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall

consider the recommendations of the members of Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff and of the Greenville District Superintendent, that the sanctuary property be utilized for a new church start and that the proceeds of the sale of parsonage be used to fund much needed repairs of Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference are authorized to use the monies transferred by Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff for the care and maintenance of the property ; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church, Woodruff or the District Superintendent of the Greenville District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE (ABANDONMENT)
THE OLD MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bishopville, South Carolina
Hartsville District, South Carolina**

Whereas, The Reverend Robin Dease, District Superintendent of the Hartsville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (“South Carolina Conference”), has recommended that the Old Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, located on Route 4 Box 135B (Highway 341) Bishopville, South Carolina be considered discontinued (abandoned) property; and

Whereas, The Hartsville District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance (abandonment) of the old Mt. Zion United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuance (abandonment) of the Old Mt. Zion United Methodist Church; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare the Old Mt. Zion United Methodist Church discontinued (abandoned) effective January 20, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549.2, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012); and be it further

Resolved, That the Cemetery located at the Old Mt. Zion Church will continue to be used for church burials and maintained by the Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Bishopville South Carolina and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued (abandoned) local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and in their absence or unavailability be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Hartsville District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers are collected and deposited with the South Carolina Conference Board of Trustees for permanent safekeeping.

The Reverend Robin Dease, District Superintendent, Hartsville District
Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
TWITTY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference Twitty United Methodist Church located in Darlington County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend Robin Dease, District Superintendent of the Hartsville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Twitty United Methodist Church be discontinued; and

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Twitty United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and-be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership Twitty United Methodist Church, Hartsville shall be transferred to Wesley United Methodist Church and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall consider the recommendations of the members of Twitty United Methodist Church and of the Hartsville District Superintendent, that the sanctuary property be utilized for a new church start and that the proceeds of the sale of parsonage be used to fund much needed repairs of Twitty United Methodist Church; and be it further

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

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Twitty United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Hartsville District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be if further

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

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE FLOYDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MARION DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Floyds United Methodist Church, a church located in the Duford community in Horry County, South Carolina, has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 24, 2015; and

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

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

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Floyds United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of Floyds United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Nichols United Methodist Church, Nichols, SC; and be it further

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference allow funerals to be held at Floyds United Methodist Church until such time as there is a final disposition of the property; and be it further

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

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, either any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Floyds United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Marion District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KERSHAW
Lancaster County, South Carolina
Rock Hill District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of First United Methodist Church, Kershaw located in Lancaster County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 24, 2015; and

Whereas, The Reverend Joe N. Long, District Superintendent of the Rock Hill District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the First United Methodist Church, Kershaw be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Rock Hill District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of First United Methodist Church, Kershaw; and

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare First United Methodist Church, Kershaw discontinued, effective June 24, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012)*; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of First United Methodist Church, Kershaw shall be transferred to Damascus United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Rock Hill District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to First United Methodist Church, Kershaw and be it further

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall consider the recommendations of the members of First United Methodist Church, Kershaw that the sanctuary property be given to Mt. Calvary Outreach Center and the parsonage be given to the two remaining churches on the Kershaw charge, Damascus UMC and Hanging Rock UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference are authorized to use the monies transferred by First United Methodist Church, Kershaw for the care and maintenance of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of First United Methodist Church, Kershaw or the District Superintendent of the Rock Hill District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Rock Hill District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers, are collected and deposited for permanent safekeeping with the commission on archives and history of the South Carolina Conference.

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS ABANDONED
JERUSALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WALTERBORO DISTRICT
137 Rail Road Avenue, Harleyville, South Carolina 29448**

WHEREAS, Jerusalem United Methodist Church is no longer used by its membership as a place of divine worship.

WHEREAS, The District Board of Church and Location and Building, Walterboro District has agreed that Jerusalem United Methodist Church has been abandoned as a place of divine worship

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Majority of the District Superintendents with the consent of the Bishop as evidenced by the signatures below declare that pursuant to section 2549(3) Jerusalem United Methodist Church is abandoned.

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Walterboro District shall make an inventory of all property owned Jerusalem United Methodist Church and shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items (not to include monies) belonging to Jerusalem United Methodist Church; and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Jerusalem United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Walterboro District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That the property be placed in the care of the Harleyville Parish Charge Conference pursuant to the direction of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference.

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

*Presented by
The Appointive Cabinet*

Rev. Kenneth Nelson, introduced the members of the Committee on Annual Conference. He introduced **Mr. Chris Stone**, President of Visit Greenville, S.C. Mr. Stone discussed the reasons why the conference should consider Greenville and presented a video on Greenville. He said that all of the Annual Conference's events could be handled by the TD Convention Center.

Rev. Nelson made a motion to suspend the standing rule 64 C which requires two years advance notice to change the venue for Annual Conference

Reverend Bill Dargin asked what can be done for persons who have turned in their devices. The Reverend Larry McCutchen asked if a combination of paper and electronic balloting could be used. Bishop Holston agreed to allow the conference to take a 10-minute recess to gather the voting devices from the registration booth.

Mr. Dennis Fish, asked a question why we were being asked to suspend standing rule 64 C. Bishop Holston answered that in order to consider the Greenville proposal that the rule would need to be suspended.

Bishop Holston called for a vote and the conference did not approve suspension of the standing rule.

Reverend Dave Fields spoke against the move. **Ms. Frances Tompkins** also spoke against the move to Greenville. **Reverend Wanda Altman** spoke in favor of moving the venue. **Mr. Kevin Byrd** said that each Annual Conference makes the decision where the conference will be. **Reverend Sara White** spoke in favor of moving the venue. **Reverend Nellie Cloninger** asked for clarification about other venues. Rev. Nelson advised that Greenville had been selected for consideration.

Bishop Holston called for a vote and the conference approved the motion to hold the 2017 Annual Conference in Greenville at the TD Convention Center. Rev. Nelson announced that the June 5-8, 2016 is the date for the next Annual Conference and it will be held in Florence.

Bishop Holston invited the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates to the stage where he asked the conference to thank the delegates for their upcoming service.

Rev. Nelson then made the following Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-Conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the completion of the closing Service of Worship and The Fixing of the Appointments, that this 2015 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *Sine Die*.

The motion was seconded and approved and the business session of the Conference came to an end.

Following a brief break, the Conference reconvened for the Closing Service of Worship and Fixing of Appointments. Copies of the South Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church Ministerial Appointments roster were distributed to Conference participants.

NOTES