

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

**THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference**

Each and every disciple of Christ is called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank all United Methodists in South Carolina for their generosity of many gifts in 2015. We achieved over 91% payment average of apportionments. This is a record high for apportioned giving in our Annual Conference. The Council commends all congregations for their continued and sacrificial support of their extended ministry through the South Carolina Annual Conference. We want to recognize both the Walterboro and Greenville districts for their remarkable efforts. The Walterboro District collected 100% of its apportioned funds and the Greenville District had the largest increase in funds collected, an increase of \$150,374 over the prior year.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference in the Calendar/Conference Year 2017. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and most faithful reflection. The overall budget again meets our continuing target of at or around 15% of total Conference average net funds. The assistance of all agencies, boards and commissions in this effort is critical.

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

We are very excited to report our second Stewardship Summit was held March 5<sup>th</sup> at Simpsonville UMC in Simpsonville, SC and was a great success. Dr. Kennon Callahan was our keynote speaker to a crowd of 120 church leaders

We appreciate the service of Mrs. Elizabeth (Beth) Westbury, as well as her faithful staff, who will be nominated again as our Annual Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services. I am also constantly grateful for the devoted work of every lay and clergy member of the Council on Finance and Administration. They attend, interact, debate and support the work of the Council in a most faithful and dependable manner. It has been a true joy to serve together with many of them for now eight years.

May God continue to bless and guide all the ministries of our SC Annual Conference!

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

**Report No. 1**

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2017 will be set at \$99,500. (DS compensation for 2015 was \$96,101 and for 2016 is \$98,000)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% (\$14,925) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2017 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance, not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district.
- C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:
  - 1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at \$21,000 per district.
  - 2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.
  - 3) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at \$170,000 for the total of all districts, which includes \$8,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. This will be set at \$13,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of \$162,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is expected to be approximately \$322,000 (\$26,833 per district), and continuing education will be set at the amount recommended by the Commission of Equitable Compensation (currently at \$750 per superintendent).
  - 4) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. Not more than fifty percent of accumulated

funds shall be used for travel expenses. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.

- 6) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$2,800 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 18,000. These funds are not guaranteed and are contingent upon the apportionment receipts and other requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2017 will be as follows:

District	2015 Membership	Amount
Anderson	13,980	\$2,800
Charleston	24,244	\$3,400
Columbia	34,084	\$4,400
Florence	17,441	\$2,800
Greenville	21,556	\$3,200
Greenwood	15,789	\$2,800
Hartsville	17,785	\$2,800
Marion	21,845	\$3,200
Orangeburg	17,293	\$2,800
Rock Hill	16,429	\$2,800
Spartanburg	15,106	\$2,800
Walterboro	13,930	\$2,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,482</b>	<b>\$36,600</b>

- D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than \$350 packing expenses. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.

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

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	\$ 15,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 52,000	.007056
Charleston	23,000	40,000	63,000	.005752
Columbia	25,000	45,000	70,000	.003986
Florence	25,000	45,000	70,000	.009291
Greenville	30,000	30,000	60,000	.005118
Greenwood	45,000	35,000	80,000	.010675
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	.006235
Marion	50,000	25,000	75,000	.007011
Orangeburg	25,000	40,000	65,000	.009617
Rock Hill	10,000	27,000	37,000	.004861
Spartanburg	22,000	25,000	47,000	.006227
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.013400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 312,000</b>	<b>\$ 421,000</b>	<b>\$ 733,000</b>	

#### Report No. 2

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

Human Relations Day – January 15, 2017  
 Golden Cross Sunday – February 5, 2017  
 One Great Hour of Sharing – March 26, 2017  
 Native American Awareness Sunday – April 30, 2017  
 Peace with Justice Sunday – June 11, 2017  
 Epworth Children's Home  
 Mothers' Day – May 14, 2017  
 Work Day – September 10, 2017  
 Church school offering first Sunday each month

Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 13, 2017  
Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 17, 2017 (youth offering)  
World Communion Sunday – October 1, 2017  
Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 5, 2017  
United Methodist Student Day – November 26, 2017

B. We offer the following:

- 1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.). Payments in excess of \$1,000 should be approved by the Conference Treasurer in advance.
- 2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage and compliance with payroll tax laws.
- 3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be \$7.00 for breakfast, \$13.00 for lunch and \$20.00 for the evening meal.
- 4) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.
- 5) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.
- 6) That "average net funds" as used in the calculation of 2017 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2015 and 2014. Newly organized churches will be phased in over four years, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero. Churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage may exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister's compensation.
- 7) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 48 through 57 (inclusive) of Table 2.
- 8) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2 reports for use in future year calculations.
- 9) That the funds received on the apportionment for Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance (item 12, Report No. 9) be divided 50% to Methodist Oaks (Orangeburg), 35% to Wesley Commons (Greenwood), 15% to Methodist Manor of the Pee Dee (Florence); that the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 9, Report No. 9) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin University; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 7, Report No. 9) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.
- 10) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts from the Conference Contingency Fund or Permanent Reserve to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.
- 11) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of Conference Connectional Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

- 12) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.
- 13) That the budgets of the District Superintendent Salaries, Director of Administrative Services, the Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund.
- 14) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2017, exclusive of a designated housing allowance as allocated for utilities and maintenance, not including maid service.
- 15) That local churches of the conference incorporate. An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org). After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

#### **Report No. 3**

The recommended apportioned budgets for the Senior College Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund have been reduced. These causes are significant ministries. Therefore, we ask those churches with sufficient resources to continue in 2017 to contribute what was apportioned for these funds in 2009. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

#### **Report No. 4**

The Council on Finance and Administration nominates Elizabeth G. Westbury as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services and Conference Statistician for the 2016–2020 quadrennium.

#### **Report No. 5**

In accordance with the Disciplinary requirement to publish the conference investment policy at least once a quadrennium, CF&A's investment policy is to invest Conference Funds in accordance with the 2012 *Discipline* paragraph 613.5 and under the additional guidelines:

- A) Forms of investment authorized:
- 1) short-term United States treasury bills or bonds and bonds of U.S. government agencies,
  - 2) savings or money market accounts that are Federally Insured, certificates of deposit in any Federally Insured savings and loan association, commercial bank, credit union
  - 4) term notes or demand deposits of The United Methodist Development Fund.
  - 5) funds managed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath) , endowments with The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation

Limitations:

- 1) no stocks (common or preferred stocks) or real estate may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
- 2) no corporate or municipal bonds may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc. or The United Methodist Church Foundation
- 3) no loans may be made except where authorized by action of the Annual Conference, or as part of an investment of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)
- 4) no investments may be made with maturities longer than 36 months, with the exception of term notes with The United Methodist Development Fund
- 5) no investment may exceed the then-current limit on FDIC or FSLIC insurance without approval of CF&A, with the exceptions of: the primary checking account(s); collateralized certificates; or funds on deposit with The United Methodist Development Fund, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation

Income on invested funds will be credited to the Permanent Reserve Fund of the Conference unless the funds are for the Annual Conference Trustees, Equitable Compensation, pension or health benefits, or are invested under a trust or as an endowment.

**Report No. 6**

Following is a listing of the 2015 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2017 apportionments.

<b>District</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2015</b>
Anderson	7,370,024	Hartsville	7,859,119
Charleston	10,952,572	Marion	10,697,607
Columbia	17,561,553	Orangeburg	6,759,037
Florence	7,534,384	Rock Hill	7,612,149
Greenville	11,723,185	Spartanburg	7,547,365
Greenwood	7,494,258	Walterboro	4,850,576
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107,961,829</b>

**Report No. 7**

The Conference Administration Fund (Item 6, Report No. 9) shall be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2016	Requested for 2017	Recommended for 2017	% Change
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 270,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	-37.0%
2 Journal Publication	17,500	17,500	17,500	0.0%
3 Ministers Book	0	0	0	
4 Director of Administrative Services Office	732,105	792,150	792,150	8.2%
5 Print Media Services Deficit Reduction	0	0	0	
6 Conference Expense Fund	240,000	240,000	240,000	0.0%
7 Administrative Committees	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	49,000	49,000	49,000	0.0%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	26,000	26,000	26,000	0.0%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	206,000	246,000	246,000	19.4%
11 General Conference Delegates	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	15,000	12,000	12,000	-20.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,564,605</b>	<b>\$ 1,561,650</b>	<b>\$ 1,561,650</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

Report No. 8

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

Fund	Approved for 2016	Requested for 2017	Recommended for 2017	% Change
<b>A. Connectional Ministries</b>				
1. <b>Conference Advance Specials</b>				
Ministry Programs	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (1)</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
2. <b>Board/Agency Programs</b>				
District Councils	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	0.0%
The Board of Church and Society	12,987	13,000	13,000	0.1%
The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	550	550	550	0.0%
The Committee on ELCC	44,750	49,750	44,750	0.0%
The Committee on Native American Ministry	3,500	3,500	3,500	0.0%
The Commission on The Status & Role of Women	100	300	100	0.0%
The Commission on Religion & Race	500	200	500	0.0%
<b>Advocacy Subtotal</b>	<b>62,387</b>	<b>67,300</b>	<b>62,400</b>	
The Board of Education	8,000	8,000	8,000	0.0%
Division on Young People	35,000	37,000	37,000	5.7%
The Board of Evangelism	750	750	750	0.0%
The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	27,000	27,000	27,000	0.0%
The Commission on Worship	4,000	2,000	2,000	-50.0%
Discipleship Curriculum	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
The Commission on Archives and History	750	750	750	0.0%
<b>Discipleship Subtotal</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>82,500</b>	
The Board of Laity	10,900	13,000	10,000	-8.3%
<b>Lay Leadership Subtotal</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	

Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%
The Board of Global Ministries	35,000	36,000	36,000	35,000	0.0%
The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries	4,000	25,000	25,000	4,000	0.0%
Disaster Response	5,000	34,000	34,000	5,000	0.0%
<b>Outreach Subtotal</b>	<b>46,400</b>	<b>97,400</b>	<b>97,400</b>	<b>46,400</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
<b>Total Board and Agency Programs (2)</b>	<b>\$ 280,187</b>	<b>\$ 338,200</b>	<b>\$ 338,200</b>	<b>\$ 279,300</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>3. Board/Agency Administration</b>	<b>\$ 33,600</b>	<b>\$ 34,000</b>	<b>\$ 34,000</b>	<b>\$ 34,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>4. Operations (100% guaranteed)</b>	<b>\$ 1,462,184</b>	<b>\$ 1,462,184</b>	<b>\$ 1,462,184</b>	<b>\$ 1,462,184</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>5. Communications</b>					
Electronics	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	0.0%
Resource Center	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (5)</b>	<b>\$ 89,000</b>	<b>\$ 89,000</b>	<b>\$ 89,000</b>	<b>\$ 89,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>6. Advocate</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>	<b>\$ 126,000</b>	<b>\$ 126,000</b>	<b>\$ 126,000</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>\$ 2,169,471</b>	<b>\$ 2,224,884</b>	<b>\$ 2,224,884</b>	<b>\$ 2,165,984</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>B. Other Conference Agencies</b>					
1. Cabinet Emergency Fund	26,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	23.1%
2. Bishop's Contingency Fund	10,000	12,500	12,500	12,500	25.0%
3. Episcopal Office	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4. Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
5. Episcopal Residence	20,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	15.0%
6. Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract	24,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	4.2%
7. Ordained Ministry					
a) Operations	54,730	67,000	67,000	67,000	22.4%
b) Career Planning Programs	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>\$ 168,230</b>	<b>\$ 193,000</b>	<b>\$ 193,000</b>	<b>\$ 193,000</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$ 2,337,701</b>	<b>\$ 2,417,884</b>	<b>\$ 2,417,884</b>	<b>\$ 2,358,984</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

**Report No. 9**

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

FUND	Approved for 2016	Requested for 2017	Recommended for 2017	% Change
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,337,701	2,417,884	2,358,984	0.9%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	2,027,536	2,000,000	2,000,000	-1.4%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,176,000	1,194,000	1,194,000	1.5%
4 Equitable Compensation	550,000	550,000	550,000	0.0%
5 District Administration	830,000	840,000	840,000	1.2%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,564,605	1,561,650	1,561,650	-0.2%
7 Camps & Retreat Ministries	328,000	328,000	328,000	0.0%
8 Congregational Development	960,000	960,000	960,000	0.0%
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	0.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	634,838	634,838	634,838	0.0%
11 Campus Ministry	650,000	650,000	650,000	0.0%
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	540,228	540,228	540,228	0.0%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>12,698,908</b>	<b>12,776,600</b>	<b>12,717,700</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
13 World Service **	2,022,012	2,071,556	2,071,556	2.5%
14 Episcopal Fund **	651,818	613,472	613,472	-5.9%
15 General Conference Administration **	244,127	245,980	245,980	0.8%
16 Ministerial Education **	694,197	699,676	699,676	0.8%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	54,318	54,720	54,720	0.7%
18 Black College **	276,922	279,094	279,094	0.8%
19 Africa University **	61,991	62,460	62,460	0.8%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	85,093	45,000	32,554	-61.7%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 4,090,478</b>	<b>\$ 4,071,958</b>	<b>\$ 4,059,512</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 16,789,386</b>	<b>\$ 16,848,558</b>	<b>\$ 16,777,212</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Average Net Funds for Apportionments ##	<b>\$107,283,806</b>	<b>\$107,000,000</b>	<b>\$107,000,000</b>	
Budget as percentage of Average Net Funds	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	

Asking (reference Report No. 3)  
 613,484 600,284  
 \*\* Line items marked with \*\* are General Conference apportioned funds. These amounts reflect the budget passed at General Conference 2016.  
 # Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment. The original estimate reported to Annual Conference was \$45,000.  
 The amount is restated with the actual amount as determined at the jurisdictional conference.  
 ## Estimated for 2017

Respectfully Submitted,  
 David Surrent., President  
 Valerie Brooks-Madden, Vice-President  
 David Taylor, Secretary  
 Elizabeth G. Westbury, Treasurer



## THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

### Looking Back

As the quadrennium draws to a close, we celebrate how far we have traveled as Conference Connectional Ministries. We began the quadrennium with a new structure that remained under Judicial Council review for 2 years before being approved with affirmation from the Judicial Council. The Executive Committee gave faithfully of themselves and their time as we focused on organizational health and learned together how to work together in an environment of trust.

The large number of new persons serving on Connectional Ministries provided both opportunities and challenges. We celebrate that our structure allows us to adapt and respond to new opportunities for ministry and that we can be flexible to the needs of local churches and the annual conference. We learned that the structure change hindered our capacity to adequately care for the needs of our campus ministries and have reconfigured the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry so that it can better care for its fiduciary responsibilities in a way that supports the colleges and campus ministries.

We continue to live in the tension of shifting our focus from conference-level programming to district-oriented resourcing of local churches for greater fruitfulness and connection. We had high hopes this past year of taking the time to step back and clarify our vision for Connectional Ministries at this time in South Carolina, followed by setting priorities for the coming quadrennium and aligning our budgeting process to those priorities. And then it began to rain.

### Disaster Response, Relief and Recovery

The historic, unprecedented weather of the first week of October 2015 resulted in widespread flooding throughout the state that in some areas continued through the end of the month. Ultimately, over half of South Carolina's 46 counties became FEMA-declared disaster zones. FEMA received over 100,000 applications for individual assistance before the January 6, 2016 deadline. The United Methodist Committee on Relief estimates that between 7,500 and 9,000 of those persons will need assistance from the voluntary sector to return their family to a state of normalcy. Forty of our United Methodist churches sustained some level of property damage to their church or parsonage. In addition, the Aldersgate Home at Epworth Children's Home was severely damaged.

Under the leadership of Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Gregg Varner, the Disaster Response Team served the conference tirelessly and well in coordinating the early response and relief phases. The Disaster Response Team is comprised of district disaster response coordinators, Early Response Team leaders, UMVIM leaders, and conference staff. UMCOR staff came alongside to give information, guidance, and support in the early days of October as the team met daily by conference call for more than 2 weeks. Since that time, members of the team have continued to give support to families and churches impacted by the disaster as well as committing themselves to ongoing work with SC VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and Long Term Recovery groups. Each person on the team has worked hard and offered their gifts and expertise out of compassion for the many people impacted by this disaster. Their faithful service is an inspiration to those with whom they work and serve. They represent well the best of South Carolina United Methodism.

Under the leadership of SC ERT Coordinator Billy Robinson, over 400 homes and families were touched by South Carolina and out-of-state ERTs between October and December 2015. Early Response Teams tarped roofs, mucked out flooded homes, and did mold remediation in affected areas. Their presence is a witness to the compassion and care of The United Methodist Church to disaster victims and survivors. Their sacrificial offering of themselves along with their time, skills, and faith is a witness to the love of Jesus Christ and the commitment of our conference to be present with those in distress. They represented us well and we are grateful.

Gregg Varner came on staff from November 2015 through February 2016 to set up the long-term recovery effort with guidance from UMCOR. The annual conference has received a \$1 million grant from UMCOR to fund a 2 year recovery effort that will allow us to provide hands on assistance to help at least 350 families return to normalcy. The Recovery Staff currently includes 9 staff persons who provide disaster case management, construction supervision, volunteer coordination and administrative support. We are grateful to Gregg Varner who relocated to Columbia from Anderson during this period in order to serve the conference in this way. We also gave thanks for the faithfulness and patience of Salem United Methodist Church in the Anderson district who "loaned" their pastor to the annual conference during this time.

Under the leadership of Recovery Director Ward Smith, over 40 volunteer teams have already been through our program to provide volunteer labor for repairs to over 40 homes. Seventeen United Methodist Churches in the affected areas have opened their doors to the response and recovery effort, providing space for staff to live and work, hosting volunteer teams by providing lodging, meals, and prayers, and in general making space in their ministry for this vital service to their communities to happen. To the pastors, trustee chairperson and boards, volunteer hosts and hostesses and all others who have assumed this inconvenience for the sake of ministry, we offer our wholehearted thanks.

### Looking Ahead

The Disaster and our subsequent response significantly impacted the regular work of Connectional Ministries. We cancelled the October meeting due to the number of closed roads in the state and because of the still-rising flood waters. Members of the executive committee living in impacted areas were less available for routine meetings in the midst of caring for neighbors and congregations impacted by the flood. Administrative and programmatic staff members were temporarily assigned to flood response and recovery efforts. Our March 2016 meeting was a time of gathering and regrouping. As we look toward a new quadrennium, we have these hopes for our continued work:

- Collaboration with the districts to return half of their representatives for a 2<sup>nd</sup> quadrennium and recruit new persons in order to avoid a complete turnover in the CM body in 2020
- Follow through with the plans for visioning, prioritizing and budgeting that were disrupted by the flooding
- Continue to focus on team development and organizational health at every level
- Ongoing work by the Racial Reconciliation design team of the Advocacy area in resourcing districts and local congregations in this area.
- New resources to support congregations in having constructive conversations about challenging topics that will help them to faithfully engage their communities. These challenging topics include racism, human sexuality, immigration, gender identity and others.
- Streamline the process for churches seeking funding so they make one application that can then be channeled to the appropriate funding groups within the annual conference.

Below are the committee reports received to date. That the reports are incomplete is a reflection of the attention of the Connectional Ministries office on the Flood Recovery Effort. We are grateful for the work of all of the committee chairpersons and area conveners this quadrennium. It has been a joy to serve and work with this dedicated group of leaders. Respectfully submitted,

*Cynthia Williams, Convener  
Kathy James, Director*

### ADVOCACY AREA

*A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!' (Luke 18:3 MES)*

Today, we are experiencing injustice through not only an attempt for voter suppression, but police brutality, detention and mass incarceration. In the U.S. and around the world, communities whose health, water, air and land are threatened by corporate greed, voices for justice are often curbed through extreme violence, intimidation and murder. In a year where the inequalities of justice and community recovery have once again shown how much needs to be done to produce equality to all areas of South Carolina.

In this country, communities of color are under siege: named and unnamed black lives are killed each year by police; immigrants are detained and scapegoated; and public displays of discontent and calls for solidarity have too often been met with disregard, suppression or violence. As Christians, United Methodist, Wesleyans we believe that leaders and policy makers are called to act and to govern in fairness and with justice for all! Like the persistent widow who demands that the judge hear her plea (Luke 18:1-8), we will bring our petitions for justice to Annual Conference and the Church State of South Carolina. Like the persistent widow, we will not be silenced.

This year the work of advocacy has never been clearer yet much of the energy has been washed away. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, networking and mobilization with other Christians, we have faced the reality of racism, class and power impacting politics and policies and advocate for persons all around South Carolina and our churches. Two Wednesday evenings before the killings at Mother Emanuel along with hundreds of Wesleyan tradition folks, Members of the Advocacy Ministry Area participated in a powerful mass prayer service in North Charleston called by the Bishops of the AME, AMEZ, CME, and UMC. The Reverend Clementa Pinckney, our friend, led that service. I can hear his deep, gentle voice as he asked with great compassion those among us who had suffered from violence in their families to stand. Now we stand with his family and the families and loved ones of eight more to say we must find a way to the Light, we must work to end the darkness of violence among us and around the world. We must further the work of racial reconciliation and the vital conversations on race we are having.

We have continued to work with South Carolina Christian Action Council SCCAC. As United Methodist we supported the removal of the Confederate flag. The Rev. Kathy James, UMC Board representative volunteered to have a press release prepared based on the Council's statements on the removal of the Confederate Flag. Many Members of the Advocacy Team with in their partner-

ship with the SCCAC the multiple services around the state to bring healing to our communities and neighborhoods. We worked with the Christian Action Council in partnership with SC Appleseed Center for Legal Justice, SC AARP and other organizations and individuals, the Council continues to advocate legislation regulating predatory lending practices in SC. Legislation. We have also been working with The South Carolina Christian Action Council to advocate for legislation to bring the Federal dollars of the Affordable Care Act to SC. The Board of the South Carolina Christian Action Council has taken a position to support advocacy for legislation to make stronger the law and regulation requiring background checks for the purchasing of guns. The Council is in the work of listening and working together to develop a policy statement.

The South Carolina Advocacy ministry team Committee also participated with End Racism Day officially observed since 1966 by the United Nations as The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The CMA is excited to partner with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, which is taking the lead to promote End Racism Day for the first time in our state. An Advocacy Training For Clergy and Faith-Inspired Folk hosted by Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1028 Eastman Street, Columbia, SC 29203 the first Tuesday after Holy week as we learned together and encourage each other in the holy work of advocating for justice! Members also have been actively engaging in the online Vital Conversations Webinars by The General Commission on Race and Religion of the United Methodist Church (GCORR) presents Vital Conversations 2 featuring thought leaders, pastors, theologians, activists, authors, and scholars from outside of the United States who share their stories, insights, and expertise on issues related to faith, culture, and fighting oppression in the church and world today. Lastly we also had members to participated in EAD Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

#### ***RRDT Report***

The tragic events across our state and nation in the last year combined with the current political climate evince the need for an ongoing, intentional, and faithful Christian witness in light of the racial dynamics of our state, nation, and world. Although the Racial Reconciliation Task Force did not sponsor an event for the Annual Conference this year, we are encouraged by the number of Districts who have begun intentional interracial conversations and relationships in their local communities. At its core, reconciliation is incarnational work as we live out a new racial reality with our neighbors, especially those from whom we are segregated. In the year ahead, the Racial Reconciliation Task Force will seek to organize itself to be in conversation with, and where appropriate, act as consultants to the District conversations of race. We are excited that members of our team will facilitate a panel discussion and table conversations on race in the Columbia District in April. We will also seek to organize another pilgrimage event for the Annual Conference to both engender and benefit from conversations about race and reconciliation in the various districts. We will meet as a task force in April to organize ourselves for both endeavors.

*Respectfully submitted  
Ryan Spurrier, co-chair  
Tiffany Knowlin, co-chair*

**Lay Leadership Area** (formerly called Board of Laity) experienced another busy and engaging year as we assisted and partnered with numerous projects and ventures across the annual conference. For the second year in a row, Bishop Holston traveled to all 12 districts and met with lay and clergy during events called the BBQ bashes. Laity were involved in the planning as well as the executing of these successful gatherings. Bishop Holston and his wife, Felecia, were on hand to greet lay and clergy during these stops in each district. Bishop Holston shared with those in attendance his thoughts and visions on how lay and clergy can work together as a team within the local church. We continue to be blessed with a resident Bishop who cares deeply about connecting with laity and clergy. Starting in the fall and ending just before Easter, these district events had almost 3,000 lay and clergy in attendance and over 600 of our conference local churches represented throughout the 12 events. What an amazing turnout! The laity in the South Carolina United Methodist Conference are active people who work to enrich the lives of so many. The UM Women, UM Men, Lay Servant Ministries, our children, our youth, our young adults, our middle age adults and our older adults have been very active this year. These groups maintain the standard of working together and intentionally focusing on the common goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

During the 2016 Annual Conference we will say goodbye and thank you to 3 District Lay Leaders (DLL) as they rotate off after serving a term of 8 years: Anderson District-Freda Brock, Greenwood District-David Salter and Spartanburg District-Earline Powell. Those continuing on as District Lay Leaders are Charleston-David Braddon, Columbia-Betty Void, Florence-Dennis Sullen, Greenville-Michael Cheatham, Hartsville-Anna Feagin, Marion-Becky Green, Orangeburg (new DLL to be named at AC 2016), Rock Hill-Bill Click and Walterboro-Pamela Goodwine-

Glover. We are also indebted to our Cabinet Representatives, Reverend Paul Harmon and Reverend Thomas Pearson.

Several task force groups from last year were repositioned into one group in an effort to place emphasis on a team approach and a central focus. This group is known as the Lay Leadership Executive Committee. We continue to be led by the following enthusiastic persons who serve on this committee: Donald Love, Conference Associate Lay Leader, Jenny Rawlings, Lay Leadership Secretary, Jennifer Crawford, Lisa Livingston, Shelia Shanklin, Suzy Speas and Dennis Sullen. The report of their combined work this past year follows below.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside these dedicated and devoted folks.

*Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader*

#### **Lay Leadership Executive Committee**

This committee has continued to seek ways to strengthen the ministry of the Laity through various methods this past conference year! We have planned the Mission Fair event the last two years and are planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mission Fair at the 2016 Annual Conference. The Mission Fair projects have given conference delegates and exhibitors a glimpse of the wonderful missions happening within our local churches across the SC Annual Conference. Ideas for missions have been shared and in some cases partnerships formed to even enhance and strengthen the mission that was exhibited through long term supporting relationships.

We have created and shared resources in the following ways:

- **Produced the Mission Fair book**-a listing of the Mission Fair Exhibits including church name, pastor's name, description of mission, budget and number of persons helped.
- **Lay Leadership Tool Box**-developed this resource to help the local church Lay Leader with the task of training in the following areas: Leadership Development including Apportionment Training, Stewardship and Spiritual Formation. The tool boxes were given to each Lay Leader for use in their district and the information is also posted on the conference website, [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org).
- **Committee Members Served as Workshop Leaders for:**
  - Lay Leader & Lay Member to Annual Conference Trainings
  - Apportionment Trainings
  - Lay Servant Ministry Courses: Prayer and UM Heritage
- **Resource Information Tables Displays were provided for:**
  - Annual Conference
  - UMM Teaching Churches
  - UMM Ministry Weekend 2015

*Submitted by members of the Lay Leadership Executive Committee*

*Donald Love, Jenny Rawlings, Jennifer Crawford,*

*Lisa Livingston, Shelia Shanklin, Suzy Speas, and Dennis Sullen*

#### **Lay Servant Ministries**

Our Annual Conference is fortunate to have committed District Directors and Co-Directors who are equipping saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ! This is what the Master requires of us. They are fulfilling the requirement prescribed in Colossians 3:23 "Whatsoever you do, do it whole heartedly as you are working for God, not for man".

As I travel the Conference, I am proud to witness the quality of Lay Servants in the field eagerly being God's hands and feet, doing God's work and doing it joyously! These Lay Servants are providing missions and ministries in varying means and levels from prayer missions, to Bible Studies, food pantries, pulpit supplies, leading meetings, conducting worship services, fostering care-giving ministries, assisting with the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion whenever it is celebrated, and they take initiative in giving, training, study and discussions.

Our LSM tenant is "Leading, Caring and communicating" and we have a vested interest in sharing with laity the good news that we are to work in partnership "together" with clergy in telling and promoting fruitful congregations. LSM is very vital to keeping our Conference engaged in vital mission and ministry for the greater of the church.

Lay Servant Ministries provide training for the laity to equip them to be leaders in mission and ministries in the local church and community. Each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit to be a servant in God's kingdom. Lay Servant Ministries provide educational opportunity that will enhance our spiritual gift and build the needed skills to enable us to be more effective Christian leaders. Through our Lay Servant Ministries Schools, we gain Biblical knowledge and wisdom to help us make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We, LSM, are your trainers, instructors, and educators throughout the laity. We are the only "educational wings" of the United Methodist Church in all aspects. For this reason, efforts are underway to put "Certified Lay Ministers" under us to track their training and education. They will still fall under the Board of Ordained Ministry (should our Conference Board of

Ordained Ministry “approve” CLM). This conveys our proficiency in training, tracking, instructing, and educating.

A few highlights from this past year:

- Lay Servant Instructor trained Instructors at the Annual Academy on several new courses: “Theater Workshop”, “Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century”. These were featured in the November Edition of the *Advocate*.
- Lay Servant Instructor pulled together and trained Lay Leadership on Apportionment Packet for the Conference.
- Lay Servant Directors are busy planning, organizing, coordinating and providing training for laity to equip them to be leaders in mission and ministries in the local church and community. Lay Servant Ministries provide educational opportunity that will enhance our spiritual gifts.
- Involved with District and Conference Connectional Ministries Teams.
- District Directors are enhancing the involvement of youth in Lay Servant Ministries.
- District Directors submitted monthly reviews of their Lay Servant Ministries to the *Advocate*. Conference Director Jackie Jenkins kicked these articles off in June 2015.
- Prayer vigils for the Emmanuel Nine prevailed among Lay Servant Ministries.
- District Directors supported the Conference “Imagine No More Malaria” effort.
- District Directors LSM Ministries reported their efforts on volunteering for “Disaster Flood Relief” efforts.
- Engaged with Bishop’s Barbecue Bash to support strong teams and vital connections within our communities.

Let the Church Say Amen!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jackie G. Jenkins, SC Lay Servant Ministries Conference Director*

#### **Discipleship Area**

##### **Children’s Ministry:**

The Children’s Ministry Committee has continued to support the mission of the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty in South Carolina. We encouraged local churches to be involved with 1,000,000 hours of service with and for children this annual conference year. The Columbia District Connectional Ministries supported a summer enrichment program for refugee children during July called ‘Hand y Mano’ reaching over 40 children from other countries. This is only one example of how the Connectional Ministries of United Methodist Church is touching the lives of children. Safe Sanctuary Train the Trainer was held in November and trained participants to provide this training for local churches. Churches have continued to partner with schools, provide mentoring, reading programs, and tutoring.

*Submitted by Martha F. Thompson, Convener*

##### **Older Adult Ministry:**

The Older Adult Ministries of the SC Conference once again hosted two exciting and Spirit-filled events in 2015.

The first event was the annual Older Adult Retreat held on February 3-5 at Springmaid Beach and Resort. We were blessed to have SC’s own, Rev. Rodney Powell, serve as the keynote speaker for our nearly three-hundred participants. His message centered around “Beginning the Year with EEEE’s” (Empowerment, Enthusiasm, Engagement, and Encouragement). Additionally, the retreat provided singing, laughter, connection and opportunities for spiritual growth and discernment for those in their golden years.

OA Ministries also hosted an Older Adult Missions Project in the Spartanburg District in Pacolet. Roughly seventy-five hard working servants of Christ helped restore a local church’s beauty and hope as they scrubbed walls and floors, scraped and painted, caulked and sealed, did landscaping and repaired lighting and plumbing.

The Design Teams for Older Adult Ministries also revamped the ministry’s logo. As our members continue to increase in number, our goal is to find new and exciting ways to engage these younger older adults in experiencing renewal and service through activities and opportunities for service.

*Respectfully Submitted by Rev. James A. Grubb, Convener*

##### **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry:**

This past year the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has been under redevelopment. Since the Conference Restructuring of 2012, the Board has been in need of updating its organization, membership, procedures, and strategic goals. This work is now under way and we are currently redesigning the way that all of our collegiate ministries – both at United Methodist colleges and universities, and in campus ministries – are resourced, evaluated, and nurtured by the BHECM. We truly believe that collegiate ministry is the primary setting for making

more disciples, new disciples, and more diverse disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our Board is reclaiming that mission and the Annual Conference can expect more to come from us.

*Submitted by Rev. Josh McClendon, Convener*

#### **The Commission on Worship:**

In 2015 the Commission on Worship provided leadership and logistical support for the various worship services at the meeting of the Annual Conference in Florence. In 2016 we anticipate doing the same with a plan to continue using a wide spectrum of participants, both on stage and behind the scenes.

We recognize the valuable work being done by many District Connectional Ministries in support of inspiring Worship in local churches. We continue to evaluate how the Conference Commission on Worship can best assist local churches as they seek to provide vital worship experiences in their community.

*Respectfully submitted by Rev. Steven King, Convener*

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

As I begin this report, let me say that it is with deep regret that I have assumed the duties of the Convener of the CBGM after the passing of our brother, Rev. Calvin Washington. We as the Board want to pass along our condolences and prayers for his family and the South Carolina Annual Conference.

During the year 2015, the Conference Board of Global Ministries continued to get the word out to local churches about the funding available under the auspices of our Board. We are still aware that many churches in need do not have knowledge of how the CBGM could help them in both existing and new ministry opportunities. As a result, the CBGM will continue in this process to connect resources to the needs of local congregations. And just as last year, we gladly report that we received more requests than we had funding available. That put the CBGM in the unenviable position of having to deny some applications or grant reduced amounts. We rejoiced in having to deal with this opportunity because it reflected the successful communication we pursued and continue to pursue. We rejoiced in the fact that the CBGM has made and is making a difference in the lives and ministries of the Annual Conference and the local churches. Recently, members of the CBGM have reviewed and made recommendations for the approval for this year's grant cycles. We believe that those who received grants met the criteria expressed by the intent of the Belin Board of Trust and the Annual Conference.

The CBGM has either direct or indirect oversight of several areas, and this report will briefly cover them. Several have their own reports given in other areas:

**Spartanburg Methodist College.** SMC is not only a highly regarded educational institution, but it is also an outreach ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference. SMC provides opportunities and growth and learning for many students who would not otherwise have them. The CBGM nominates the Board of Trustees (in conjunction with the president of the college) and recommends the line item in the Annual Conference budget for SMC. We, as the CBGM, encourage all members of the Annual Conference to support SMC by paying all Conference apportionments.

**Communities of Shalom.** We continue to define the relationship between the Annual Conference and the Communities of Shalom. Although the Annual Conference, through the CBGM, has supported the Communities of Shalom since their inception, that relationship has never really been defined. The Congregational Specialist continues to work with the Communities of Shalom and will report to the CBGM and the Annual Conference when this work is complete. Communities of Shalom are community organizing ministries, helping each community look at issues and problems within the community and how to best address those issues using resources available. The CBGM provided the Communities of Shalom \$10,000 in support in 2015.

**Hunger Ministries.** The Hunger Ministries program is an extension of the CBGM designed to encourage churches and individuals to donate each year to help churches who work with hunger issues and to directly feed hungry people through such ministries as soup kitchens, food pantries, etc. The additional money received from the Conference Stop Hunger Now Fund was allocated to this ministry area and was distributed equally among the twelve districts. The amounted to \$769 per district, or a total of \$9228. In addition, an amount of \$6735.37 was distributed to six organizations dealing with hunger in 2015.

**Church Extension Partnership.** Originally a program to help smaller membership churches (100 members or less) with physical repairs, this program has been expanded to include physical repairs or equipping churches wishing to extend their outreach into the local community. There are three "calls" given each year at Lent, Advent, and Annual Conference in which individuals and local churches can contribute to the designated recipient of the call to

help with their ministry. The CBGM would like to emphasize that this particular program is one in which the local church can be a "partner" by taking up a special offering or offerings during the season specified. The CBGM was able to distribute \$2028.85 for this ministry in 2015. The status of this ministry is currently under review by the CBGM and the Conference Connectional Ministry Team.

**James M. Belin Trust Grants.** This Trust fund supports new missions and ministries located within the boundaries of the South Carolina Annual Conference. The Board of Trustees is nominated by the CBGM and elected by the Annual Conference. The Belin Trust provides grants to be distributed by the CBGM each year. To be considered for a grant the organization applying for the funds must be considered either a new ministry or a new ministry within an existing program of the organization applying for the grant. Funding can be obtained as a ministry connected with a local church or an agency sponsored by the United Methodist Church. The CBGM was able to distribute \$172,000 in support of sixteen ministries in 2015.

**Advance Special Ministries.** These are missional organizations within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference that have been recommended by the CBGM and approved by the Annual Conference. These are independently controlled and run organizations with a connection to the Annual Conference either through history or mission. These organizations must apply for certification every quadrennium for approval by the Annual Conference and apply for funding every year. These organizations have their own board of directors which must have United Methodist representation to be eligible as an ASM. The Annual Conference supports these organizations in several ways. The primary way is through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. In addition, by being sponsored by the Annual Conference, these organizations have the ability to solicit funding through the local churches in their surrounding area and statewide. The CBGM encourages local churches and districts to partner with an ASM in their vicinity and support them with not only financial help but in the many other ways in which help is needed. Next, these organizations are also supported by a line item in the Connectional Ministries budget. The CBGM would encourage each church within the Annual Conference to pay 100% appointments to increase the amount these ministries receive. This amount was \$124,000 in 2015. And finally, ASMs are supported by an offering taken through Advance Special Sunday each year.

In addition to these ministries the CBGM also provided support for Mission Interns in the amount of \$4,800, and an Emergency Response Trailer grant of \$10,000.

The CBGM looks forward to all the great ministry which will be done in the future as a result of the efforts of the Board. A special thank you to all those who served faithfully and diligently as a part of the Conference Board of Global Ministries in 2015.

*Stephen D. Gaither, Convener*

#### **HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE (HWC)**

This has been a challenging year for the Health and Welfare Committee. Many churches are in need of funding to help promote Health and Wellness programs but the funding for their programs are not available. This year our programming requests were \$15,400.00 but our budget was only \$3,360.00 which is only 22% of the funding needed to honor the requests. The funds awarded will be used to help offer travel assistance to and from doctor visits, build handicap ramps, to hold Health Fairs, to assist with exercise programs, to teach about autism, to educate the congregation on behaviors that lead to diabetes, and to hold nutrition and educational programs to promote healthier communities. As health costs continue to soar the **HWC** committee was honored to offer grants to offset medical costs through the Golden Cross Medical Assistance program and to assist students who are pursuing a degree in the health field with tuition grants. Golden Cross is well funded, thanks to the members of the SC Annual Conference, and we are encouraging members of take advantage of this opportunity offered through the generosity of fellow United Methodists.

The partnership with USC Prevention and Research Center through the **Faith, Activity and Nutrition (FAN)** program is going well. Last year we began this initiative in Fairfield County of the Columbia District. This year we want to expand the program throughout the Annual Conference. Congregations throughout the state will be contacted during 2016 and 2017. Through both educational literature and hands on demonstrations **FAN** will help our congregations enjoy healthier diets, promote physical activity to help eliminate some medical conditions and to decrease some medical complications. The goal of this program is help promote a better quality of life. Congregations throughout the conference are encouraged to fully participate in this program.

*Rev. Joyce M. Timmons, Chairperson*

**Report 2 – Part I  
Special Days for 2017**

<b>A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE</b>	
Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 15
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 22
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2017
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 5
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 12
Women’s History Month	March 2017
World Day of Prayer	March 3
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 12
One Great Hour of Sharing (GBGM)	March 26
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 30
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2017
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2017
National Day of Prayer	May 4
Christian Family Week	May 8-14
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 21
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	June 11
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct.15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 1
Children’s Sabbath: A National Observance	October 8
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 15
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 12
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 26
World AIDS Day	December 1
<b>B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS</b>	
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 12
Mother’s Day Offering for Epworth Children’s Home	May 14
Advocate Awareness Sunday	May 21
United Methodist Men’s Day	June 11
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering	August 13
Call to Ministry Sunday	August 20
Work Day Offering for Epworth Children’s Home	September 10
Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering	September 17
Advance Special Ministries Sunday with Offering	November 5

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

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

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

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

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

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

**Treatment Foster Care** trains and license families to accommodate emotionally trouble youth.

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

**Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry:** The Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry (BCACM) is a specialized ministry of the South Carolina Conference that was established in 1966 to help facilitate the needs of persons living in Marlboro and Chesterfield counties of South Carolina in a shared ministry and vision. The churches that are affiliated with this ministry are Aaron Temple United Methodist Church, Bethel United Methodist



Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Level Green United Methodist Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Shiloh United Methodist Church, Smyrna United Methodist Church, Saint Michael United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership less than 2500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission, and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

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

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

As the BCACM, our agency embraces the tenets of the United Methodist Church of making disciples for the transformation of the world by coordinating and developing workshops and seminars to empower our laity and clergy. The ministry continues to fulfill its mission by strengthening these churches in the areas of discipleship, outreach, lay leadership, and advocacy.

In addition to the aforementioned, our programs and ministries focus on meeting the holistic needs of families. We strive to meet these needs via weekly bible study, prayer, workshops and seminars, school enrichment by partnering with Blenheim Elementary and Middle School, Clio Elementary and Middle School, and Bennettsville Middle School. In addition, we sponsor the Sacred Saturday (focusing on children & youth ages 5-11) and Tea Time with Teens (focusing on abstinence with 10-18 girls), VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership trainings, health screenings, soup kitchen, food distribution, summer day camps, and flood buckets.

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

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

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

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

**Programs:** Kids for a Better Community Summer Camp; Introduction to mini-film production for children (summer and spring).

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

**Vision Statement:** We envision a future where all individuals will reach their full potential.

**Mission Statement:** To strengthen individuals physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, educationally and intellectually.

**Programs:**

*After-school:* Serving youth ages 5 and up in a year round literacy and enrichment based after-school program.

*Youth Sports participation:* Baseball and basketball clinics and leagues (partnership with Upward Sports and the Youth Sports Bureau)

*Outreach:* Community Events & Programs, Food assistance (3 days per week)

*Senior Wellness Programs:* Active Living, Sewing to Sow & Feed Your Spirit

*Support groups:* Weekly NA meetings (Wednesday's, Friday's and Saturday's)

Highland Neighbor Associations meetings (monthly)

**Church and Community Workers Field Share:** A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries – Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

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

The Center also promotes and maintains close associations with various churches, faith communities, and clergy in the Grand Strand area. Assisting area business, non-profit, and ministry leaders, the Center offers relevant educational and consultative services to help create strength and sustain a culture of excellence that is needed in today's post modern world.

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

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

**Jubilee Academy:** Jubilee Academy is a faith-based organization, working to turn the hearts and lives of inner-city children, youth and families towards Christ and academic excellence.

**Vision:** At Jubilee Academy, we envision educated, productive citizens who have exchanged the bondage of welfare and poverty for freedom in Christ, in the hopes that these individuals will be the firm foundation for future generations, according to God's word.

There is nothing more critical to a community's long term sustainability than a well-educated and well-adjusted child, for they are our future! Ensuring that all of the children of the Midlands receive the support they need to become well-adjusted, educated, productive members of the community will guarantee a bright future for both these children and the community at large. Jubilee is committed to changing lives forever and breaking the cycle of generational poverty, which keeps these children from reaching their full potentials.

**Killingsworth Inc.:** As a ministry of the United Methodist Church Killingsworth provides transitional housing to adult women who are going through significant life changes. In 1947 Corrie Killingsworth's vision of a safe, supportive Christian home for young women leaving home for the first time became a reality. In 1972 our focus shifted to women who had experienced significant life crises and were preparing to transition back into the community as more stable, responsible citizens.

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

**PATH – People Attempting To Help:** Our mission at PATH is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give financial aid to those in crisis. We serve York school district #1, which is York, Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna, and McConnells. We have a food pantry to supply a week's groceries to qualifying households once a month. We give financial aid for basic needs up to every 4 months (maximum 3 times a year), and this would be for rent, electricity, natural gas, water, prescription medications, and other small qualifying needs. The York Lions Club takes their referrals through us for optometric care, and two dentists here provide emergency care to our clients when we call. We have our own thrift store to provide clothing and household needs every two months to each client who needs it.

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

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

**The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow):** The Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT has a mission to feed the bodies, minds and spirits of children. We do this by providing a free summer day camp type experience, including free breakfast and free lunch and activities, when school is not in session.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**United Ministries of Greenville:** United Ministries was founded as Greenville Urban Ministries in June of 1970 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was chartered as an inter-denominational non-profit organization in 1974 and became known as United Ministries in 1982. United Ministries' mission is to provide life changing opportunities and advocacy for people in our community who lack education or employment skills, who are in financial crisis, who are homeless, and those who can help.

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

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

We currently offer the following programs: Adult Education for those desiring to complete their high school education; Arts & Crafts classes for adults to engage in various projects; Homemakers' Club to explore and discuss relevant issues such as Power of Attorney, is offered through a partnership with the local Clemson Ext. Office; After School Program Tutoring and Enrichment, operating Monday-Friday for twenty-five scholars; Summer Reading Program/Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools program for twenty-five to thirty scholars during the summer months, provides learning in a safe and fun environment; Youth Council for youths ages 12-18, to help them to become a more active citizen in the community; One week of Vacation Bible School at the end of the Summer Reading Program.

Other Ministries, Programs

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

#### **ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

*"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes,  
In undisturbed places of rest." (Is.32:18)*

The 2015 year started with calm and quiet. On April 19 we dedicated "Rick's House" in Florence with a grand celebration. This house would become home for four special needs men. The Columbia Home had a full house serving six women and Aldersgate at The Oaks in Orangeburg was filled housing six men.

But the year turned adventurous as we began the paper work for "Rick's House", which proved complex and lengthy. ASNМ persevered and completed the licensing, hiring and training the staff. Nearly a year later, March 4, 2016, it welcomed its first resident. Three others joined him in a few days. "Rick's House" quickly became home for the four of them.

In the meantime, back in Columbia, a 100 year flood visited the home on October 4, so that the six residents had to evacuate about 4:30 AM, as water rose inside the house. They quickly picked up a few personal items and a change of clothes and sloshed their way to the van. There was a disaster plan for such an event. A quick phone call and they were on their way to nearby Epworth Children's Home, where they were housed in the President's House. Fortunately, the recent presidents have had their own homes off campus. The Epworth residence had just had some refurbishing, so the ladies were able to come right in. This temporary housing turned into more than half a year as they remained there until May 2016.

The Columbia ASNМ home had been flooded on previous occasions. DHEC and ASNМ Insurers would not allow repair and restoration of the home without a plan for control of any future flood water. Since water had been 16 inches deep inside the house and could not be cleared for several days, all the furnishings and appliances as well as clothes and personal belongings had to be thrown in the trash.

Working with Columbia city officials, architects and engineers well into February, 2016, a plan was finally completed for the flood water control. Implementation began February 29<sup>th</sup>. Since Epworth has plans to use the President's house at the end of the school year in early May, the window of time left to complete the control of water, repair and restore the house, and return the ladies back to their home was getting smaller. However, it was done.

Aldersgate thanks those churches, classes, schools, companies and corporations in addition to individuals who made gifts to the flood relief. A special thank you to Epworth Children's Home, President, John Holler and all his staff for their timely and generous assistance to the ASNМ home and residents. This is the connectational system at work! Also, thanks to Shandon

UMC, a close neighbor, where church groups gave substantial monetary gifts and one group has adopted the ladies for present and future care. Dreher High School offered clothing which had been donated for flood relief. Several other churches close by gave gifts and also provided volunteers to help clear the debris from the home.

ASNM thanks the staff of the Columbia home for their patient work. Several had to pull double shifts when other staff members had flooding at their own homes and could not get to work. Tiffany Collins, Licensed Administrator of the Columbia home, worked long and hard to keep things going. She also led in planning for "Rick's House", directing the hiring and training of staff and the set up operations.

Orangeburg at The Oaks was a source of comfort for the Board this year, as it went right along with care of residents with ease and grace.

The members of the Board have been rock solid in dealing with the happenings of the year. They have helped with decisions and finding key persons to enable ASNM to get the job done. Parents and Guardians have been patient and ready to assist with whatever was asked of them.

ASNM is pleased to be serving sixteen special needs persons. There is a growing number of persons needing such home care as their family member care givers age and the needs of their loved ones grow beyond their capabilities. There are a number of areas in South Carolina with interest and expressed needs for care. ASNM will continue to have conversation with persons and groups to provide more care and more homes as we are able to move forward.

Aldersgate continues to receive support from around the state and it is welcome. The water control system cost is nearly \$200,000. and is new work, not rebuilding, so it is new money and not covered by insurance.

Aldersgate is under the umbrella of the South Carolina Conference UMC and like Epworth it receives no direct financial help from apportionments or mission specials. It relies on the gifts from **Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday which is set for August 14, 2016**, or a Sunday chosen by each church. Aldersgate thanks the over 200 United Methodist Churches which made contributions in 2015. We invite and encourage the other 800 churches and their pastors to consider giving their members opportunity to share in this ministry.

Envelopes, Brochures and information are provided at the ASNM display table on the concourse. For additional information, check the conference web site or contact Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson of ASNM at [mmcguirt@sc.rr.com](mailto:mmcguirt@sc.rr.com) or 843-237-8040.

Please continue to pray for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

*Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson*

## **EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME**

Epworth Children's Home has completed 120 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina who cannot remain in their own homes.

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

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued to create a culture of success which is reflected in the following statistics: For the fourth year in row Epworth's high school students graduated at a 100% rate; 96% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals at school; 92% of students had a "C" average or better each quarter; and 43% of students earned academic honor roll each quarter.
- II. Received the coveted 4-STAR rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management, and commitment to accountability and transparency for the fourth year in a row. Fewer than 14% of all charities in the country receive the 4-star rating three or more years in a row. The 4-star rating is the highest rating awarded.
- III. Averaged 78 children per day in the residential population plus supported 15 higher education students who lived off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program served a total of 20 children in a preschool program. This program serves children who experience developmental delays. The EEIC program also served 47 children and their families on a regular basis through its home based component. This is a total of 160 children served at any given time.
- IV. Became nationally accredited for a period of four years by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for Epworth's outstanding children's resident group home program and services. COA accreditation offers a unique distinction and attests that an agency has met the highest possible national standards for quality management and service delivery. The Council on Accreditation is an international, independent, nonprofit,

- human service accrediting organization founded by the Child Welfare League of America and The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.
- V. The Epworth Board of Trustees continued the policy of reducing the amount drawn from the endowment and transferred to budget expenditures by \$200,000 each year until the maximum draw is 5% or below per year. The difference in the amount drawn from the endowment and operating costs has to date been covered by a combination of reducing operating costs and by increasing revenue and donations. The endowment draw has been reduced by \$1,100,000 per year. The goal of a draw of 5% or less was achieved again this year.
  - VI. The Board of Trustees adopted a budget of \$6,370,225 for the fiscal year 1-1-16 through 12-31-16. This is an increase of \$491,756 over the 2015 budget.
  - VII. Began year nine of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of increasing per church member giving to a minimum of \$6.00 per member. The per member giving average for 2015 was \$7.66. Church giving increased by \$109,541.59 in 2012; by \$22,000 in 2013; by \$204,000 in 2014; and by \$92,000 in 2015. Total giving increased in 2013 by \$102,887; by \$313,000 in 2014; and by \$220,000 in 2015. The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children decreased from 226 to 211. There were 385 churches that met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average. This is an increase of .47 cents per member from 2014. A complete report can be located at [www.epworthchildreshome.org](http://www.epworthchildreshome.org).
  - VIII. Continued to expand the Higher Education /Independent Living program by adding two full time case workers and financial resources. This program is designed to serve a growing population of youth between the ages of 17 and 22 who are "aging out" of child care, yet need additional supervision, resources, guidance and a safe place to live as they acquire jobs skills and successfully transition into the adult world.
  - IX. Completed the second full year of operation of the Performance and Quality Improvement Department that will keep Epworth on the cutting edge of providing quality childcare to residents and their families. The Duke Endowment awarded Epworth a three year grant of \$190,000 to launch the new PQI initiative. The PQI department is designed to promote evidence based practices and measure all outcomes by objective standards.
  - X. At the time this report was written the firm of The Brittingham Group was conducting the annual independent audit, thus no audit information was available. An unqualified or "clean" audit is anticipated again this year. By the time this report is published the audit information should be available at [www.epworthchildrenshome.org](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org).
  - XI. The nineteen (19) acre campus and the fourteen (14) buildings that comprise Carolina Children's Home in Columbia were purchased on January 11, 2016. This purchase was made to facilitate the growing need for children's services. This acquisition gives Epworth a second campus from which to operate. The new campus joins the property of Trenholm Road UMC.
  - XII. Because of the foresight and continued generosity of United Methodist and others Epworth continues the tradition of never turning a child away because of an inability for a child's family or a child's ward to pay for a place to live, and to call home. Epworth has been able to provide almost four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families again this year.

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

## **THE METHODIST MANOR**

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

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

as well as additional programs designed to provide personal assistance to residents and enable them to retain their independence longer, in the comfort and privacy of their independent home or apartment.

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

Spring of 2015 brought Construction to Methodist Manor in the form of a \$17 million dollar expansion. This newest expansion will include a completely new Assisted Living Facility with additional apartments, activity spaces and amenities. An additional 19 apartments of Alzheimer's/Dementia Care Unit, complete refurbishment of our Health Care Facility, remodeling and refurbishment of Activity and Dining spaces within the Independent Living sections of Methodist Manor including the new additions of a Bistro, Auditorium and Physicians Clinic, with completion scheduled for late fall of 2016. The Manor has also undertaken the complete renovation of all existing Interiors, lobbies and resident common spaces in order to maintain the level of quality expected by people seeking retirement housing.

A number of services, activities and programs enhance the resident's quality of life. The Manor embraces a customer focused model for service delivery that redirects the variety of services and amenities being provided so that resident's choices and conveniences are incorporated. Methodist Manor regularly offers enriching cultural programs and entertainment, along with organized programs such as shopping and sightseeing excursions, intergenerational programs, a variety of fitness and wellness programs. A superior Dining service offering a Culinary trained Chef and professional staff who deliver an elegant dining experience to our residents. The Manor provides numerous offerings, multiple dining options, expansive service hours and special events and catering services.

We are appreciative of the United Methodist Conference of South Carolina for their annual donation to assist in the support of our Residents Financial Assistance Fund. These funds are used by the Manor to assist those residents whose resources have been depleted and are now not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. The Manor provided assistance to 4 residents for the year 2015, funds totaling \$93,680.

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

*John Orr, Chairman, Trustees*  
*Teressa L. Tabor, Executive Director Methodist Manor*

## **THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE METHODIST OAKS**

### **Mission Statement**

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

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

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides holistic medical and health-related care to poor, frail, elderly clients in the greater Orangeburg community and is operated in a specifically designed facility located at 153 Founders Court, Orangeburg, SC. PACE currently serves up to 145 participants.

On campus, The Oaks offers many activities that nourish residents and clients physically, mentally and spiritually. The Oaks has a fully staffed Campus Life, Wellness and Chaplain's Offices offering a myriad of programs, activities and support for residents. These activities are available to the community through the Passport to the Oaks, which allows these clients (age 55 and older) who do not live on our Campus to participate in activities and use facilities such as the swimming pool and fitness center. Senior Solutions home care is also available on campus and in the community, allowing residents to stay in Independent Living, Assisted Living or their off

campus home longer. Additionally, a physician's office is located on our campus along with an audiologist, podiatrist, optician, and pharmacy services, providing convenient health care services for our residents.

As part of The Oaks broader Christian mission, space and support have been provided for the first Aldersgate Home in South Carolina. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is a ministry of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church that provides residence and support for adults with developmental disabilities. The Oaks site provides for 6 male residents.

The Oaks is a 501(c)(3) corporation, which is a not for profit charitable and religious organization. It is directed by the Oaks Board of Trustees which is a twenty-one member board consisting primarily of South Carolina United Methodist clergy and laity. Each board member is qualified before being asked to serve, resulting in each member bringing particular skills to benefit The Oaks. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of The Oaks and works closely with the Chief Executive Officer and his staff to look strategically at The Oaks future. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee meet at least quarterly to monitor the status and review the direction of The Oaks.

The Oaks is appreciative of the connection with the SC Conference of The United Methodist Church and the conference's support of The Residents Assistance Fund through apportionments. With this support, The Oaks is able to accept Medicaid in our nursing facility and is able to assist other residents in staying at The Oaks when they have, through no fault of their own, exhausted their own resources.

In 2015, The Oaks long time CEO, The Reverend James McGee retired. The Oaks is grateful to Reverend McGee for his vision and leadership in his 11 years of service to The Oaks. The board, after an exhaustive seven month national search, selected Andy Cox as the new CEO. Andy has been a part of The Oaks for 9 years as a member of the staff, a trustee and board chairman. He was also previously CEO at The SC Methodist Conference Credit Union and CFO at Epworth Children's Home. We are excited about our new leadership and continuing to fulfill our mission to serve seniors.

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

*The Reverend Charlie Thomas,  
Chairperson of Board of Trustees*

## **WESLEY COMMONS**

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

Fiscal Year 2015 marked another year of continued progress of our programs and services. We are very pleased to see our campus occupancy continuing to grow from a steady migration of retirees from across the Country. With more than two-thirds of our residents moving to Wesley Commons from more than 100 miles away, we have continued to enhance our services and amenities to accommodate this booming population. Our success in attracting people from all over the country can be attributed to our never-ending efforts to provide exceptional offerings of value. The results of our efforts continue to bear fruit, as we continue to grow our campus serving those 55 and older.

With the continued success of our Wellness and Healthy Lifestyle Programs, our campus has remained vibrant and active. Our enhanced wellness complex continues to serve hundreds of residents and future residents, as well as a significant number of employees, every week. Class types range from weightlifting and water aerobics to yoga and massage. Aquatic Therapy is also available through our extensive rehabilitation program by skilled physical and occupational therapists. Approximately 60% of our Independent Living residents participate in over 30 different classes each week and roughly 32% of our Assisted Living residents participate in our programs as well. The Skilled Nursing Facility also participates via satellite in Wellness Programs and Moving Masters through the coordination of our Therapy Department and Certified Recreational Therapist. Participation in our Wellness Programs has added more than improved health for our residents; it has sparked a youthful energy and excitement felt campus wide.

To continue and maintain our growth and lifestyle offerings, we are finalizing plans for expanded and unique dining venues, culinary experiences and services. Our already active outdoor recreation areas will soon be expanded. We will soon break ground with a new pickle ball complex and putting green areas. This spring we will be opening another ¾ mile nature trail, as well.

We are extremely happy to share that we are preparing to break ground on another significant expansion of services and offerings at Wesley Commons. Our latest expansion will touch



every area of our campus. The first phase of our plans will add another restaurant venue to the Residential Living Campus with new indoor and outdoor offerings. Concurrently, we will build another Assisted Living House to our Palmetto Place neighborhood to enable us to serve many people currently on waiting lists for the service. The last and largest part of the expansion in our first phase will be the creation of a new medical/wellness campus designed to house a new, exceptionally unique post-acute rehabilitation facility and a long term skilled nursing home. Our challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, is to design these exceptional programs to be affordable and viable for a diverse population.

More specifically, our new medical facility will continue to serve a Medicaid and lower income population that represent half of the population served in the complex. We believe that if we can achieve this goal, it will spread to others, so that in the near future, a skilled nursing home will look and operate nothing like what we have accepted in the past regardless of one's income.

As we have shared, Wesley Commons received a mandate by the State to reduce the number of low income (Medicaid) patients being served by a significant factor. While we support the State's vision to become fiscally responsible stewards of taxpayer resources, our board and staff stayed true to our heritage of care and refused to turn our backs on those that called Wesley Commons' home. To that end, the State imposed a significant fine on Wesley Commons for not turning our backs on those most in need. While this is a setback in our ability to continue our mission of care to an economically diverse population, we have a renewed passion to seek new and better ways to serve those in need, regardless of the changing headwinds.

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our older brothers and sisters continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. In 2015, Wesley Commons provided over \$1,380,000 of subsidized care. We are grateful for the support of the Methodist Conference, in its support of just over \$184,000 towards supporting those in need. The support of the Conference and other private supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide support for many in need.

Wesley Commons' current level of support is extremely taxing on our resources. Our ongoing Ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. We thank you for your continued financial support of those who built our great nation and deserve our fullest attention.

In His Interest,

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

## **CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY**

Under the dynamic leadership of President Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University continues to receive unprecedented global and national recognition through the accomplishments of its high-achieving students, world-class faculty, dedicated administrators and loyal and supportive alumni.

In addition to sustaining a collegial environment that inspires academic excellence and ground-breaking research, Claflin also remains true to its Christian values as a university of The United Methodist Church promoting spiritual growth and understanding and consciously embracing diversity and inclusion.

The confluence of vigorous academic inquiry and spiritual development contributes to the University's legacy of producing visionary leaders who are both compassionate and intellectually prepared to engage in impactful issues of social justice.

More than 450 freshmen were welcomed as the newest members of Claflin's student body during Matriculation Day, comprising one of the largest classes in University history. Students in the freshman class represent every region of the United States and 6.2 percent are international students. The most popular major among them is biology followed by business administration, psychology, mass communications and politics and justice study.

In a celebration of diversity and inclusion at Claflin, the annual Matriculation Day Convocation featured 40 flags representing the countries of students, faculty and staff. Expressing that theme further, Dr. Marcio de Moraes, Rector of Methodista University in San Paulo, spoke at the event. Methodista University is the largest United Methodist university in Brazil with 21,000 students. It is one of many international universities that have strategic educational partnerships with Claflin.

The time-honored Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy, named in honor of a distinguished United Methodist pastor and established in 1992, was held February 12-13, in the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel.

The Rev. Hicks is a Class of '57 graduate of Claflin. Hicks also received an honorary doctorate from Claflin and he is a trustee emeritus. The theme for this year's event was *Truth and Reconciliation: A Dialogue on Race, Justice, and Public Policy*. The two-day Academy

strengthens the University's spiritual life with dialogue on key topics. Rev. Olu Brown, lead pastor of Impact Church in Atlanta, Ga., was the keynote speaker. Rev. Keith Hunter, pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church, Hollywood and Rev. Vance Ross, director of annual conference relationships for Discipleship Ministries, were among the ministerial guests.

Through a \$100,000 grant from The United Methodist Church's Young Clergy Initiative Fund, Claflin's Young Clergy Initiative continues to provide support for identifying, recruiting and developing a promising pool of young individuals for pastoral leadership in The United Methodist Church. The initiative was officially launched at the 2012 Leadership Academy. The grant also established a year-long ministry-discerning program for 50 rising high school juniors and seniors from South Carolina and the Southeast.

Claflin provides a host of activities for religious growth and spiritual reflection. For example, Religious Emphasis Week covers significant topics through discourse with distinguished theologians and scholars. Claflin continues to offer Sunday Worship services at the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel, and a mid-week "Power Hour" service featuring speakers from the campus and community each Wednesday evening. The Rev. Jesse Jackson was the guest speaker for a Power Hour service in October that was sponsored by the International Students Association.

Any Sunday you will find Claflin students supporting worship services as guest speakers and musicians at United Methodist Churches in the community. The University's internationally recognized Concert Choir is frequently requested to perform at religious events and its spring tour takes it to churches across the nation.

Claflin students continue to participate in the Lina H. McCord Summer Intern Program of The United Methodist Church Black College Fund. Students selected serve as interns and ambassadors and travel to UMC conferences and activities around the globe. Claflin students have previously been selected as ambassadors at the Young Peoples Gathering in South Africa in 2006 and other events including the Student Forum, Thomas-Shockley Youth Theological Academy and Harambee.

The internship program promotes the mission of the Black College Fund to United Methodist nationally and abroad. Participants must attend or be graduates of one of the 11 UMC colleges/universities and they are leaders in their local United Methodist congregations. The students are selected by their chaplains and professors and endorsed by their college/university President. They are also required to meet strict standards for character and academic excellence.

Claflin is certifiably one of the nation's leading institutions, demonstrated by recognitions from reputable digital and publishing organizations. The University was selected the 2015 AARP/HBCU Digest HBCU of the Year and U.S. News and World Report has consistently ranked Claflin as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the past 17 years. The magazine also ranked the University a top tier national liberal arts college. Washington Monthly ranked Claflin the number-one liberal arts college in South Carolina and the top HBCU in the nation in its 2015 annual College Guide.

## COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as a 2016 Best Value college and ranked among the best regional universities in the south, Columbia College is a dynamic learning and living community, where students, faculty and staff work together to build leaders our communities need most.

Since our founding 162 years ago by the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, Columbia College has supported and encouraged young women in their pursuit of a quality education. The College is known for its emphasis on leadership and service and is home to a nationally renowned honors program led by the 2010-2011 United States Professor of the Year.

Our Institute for Leadership and Professional Excellence assures that every student has a personalized plan to transition from college to her career. Beginning in her first year, each student has a personal board of directors comprised of an academic advisor, a career counselor, and a community mentor. This intensive mentoring is combined with a progressive plan of professional development and applied learning. Every student gets real-world experience through internships so when she graduates she is ready to further her education or begin a fulfilling career. Because of this personalized approach with every student, **96%** of our 2015 graduates were placed in jobs or graduate school.

To make this experience possible for deserving young women, we offer many scholarships including the Momentum Scholarship for young women with big dreams who are motivated to realize their fullest potential. Our Momentum Scholarship recipients are involved in their high schools, the community and in their churches. They are academically accomplished, and have a personal determination that might outshine their standardized test scores.

More than 30% of our students are scholar/athletes participating in 10 conference sports. For the second consecutive year, our athletes are the NAIA National Champions of Character, receiving the highest award in the country for the values and character they display both on and off the field.

Young women arrive at Columbia College from many backgrounds and interests, yet they share one common trait: they are serious about making a change for the better—in their own lives and in their communities. Service to others is part of our mission and our campus culture. When the October floods devastated many areas of Columbia and South Carolina, Columbia College students volunteered to help families with the clean-up. Students on campus made lunches for first responders and blessing bags of essentials for flood victims. Many of the October first responders are Columbia College students in our online degree programs in Criminal Justice and Emergency Management.

Faith is an important part of Columbia College. It forms the values and principles by which every member of the college community lives and works each day. Guided by our Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, Reverend Roy Mitchell, we live our beliefs and strive always to be people of character and advocates for social justice and service to the community. As part of our educational ministry, we hold weekly chapel services for students, faculty and staff, with a wide variety of speakers from various backgrounds.

This academic year we engaged in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's challenge on Justice and Dignity. Our initiative focused on race and race relations. We screened the SC ETV film, "A Seat at the Table: Pathways to Reconciliation;" hosted the Interfaith Partners of SC's annual meeting on "Harmful Words: An Interfaith Exploration;" and will host Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe (General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society) for our annual Staley Christian Lecture for chapel followed by an evening lecture dedicated to the honor and memory of Rev. DePayne Middleton Doctor (alumna killed at Emmanuel AME in Charleston).

The theme for our weekly chapel services for fall 2015 was "Parables" and we focused on 13 of Jesus' parables. Students also participated on Thursdays in a DVD-based bible study on the same parables used for chapel services to go deeper in their understanding. For spring 2016 chapel services, the theme is "Spiritual Journeys." Students have also been participating in a student-led bible study series on "The Salvation of Dr. Who: Connecting Christ in Culture." Columbia College students and faculty attended the Women's Fall Spiritual Retreat at Lake Junaluska, and will have an overnight retreat in Charleston in the spring where students will look closer at their spiritual journeys and also attend worship at Mother Emmanuel AME Church.

We deeply value our connection to the United Methodist Church, and to further nurture that relationship each year, Reverend Mitchell organizes Columbia College Day in churches across the state. Incorporated into regular Sunday services, these days recognize alumnae and family connections in United Methodist churches throughout South Carolina. During the 2015-2016 academic year Reverend Mitchell, our student Hi C's singers and I visited thirteen churches where I spoke to the congregations and thanked them for their apportionments to the four UMC colleges of South Carolina. Reverend Mitchell gives the sermon and the Hi C's sing songs of worship.

100% of the funds received from the South Carolina Annual Conference are used by Columbia College for student scholarships. Every young woman student receives a scholarship, so every student benefits from the generosity of the United Methodist Church. This year Columbia College instituted a \$1,000 United Methodist Scholarship for young women attending Columbia College who are members of a United Methodist Church. Through the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Dollars for Scholars Program, if a church matches our \$1,000, the student will receive an additional \$1,000 through the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, thus tripling the scholarship dollars.

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

*Elizabeth A. Dinndorf, President*

## **SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE**

As a partner in ministry with the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, and as one of the Conference's worthy missions, Spartanburg Methodist College is proud of living into the United Methodist connection in meaningful ways. We are excited to share the following updates with you from the 2015-2016 academic year:

**Strategic Planning.** SMC completed its most recent strategic planning process and is implementing initiatives that follow four themes: Expanding Impact; Engaging Students; Transforming Spaces and Developing People. Under consideration is: looking at new academic programs; updating facilities; providing expanded learning opportunities and training for faculty, staff and students. SMC will continue its mission to bring a quality college experience to deserving students through our four themes.

**Success Rate.** Our success rate, defined as students who begin their college career at SMC and then continue on beyond SMC, continues to exceed that of other two-year colleges at nearly 83%. The national average is 20%. As a result of this success rate, colleges like Wofford College and the College of Charleston have established bridge programs with SMC and others have stepped up their recruitment of our students for senior college completion. SMC maintains strong articulation agreements with a long list of 4-year colleges and works to provide seamless transfer opportunities.

**United Methodist Support for Students:** 3% (17 students) of the student body at SMC receive United Methodist scholarship support, including 4 dependents of United Methodist clergy members. Funds include the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (Dollars for Scholars and Foundation Scholarships) as well as funding from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (UM allocation, UM general scholarships and UM private loan fund). This support is above and beyond the very generous apportionment funding the College receives as a mission of the South Carolina Conference.

**Academic Program.** The College has searches underway for six faculty members in English, History, Spanish, Art, Chemistry and Biology. These new colleagues will join a vibrant faculty that includes 57% (26) with the terminal degree in their field. Several faculty members have active research lives in addition to teaching freshman and sophomore-level classes, and invite students to participate in research with them

**Commitment to Service and Worship.** SMC was once again named to the national President's Honor Roll for Service for the sixth consecutive year. Under the guidance of Rev. Candice Sloan, Chaplain of the College and Director of Church Relations, the SMC community provided over 5243 hours of service in Spartanburg and elsewhere. In addition, Rev. Sloan provides outstanding worship and reflection opportunities for the campus community, including a special program on faith formation in the Fall 2015 semester.

**Fundraising.** The College is working on fundraising for projects that support the "Transforming Spaces" theme from our strategic planning work. Chief among those projects are facilities for teaching science, programs to better engage students, residence hall updates, and fitness facilities for all of our students to use.

**Athletics.** The athletic program continues its outstanding success, highlighted by women's soccer, which qualified for nationals and earned a final ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation. If you haven't taken in a Pioneer athletic event, you need to!

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

Respectfully submitted,

*W. Scott Cochran, President*

## WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College celebrated another productive year marked by the 75th anniversary of Phi Beta Kappa and the 25th anniversary of the Bonner Scholarship Program on campus. Just as Phi Beta Kappa set the bar on academic excellence, Bonner has helped the college develop a new standard of community engagement. Wofford College graduates are making the world a better place — as ethical business leaders, health care professionals, teachers, coaches, judges, clergy, social workers, parents, artists, military personnel and researchers, and that list is by no means complete. The college's relationship with the United Methodist Church remains an integral part of providing the transformative educational experiences that prepare students for lives of servant-leadership and lifelong learning.

Wofford College has also renewed its commitment to access and affordability by keeping tuition increases to a minimum and offering a robust financial aid program that during the 2015-16 academic year distributed more than \$50 million in merit and need-based scholarships, federal and state aid, as well as outside scholarships and loans. A third of Wofford's budget goes toward scholarships and financial assistance, and 94 percent of Wofford students receive some form of financial assistance. Specifically, 225 of the college's 243 United Methodist students shared in more than \$4 million in financial aid this year (100 percent of the South Carolina Annual

Conference's contribution goes toward financial assistance for these deserving students). This year, the college also has allocated \$300,000 in new funding for scholarships for first-generation college students. Currently first-generation students make up 15 percent of Wofford's student body.

Recent rankings validate the college's vision and commitment to access and affordability. The New York Times ranked Wofford South Carolina's "most economically diverse" college and the "top college doing the most for low-income students." In addition, Wofford gained accolades in the Princeton Review's "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck." Kiplinger's Personal Finance also placed Wofford on its list of the Top 300 Best College Values of 2016 and in the 100 top liberal arts college.

Bulldozers continue to share the campus with students, faculty and staff. The new Greek Village was complete this spring, and construction is underway on the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts and the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. We also are making on-going improvements to residence halls and other campus buildings.

In November, the college announced a \$4.25 million gift from the Romill Foundation for the Milliken Sustainability Initiative at Wofford College. The initiative will link the college more closely with the Northside and Glendale communities while considering important sustainability issues on campus. Wofford is already in the process of hiring an energy metering and monitoring manager and faculty to teach in this area. Future plans for the initiative include developing a residence hall and new living and learning community in the Northside in the next few years.

Also in the fall the college announced a new Center for Community-Based Learning. Formerly known as the Center for Global and Community Engagement, the new name emphasized student engagement with the community and the learning that takes place before, during and after community engagement. The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, Wofford Class of 1978 and the Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, was integral in the realignment. In addition to continuing his work as chaplain and teaching courses such as "Religion, Literature and the Environment" and "Religion in the American South," Rev. Ron (as he's affectionately known on campus) will now direct interfaith programming at the college. The Halligan Campus Ministry Center will now be known as the Halligan Center for Religious and Spiritual Life.

During their four years at Wofford, our students learn to be servant leaders by engaging in projects in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Leading these efforts, in addition to Chaplain Robinson, is the Rev. Paige Matthews, a 2007 Wofford graduate and minister with young adults and college students at Mauldin United Methodist Church, who works with the Wofford Wesley Fellowship one day each week. We're also pleased to announce that Chaplain Robinson has expanded the services of the Office of the Chaplain to offer coaching to students, faculty and staff. He's already logged more than 250 hours of coaching in the past year and is completing the credentialing process to become a certified coach with the International Coach Federation and the United Methodist Church.

Each year in addition to welcoming bright new students, the college also welcomes new faculty. This year, the college hired Dr. Polyxeni Mountrouidou, a cyber security expert and hacker, as assistant professor of computer science. She brought with her a three-year \$295,998 National Science Foundation (NSF) education and research grant to engage undergraduates in cybersecurity learning. As part of the grant, Mountrouidou is working with one of her collaborators, Dr. Xiangyang Li of Johns Hopkins University, to develop cybersecurity learning modules that will be embedded into the general education curriculum. Dr. Mountrouidou also is mentoring women in computer science and advising the Revenge of the Terriers, Wofford hacking team.

The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, spoke on campus this fall on "Race and Social Justice" in the Eben Taylor Lecture Series. The series is named for the Rev. Eben Taylor, a 1948 Wofford graduate and longtime champion of racial justice and civil rights in South Carolina. Wofford's Sandor Teszler Library holds his papers. Some of them were on display during the lecture.

In the spring the college celebrated the return of Phiifer Nicholson, Wofford Class of 2016. As the college's Presidential International Scholar, Nicholson traveled through the Middle East studying interfaith engagement and the power it can have in creating peace between differing faith communities. While abroad he spent part of the time living with an Arabic-speaking minority Christian community in a majority Muslim country. Nicholson is a religion major minoring in business from Plymouth, Minn. He was also a participant this past summer in an archaeological dig at Horvat Kur in Israel as part of the Kinneret Regional Project. Wofford is one of four colleges in the international research consortium. This summer the group uncovered a partially preserved, colorful mosaic floor, showing the upper part of a menorah. It was an exciting find for Dr. Byron McCane, Albert Outler Professor of Religion, and the Wofford students on the dig. Returning to his Terrier roots for the experience was 2012 Wofford graduate James Ballard, who is now a student at Yale Divinity School.

It has been another exciting year at Wofford College, and we are always happy to share. We invite our friends and partners in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist

Church to visit us at any time. Come see for yourself all of the good work we are doing together for the students at Wofford College.

*Nayef H. Samhat, President*

## **THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

The Charleston Wesley Foundation (CWF) is charged with providing United Methodist campus ministry to the campuses of The Citadel, College of Charleston (CofC), Charleston Southern University (CSU), Trident Technical College (TTC), and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). For CWF, the 2015-16 Conference/Academic year has been one of explosive growth and exciting ministry!

The attendance at all of our campus gatherings has skyrocketed. At the Citadel, our Monday night worship has increased from a yearly average of 20 two years ago to 90 this year, with a high of 125. We also launched a Thursday night Bible study at the Citadel this year in conjunction with the Episcopal campus ministry. We now have 60 cadets studying Scripture on Thursdays as well! In previous years, we have only had one female cadet and one minority student involved in CWF at the Citadel. Through intentional and prayerful effort, this year we have been blessed with 22 female students and 20 minority students. Our monthly outreach in the Battalions has allowed us to impact over 2,200 cadets as we share God's love with them.

Our CofC group has grown to an average of 15 each week at our weekly Wednesday night meetings. This is an increase of about 5 from last year. The group has had to rebound from losing 80% of last year's students due to graduation and transfer, as well as having to move our meeting space mid-year. The CSU group has finally secured a regular meeting space on campus and has increased in size to an average of 13 students who gather for worship and fellowship every week. They have also taken leadership by providing weekly musical worship at CSU. We also have TTC and MUSC students attending our weekly gatherings. We are in exploration to launch a specific MUSC small group in the fall. All of this numeric growth has led to our having a total of 120+ different students regularly involved in our worship and leadership gatherings each month, for a yearly average weekly total gathering attendance of 220.

In addition to the regular CWF worship and Bible study gatherings, we have continued to engage in ecumenical gatherings with the other Christian ministries at the Citadel. These gatherings have allowed for 225-350 students from various Christian traditions to gather together to worship their Creator, understand other traditions, and as a unified witness to campus. CWF has taken the lead in planning and carrying out these campus wide events.

Another important growth at CWF is the new focus on leadership development and disciples making disciples. Each Sunday evening, 30+ current and emerging student leaders gather to grow in their own faith and as leaders making disciples of Jesus on their campuses for the transformation of the world. These student leaders have bought into the vision of what God is doing in CWF now and what He is moving our ministry toward in the future. This group of leaders will help CWF to be ready to disciple our current as well as future incoming students.

CWF has also continued to be very active in witness and mission this year. Our students have kept up the practice of writing letters of thanks and appreciation to other students, professors, school administrators, food staff workers, etc. as an expression of Christian thanksgiving and love. Many shoeboxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child. Monthly outreach events were held in the Citadel barracks to bless the cadets and share God's love within the battalions. We were able to reach over 75% of the student body. CWF participated in fall and spring mission weekends with Rural Mission on John's Island and other local churches. The weekends allowed the students to help numerous families in desperate need in our local island communities. One of the joys for the leaders of CWF is that when it looked like we would need to cut one of these events because of scheduling issues, our students demanded that we find a way to still hold it, and stepped up to the plate to make it happen. After a hugely successful mission trip to Pijal, Ecuador last year, CWF will be leading another international mission trip to Ecuador with three times the number of students. CWF students will also be participating in several Salkehatchie camps, three other international mission projects, SIM, and other expressions of Mission this summer.

With all of our success, we have to face the reality that running vibrant campus ministries on 5 campuses is impossible for one person. In response to the great growth that was happening, the CWF Board stepped out in faith to hire a part-time campus pastor to the CWF team. Though we have been unsuccessful in our numerous efforts to get Conference financial support for this growth, God has been faithful in provided just enough resources through other faithful people to ensure that Tasha has been compensated and has been an invaluable part of our ministry program. As an African-American female and fellow Air Force Chaplain with Aaron at Charleston Air Force Base, Tasha has allowed our ministry team to reflect the diversity that

the church should live out. Her presence and faithful ministry has allowed CWF to experience the blessed increase in female and minority students mentioned above. We are becoming what the church should look like and allowing us to confront the great cultural challenges that have continued to rock the Charleston community in recent years. Eventually we will need to have a campus minister for each campus as our student numbers grow and require more pastoral care.

In addition to seeking appropriate number of campus ministers for our students, there are also other challenges we are working through. Some of them are good challenges to have. The first is feeding our students. At our gatherings we sit around tables and share a meal. This has led us past "attendance at an event" into growing in authentic Gospel-centered Christian community and growing as disciples together. Having more people has dramatically increased the amount of food required. Many of the local Charleston District churches have thankfully stepped up to help meet these needs.

Finances are an ever-present issue in all ministries, and ours is no different. The current Annual Conference support only covers near minimum salary and benefits for Aaron, with potential left over "fall out" money if apportionment giving is good. For CWF, having no program money from the Conference forces us to spend much time fundraising for program, office, outreach, extra pastoral staff, etc. needs. Other denominations, which are better funded, are able to spend more time ministering to their students, who in turn are connecting with their denomination's churches in greater numbers. It is my prayer that, in a church desperately trying to reach the next generation, we will find ways to fund ministries helping that demographic remain vital members of the Church and not wander to other denominations that are poised and ready to accept and incorporate these college students into their churches, or worse, away from faith.

At CWF, as it is with our other Wesley Foundations across the state, we are not just working with the future, but the present Church. We are seeing students come to faith in Christ, as well as others grow in living out that faith. It is my joy this year to celebrate one student accepting Christ, three baptisms of CWF students, and walk with 12 other students as they explore a call to ministry. One freshman in particular said, "I did not think God could call a girl like me to do ministry. But now that I have been a part of Wesley and have seen what the church can be like, now that I have seen Tasha, I know He can and think He is calling me." This is just one of many powerful things that God is doing at CWF!

In the spirit of faithfulness to Christ's calling upon us as a Church, I continue to pray you will find ever increasing ways to support the Wesley Foundations and college ministry in your local area. The fields are ripe for the harvest if we as a Church are willing to give our prayer, presence, service, resources, gifts, and witness to these students in our midst.

In Christ,

*Aaron Meadows, Campus Pastor and Director*  
*Tasha James, Associate Campus Pastor*

### **CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

This is a great time to serve in campus ministry. As I wrap up my third year at Clemson Wesley (CW) there are many things to celebrate with you. CW and Clemson UMC (CUMC) continue to work closely in a covenant relationship to reach the students, faculty and staff at our local institutions. As in past years we have connected with over 650 students this school year. Several hundred students call CUMC home for Sunday morning worship, while hundreds more are active in CW.

Over the course of the last year we had over 100 students total participate in weeklong mission trips to New Orleans, Miami and the Bahamas. In addition to these week long trips our students also engage in weekly outreach to the local community. These weekly service opportunities include working at an animal shelter, retirement home, talking with people in homelessness and volunteering at a soup kitchen. Students at CW also engage in over 10 different small group opportunities throughout the week. We have two worship services, Evensong and Eventide, which average 80 and 48 in attendance, respectively. In fact this past fall our midweek service, Eventide, outgrew its space and we had the pleasure of moving on campus to accommodate this new growth. In all that we do CW continues to be a place that welcomes all students as they are, treats them like family, helps them grow in their faith and find ways to serve both God and neighbor.

One of the challenges and celebrations of campus ministry is that we must operate with an intense sense of urgency. In my three years I have already said goodbye to six different groups of graduates. Needless to say there is little time to spare when operating with a 4 year window, at best, to impact the lives of students.

On the flip side, this constant welcome and sending of students creates excitement. Our mission in the UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There are not many contexts like mine where I literally send 25% of my congregation into the

world each year with the hopes of greater transformation. Each year we send graduates to seminary or into the candidacy process. This year three graduates will enter seminary. Equally as important, each year we send dozens of teachers, nurses, engineers and business people into the world to live and serve others from a gospel perspective. As hard as it is to see these students leave, there is also a great sense of optimism knowing that they are today's new leaders. We are sending them into your communities and churches.

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

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

*Rev. Steve Simoneaux*

### **COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION- METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK**

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

**We serve** on eleven occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, entertain through music and offer words of encouragement. We tutor and mentor three times a week after school at the Prosperity Project, a program for at risk, latch key children from Gonzales Gardens. We work two times week with an ESL program for adults and caring for the children in West Columbia. Additionally we serve on many other occasions and contexts such as Epworth's Children's' Home, the Tucker Center, Rural Mission, Agape and Harvest Hope.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year we took five different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time. We served in the Kingstree area for fall break in the historic flood relief efforts. The week that classes were canceled because of the flood, a large group of students served for six days in the Columbia area. We also traveled to the Sea Islands twice to aid in the work with Rural Mission, one of those times working with flood victims. Over spring Break we went on mission to San Ramon, Costa Rica, where we did a variety service including offering an optometry clinic. In May we returned to Pastocalle, Ecuador serving through optometry and dental clinics as well as working with children and helping to build a school for the local Methodist Church.

About 80 students gather in small groups throughout the week support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. We have two Freshman group, several coed groups, a graduate group and bible/theology study groups and a group geared to international students just beginning to explore the Christian faith. We also have a men's and a women's group. We have based these groups on a Covenant Discipleship model. This year we held four retreats involving some 200 students to allow concentrated time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God. We also had our first alumni retreat for MSN to invite our grads to continue the bonds of friendship they established in college, to encourage them in their spiritual lives and to ask for their ongoing support of the present campus ministry.

We **worship** Sunday evening in a lively and joyous manner utilizing the various gifts of students and a diversity of traditions from the global church. Afterwards we eat together a meal donated by a local United Methodist church of prepared by our students. We include elements of worship in other settings including the small groups. We also began a new worship service that meets bi weekly and is in a more contemplative style that is completely student led. We also meet weekly to learn and practice contemplative prayer.



The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and meet to talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries. We have a dinner group for internationals that meets regularly and continue to work with students and other religious organizations to build interfaith relations. The Table of Abraham was one of the projects we sponsored where we meet with the Muslim and Jewish student organizations to promote dialogue and understanding.

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

*Tom Wall- United Methodist Campus Minister  
Columbia Wesley Foundation Director*

### **FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION**

The Wesley Foundation at Francis Marion University, known on campus as Alive in Christ, has seen a continuation of Bible study and other activities for students this year. Student involvement has been constant again this year. Alive in Christ has had continued support from many churches in the Florence area.

Our theme this year comes from James 1:22. We have focused on not just hearing and studying the Word on Monday nights but trying to live it in our every day lives around campus and off.

We had several activities for the students to be involved in. We meet on Monday nights for food, fellowship and a time of Bible study. We have had wonderful speakers share with us on Monday nights, too. Other activities that have provided fellowship time along with a time of spiritual formation have been through off campus activities. We were excited to be able to go to the Winter Wesley Retreat this year at Asbury Hills. This was a great retreat for our group and other Wesley groups from across the state. It was a great weekend for connecting to others and spending time in nature. The retreat weekend was filled with worship time, small group time and time to explore the property. Most of our group hiked for two hours to one of the waterfalls on the property. The students enjoyed a kayaking trip this past year on the Lynches River so much that plans are being made to do it again this spring. In addition, we are sponsoring a dunking booth in late April again, to raise funds for a charity. Other outreach events include volunteering at OMships Christian Book Warehouse and volunteering with Help for Kids, an organization that sends home backpacks with food for elementary students on Fridays.

To help publicize Alive in Christ our student leadership made sure that we were represented in the student organizational fair held on campus in August and also were represented at an student open house weekend for incoming Freshmen next fall. I am not allowed to approach students about coming to Alive in Christ, except when Francis Marion University holds a student organizational fair, so our student leaders and other students in our group have done a great job of inviting new students.

Thank you to all who have supported this ministry at Francis Marion. Thank you for your prayers, financial support, transportation, food, and words of support. You have made a big difference in the lives of many college students.

Blessings,

*Lou Jordan, Campus Director*

### **FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP**

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

One of the words that is used to describe our Furman Wesley Fellowship is "family." Often students will speak of their time with Wesley as home, as the place they come on a weekly basis to just "be" and a safe place to "engage" with ideas. This year we also had the visual reminder of our interconnectedness as the Christian family as four members of the freshmen class were actual siblings of current students or recent graduates. We were brothers and sisters in Christ, called to a common purpose. On the college campus, that purpose is education, growth, and discovery. In our Christian walk that purpose is to love, to offer grace and mercy, and to transform the world. As we gather with our "family" at Furman Wesley, we hope always to

use this time of education, growth, and discovery as opportunities to be transformed into disciples of our loving, grace-filled, and merciful Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

- Began the year with a gathering of 40+ students as we kicked off our new year.
- During the first month of classes, we visiting local UMC churches – designed to give students an introduction to local churches in the hopes that they may find a home of worship while at Furman.
- Freshmen Small Group Meetings – designed to help new students assimilate into college life. These are weekly for the first month of classes, and then monthly afterwards.
- Monthly Sophomore & Junior Group Meetings – designed to help the students deal with issues of being a full-time student and the changes that happen in our lives as we get older and more involved in campus life.
- Monthly Senior Group Meetings – designed to provide graduating seniors a place to wrestle with issues of life after college.
- Weekly Lunch in the Dining Hall
- Weekly Office Hours for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Retreats – i.e., Mountain Getaway, Fall Retreat in the mountains, Wesley Winter Weekend [with other Wesley Foundations], and Spring Retreat at Lake Keowee
- Missional Outreach – i.e., Work with Catholic Campus Ministry on a house build, Spring Break Missions with Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Lake Day, Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Wesley Winter Day [skating, dinner, & hockey game], Movie Nights, Senior Luau
- Sent 1 Furman Wesley students to Exploration 2015 [for young adults considering professional ministry]

We know that as students get more involved in their classes and other campus events, their time becomes precious; as a result, it is our desire to provide the students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship, and service. We hope our Furman Wesley can be a “home” for our students and a “family” with which they can “Be, Belong, Connect, and Engage.”

Furman, Greenville, and the UMC are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young leaders who are passionate about their faith and living out that faith in their everyday life. We are truly blessed, and thankful, for all of the love, support, and prayers that we have been afforded by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

*Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, Campus Minister*

## **ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION**

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. — Maya Angelou*

The historical document of Orangeburg Wesley Foundation states: “On March 21, 1974 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina, the Campus Ministry Committee of the Board of Education, South Carolina Annual Conference, convened a meeting of the Provisional Board of Directors for a Wesley Foundation in Orangeburg.” For forty plus years, Orangeburg Wesley continues to serve students at Claflin and South Carolina State Universities. Through the years, many dedicated people have invested their time, talent and treasures to ensure the success of this ministry. These devoted adults ensured that the students at these institutions of higher learning felt the love and support through their actions.

As I reflect on the past year and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, I am sincerely grateful for the spirit of love and commitment that lingers in this ministry. The Anniversary served as an occasion to honor the founders, to acknowledge and thank current supporters, and to raise much-needed resources for ministry and operations.

A powerful spirit of affirmation was evident in the sanctuary on Sunday evening, November 15, 2015. We celebrated the vision and commitment of our ancestors who prayed, sacrificed and worked to ensure the formation of a Wesley Foundation in Orangeburg. Former members: Mrs. Dorothy Jarvis, Rev. Larry McCutcheon, Rev. George Manigo, and Dr. Bill Hines, friend of the late Rev. Matthew McCollom, shared fond memories of their experiences.

It was a spiritual, delightful and inspiring worship experience. Bishop Jonathan Holston delivered a compelling message from Isaiah 6:1-8: *Here I am Send Me*. He asked: “Who will rise up, who will go for us in campus ministry?” Who will respond, “Here I am Lord, send me?” Thank you, Bishop for the challenge!

An ensemble of Claflin's D.R.E.A.M. choir, Kimberly Broughton, a student at Claflin, and Reggie Dupree, a student at SC State provided spiritual songs and insightful comments regarding their participation at Wesley. We applauded their devotion and academic achievement, their intellectual disciplines, and their spiritual leadership, which create a climate for our ministry to offer meaning and value to the young adults we serve.

Ministry with young people is demanding, perplexing, and so rewarding. This type of ministry cannot sustain itself without the constant support of adults. I am delighted to have committed board members and supporters who are willing to work hard, offer their wisdom (knowledge, understanding, intelligence), and invest their wealth in campus ministry.

In an effort to ensure the relevancy of Orangeburg Wesley's ministry, the Board has adopted a new Ministry Statement: *Orangeburg Wesley Foundation is an inclusive, supportive and loving Christian collegiate ministry that seeks to equip students for service through worship, fellowship and leadership; to engage students in intellectual discussion to understand the relevancy of the gospel for spiritual growth and 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders; to empower a new generation of faithful leaders to be agents of Jesus Christ in the transformation of their community and the world.* Collegiate ministry in Orangeburg continues to equip, engage and empower young adults to become altruistic servant leaders and world-class citizens.

It is a joy to spend time with students for they teach me so much, and I have teachable moments to share my experiences and wisdom with them. It is our goal to reach as many students as possible. A recent graduate said to me, "I wished I knew about Orangeburg Wesley when I was in college. I could have avoided some of the problems and pitfalls if I knew there was a place I could go to just hang out with others. It breaks my heart that other students are not aware of this ministry."

As I begin this third year of collegiate ministry, I am encouraged by what I see; I am strengthened by what I hear; and I am empowered by what I feel. I invite you to "Come aboard the Wesley Ship." There is still much work, ministry opportunities that God is calling us to do in this sometimes turbulent sea of life.

Remember that campus ministry provides a safe place for students to discern their gifts for and call to ministry; to strengthen their faith; to grow in their discipleship and leadership; to experience love in action through service and worship; to develop life-long friendships; and to simply have FUN during times of fellowship.

Some of our ministry accomplishments:

- C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) fellowship & Bible Study with students on campuses
- Informal Counseling Sessions
- Limited financial support to students in need
- Transportation support for Orangeburg District youths to attend Harambee
- Community End-Of-Semester Block Party
- Annual Welcome Back Cookout (Over 100+ students attended)
- General church event: Exploration, Orlando, Florida
- Annual Conference: Wesley Winter Retreat, Asbury Hills
- Student participation in Killingworth Fashion Show
- Students' Thanksgiving Dinner at North Orangeburg UMC
- Christmas Celebration at Wesley
- Selection of leadership team for the ministry

In an age of rapid changes, I am committed to fostering positive communication, strong relationships, and effective partnerships among students and leaders on the campuses, my colleagues within the church, and supporters in the community.

Colossians 3:17 says, "Whatever you do, in word or deeds, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God..." I offer myself in the name of Jesus and give praises and thanks for this splendid opportunity to serve as director and campus minister of the Orangeburg Wesley Foundation.

To God, be the glory!

*Rev. Constance "Connie" Barnes*

## **THE WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION**

Understanding your identity - who you are and how you fit into the world around you - can be a life-long journey. Campus ministries like the **Winthrop Wesley Foundation** embrace young persons at one of the most crucial stages of that journey, guiding and walking alongside them as they figure out not just who they are but what they believe about God and how they will follow Jesus. With that said, it seems especially appropriate as I complete my fourth year as Director and Campus Minister of Winthrop Wesley that our ministry seems to have even more firmly established who we are and how we fit into our campus and within our wider community.

“Wesley is the place on campus where I know that I will be supported physically, mentally, and emotionally. It’s my **home as I’m away from home.**” (Michaela, *sophomore*) “Wesley is a place where I can find friendship and a **home away from home**, all while growing closer to the Lord.” (Jennifer, *junior*) As Michaela and Jennifer so beautifully put it, for many students Winthrop Wesley has become a “home away from home”- a safe haven in the midst of the stress and uncertainty often experienced by college students. And with weekly meals, worship services, bible studies, small groups, service projects, mission trips, retreats, and fun activities, our ministry has not been just a “home” but also a safe environment for young persons to explore their faith, experience love and support, and to continue to be formed into disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Appropriately, that sense of ministry identity was the focal point of a recent meeting I had with our excellent team of student leaders. One of our well-meaning young women lamented how our ministry isn’t quite as large or popular as some of the other ministries on campus, eventually suggesting, “If we try to do things like ‘them’ maybe we’ll get bigger.” Before I could open my mouth another one of our leaders responded perfectly: “Yeah, but if we do things just like ‘them’ we won’t be Wesley anymore.”

As we begin a new calendar year and move towards the completion of another school year, I continue to be blessed and amazed by the work God is accomplishing through the Winthrop Wesley Foundation. More than ever during my time here, our ministry has embraced who we are and how we do things, allowing us to reach and nurture students in new and powerful ways. I have no doubt that our campus and our community are better off because of Winthrop Wesley. Thank you so much for your prayers, support, and generosity that enable us to do all of the things that we do. May God bless you abundantly for all of the ways that you have been a blessing to us.

Blessings and Peace,

*Rev. Ricky Howell, Campus Minister*

#### **THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

As we come to the end of the 2012-2016 quadrennium, we have the opportunity to reflect on the work of the BOM over the past four years. The Board has carefully read and evaluated candidates’ Bible Studies, Sermons, Contextual Projects, Call and Discipline Life as well as Theology and Doctrinal Questions. We also had our first class doing fruitfulness projects, which seeks to evaluate a significant ministry in the life of the parish where the Provisional Elder or Deacon is serving.

The fruit of all this hard work will be celebrated tonight in our ordination service. Fourteen will be ordained Elder, 5 will be ordained Deacon, and 13 will be commissioned as Provisional Elder. At the end of my report this morning, we will celebrate and recognize those being licensed as local pastors. We want to thank the District Committees and the BOM for their faithful work.

The BOM is very aware of the changing cultural reality in which our clergy are called to serve, as well as the need to stay focused on excellence in ministry. Clergy today must be lifelong learners and sensitive to the ministry context in which they serve.

A significant event happened in February of this year as sixteen members of the Board of Ministry shared in a time of retreat with the extended Cabinet. Rev. Mark Tidsworth, President of the Pinnacle Consultant Firm, led us in our work. Two specific purposes were set forth:

1. To identify a cohesive and comprehensive four year cycle of continuing education, which will equip our clergy to serve as excellent pastoral leaders.
2. To identify an effectiveness improvement strategy for clergy who are struggling in their pastoral ministry.

We were clear that the BOM and the Cabinet have different responsibilities, but it has become evident to both, that there are places where we need to be in conversation. The Board’s main focus is to credential clergy for service and the Cabinet appoints and supervises the work. The goal is always to encourage and support clergy as they grow toward excellence. Rev. Tidsworth also raised our awareness of the changing reality of the church in the world today. Our context for ministry is changing and clergy need to be aware of and empowered to do ministry in that new reality.

Another concern was raised in Bishop Holston’s observation that the number of retirees in the next 6-8 years could be as high as 267 and that we have only 135 pastors under the age of 45. The question was asked, how can we strengthen the pool of candidates and empower those we already have ordained? The Recruitment and Enlistment Committee of the Board continues its initiatives to address this challenge. Our experience with the group mentoring process is also strengthening relationships as persons work through candidacy.

Over time, as the BOM stays engaged and our conversation with the Cabinet continues, our clergy leadership will be empowered for these days in which we are called to faithfully serve.

We are thankful for the churches that support the Ministerial Education Fund. Seminary education is expensive and your generosity helps reduce the cost for seminarians. Funds are also provided to underwrite the cost of the Course of Study for Local Pastors. This past year \$97,075 was disbursed for seminarians and \$34,250 for the Course of Study totaling \$131,325.

Our District committees are extensions of the BOM and continue to faithfully guide persons in the candidacy process and review the work of those called to licensed ministry. Our local pastors are an essential and effective part of our clergy family.

The Board of Ordained Ministry also offers several scholarships for full time students. We, once again, thank the **Reverend Jeffrey Salley** and his committee for their work in reviewing the applications and choosing the recipients.

The following are those chosen to receive the 2016 scholarships:

**2016 Scholarship Recipients**

**T. Dennie Smith Scholarship**

**Carole Ann Waters \$3,000**

**The South Carolina Seminary Student Scholarship**

**Frances Hillary Taylor \$3,000**

We want to recognize others who have reached milestones in their preparation for effective ministry.

The following person has completed the five year Basic Course of Study in 2015:

**Rev. Robert Hoover**

The following are recognized for professional/paraprofessional certification:

**Sallie Anna Barton** – Christian Education

**Anna Shelton** – Christian Education

This is a special year for our provisional and ordained deacons as 2016 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Order of the Deacon. These persons are ordained for word, service, compassion, and justice. We are thankful for their faithful service. The **Reverend Karen Lail Jones**, Chair of the Order of the Deacon for the South Carolina Annual Conference will come and make a special presentation.

At the core of all the work we do as a Board of Ordained Ministry is the staff support we receive from the **Reverend Ken Nelson**, Coordinator of Clergy Services and **Ms. Martha Long**, Administrative Assistant to that office. They practice a very high quality of professionalism in all their work.

Bishop Holston in response to business question 17 or ¶ 604.4, 605.6- Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration? The answer is yes with the exceptions which have been noted or acted upon in the clergy session held on Sunday, June 5, 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,  
R. Wayne Horne, Chair*

**THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

**PENSION SECTION**

**REPORT NUMBER ONE**

- A. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **\$765** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers under the Supplement One of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (otherwise known as Pre-82) for 2017. (This rate was \$750 for the year 2016.) This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$5,478,870.00** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- C. **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the South Carolina Annual Conference**

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

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to

function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the years 2015, 2016, and 2017 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

- NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.
- D. For 2017, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to \$492 per month for Full Time clergy for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) for all full time clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. (This rate was \$492 per month for the year 2016.) An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 1% by the participating pastor in his/her United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Any surplus funds collected will be used for actuarial and collection smoothing. An amount equal to 3.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly in equal payments each month during the year 2017, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In the event that monthly credits to the minister in appointment's Church Account exceed the funds deposited for the minister in special appointment, an interest charge made at 12% per annum shall be made. This interest payment is due the following month with interest charges on a daily factor until the institutional account of the minister under appointment is current. Churches/charges participating in the ACH automated payment system may receive up to a \$10.00 per month discount on their pension payment.

- E. For 2017, each institution, organization or district to which a part time minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church, an amount equal to twelve percent for participation in a defined contribution 403b pension program called the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). For all clergy who are under Episcopal appointment and considered part time (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. An amount equal to 9.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the matching portion of the defined contribution portion of the UMPIP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 3% by the participating pastor in their United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Each church with a less than full time clergy will be required to complete an adoption agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The pension cost, both the church's share and the participant's match, will be billed from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- F. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- G. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one time moving expense reimbursement grants, not to exceed \$1,500, and including up to \$350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers, participants in the Voluntary Transition Program, or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one time reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pension or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hook up fees in the new residence.

**Report Two  
2017 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>2016 Budgeted</b>	<b>2017 Estimated</b>
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	2,707,836.00	2,774,019.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,275,200.00	1,508,000.00
CRSP CPP (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,153,600.00	1,196,851.00
Clergy Transition*	126,825.00	126,825.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$5,293,461.00</b>	<b>\$5,635,695.00</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Institutional Payments	409,656.00	409,656.00
Apportionment*	156,825.00	156,825.00
Direct Bill Payments	4,726,980.00	5,069,214.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$5,293,461.00</b>	<b>\$5,635,695.00</b>
<b>*Amount to be apportioned</b>		
Clergy Transition*	126,825.00	126,825.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS</b>	<b>\$156,825.00</b>	<b>\$156,825.00</b>

\* To be apportioned

*Herman B. Lightsey, Jr., Chairperson  
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

**THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

**GROUP INSURANCE SECTION**

**Report Number One**

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

1. Those fully employed and funded by a local church either as Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Provisional

Elders, Provisional Deacons, Provisional Deacons/1992, Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.

2. Ministers who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Students appointed as full time local pastors appointed to and funded by a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference and actively at work.
5. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
6. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.
7. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.
8. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.
9. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under Episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.
10. Full-time employees, and their eligible dependents, enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the Annual Conference on the current advanced premium.
11. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference. Funding shall be \$200.00 per month for single participant and \$400.00 per month for Married participants and an additional \$200 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six. (This funding is expected to be \$100.00 per month for single participant and \$100.00 per month for Married participants and an additional \$100 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six for those retirees retiring after 2015). **This funding will be paid through a Health Reimbursement Account. This funding cannot be allowed to purchase an employer group policy other than one sponsored or administered by the Annual Conference or its designee.**



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

During the year 2016 the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, the Board recommends the following:

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

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

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2016 and 2017. Details of this plan are available on the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits website under the Healthflex tab which describes the current incentive program. **These wellness and incentive programs support and encourage participants and spouses to choose healthy behaviors that help positive health results.** An active participant and covered spouse could earn incentives up to **\$400** under this plan.

Some of the highlights of these incentives for **2015** are as follows:

- Blueprint for Wellness Screening earns \$100 HealthCash through Virgin Healthmiles program. This must be accomplished during the dates determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits which are usually: April 1-July 31, **2015**.
- Completion of the HealthQuotient™ (health risk assessment) must be accomplished to avoid a higher deductible (\$250/\$500) during the dates determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits which are August 1–September 30, **2015**.
- Participants can earn points to earn the quarterly targets for demonstrating a healthy or improved level for the following health measures: blood pressure, fasting glucose (blood sugar), triglycerides, HDL cholesterol (high-density “good” cholesterol, waist circumference, body mass index (BMI). These Wellness Points are earned on the WebMD Website and can earn up to \$150 HealthCash.
- Walking and meeting quarterly activity targets earn \$150 in HealthCash through the Virgin Healthmiles program. These quarterly deadlines are March, June, September, December.

The incentive plan for 2017 is expected to continue to emphasize Completion of the HealthQuotient™ during August to September, Blueprint for Wellness Screenings during the period April to July, and participation in wellness activities year round.

Additional information on the major medical expense plan is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

## **Report Number Three Retiree Medicare Primary Benefits**

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering their Post 65 retirees one group Medicare supplement option and an option to chose a Supplemental Plan through the Retiree Benefits Choice™ through AmWINS Group Benefits. One medical plan option will be similar to the current retiree plan and will be called the Standard plan. The additional option will be a hybrid Medicare Exchange by which a retiree can choose a plan from the Medicare Marketplace. There will be corresponding Rx options with the Standard Plan.

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

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

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

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

**Report Number Four  
Administrative Procedures**

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

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

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

**Cancellation of Coverage:** It is imperative that each participant in the Conference Insurance Program keeps his/her premium payments current. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has instructed the benefits administrator to cancel the insurance coverage or the Flexible Spending Account of any participant who does not pay his/her premium by the end of the month for which he/she has been billed. Clergy who are 60 days in arrears will be subject to immediate cancellation. Once cancelled the participant's coverage cannot be reinstated until the next open enrollment period, and then only if the unpaid balance has been paid.

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

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. The change enrollment form must be completed and in the hands of the benefits administrator within 30 days from the date of eligibility. If not, the applicant will be ineligible until the next following enrollment period.

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

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

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

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>2016 Budgeted</b>	<b>2017 Estimated</b>
Active and Non-Medicare Retiree Group		
Participant Only	\$2,994,204.00	2,863,080.00
Participant + One	\$2,264,892.00	2,415,576.00
Participant + Family	2,662,560.00	2,981,772.00
Total Estimated Active Group	\$7,921,656.00	\$8,260,428.00

Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Participant	638,400.00	720,400.00
Participant +1 (Spouse)	369,600.00	418,295.00
Participant less Part D Medicare	21,600.00	23,240.00
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	\$1,029,600.00	\$1,161,935.00
<b>Total Retired and Active Groups</b>	<b>\$8,951,256.00</b>	<b>\$9,423,363.00</b>
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	194,616.00	194,616.00
Contribution to Post Retirement Medical Reserve	673,400.00	1,716,837.00
Mandatory Coverage Charge	0.00	
Total Estimated Other	868,016.00	1,911,453.00
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$9,819,272.00</b>	<b>\$11,334,816.00</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Billing to salary Paying Units	6,000,708.00	6,720,792.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,870,711.00	1,870,711.00
From Insured	2,014,776.00	2,256,550.00
From Medicare Participants	0.00	0.00
From Institutional Payments	289,847.00	496,763.00
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$10,176,042.00</b>	<b>\$11,344,816.00</b>
<b>Amount to be Apportioned</b>		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding *	167,711.00	167,711.00
Post Retirement Health Funding	1,703,000.00	1,675,464.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,870,711.00</b>	<b>\$1,843,175.00</b>

\* Apportioned to churches.

#### Report Number Six 2017 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2016 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$6,720,792.00 be billed to the local church/charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2017.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$2,000,000.00:
  - a. \$ 156,825.00 for Transitional Pension Funding.
  - b. \$ 167,711.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
  - c. \$1,675,464.00 for Post Retirement Health Funding.
3. That participant premium payments be set as estimated below:
  - a. Active personal group insurance health premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories shall be approximately 30% of the total coverage premium for both the preferred provider Organization Plan and the Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP).
    1. Effective **January 1, 2017**, the participant only premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$262.00** per month.
    2. Effective **January 1, 2017**, the participant plus one premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$529.00** per month.
    3. Effective **January 1, 2017**, the participant plus family premium shall be approximately 30% of the rate; this is expected to be **\$718.00** per month.
  - b. Retiree Premiums Non Medicare Premiums
    1. Active Premiums would be the Total Premiums for Active Participants less the Defined Contribution. The Defined Contribution would be the amount specified under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph six.
    2. Retiree Premiums for Medicare Supplement premiums for eligible fully funded participants shall be published no later than **October 31, 2016** for the year **2017**. The Defined Contribution would be the amount specified under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph six.
  - c. Churches/Charges who have an eligible appointed clergy will be billed a health benefit fee of **\$966.00** per month or **\$11,592.00** annually.
4. In accordance with previous action of the Annual Conference and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, retired participants and their eligible dependents shall have the Annual Conference contribution for group health premiums limited to the lesser of the

- employer contribution to the Medicare Companion Plan or the percentage indicated in the funding schedule found in Report One.
5. The estimated **2017** monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full time Diaconal Ministers and full time Lay Employees of local churches, premium for both the preferred provider Organization Plan and the Consumer Driven High Deductible Plan (CDHP) **are expected to be: For the standard plan and Consumer Driven High Deductible - \$873.00 monthly (\$10,476.00 yearly) for participant only coverage, \$1,762.00 monthly (\$21,144.00) yearly for Participant plus one coverage, and \$2,349.00 monthly (\$28,188.00 yearly) for Participant plus family coverage. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2017.**
  6. A summary of active health plan rating methodology for South Carolina is available in the Conference Benefits for review.
  7. It is recommended that the South Carolina Annual Conference delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits the authority to adjust rates and plan designs to meet the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
  8. **The South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits in recognition of the changing landscape of the provision of Health Benefits will study the possibility of providing a Health Benefits package with a variety of options for coverage funded by a defined contribution by the church through the Annual Conference beginning in 2018. The result of this study will be reported at the 2017 Annual Conference.**

*Herman B. Lightsey, Jr., Chairperson  
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

## SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB). This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2017 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

### **CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)** **Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)**

#### **Program overview:**

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982. CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

#### **Current funding plan information:**

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$1.271 billion, while total plan assets are \$1.407 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111%. The South Carolina Conference portion of the liability is 2.8443% with a 2017 contribution of \$2,774,019. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by Direct Billing - representing year over year in how contributions are to be funded. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The South Carolina Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 100% under CRSP effective January 1, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2014 the CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP-DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013. The 2017 CRSP-DC contribution is anticipated to be \$870,400 and will be funded by Direct Billed to local churches – representing year over year in how contributions are to be funded.

**MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)**

**Plan overview:**

Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, into an IRA or another qualified plan, or it may be paid out as a lump sum.

**Current funding plan information:**

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2015 is \$3.122 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.509 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 112% and no required contribution for 2017. The South Carolina Conference's portion of the total liability is 2.6365%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.145 billion and the South Carolina Conference's portion of that balance is \$108,261,052 or 2.61% of the total.

**PRE-1982 PLAN**

**Plan overview:**

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

**Current funding plan information:**

The 2017 PSR recommended to the South Carolina Conference will be \$765.00, representing a 2.00% increase from the 2016 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 2.00%, which is based on the following rationale: Goal is to increase by 2% per year.

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 75% level.

Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as of January 1, 2015 for 2017, the portion of the Pre-1982 liability and assets attributable to the South Carolina Conference and its related funded status are as follows:

Funding Plan Liability	\$(60,534,024)
Assets, including In-Plan and Outside	<u>90,056,732</u>
Funded Status	\$29,522,708
Funded Ratio	148.77

**ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM**

**Program Overview:**

The South Carolina Conference offers the following active health benefit to its active eligible participants: Self Funded-HealthFlex.

**Current funding plan information:**

The total cost of the program for 2017 is anticipated to be \$8,260,428 and will be funded by premiums that are Direct Billed to the local churches. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 6.5% based on the following rationale: Historical increase.

- **Additional Conference Sponsored Coverage**

The South Carolina Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods where, without conference funded premiums; the participants would not be provided coverage or benefits (all figures as of 12/31/2015):

Category:	Number of Participants	Estimated Cost
Clergy and/or lay participants on disability	15	\$303,480
Surviving spouses and/or children of deceased clergy and/or lay participants	2	\$14,400

The total estimated cost of conference sponsored coverage as of 12/31/2015 is \$317,880.

**POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)**

**Program Overview:**

The South Carolina Conference post-retirement medical program currently offers a Stipend.

**Current funding plan information:**

The conference's expectation for 2017 is to offer the following benefits: Defined Contribution of \$200 per month for all covered retirees and covered spouses retiring prior to 01/01/2016. All eligible retirees and covered spouses retiring on or after 01/01/2016 will receive a defined contribution of \$100 a month per covered person.

The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$1,489,096 with the following funding sources: Surplus Redirection from Own Pre-82. On a longer term basis, the conference intends to ensure funding by: Funded through apportionment and transfer of Pre-1982 surplus.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2015, the following is the funded position of the post-retirement medical benefits:

Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	\$23,209,410
Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$20,864,883
Assets designated for PRM	\$14,541,255
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$327,161

As a preview of the 2018 CBFP requirement, a new PRM Funding Contribution requirement will be mandatory for conferences requesting a full favorable CBFP opinion. This year the calculation for informational purposes only is as follows:

Funded Status, [3. – 2.]	\$(6,323,628)
Number of Annual Payments	20
Portion of Funded Status Payable [5. / 6., but zero if 5. is positive]	\$316,181
PRM Funding Contribution, Informational purposes only [4. + 7.]	\$643,342

These values are based on a 3.85% long term discount rate, a 0% long-term expected rate of return on assets, and a current medical trend rate of 6.50% with an ultimate medical trend rate of 5.0%, beginning in 2019.

**COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

**Plan Overview:**

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time appointment with plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) or the Conference Average Compensation (CAC), whichever is less.

**Current funding plan information:**

The South Carolina Conference has made the following elections: 1 % of appointed clergy have mandatory participation under special arrangements, while 0% of appointed clergy have optional participation under special arrangements.

For 2017, the South Carolina Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,196,851, which is anticipated to be funded by: Direct Billed to local churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.40% per year as a result of: Change in the CAC.

### **UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY**

#### **Plan Overview:**

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

#### **Current funding plan information:**

Conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are immediately eligible for a plan sponsor funded pension contribution of 9% of salary if the employee contributes 3%. Lay employees are encouraged to make contributions toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for the South Carolina Conference is anticipated to be \$99,118 and will be funded via Apportionment.

### **OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS: DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) TYPE**

#### **Plan Overview:**

The South Carolina Conference currently offers the following DC benefit(s): Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability. The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$17,735 with the funding sources to be: Apportioned. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.5% per year due to: Salary Increases and age adjustments.

#### **Plan Overview:**

The South Carolina Conference currently offers the following DC benefit(s): Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees. The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$190 with the funding sources to be: Apportionments. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be -5.0% per year due to: Death of Pre BPP Retirees.

### **OTHER CONFERENCE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS: DEFINED BENEFIT (DB) TYPE**

#### **Plan Overview:**

The South Carolina Conference currently offers a DB Special Grants plan made available to one individual. The funding obligation for 2017 is anticipated to be \$200 with the funding sources to be: Till death of recipient of Special grant of \$16.88 per month. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 0% per year due to: Negotiated Special Grant. The liability associated with this benefit is estimated to be \$1,000 based on a discount rate of 4%.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2017 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above Summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the South Carolina Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the South Carolina Conference.

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

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

The Commission maintains repositories for records at Wofford College and at Claflin University. These records include everything from the minutes of Annual Conferences, copies of the Southern Christian Advocate, records of some conference boards and commissions, records from the Florence, Greenwood, Marion, and Spartanburg districts, biographical directories of clergy, subject files on many churches, and records of some closed churches. We have some personal papers of several former clergy and the records of the United Methodist Women. Current or retired clergy who wish to talk about what to do with their personal papers may contact the archivist.

For the year 2015, we responded to 343 inquiries on the Conference collection. We hosted 10 visitors who came to do research in the Methodist collections. The staff copied well over 400 obituaries from the Advocate Obituary Index for researchers. In the fall of 2015, we discovered that Ancestry.com had incorporated our index of obituaries published in the Southern Christian Advocate into their resources, and as a result, we've a major influx of requests for obituary copies. In fact, from September 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016, we've responded to about 400

requests and have close to 80 pending requests. This has added quite a burden to our work, as we try to operate it without charge.

As he has since the fall of 2011, the Rev. Luther H. Rickenbaker has served as a volunteer in the archives at Wofford. He helps with research questions, copying obituaries, and arranging paper collections. For the past year, he has been working with the collection of the Rev. Eben Taylor and the Rev. J. Emerson Ford. His work continues to help relate the work of the conference to the ministry of memory.

The archives continues to work to make more of its records available online, and those who are interested may look at the archives website – <http://www.wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx> – to see what's available. Wofford also is hosting an online digital repository where we are trying to make more of the conference's rich resources available. It includes historical addresses, a few Methodist books, and the conference pictorial directories from 1901-1975. We also have the photographs from those directories available on the archives website, which churches may download and print for displays and publications.

The Claffin University Archives is also busily working on projects to support Methodist history. With assistance from work study students, obituaries and news articles have been separated and placed in binders. Their latest special collections of books have been properly shelved by call numbers and now all special collections items, to include United Methodist special collections items, are easier to locate.

The Commission presents the Herbert Hucks Award for Preservation and Interpretation of church history annually to churches and individuals who have made great strides in keeping and sharing our rich history. These awards are presented during the awards session at Annual Conference. Information on applying for the Hucks Award or nominating an individual or a publication for the award is available on the archives website. Materials for the 2017 awards will be due around February 1, 2017.

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

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

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

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

## **THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*"Remember the days of old." Deuteronomy 32:7*

The South Carolina Conference Historical Society exists to foster interest in, and preservation of, the history of Methodism as reflected in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and its antecedent Conferences. It is a volunteer membership organization open to anyone interested in the history of Methodism in South Carolina. The Society believes that the study of our past ultimately serves God by providing a record and testimony of the Lord's work in us and among us. The Society encourages churches to preserve documents and artifacts as a record for future generations, and to remember and celebrate their history.

Because the South Carolina Conference began as one of the six original conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, it is home to some of the older churches in the United States. In 2015, the Historical Society began an initiative to engage local churches in remembering and celebrating their histories. In April, the Society sponsored a special program to honor churches reaching quarter-century anniversaries of 50 to 225 years. Society members and guests enjoyed presentations from eight anniversary churches who were able to attend: Ebenezer UMC, Anderson (225 years); Zion UMC, Pageland (200); Shiloh UMC, Marion (200); Mt. Zion UMC, St. Matthews (200); Boone Hill UMC, Summerville (175); Cumberland UMC, Florence (150); Pond Branch UMC, Gilbert (125); and Inman UMC, Inman (125). Representatives of other historic churches, including Union UMC in Conway, and Sandy Bluff UMC in Bishopville, were also recognized in attendance. In addition, Dr. Phillip Stone, Conference Archivist, provided instruction on best practices for preserving records and a number of handouts were given to participants to assist their efforts in preserving their individual church histories.



The Historical Society in partnership with the Conference Commission on Archive and History sponsored a table at the 2015 Annual Conference, which provided a variety of resources to help churches understand their common history and learn how to preserve their own. A tri-fold display featured a timeline of South Carolina Methodism, notable quotes and Bible verses relevant to history, and photos of some famous primary documents. Visitors to the table could use stones to help raise a symbolic "Ebenezer" and were able to record their thoughts for future generations in a leather-bound journal. As Bishop Jonathan Holston wrote in the journal, "History is not only a bridge to our past; it is the launching pad to our future."

The Fall Meeting of the Society was held at Wofford College on the theme of "Treasures of the Archives." The Sandor Teszler Library at Wofford is the repository for the South Carolina Conference Archives. It also includes many documents and items originally collected by the Historical Society and placed in the Archives for safekeeping. Conference Archivist Dr. Phillip Stone provided an overview of some of the important historical papers and artifacts held at Wofford, which attendees were then able to see first-hand. The visit underscored both the value of the Conference's archival holdings and the need for better storage due to the small amount of space available, which is shared with the archives of the College.

During the Fall business meeting the following officers of the Society were elected for a two-year term: Rev. J. Robert Huggins, President; Ms. Joyce E. Plyler, Vice-President; and Rev. Roger M. Gramling, Secretary-Treasurer.

During 2015 the Society continued its efforts to raise funds for the restoration of an historic building dating from the late 1700s known as the "Burdine Lodge". This home of Samuel Burdine and his family was visited by Bishop Francis Asbury during multiple visits to the South Carolina upcountry. With the help of a special offering during Annual Conference, over \$23,000.00 had been raised for the restoration by the end of 2015. After restoration, the Lodge will be used as a place for educating visitors about the role of early Methodism in South Carolina and the pioneering work of Bishop Francis Asbury.

The Society published three newsletters during 2015, edited by Dr. A.V. Huff, Conference Historian. Dr. Huff and Joyce Plyler served *ex-officio* on the Conference Commission on Archives and History to lend support to its work of record keeping and historical preservation, as required by the *Discipline*.

By year end, the Historical Society had grown to approximately 125 members. We hope that this momentum continues as clergy and lay members of the Conference become more aware of the value and need for historical study and preservation.

*Rev. J. Robert Huggins, President  
Ms. Joyce E. Plyler, Vice-President*

## THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

### Report Number 1

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

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

#### B. Total Compensation for Clergy

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

**Report Number 2**

**A. Budget Request for 2017**

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$550,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2017. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.
2. The request for 2017 represents a \$0 increase over 2016.

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

In accordance with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2017, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

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

Category	Amount
a. Full-time Clergy in full connection	\$43,653
b. Full-time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	\$39,682
c. Full-time Local Pastors	\$36,815

The recommendation represents a 2.0% increase over what was approved for 2016. This parallels the 2.0% cost of living adjustment CF&A is recommending for conference staff (not including District Superintendents).

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

Please be aware that total compensation for full-time clergy must equal 60% of the denominational average compensation so that full-time clergy may participate in CPP. *For 2016, the DAC is \$67,333 and 60% of that is \$40,400. For 2017, the DAC is 69,574 and 60% of that is \$41,745.* Full-time provisional, commissioned, associate members, and full-time local pastors must be provided with a parsonage or with a housing allowance to bring them up to this level. (For pastors with a parsonage, "total compensation" is calculated at 125% of minimum base compensation.)

**C. For Deacons in Full Connection**

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

**D. Longevity Increases**

A clergy person, who has completed 5 or more year's full time service or the equivalent thereof in the South Carolina Annual Conference, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service. (In practical terms, this increase would not be applied until the fiscal year following the completed annual conference year. In other words, the first increase would not be applied until the January after the Annual Conference at which the clergy person complete their fifth year.)

**Example:**

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

**E. Housing Allowances**

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

- F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance**  
 The District Superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the District Superintendent indicating income from all sources. Grants shall be made based on fiscal years (January to December), and unless otherwise designated, shall decrease 25% annually. For grants beginning in July, 100% of the approved amount will be provided for the first eighteen (18) months and will decrease 25% annually thereafter.
- G. Cross Racial Appointments**  
 If the Bishop and Cabinet, in making a cross-racial appointment, find it necessary to request an equitable compensation supplement, special consideration will be given on an individual basis.
- H. Cooperative Parish Ministries**  
 The initial directors or coordinators of a cooperative parish ministry which has been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the commission by January 1 preceding the appointment in June of the same year may be eligible for funds not to exceed \$7,000.00. No pastor shall be eligible to receive funds unless the charge he/she serves agrees in writing to release him/her for these added duties. Assistance will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period and will decrease by 25% each year after the first year and a half.
- I. Disbursement of Supplements**  
 All compensation supplements from the Commission shall be paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergyperson, and shall be disbursed monthly. In the case of new mission situations or churches, monies will be dispersed directly to the pastor until there is a church treasurer. Equitable compensation funds will not be used for moving expenses, businesses expenses, or church administration.  
 For charges receiving CEC supplements, changes to the total compensation may be made for longevity (see D. Longevity Increases above), changes in clergy status, and to reflect changes in minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference. Charges are encouraged to increase their portion of total compensation as they are able and thereby reduce the amount of supplement paid by CEC. Such increases in the portion paid by the local charge above the scheduled amounts will result in a reduction of the CEC supplement by the amount of increase.
- J. Utilities Allowance**  
 The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Under IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.
- K. Investment of Reserve Fund**  
 The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account. In accordance with guidelines established with CF&A in 2013 and presented to the 2013 Annual Conference, the "floor" of the reserve is to be set at \$300,000 in order to meet general projection shortfalls, to allow for the unanticipated start of a new church or missional situation, or to deal with an unexpected disaster.
- L. Interpretation**  
 The commission recommends that an interpretation of its task and policy procedures be given as a part of the District Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee Workshops. It is further recommended that this interpretation be done by a member of the Commission upon invitation by the District Superintendent.
- M. Compensation Guidance**  
 The **Commission** recommends that District Superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work load packages in accordance with Paragraph 419.4 419.6 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*.
- N. Ineligibility**  
 The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support:  
 Retired supply pastors  
 Part-time local pastors  
 Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99

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

Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2012* (except as appointed with regard to Report 3, 4, and 5 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2012*).

**O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses**

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties. Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 54 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the District Superintendent, if desired or needed ) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

**P. Continuing Education**

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

**Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost**

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

**R. Vacation Policy**

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

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

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

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

**S. Application Procedure**

CEC requests the following for initial grant consideration:

1. A Ministerial Support Form duly adopted by a charge conference that includes information about the nature of the grant, the reason for the grant request, percentages to be paid to the various churches involved, the email of the pastor, contact information of the church/charge treasurer (name, address, phone number, email) and other information as designated by the CEC Chairperson.
2. The above Ministerial Support Form is to be presented and approved in accordance with Cabinet policy and then forwarded to the CEC Chairperson by the appropriate District Superintendent.
3. At the discretion of the CEC Chairperson or request by a member of the CEC Executive Committee, further financial information may be required including, but not limited to: church budgets, bank statements, audit forms, treasurer's reports, etc. Failure to produce the required documents would be cause for non-approval of the grant.

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

**T. Arrearages**

An arrearage occurs when full payment of a regularly scheduled payroll, accountable reimbursement, or housing allowance installment is not made to the appropriate pastor. The current procedure for handling an arrearage is outlined in detail at the conclusion of the Commission on Equitable Compensation's report in the 2013 Journal. The Arrearage Policy is also available on the conference website, www.umcsc.org.

**Report Number 3 – New Church Starts**

**Schedule for New Church Starts**

Equitable Compensation for new church starts shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Report Number 4 – Renewed Vitality Situations (RVS)**

Renewed Vitality Situations are those places that the Conference Committee on Congregational Development has evaluated and determined that short term assistance would possibly greatly enhance the effective ministry taking place. RV grants would be for a maximum of 2 years and subject to the criteria proposed and adopted by the Conference Committee on Congregational Development. Failure to meet said criteria will result in termination of the grant.

Grants will consist of:

- a) Up to minimum compensation as described in Report 2, B. above.
- b) Up to one-half the appropriate Direct Billing.

**Report Number 5 – Mission Situations**

**A. Definition**

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

**B. Eligibility**

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

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.
4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.

5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by December 15<sup>th</sup> preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

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

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

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

**C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation**

1. If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.

2. An evaluation shall be done annually on each mission situation. The Conference Director of Congregational Development shall provide a report of this evaluation to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

**E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations**

**Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People**

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

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergy person's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:
  - After Two and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Three and Half Years: Support from Equitable compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Four and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 5% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Five and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Six and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Seven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Eight and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 10% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Nine and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits
  - After Ten and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will decrease by another 15% for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
  - After Eleven and a Half Years: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.
2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergy person.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergy person receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergy person who has served 5 or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of \$175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.

Example:

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

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

**(See Report Number 6 next page)  
Report Number 6**

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec. 2012		Dec. 2013		Dec. 2014		Dec. 2015	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	4	\$107,669	3	\$96,815	4	\$159,500	2	81729
Minimum	13	\$89,953	11	\$88,654	12	\$91,710	10	75108
Special	6	\$55,803	13	\$103,671	12	\$120,184	9	115783
Low Income	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,800	1	10260
Hispanic/Latino	1	\$32,443	1	\$30,735	1	\$30,735	1	27737
Cooperative								
Parish	2	\$8,750	2	\$10,500	0	\$0	0	\$0
Missional					1	\$15,000	2	51148
RVS							3	42401
Direct billing costs		\$83,783		\$86,839		\$79,122		86779
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$388,200</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$428,014</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$507,051</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>490945</b>

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015
Effective Members	14	17	17	13
Provisional Members	5	5	7	8
Associate Members	1	1	0	0
Local Pastors (Full Time)	5	6	6	6
Other	2	2	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>

The Commission on Equitable Compensation  
 Rev. Jeremy L. Howell, Chairperson  
 jlhowell@umcsc.org 803-607-1565  
 Mr. Skipper Brock, Vice-Chairperson  
 Rev. Morris Waymer, Statistician  
 Mrs. Lollie Haselden, Secretary

**THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Committee on the Annual Conference is a team of persons tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and evaluating the annual conference. The team began meeting soon after annual conference to review and evaluate the 2015 annual conference and to start planning the 2016 gathering.

Our annual conference will include inspiring worship, an opportunity for service, and robust Christian conferencing. In all that we do, our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

The pre-conference informational sessions will be held in May in each of our Districts. A DVD of information will be shared in each district with the pre-conference materials being published on line. This will enable greater access to this information.

The theme chosen for the 2016 Annual Conference is "**A More Excellent Way: Making Space for God to Work.**" On Sunday evening at 7:30, we will gather for our opening worship service with Bishop Holston serving as the preacher. On Monday night, we will celebrate with those who will be commissioned or ordained for the work of ordained ministry. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, the former Resident Bishop of the South Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences, will serve as the preacher for this service.

On Tuesday of annual conference, we will train UVMIM and Emergency Response teams as a part of our service project. We will also recognize and celebrate the ministry of those who are retiring.

On Tuesday afternoon, we will remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have shared in the work of Christ's holy church, and who have joined the church triumphant since we last gathered. The Rev. Patricia J. Parrish will serve as the preacher. We will conclude our



day with a high energy benefit concert by the band "**The Digital Age.**" This concert will celebrate our Imagine No Malaria Campaign. More information about the band can be found on the Annual Conference page. Youth and young adults are encouraged to attend this gathering.

¶603 of *Book of Discipline* provides that the Annual Conference sets the place of the meeting for the sessions of the annual conference, and the presiding bishop sets the date. The standing rules of the conference provide that the Committee on the Annual Conference recommend the site of the next annual conference.

As you will recall, in 2015, the Annual Conference voted that the host site for the 2017 SC Annual Conference would be the **TD Convention Center in Greenville.** The TD Convention Center which offers 60,000 square feet of meeting space, including our 30,000 square foot Ballroom, is the perfect complement to 280,000 square feet of exhibit space. The TD Convention Center offers free limit-less wireless internet connectivity throughout the exhibit halls, meeting rooms, ballroom, and lobbies. A host team under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. George Howle, the Greenville District Superintendent is already in place and making preparation for our arrival.

In 2017, the Florence Civic Center will be undergoing significant renovations to expand out its current facilities. The renovated space will include 12,000 feet of sub-dividable meeting room space, a new kitchen space and possible renovations of existing areas. Kendall Wall, the General Manager for the Florence Civic center has shared that once construction starts, it will take about a year to complete – giving an estimated finish period sometime during the fall of 2017.

Finally, the committee expresses its gratitude to Highland Park United Methodist Church and to the Florence District for their work as hosts for the 2016 session and their spirit of radical hospitality.

*L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson  
Kenneth L. Nelson, Secretary*

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

The Committee on the Conference Journal is charged to assist the Conference Secretary with the annual publication of the pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal (Journal). There is an ongoing discussion about ways to transition into the digital age while providing easy access to users and maintaining the integrity of the end product. The demand for printed journals has decreased dramatically from 2,000 to approximately 50 copies annually. The Journal is pre-ordered. Journals are also provided on DVD and published on-line at [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org). Publishing the Journal online gives easy and greater access.

There is always room for improvement and to that end it is highly recommended that an online template be created for all boards and agencies to utilize when submitting reports. This will ensure a uniform look and will facilitate a quicker way for producing pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal.

As we view ways to 'tell our story', a current conversation focuses on developing a narrative that will highlight the SC Annual Conference's *A Day of Service* and/or community service projects that are implemented by churches in the Conference. Once the narrative goes through the approval process, it will be strategically placed in the Conference Journal.

We are grateful for the countless number of individuals who have assisted with the production of the pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal. A special of appreciation is expressed to J.C. Lane, Jeri Katherine Warden-Sipes, Mary Louise Johnson, and Angela Ford Nelson, the assistant secretaries for the South Carolina Annual Conference. We also express gratitude to all of the SC Annual Conference boards and agencies for submitting reports with integrity and in a timely manner. Deep appreciation is expressed to administrative assistants Mrs. Sylvia Hulbert and Mrs. Pat Mack. And, many thanks to our friends at Service Printing for publishing the *Journal* and materials.

*Kenneth L. Nelson, Conference Secretary*

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

Thank you, thank you, thank you – the increased giving towards our apportionment line item was tremendous and we thank you. When that happens we have much more that we can share with others in grants, and more goes straight back to the districts in the 20% funds. We, and those who've been blessed by your generosity, are very appreciative.

I would also like to celebrate the excellent quality of the grant applications this year. It's a joyful thing for us to get to assist in building the Kingdom. We thank you all for what you're doing in your churches. Your district committees, or our office, can assist you with submitting applications for grants.

We had 50 pastors participate this year in our Academy. The Academy is an environment to flesh out what a meeting between leadership styles and church needs would be for optimal value. Participants learn about the different strengths and challenges that accompany their leadership style as identified by the DiSC Leadership profile that graphs skills in Dominance/Driving; Influential/Expressive; Steady/Amicable and Conscientious/Analytical. The teaching is designed for participants to discover how best to use their particular leadership style in whatever setting is their present situation and to allow for best matches between needs of local churches and pastors leadership styles. We hold the Academy every other year.

As a conference, we sometimes struggle with making new disciples. In 2014 (the statistics available at this writing) 550 of our congregations reported zero professions of faith. This is a number we all pray will decrease, especially as the population of South Carolina continues to increase.

Finally, many thanks to Rev. Sara White and Laura Hill, our staff. Sara logs innumerable hours traveling the state looking for potential situations and offering encouragement. Please lift them up in prayer and the important work they do.

*Rev. Ken Owens, Chairperson*

### **THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY**

The Committee on Episcopacy meets quarterly with Bishop Holston and is available to him for counsel, support and dialogue regarding the concerns that affect relationships and unity within the annual conference. The Committee provides honest and unbiased feedback so that a spirit of unity is seen and felt in the ministries of our conference.

Bishop Holston continues to offer insight and encouragement for the development of congregations to grow strong both physically and spiritually. Last year, Bishop Holston met with the laity and lay leadership of the twelve (12) districts. Those meetings were called "The Bishop's Road Shows." This year, Bishop Holston continued to find creative ways to bring conversation among United Methodist, unlocking new ways to strengthen and enliven our denomination. These gatherings were called "The Bishop's Bar-B-Que Bashes." Clergy and laity met sparking lively conversations and stronger relationships. Community needs were noted and action ideas implemented.

Bishop Holston is a man of action who continually supports and balances his responsibilities to the Church boards, agencies and other areas of specialized ministry such as the UMM, UMW, Youth Revolution, Elderly and Clergy Spouses. In addition to his many other responsibilities, Bishop Holston chairs the Missional Engagement Team on the Council of Bishops and serves on the Executive Committee of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. He has lead mission trips to Honduras, Ecuador and Africa University in Zimbabwe. He is a much sought after speaker who is quick to share his message with others. His concern for inclusiveness in ministry reveals a fair individual with a vast understanding of the multicultural nature of the Church.

Mrs. Felecia Holston offers strong support for Bishop Holston and when not by his side, she might be found working on the "Imagine No Malaria" Campaign. Mrs. Holston and Dr. Michael Alexander co-chair this campaign, the focus this year to raise \$1 Million for this effort. Mrs. Holston also graciously serves on the Epworth Children's Home Board and the Killingsworth Home Board. When extra time appears, she may be found with the district superintendents' spouses working together on ministry projects.

Over the past year, Bishop Holston has had three (3) honorary degrees conferred upon him. An Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary, an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary, and an Honorary Doctor of Human Letter (D.H.L.) from Hood Theological Seminary.

This Committee reminds and encourages Bishop and Mrs. Holston to take time to be refreshed, restored and renewed physically and spiritually. We continue to work with and thank the Conference Episcopal Residence Committee, the Trustee Board and CFA for their support in keeping Bishop and Mrs. Holston's residence safe, comfortable and in good repair. The Committee remembers the special occasions, anniversaries and celebrations of Bishop and Mrs. Holston and appropriately express the love and care of the annual conference.

The Committee fully agrees that Bishop Jonathan Holston is a leader who leads by example and motivates others to serve God and one another. We are honored and blessed to serve with Bishop Holston to grow and learn as we "Make room for God to work."

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Barbara L. Reid, Chairperson  
SC Committee on Episcopacy*

## **THE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE**

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

The Residence Committee greatly appreciates the excellent stewardship of our residence by Bishop, Jonathan Holston and his wife, Felecia. They often serve as warm hosts in the residence to many groups within the church. The repair coordination assistance has been superior by the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Mrs. Beth Westbury and her staff.

During the winter an entire new roof for the residence was placed following several years of patching. The Residence Committee reviewed the entire home on April 25, 2016. A project list of needed repairs, updates, etc. has been utilized in recent years and has been updated following the most recent walk through.

The next major item will be, in all likelihood, exterior trim painting and repair. The yard is improving some. However, growing grass in the often dry and hot Midlands can be a challenge.

The Committee, along with our Episcopal family, pledges again to the Annual Conference that proper maintenance will take place regularly and consistently including inspections and meetings of the Committee as needed. The Committee also appreciates the financial support of both the congregations of the Annual Conference and the Council on Finance and Administration.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Reverend Barbara Reid, Chair, Committee on Episcopacy  
The Reverend Michael Wood, Vice-Chair, Conference Board of Trustees  
The Reverend David Surrent, President, Council on Finance and Adm.*

## **THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The committee met throughout the year to provide oversight for staffing in the areas of disaster response and communications, for Conference staff annual salary adjustments, for the evaluation of staff, and other human resources related issues. The committee continues to support the Conference personnel in their efforts to provide the highest quality services to churches and clergy and retain quality staff for maximum efficiency of Conference operations. As Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Beth Westbury has brought excellent service and leadership in her first year. She has assumed her responsibilities with considerable knowledge and determination. Exceptional persons have been brought on staff to serve in the areas of disaster response. They have brought wisdom, desire and dependability in a time when our conference faced major devastation with flooding. The committee has assisted with determining staffing needs brought about by this major endeavor and provided guidance when needed.

## **THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES**

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services is to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to all matters of clergy credentialing. The personnel files for all the clergy of the conference are maintained by this office. This position also serves as a member of the Ministry Advisory Team.

Ms. Martha Long, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to the district offices and candidates. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports for which this office is responsible. The work of this office would not happen without her and the twelve District administrative assistants. We owe them a profound measure of gratitude.

It is a pleasure to work with our Bishop, District Superintendents and their administrative assistants on many matters related to our clergy, and to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervise the clergy of our Conference.

The most significant challenge facing this office at this time is helping our conference make the shift from a paper-based model of records keeping to the electronic management of records. We have begun scanning our paper files to into digital files and electronically storing these files in an online document management system called e-Bridge. By the beginning of 2016 annual conference, all of existing personnel files will have been scanned to a digital format. Our goal is to have these files uploaded into e-Bridge by the end of the year. Additionally, we are reviewing and updating all of the applications and forms on the Clergy Services website. This is always a work in progress as we seek to streamline our process.

As the current quadrennial cycle comes to a close, at this annual conference, we will elect a new Board of Ordained Ministry for the next quadrennium. Shortly after annual conference,

this board will organize and elect its officers. For the past two years, the board has continued to move forward under the excellent leadership of the Rev. Wayne Horne who was elected to serve as the chairperson in June of 2014. The depth of his experience, his commitment to excellence, his concern for the process, candidates, and the church ensures that together we will continue to move forward.

Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, I continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference. I have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas and have worked to update the training of our District Committees on Ministry. It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry and I look forward to the year ahead.

*Kenneth L. Nelson, Coordinator of Clergy Services*

### **SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES**

2015 was yet another great year for Camps and Retreats as we strive every day to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church. Often we are asked how we do that. In keeping with the *Book of Discipline* (2012) paragraph 122, this past year the ministry was able to continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ. Through the ministry of Asbury Hills we were able to nurture persons in Christian living. Just as our churches are charged to do, we were able to provide HOPE; **Hospitality** – Reach out to all persons, **Opportunity** – Offer them Christ, **Purpose** – Nurture persons in Christian Living, and **Engagement** – Send persons out to live their faith. All of this at a place set apart from one's own creative work, a place of solitude, Asbury Hills.

Nestled between Table Rock and Caesars Head, Asbury Hills served more than 3000 guests and more than 1100 campers in 2015 in this beautiful setting where creation formation leads to faith formation, building relationships with trust and confidence. The ministries emphasis is to be more intentional about creating and practicing Christian Community. We continue to practice play and relationship building in a way that generates building blocks to leadership development.

As the ministry continues to grow strong from the inside out, the past year was filled with many experiences for which we are thankful beginning with the 2015 conference approval to sell Sewee. The property is currently under contract and on track to close by May 2016. Asbury Hills has hired a new Properties Director. While we have retained our current staff, many have new titles and/or positions. DP3 Architects in Greenville have been steadily working on the completion of a Master Plan for the 2000 acres at Asbury Hills.

The board is very excited about the new activities which are planned at the Sky Ranch site at Asbury Hills for the summer of 2016. In addition, a successful negotiation has closed the public road leading to the site, and the board was able to purchase 40 additional acres further protecting the camp. This property comes with a beautiful waterfall.

From the outside looking in, Asbury Hills played host to a very successful National Gathering of UMC Camping Executives in December of 2015, with our very own Bishop Holston as the keynote speaker. All guests were pleased with such an amazing site and thank the conference for the wonderful hospitality. And, Camps and Retreats is also pleased to partner with several community leaders in Anderson County, South Carolina and the Anderson UMC District Office to work on the revitalization of Camp Providence.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Arthur W. Spriggs, Executive Director  
H. Jay Haar, Board Chair*

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

The primary work of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to oversee the maintenance and ultimate disposition of the property of discontinued and abandoned church properties.

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

The Board also holds in trust property received by bequest or gift.

The Board is charged with the responsibility to make recommendations and review the insurance protections of the Conference.

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

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

*Bryan Braddock, Chair*

#### Accounting by Property

District	Property	Designation	
Anderson	Asbury Clark	Undesignated	134,971.74
Anderson	Sharon/Liberty	Care/Maint. Pending Resolution	2,937.32
Greenville	Concord	Undesignated	40,961.01
Greenville	Zion-Andrews	New Beginnings UMC	59,626.78
Greenville	Woodside	Urban Center	107,310.28
Anderson	Orville Parsonage	Sold 2015	-
Anderson	Orville Church	Mercy Center	4,956.72
Walterboro	Broomfield	Pending Resolution	(37.36)
Greenwood	Laurens Property	Pending Resolution	(7,113.60)
Greenville	McKinney Chapel	Pending Resolution	(442.82)
Orangeburg	Cameron Property	Pending Resolution	(1,070.63)
Marion	Old Galilee	Pending Resolution	(99.61)
Anderson	St Johns	Pending Resolution	(2,320.00)
Charleston	St Johns	Pending Resolution	1,701.09
Rock Hill	Kershaw First	Pending Resolution	(1,764.82)
Marion	Iona	Pending Resolution	(1,499.99)
Conference	Undesignated	Undesignated	22,405.65
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>360,521.76</b>

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

The Belin Board of Trust exists to manage, preserve, and continue the missional legacy of Reverend James L. Belin. Reverend Belin stated that it was "the long fixed and settled purpose of my life, to devote all that I possess to the promotion of the Glory of God, in advancement of the Missionary Cause." Accordingly, during 2015, the Belin Board worked to protect the corpus of the trust and direct the income of the trust to benefit missions within the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The Belin Board works in partnership with the Conference Board of Global Ministries to fund new mission projects in South Carolina. Beginning in 2012, The Board began initiatives seeking to expand awareness of Belin Trust grant funding. The Board has continued the awareness project through 2015. The Board also continued an enhanced distribution process which allotted over \$160,000 for the Board of Global Ministries to allocate for worthy projects in 2015.

The Board utilizes the services of Debnam Wealth Management Group, Charleston, SC, to assist in the management of the Trust's \$5.5 million investment portfolio and to carry out the socially responsible investment policy as directed by The General Conference. The Board's Finance and Investment Committee works closely with our advisors to manage the portfolio to meet the objectives of the Trust while adhering to the Investment Policy Statement as updated in 2013.

The Board continues to engage Webster Rogers LLP to perform accounting services including preparation of quarterly and annual financial statements. DeLoach & Williamson, LLP perform agreed upon procedures engagement related to the financial accounting and related statements.

Officers elected for 2016 are as follows: Chairperson, Rev. F.J. (Eric) Shepard; Vice Chairperson, Kevin Smiley; Secretary, Rev. Mary Johnson, Treasurer, Frank Sanders.

On behalf of the Board, we express our thanks and sincere appreciation for the assistance of Rev. Steve Gaither and the Conference Board of Global Ministries in the work of expanding missions within the South Carolina Annual Conference. We also acknowledge the many congregations in the Conference that have helped continue the Legacy of Reverend Belin by applying for and utilizing grants funded by the Trust. The missions funded through these grants are “making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

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

Thank you, Annual Conference, for the role you are playing in helping the *Advocate* tell the stories of God at work in United Methodist churches and individuals across South Carolina.

This year, the *Advocate* marks 179 years of shining the light of Christ in this state through our newspaper ministry. Telling the stories of God at work—in big churches and small, from the Upstate to the Lowcountry and everywhere in between—is our mission. We pray constantly that what we do furthers the Kingdom and makes stronger disciples of Jesus Christ by spreading awareness, information and inspiration.

2016 continues a time of significant growth for the *Advocate*. Because of our commitment to excellence in journalism and to seeking God’s voice in all we do, we have earned a reputation as a high-quality, respected and relevant publication. We strive to continue that.

Since 2010, we have won 80 writing, general excellence, photography and other awards from the South Carolina Press Association, United Methodist Association of Communicators and the Religion Communicators Council—including “best newspaper” in our division multiple times.

We continue to contribute to the communications ministry of the denomination on the conference, jurisdictional and global level. We work as partners with South Carolina Conference Connectional Ministries and its Communications Office, as well as the global United Methodist News Service, United Methodist Communications, the United Methodist Women’s Response magazine, United Methodist Men, General Board of Church and Society and others.

We just returned from covering the May 10-20 General Conference 2016 in Portland, Oregon, both for this conference and for United Methodist News Service/United Methodist Communications, and we will cover July’s Jurisdictional Conference 2016 at Lake Junaluska for this conference and with our editor, Jessica Brodie, serving as assistant editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate* there.

Other key highlights from 2015 and the first part of 2016:

- Our articles are consistently featured on UMC.org, in the UMNS daily or weekly digest, and in other United Methodist publications/websites.
- We brought in our most advertising dollars to-date in 2015: \$70,989 for 2015, compared to \$64,782 in 2014, \$65,671 in 2013, \$61,188 in 2012, \$45,341 in 2011, \$29,318 in 2010 and \$21,868 in 2009.
- We have the best circulation numbers by far since 2010, a 9.8 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015.
- The *Advocate* claimed 10 more awards in 2015 and, as of this writing, 13 more in 2016, including 11 from the South Carolina Press Association, three from the Religion Communicators Council and nine from the United Methodist Association of Communicators.
- We continue to produce The Messenger eNewsletter in tandem with the conference Communications Office, linking to *Advocate* stories on the web and also generally increasing people’s awareness of United Methodist news in our state.
- Website traffic continues to grow. We post daily on Facebook and Twitter. (“Like” our *Advocate* page at [www.facebook.com/advocatesc](http://www.facebook.com/advocatesc) and follow us on Twitter @AdvocateSC.)
- We do all we can to spread the word about our newspaper ministry so that it is as helpful as possible to the Kingdom and God’s people, both by speaking throughout the state at various events and by getting the word out through *Advocate* Awareness Day events. The inaugural *Advocate* Awareness Day was May 17, 2015, and this year’s was May 22, 2016. We used speakers, bulletin inserts, videos and other resources to help people understand the importance of the *Advocate*’s newspaper ministry and how it helps further God’s work in this state. We plan to continue an awareness day each year.
- We are again producing the well-received *Daily Advocate* with the conference Communications Office. It is a four-page publication that started in 2014 and goes to every lay and clergy member each day of Annual Conference to help members be better aware of issues, business and legislation.

- We again helped present the Southeastern Jurisdictional Communicators Conference in September 2015 at Lake Junaluska.
- We continue the *Advocate's* \$1,000 college scholarship, launched in 2014 as a way to help students with an interest in communications, journalism or business who are enrolled at one of the four United Methodist colleges in South Carolina: Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College or Wofford College.

We are engaged in long-range planning to keep the ministry and mission of this newspaper alive and relevant. We estimate one-fifth of the state's United Methodists read the *Advocate*, and our goal is that one day every United Methodist reads the *Advocate* in one format or another and is inspired by the transformative stories of God at work in South Carolina.

To that end, we are doing what we can to make reading the *Advocate* easy and affordable. In addition to the free content on our website, AdvocateSC.org, as well as regular subscriptions for individuals for \$15/year and free subscriptions for clergy, we offer the following low- or no-cost subscriptions:

- Free subscriptions to new church members for one year (churches can email the Advocate at [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org) any time with new member names)
- Clergy 5 for \$25 (clergy pay \$25, which enables five members of a church to receive the Advocate for just \$5 apiece)
- Print church plans where people receive the *Advocate* for \$10/person per year with 10+ people participating in a church
- Online church plans for just \$1/person per year (great for churches who do a lot of emailing) based on the average weekly church attendance as recorded in the Journal

Thank you for all your support as we continue serving God through our newspaper ministry. And don't forget: send the *Advocate* your news and help tell God's story through the hands and feet of your church. Deadlines are the 10th of every month for the following month's paper, and all submissions are welcome. Email [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org).

*Bill Click, chairperson, and Jessica Brodie, editor*

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

The Trustees of the United Methodist Center appreciate the continued support of the churches through the apportionment system. The Trustees have sufficient funding to carry on with the operations of the building as well as maintenance, repairs and longer-term capital needs. The building plays a significant role in the ministries of the Annual Conference.

Recently completed projects include the installation of new lighting fixture. LED lighting is now used in most of the building. Among the results will be energy conservation and lowered utility expenditures.

The Board expressed much gratitude in 2015 to Mr. Tony Prestipino when he left for the Florida Conference. As Conference Treasurer and manager of the South Carolina Conference Center Mr. Prestipino was a great blessing to the entire Conference.

We welcome the presence and staff support of our new Conference Treasurer, Ms. Beth Westbury. Her support, as well as that of Ms. Christine Dominick, Controller, is invaluable.

*Paul A. Wood, Jr., Chairperson*

#### **THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

The Committee on Petitions to the General Conference is made up of six members, three clergy members (John Wesley Culp, Hayes T. Gainey, Millie Nelson) and three lay members (John Redmond, Gloria Cook, Carolyn Briscoe). The task of the committee is to review the petitions, hear concerns of the presenters and other interested persons, and to make a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence to the conference.

Two petitions were submitted for consideration prior to Annual Conference: the first to *Amend ¶161f of the 2012 Book of Discipline*, and the second A petition to the 2016 General Conference to *Withdraw the United Methodist Church from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)*. To ensure their understanding of the petitions, the committee met once prior to Annual Conference. A second committee meeting was held on Monday evening during Annual Conference and followed a time of discussion with persons who wished to raise questions or to express their opinions on these issues.

On the first day of Annual Conference, Dr. Carolyn Briscoe, Committee Chair, presented the two petitions as information and stated that they would be presented for action on Thursday. At that time the committee presented their unanimous recommendation of concurrence on the petition to *Amend ¶161f of the 2012 Book of Discipline*. Following discussion, a vote was taken and the petition failed by a vote of 716 to 519. The second petition to *Withdraw the United*

*Methodist Church from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)* was then presented with the committee's unanimous recommendation of non-concurrence. Following discussion Bishop Holston called for the vote and non-concurrence was affirmed, 674-544.

As a result of the votes neither of these petitions was forwarded by the Annual Conference to the General Conference for consideration.

*Carolyn Briscoe, Committee Chair*

### **THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR**

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

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

I want to emphasize two important issues. The first is the insurance policies and limits that each church should have. The worksheet with the required insurance can be found at [http://www.calpacumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/19.4\\_2015InsuranceWorksheet.pdf](http://www.calpacumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/19.4_2015InsuranceWorksheet.pdf).

Page 3 sets out the required types and amounts of insurance. It is critical that each church have Liability Insurance which includes: Commercial General Liability Insurance, Pastoral Counseling Liability, Hired and Non Owned Auto Liability, Employee Benefits Liability, Medical Pay, Sexual Misconduct and Crime and Employee Dishonesty; Property Insurance for all owned property and contents with riders to cover pipe organs, stained glass and art; Directors and Officers/Employment Practices Liability; An Umbrella or excess policy; Workers Compensation and a Commercial Automobile policy. There is a new booklet that I have been given permission to share with you which has been written by the United Methodist Insurance. It is a good explanation of these coverages. [http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_UMI/Resources/documents/UMI\\_Safety\\_and\\_Insurance\\_Handbook\\_for\\_Churches.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_UMI/Resources/documents/UMI_Safety_and_Insurance_Handbook_for_Churches.pdf) The South Carolina Conference does not dictate to Churches the insurance company they must use but does require the types and extent of coverage.

The second area I would like to speak to is the sale, transfer, mortgage or leasing for more than 30 days of church property. These transactions may be handled by lawyers not familiar with our Methodist *Book of Discipline*. The provision of the *Book of Discipline* governing local church property begin with ¶2525. The provisions which deal with the sale, transfer, lease or mortgage of property are ¶2540 and ¶2541. They require:

1. At least ten days' notice of the proposed action and the time and date of the charge conference with notice given from the pulpit and in the bulletin or newsletter.
2. A majority of charge conference must approve by voting for the resolution.
3. The district board of church location must review and agree.
4. The pastor and the District Superintendent need to approve the transaction and their consent must be attached to the legal document, deed, mortgage, transfer or lease.

What can be done by the church with the proceeds depends on the character of the property.

Under ¶2543, if there is a church building or parsonage on the property, the proceeds cannot be used for the current budget or operating expense of the church.

*Kay G. Crowe, Conference Chancellor*

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

The Ministry Advisory Team continues to meet periodically through the year to advise the bishop on how the programmatic, administrative, and personnel divisions of the annual conference might collaborate more effectively. This year, the MAT learned about the need for a comprehensive database that allows for information that is changed by one district, office, or department to be changed everywhere. Security of data regarding clergy information, data entry at the district and the conference level, and transmission of data to the general church offices all impact the need for one system. Staff members from all areas are working together on this initiative. Goals for the project include more efficient use of the time and energy of conference personnel and greater ease for clergy in navigating changes that impact more than one department of the annual conference.

MAT conversations related to continuing formation of clergy and the need of local churches for well-equipped clergy have resulted in collaboration between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Congregational Development Office in planning for the Bishop's School of Ministry. In addition, leaders of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Extended Cabinet members met in retreat together this Spring in order to think together about the needs of clergy in their first years of ministry, as well, as how to address issues of ineffectiveness.



Shortly after the October 2015 flooding, MAT staff met with the Cabinet dean to discuss how to care for clergy who were leading in the midst of the churches and communities impacted by the disaster. Some of the plans made in that meeting were implemented and some have not yet been. Having the conversation allowed for each area to focus on the resources they had to support the pastors leading their churches through this difficult time and to work collaboratively to keep the focus on what was needed at the local level.

The Ministry Advisory Team is an advisory body that assists the bishop in fostering a culture of excellence around the annual conference in order to strengthen the collective witness to the Gospel of the people called United Methodist in our state.

## THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

It is no secret. For those of us who are followers of Christ and leaders in the church, we are aware that the world is changing rapidly and with great impact to the church. The media has much to say these days about the “Nones” – those with no faith affiliation, and the rising group that have created another category called the “Dones” – those who are leaving the institutional church out of frustration because it seems to them that often the ways of Jesus are not the ways of his Church.

**The world is changing:** Since we have been together last, our own state has experienced the devastating loss of the Emmanuel Nine at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston as well as the destruction and displacement caused by the one hundred year flood. We are aware of the rise of ISIS, the groaning of the planet, and the groaning of many of us as we look at the national political landscape. Terrorism, racism, violence, war, and discrimination continue to diminish our sisters and brothers in the human family.

Have you ever tried to straddle a small ditch – with one foot on one side and the other foot on another? It feels a lot like that in these days. We have one foot planted in the church as we know it and, with the cultural current flowing, we are trying to stretch across to the church that is coming to be. To stretch and reach across can be challenging and sometimes something we would simply prefer not to do.

On the Cabinet, we realize that it has perhaps never been harder to be a pastor than right now. Here’s why. Pastors know the expectations of those who have always belonged to the church and value it as well as the expectations about how to reach those who are not yet part of the community of faith. In short, the United Methodist Church finds itself as a modern institution that is seeking to be faithful in a post modern world – valuing the past and yet knowing it is necessary to embrace new ways to speak to the present.

The church as we have known it is passing away and the church that is coming to be is not yet fully clear. In light of these realities, the work of the Cabinet rises in its importance. And in these days, the Cabinet is following the lead of our bishop to make these our priorities:

**Relationships:** The Gospel Message is built on relationships. To lead in these changing times depends on relational equity – making an investment in people. Therefore, the Bishop and Cabinet are seeking to be where people are: in districts, in churches, in one-on-one conversation with pastors, in collaborative work with district connectional ministries. A glance at Bishop Holston’s calendar shows this. For the past three years, he has made his way to each of our twelve districts in the Annual Conference first to listen and then to teach about leadership and to be with the people of South Carolina. The Listening Session was first (2013-2014), followed by the Bishop’s Road Show where he met with key lay leaders (2014-2015), and then this past year he met with both clergy and laity for the Bishop’s BBQ Bash (2015-2016). Plans are already in the works for the coming fall and winter with the Power of Love Tour. The Bishop and Cabinet know that we cannot lead best from a distance, but rather with a commitment to make relationships a priority.

**Strategic Thinking:** By action of the 2012 General Conference, district superintendents have been given a new role that moves us from a management focus to a leadership focus. By way of reminder, the Discipline reads in part:

*“As an extension of the office bishop, the district superintendent shall oversee the total ministry of the clergy (including clergy in extension ministry and ministry beyond the local church) and of the churches in the communities of the district in their missions of witness and service in the world. This oversight requires the superintendent to use his/her gifts and skills related to spiritual and pastoral leadership, personnel leadership, administration and program. The Church expects, as part of the superintendent ministry, that the superintendent will be the Chief Mission Strategist of the district and be committed to living out the values of the church...”*

Whether it is a tri-district event for reaching new people, or monthly clergy gatherings in the district where content is intentional and practical, or the significant work of appointment-making, or charge line changes or assessing viability for planting new churches, or thinking

creatively about cooperative parishes, this thinking calls for our best efforts. This Bishop is certainly a strategic thinker and challenges the Cabinet to be the same.

**Partnerships between Laity and Clergy:** The Bishop and Cabinet know well that there is great benefit, wisdom and strength when laity and clergy partner together. In our District Leadership Teams and Connectional Ministry Teams, real and significant work is happening at all levels of the church. In partnership we have seen racial reconciliation events planned, ideas shared, hands on missions move from idea to action. The Cabinet knows the value of shared partnerships among laity and clergy and remains committed to deepening these connections.

And, as anyone who seeks to straddle a ditch knows, flexibility and risk-taking are not optional! In times of change, to reach to where you have never been requires the movement from "We've never done it like that before" to "Let's give it a try and see." We must.

You know why?

**The world is changing. But Kingdom is coming.**

Though much is changing, some things have not. The hungers of the human heart have not changed. People still want to live with meaning and purpose. People still want authentic relationships. People still long to give themselves to causes worthy of their best energies. People want to live out of a posture of hope rather than fear. People still have the longing for peace planted in the human heart. Many people are still compelled or at least intrigued by Jesus and his Way of Life.

There will come a day when all the little kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our God. But until that day dawns in its fullness, we are part of a Church that believes grace and holiness belong together. We are part of a Church that values the intellect and the heart. We are part of a Church that is evangelical and sacramental, that has a love for the Bible and a willingness to study it critically, that values a passionate personal relationship with Christ and an equally passionate desire to serve as his hands and voice in healing our broken world. We are part of a Church that is connected across districts, across the state, and across the world, and every Sunday when we give an offering to God and we support our missional connection, we are touching 167 countries and providing tangible care for the least, the last and the lost. This is who we are. We have been given the privilege of living in this moment in time. And if we are to thrive, we must claim the best of the past and lean in to the future. Innovation and tradition must hold hands as the God of every time and place leads the people called Methodists into a new period of vital ministry.

**The world is changing. But the Kingdom is coming!**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray  
Dean of the Cabinet*

## THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

South Carolina United Methodist Men are continuing to respond, lay and clergy, to Jesus Christ's command to go into all the world and make disciples. With the leadership of Bishop Holston, the lay and clergy in the South Carolina Annual Conference are seeking God's will to dream and accomplish "God Size Dreams" through the discipleship of men that God can use in their families, church, and community.

### **Best United Methodist Men's Annual Conference In the United States:**

South Carolina Men have been selected the Best United Methodist Men's Annual Conference In the United States for the second year. The National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) presented this award at their annual meeting in Nashville, TN which was held February 2-6, 2016.

As you read through this report you will understand when I say this is an Award to the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This is the result of the laity and clergy working together to disciple men that God can use in their families, local church, communities, and beyond.

### **Largest Contribution to Upper Room Prayer Ministry in the United States:**

South Carolina Men were recognized by as Largest Contribution to Upper Room Prayer Ministry in the United States. They contributed over \$4100. Upper Room Pray Line ministries offer 24/7 prayer to anyone through their Web site and 800 number. Many South Carolina Churches participate in this ministry by answering the 800 number through remote lines. This is a great ministry for local churches.

### **The Changing Face of Men's Ministry; Changing the Method, not the Message:**

How is South Carolina Conference UMM attracting men in record numbers to their Spiritual Weekend, Teaching Churches, Leadership Training, and returning them fired up and equipped to change, their families, churches, and the communities they live in?

The first thing we had to be willing to repent, to turn around 180 degrees, to quit doing things like we have always done them. We realize that the message did not need to change; the message of disciple ship of men that God could use to change their families, churches, and communities. But, the method had to change drastically.

So what did we do? In 2013 God sent the South Carolina Conference a Bishop, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, who challenged men to step up and be the men God intended them to be. He also led by example and was willing to give time because he realized that if we could disciple men to be the men God intended them to be, His church would grow. We need to disciple men to transform not only South Carolina, but the world.

**Partnerships, Relationships, and Building Trust:**

The Bishop not only challenged us to change, but he challenged us to partner with pastors and other ministries of the Church. As a result we have built strong working relations with the Bishop, his cabinet, conference staff. We coordinate and cooperate with the Conference Leaders of Connectional Ministries, United Methodist Women, Lay Leader, Lay Servants, and other ministries. We have agreed to support each other since our only mission is making disciples. We no longer operate in silos, but cooperate to support each other in all we do.

Our attendance at our Spiritual Weekend has increased each year since 2013, (160 in 2013, 590 in 2014, and 860 in 2015. Our Bishop challenged us to have 1500 in February 19-21, 2016. Our key presenter was Rev. Zan Holmes who was one of the key people in the Disciple Bible Study Series. The Bishop continues to be a key part of this ministry. Check web site at [www.menministry.org](http://www.menministry.org) or [www.ummsc.org](http://www.ummsc.org).

**We fell short of our goal of 1500 in attendance at the Spiritual Retreat February 19-21, 2016.**

We did have 1100, thank you Jesus. As we continue to say, it is not about the number of people that come to the event... it is about the number of men that return to their families and churches and communities and let God use them to change lives for Christ. The Bishop has taught us to "Dream God Size Dreams", to not trip over our Dreams, and to not limit God by our ability. That it is ok, if we do our best to follow God's Will, to fall short of our MARK. What is the Mark we as Men will leave on this world? Next year we will set the goal of 1500 in attendance at the Spiritual Retreat at Christ Church, Myrtle Beach, SC, February 17-19, 2017. That is only 125 men per District. I invite the Bishop, District Superintendents, Pastors, and Laity to join us in the God Size Dream, a Dream to Disciple Men that God can use in their Families, Church, Community, and beyond to change lives for Christ. Please Join Us!!!!

This growth is the result of prayer for God's guidance, prayer to give us the will and ability to follow his will.

**We are able to do this with no paid employees because of the support system we have developed.**

- The staff of the Conference set up and maintains our web site, handle our online registration and our paper registration and from this they generate our name tags and our registration list.
- The *Advocate*, our Conference News Paper, promotes us through articles and advertisement. The editor Jessica Brodie and her staff, cover our events including the Spiritual Weekend, Teaching Churches, and local events, sponsored by men throughout the Conference. This is evident by the many articles and photos in the attached packet, which are all sent to Rich Peck throughout the year.
- The Conference Treasury collects the registration money for our Spiritual Weekend and Teaching Church events and transfers it to our account. They allow us to utilize their telephone conferencing which enables our leadership to communicate effectively. They supply us with free storage and access to the Conference Center.
- The Bishop has included Herman Lightsey, our Conference President, as part of his road staff when he visits each district. The Bishop took his key lay leaders and conference staff on a "Road Show" to visit with the laity in every district. At these events the Bishop promotes our Weekend and our Teaching events. This gives us face time with lay and clergy at district and local church levels.
- The Bishop has a real interest in and heavily depends on laity to be his hands, eyes, ears, and feet to disciple men, women, and children down to the local church. He is very pleased and excited about the men's movement to disciple men and their families in this Conference. In April of 2015 he had a training event to teach and challenge men to step as leaders of men. This event was promoted as "The Bishop's 100 Men of God". It was to train men to step up and take responsibility for leadership in the Church. At the end men signed a leadership contract. The Spartanburg District President can as a result of Jeff Tillerson signing a contract to step up.

- As a result of our relationship with the Bishop and his Cabinet, we have, for the first time in over twenty years, established ministry leadership teams in all twelve districts. Several of these teams have a lay and clergy as contact persons.
- Female pastors have embraced this move to get men involved in the local churches and communities. More and more female pastors are embracing the role as the spiritual leader of their men and that they are part of the United Methodist Men by the Discipline. They are bringing their men to the event. Also our female District Superintendents are also embracing this ministry.
- For several years our Conference did not have a Conference Prayer Advocate. Clayton Easter held this position for years but because of health reason he was unable to continue. Through prayer and our new relationship with Lay Leaders, I talked with Dennis Sullen, Lay Leader for the Florence District, about our common mission to make disciples. I ask him to pray about becoming our new Pray Advocate. About a month later he accepted. He attended the NACP Pray Advocates meeting in March of 2015 and 2016.
- Our new Treasurer, David Holcombe, agreed to accept this position after I met him at a Teaching Church. David, (who is in his 40's), is a financial manager with Milliken Corporation with a master's degree in finance.
- Charters have not been talked about in over two years. Instead we talk about discipleship of men and their families and how we want to be the conduit. We have partnered with other laity groups (lay leaders, lay speakers, UMW, UMVIM, etc) DS, and pastors and we only talk about discipleship. We have begun to talk to churches about connecting their ministry to men by chartering their churches, not clubs. The Bishop is being helpful by encouraging his District Superintendents to encourage churches to charter. He has written letters and has agreed to do more in 2016. This is how we connect our Ministry to Men worldwide.
- As a result of us moving our Spiritual Retreat to Christ UMC in 2014, Pastor Jeff Dunn said the event had made such an impression on his men's group that they chartered in 2015 for the first time in the church's existence. By the way Christ Church is located in the old Gatlin Brothers Theater which holds 1950 people and was a gift from the owner of Hobby Lobby.
- I continue to travel to the districts when invited to continue to build relationships to enhance and grow this ministry. We have been invited by District Superintendents to their district set up meeting for new pastors, to the Bishop's School for pastors, The Fellowship of Clergy, and other events.
- We are participating with the Conference event for young people called "Revolution". This event draws about 2,000 high school and college youth. We are donating bibles, a youth worship book, and helping with the event.
- We continue to partner with the Bishop, District Superintendents, pastors, and laity groups to grow this ministry to men and their families. This has resulted in a renewed interest in this ministry. The Bishop is partnering with us in this ministry through his leadership and training of laity and his encouragement of pastors. Working with DSs, ministry teams are being established in districts with no prior leadership. We are also partnering with the Conference Lay Leader, Barbara Ware, and all of the District Lay Leaders for this common goal of discipleship of men and their families.
- We have been asked to be involved with a group of black ministers and laity to see how young black men can be mentored to reduce the incarceration rate. Much of the incarceration of young black men is because there is no father figure present. They feel that this is a good fit with our ministry.

#### **Teaching Churches:**

Teaching churches are the "Next Steps" in the transformation of ministry to men, their families, and churches over the next three years. Connectionalism is the "ACE" that other organized religions do not have. We have United Methodist Churches in the SC Annual Conference that has growing ministries for all ages. We invite men to come and share and listen as these churches share their successes. We encourage you to invite clergy and laity to come and help us change the face of the Methodist Church, one disciple at a time.

#### **What are Teaching Churches?**

"Grow Your Church Through Ministry to Men and their Families "

Each Teaching Church event will be different, because churches will share their ideas that have helped them grow their churches through discipleship of men and their families. We encourage men, woman and pastors to attend a teaching church in their area or attend as many as they can to gather ideas for growing their church. This is part of our "connection" as United Methodist to share our successes with sister churches. Come, listen, and learn how to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of SC and the World.

We held five Teaching Churches in 2014. These are in different districts of the state. These first teaching churches were mostly about how to grow your men's ministry in the churches. Over 500 men attended these events.

We held five Teaching Churches in 2015. These were also in different districts. Over 700 men attended these events. Two of the teaching churches were held in districts that had Teaching Churches in 2014, but they were at different Churches than before. As of the end of 2015 we have had Teaching Churches in eight of our twelve districts. We hope to go to the other four districts in 2016. The teaching churches in 2015 showed the growing of men's ministry beyond the church walls. This year, the churches shared how men were involved in schools as reading buddies and mentors. How they were partnering with community churches, not just Methodist, to show how Godly men can make a difference. They talked about being involved F3 groups (Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith) and how this had changed their men's involvement in their churches and their community. The group at Grace UMC in North Augusta, SC has crossed the bridge into Augusta, GA to partner with churches. We are now disciplining men in South Carolina and beyond. Belin UMC partnered with the United Methodist Women in their church to show how men and women of God are making a difference in Stopping Human Trafficking and Hunger. For the first time the Teaching Church at Journey UMC invited new pastors and men and talked about the importance of reaching men and how to do it. So as you can see the Teaching Churches have moved from how to, to "Action". See the article on Teaching Churches, page 23, in the UMMen magazine winter 2016.

Check web site at [www.mennministry.org](http://www.mennministry.org) or [www.ummsc.org](http://www.ummsc.org). It is important for pastors to preach to and encourage men from the pulpit.

**Teaching Churches Dates for 2015:**

Date	Church	District	Location
August 15, 2015	St Mark UMC	Greenville	Taylors, SC
August 29, 2015	Grace UMC	Greenwood	N Augusta, SC
August 29, 2015	Belin UMC	Marion	Murrells Inlet, SC
September 17-19, 2015	Stewart Chapel	Charleston	Huger, SC
October 3, 2015	Journey UMC	Columbia	Columbia, SC

\*These five teaching churches had over 700 men in attendance.

We plan to have five more teaching church events in 2016.

**Missions Support Money and Hands On:**

South Carolina had two tragic events in 2015. The first event was the tragic shooting of nine people at Mother Emanuel AME Church as they were in bible study. This event was meant for evil, but God and the people of South Carolina used it for good. Starting with the forgiving of the shooter by the families of Mother Emanuel, the people of South Carolina followed. It served as a healing. The South Carolina Conference created a fund to help the families of Mother Emanuel AME.

The second event was the flood that devastated the state. Again a tragic event of nature caused much damage, but again the people of South Carolina responded in love and compassion. Again the South Carolina Conference was involved. The Governor, is happens to be a United Methodist, approached our Bishop for assistance.

In both of these events Methodist men were involved in raising money, filling and loading flood bucket, helping with UMMVIM, and many other ways.

The South Carolina Conference of United Methodist Men contributed \$4,500 to the Upper Room Prayer Ministry. As our Men's Ministry Weekend grows it has enabled us to increase our gifts to this and other ministries. We contributed \$300 to Africa University, \$300 to Red Bird Men, \$2,500, so far toward No More Malaria (Bishop's goal is one million dollars), and \$100 to "The Summit on the Black Church". Local men's groups throughout the state raise money in various ways to support homeless, to repair housing of less fortunate, support hunger programs, wheel chair ramps, and many more missions. SC men are involved in giving and in doing.

**Leadership Training and Challenge:**

On April 11, 2015, we hosted training for the "Bishop's 100 Men" who are willing to "put skin into the game", which is a personal commitment to work through their local church, the district, and the conference to disciple men and their families for Christ. The hope is that we will have 300 plus men that will step forward from all twelve districts to commit to this movement to get men to be "Godley men" as Christ intended men to be. Those who could not come to the meeting and still be part of these committed men. We had over 100 men and clergy, including two DSs. Eleven of the twelve districts had representatives. The Bishop conducted training and challenged men to "Put Personal Skin in the Game" at their local church, district, and the Conference. If they agreed they were asked to pray about it and sign a Leadership Contract. Many men also picked up a copy of "The Class Meeting" by Kevin Watson, and were challenged to read the book and then

get seven other men to form a Class Meeting group. This is based on John Wesley's weekly accountability groups in the early church. Please pray for these men....  
 God has graced us with a Bishop that challenges us to dream "God Size Dreams". But this Bishop does not just talk he walks and leads.  
 Take the challenge...walk the walk, come and see.....come and see!  
 The Harvest is plentiful, the labors few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the field. Luke 10:2  
 Our prayer is that this moves across the Church. Join us in disciplining men that God can use in changing families, churches, and communities ... the world. Will you put some personal "Skin in the Game"? Will you "Make Your Mark" for Christ?  
 I promise you, if we disciple men that God can use in the family, local church, local community, and beyond .....The Church Will Grow!  
 Join Us, Pray for this Ministry!  
 Respectfully Submitted

*Herman Lightsey, President  
 SC Conference United Methodist Men*

### THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women of South Carolina are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through mission to women, children and youth. God uses every prayer, every loving deed done in faith, every financial and tangible gift, and every act of justice done in His name to glorify Him through transformed lives for Christ. Our entire program focus includes spiritual growth opportunities, leadership development, transformative educational experiences, and service and advocacy for justice.

The PURPOSE guides all our work and mission. The words clearly call us, first and foremost, to know God and to be in relationship with Jesus Christ, to be in supportive fellowship with one another, and to be in mission. These words define that we are women of God committed to faith, hope and love in action, predominately to women, children and youth. United Methodist Women support over 300 mission projects around the world, and numerous additional projects locally. The Conference leadership team has worked hard to plan programs and events that support our Purpose, undergird our Mission Projects, educate and involve our membership and expand the concepts of Mission through participation in the global Ministries of the church.

Our conference year started late in November 2014, when seven new officers to the conference executive team traveled to Tempe, Arizona to participate in Leadership Development Days. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and interact with other conference team members from around the United States. We were reminded of what a wonderful and powerful organization we are! With all of our various backgrounds, our different races and ethnicities, educational and work experiences, faith traditions, political affiliations, and places we call home, we know that we are all sisters in United Methodist Women, working and leading for women, children and youth in our country, in our state and around the world. What an honor to serve in such a group!

Legislative Advocacy Day was scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at Epworth's Children Home in Columbia. Due to inclement weather, the event had to be rescheduled for one month later, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The theme, 'Am I My Sister's Keeper' focused on domestic violence with awareness centering on lobbying for passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3433. Ms. Becky Callaham, Executive Director, Safe Harbor in Greenville was the keynote speaker. Her message on Domestic Violence was an eye opener. She encouraged United Methodist Women to be a part of the solution—band together and take action. District registration numbers for the event totaled 358. However, due to the date change the attendance was a little less. Our event was featured in the June 2015 edition of *Response Magazine*.

United Methodist Women National introduced the Legacy Fund Campaign early in 2014. The Legacy Fund is a forward-thinking permanent endowment with income dedicated to strengthening United Methodist Women. A small group of retired deaconesses and former staff and directors have led us to establish a five-year fundraising plan for The Legacy Fund. The total program of United Methodist Women is mission. United Methodist Women service, advocacy and transformative learning opportunities equip members to be agents of change and promotes the empowerment of women that is essential to address the root causes of so many conditions harming women, children and youth. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina UMW joined other UMW to celebrate the dedication and foresight of our foremothers in mission leading up to our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 with a special **Day of Giving**. Also in March, South Carolina United Methodist Women chose to work on mission projects within the state. The 2015 Mission Trip was a three day work camp experience at Rural Mission, John's Island SC. Twelve women

from around the state participated in the three day event. Ladies were given an overview of the work of the mission, assigned work tasks, and had several opportunities for group worship. Lots of hands-on work was provided to the mission. The ladies in attendance thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this mission opportunity.

Early in May, SCCUMW participated in the Great Day of Sharing. Bethlehem Center, Spartanburg, Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, Killingsworth and Rural Mission, Inc., were recipients of donations from UMW across the state. All five of our mission projects benefited from the generous donations made that day.

The Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska was spirit filled, spiritually motivating and spiritually uplifting. South Carolina United Methodist Women were blessed to have as our retreat leader, Yvette Richards, President, United Methodist Women national, who led us with the theme, Fill My Cup, Lord with Faith, Hope and Love. Yvette challenged each of us in attendance to go back to our homes and local units and be **BOLD, COURAGEOUS, UNREASONABLE WOMEN**; to walk in FAITH; to have HOPE for the future; and to know that God's LOVE is everlasting and overflowing. The music from our song leader, Elizabeth Nance-Coker and musician, Rev. Ann Hoyt was inspirational as well. Our cups were indeed filled with Faith, Hope and Love. The weather at the Lake was absolutely beautiful as 568 ladies attended the two sessions. We thank you, Yvette for leading our conference.

'Welcomed by God, Welcoming All' was the theme for our 2015 Come Together, Be Together at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Taylors, SC. This was another wonderful event by SCCUMW with 220 ladies in attendance. Freida Strobel, keynote speaker, did a wonderful job in sharing her story as a Native American Lumbee Indian growing up in South Carolina. Her life experiences of rejection, racism and being ridiculed gave her the heart to be a welcoming and loving servant of God. The mission emphasis was 'Elder Baskets' and the Limitless Team was there to sort, collect and assemble the baskets which went to support the SCUMC Native American 'Elder Baskets' Mission Project. United Methodist Women in attendance were able to participate in one of eight exciting workshops. Ladies wore their fun hats and flowery accessories and spent a wonderful day of fun and giving!

It was an honor and a privilege to represent SCCUMW at the 2015 South Carolina Annual Conference held in Florence, South Carolina. I shared with the conference attendees how South Carolina United Methodist Women are passionate about mission and that we are the hands and feet that make God's love real every time we put our faith, hope and love into action to make the world a better place for everyone including the most vulnerable - women, children and youth. The Mission Fair, which was sponsored by the Committee on Laity was once again a huge success. Thanks to those who participated in the Stop Hunger Now Project and an extra special thanks to Sharon Washington and the Florence District UMW for their support in manning our table at Annual Conference. Our immediate past president, Linda DuRant was elected as a lay delegate to the 2016 SEJ meeting.

As we gathered at Spartanburg Methodist College on July 23-25 for Mission u, we had wonderful opportunities for singing, worshipping and learning more about missions for the 254 women and a few men who were in attendance. The 2015 Mission u Learning Together for Transformation of the World provided four mission studies: the Youth Study-Latin America; The Church and People with Disabilities; Latin America: People and Faith; and Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life with God. The spiritual growth study, Created for Happiness was led by Rev. Ken Nelson. The craft room and resource room were both full of inventory for purchases. The craft room raised \$1,984.68 for our Five Mission Projects. We were over joyed to have twenty four youth join us in spirit and fellowship as they learned about our mission work. These young ladies bonded together as friends, grew in their knowledge and understanding of United Methodist Women, and shared a commonality of commitment to be used by God to make a difference in the world through their faith, hope and love in action. We were reminded of the impact of our Charter for Racial Justice and just how vulnerable life can be as Rev. Nelson led about sixty ladies in a prayer vigil for the Charleston 9. God's presence was surely evident the entire weekend. Thanks to the entire team for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

In worship, workshops, site visits and actions across the city, United Methodist Women members put feet on their prayers at "Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy," the quadrennial National Seminar at the University of Illinois in Chicago July 29-August 2. About 200 women attended the training for social justice action that focused on climate change, economic injustice, mass incarceration, and maternal and child health. The South Carolina conference was represented by Deaconess Selena Ruth Smith. Selena was also appointed as a Southeastern Jurisdictional Guide for the "Be Just. Be Green" initiative. Her role as a Jurisdictional Guide is to help United Methodist Women make our meetings across the country more sustainable.

The 4rd Annual Meeting hosted by the Anderson District was held at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Powdersville, SC. The welcoming hospitality displayed by the UMW of Bethesda UMC and the Anderson District was phenomenal. We are greatly appreciative of all

their hard work that made the event memorable. The theme for the Annual Meeting was "Welcomed by God, Welcoming All". There were 368 registered women at this event. A full schedule of Friday afternoon activities provided our attendees the opportunity to participate in a mini Ubuntu day of service where 110 fleece prayer shawls were made for battered women's shelters and several of our mission projects; two vans full of school supplies were collected by the Limitless Team for the Anderson District's Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T., founded and operated by Deaconess Mary Lou Edens; a jumbo sized card was signed for Mother Emanuel AME and donations totaling just under \$900.00 were received as a Gift in Memory for the Charleston 9; representatives from our five mission projects and 'Imagine No Malaria' were there to share their stories; and a trip to The Dream Center of Pickens County (a faith based nonprofit organization that has been offering assistance to poverty stricken families in the Anderson District since 2012) rounded out preconference activities. Our Bible study leader, Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray opened our hearts and minds to understand Jesus's invitation to "follow me" as a way to live in our Lord's footsteps. We were blessed to have Bishop Holston and Mrs. Holston's join us on Saturday morning and share their passion for mission and encouragement to us all. Rev. Telley Gadson, keynote speaker shared her fever and fervor for an energetic life with Christ. She is on fire, and contagious, and thanks to her, we are too! Every speaker, musician and officer joyfully brought their talents and passion to the event. Newly elected officers were: Jackie B. Hicks-Social Action Coordinator; Betty Void-Chairperson, Committee on Nominations; Clara Horton and Annette Pollard-Members, Committee on Nominations; Jody Snow and Patricia Whitaker-Charter for Racial Justice; Sue Owens was elected to a second two year term as Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Evelyn Pauling was elected to a second two year term as Spiritual Growth Coordinator and Maureen Thomas was elected to a third two year term as Treasurer. In addition, nominees for election as National Board of Directors at the 2016 SEJ Meeting were Susan Brooks, Selena Ruth Smith and Evelyn Burwell (alternate); nominees for election as Program Advisory Committee at the 2016 SEJ meeting were Jean Doscher, Linda DuRant and Ernestine Wright; nominees for Delegates to the 2016 SEJ meeting were Beth Addis, Marlene Spencer and Maureen Thomas.

This has been a busy year, and, our mission coordinators and Mission u Deans are now busily planning the year's events. The future is bright moving into 2016. A scholarship fund for young women pursuing a degree in higher education is being established. We are looking forward to assisting a young person with their future education. Also, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting is just around the corner. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites and Convention Center in North Charleston, South Carolina on June 3-5, 2016. Scholarships are being offered by SCCUMW and by SEJ for attendance at the meeting.

As we close another year in the history of United Methodist Women in South Carolina, we continue to seek God's blessings in all that we do as we strive to put our Faith·Hope·and Love into Action.

In God's Service,

*Marlene Spencer, President 2016*

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

The South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union was chartered on September 19, 1955 by ten elders of the South Carolina Methodist Conference (1785). The Reverend Hawley B. Lynn was elected to serve as the first president. Initially the credit union was chartered to serve ministerial members of the annual conference and others under appointment of the bishop, employees of the Boards and Agencies of the annual conference, and their family members.

In the 60 years that we have served our members much has changed. The biggest change is also the most recent: Membership eligibility has been expanded to include all members of United Methodist churches in the South Carolina Conference. As members of the credit union, members benefit from the member-owned, not-for-profit, service-driven, relationship-oriented, stewardship model that is at the core of our financial ministry.

Throughout 2015, the Credit Union was faced with ever increasing challenges presented by legislation, regulation and competition. The Credit Union remains safe, strong and steadfast in our mission to serve.

We continue to offer loans to churches and in response to the terrible destruction from the October flooding we are prepared to make low interest loans for repairs, roofing, replacing heating and air conditioning systems, flooring, painting, etc. The SC Methodist Conference Credit Union can be a prime source for needed funds for local churches. Let us help.

In response to member requests we have partnered with Sallie Mae to offer student loans. Come by our table on the concourse and pick up a brochure on our "Smart Option Student Loans."



Finally, we are hopeful that as you get to know us better you will want to share with friends this news of the credit union's expanding services, and we appeal to you to help us pass the word along.

#### Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets	2015	2014
Cash in Bank	\$ 352,884.83	\$ 428,198.85
Investments	\$ 2,253,751.12	\$ 2,061,572.28
Loans Receivable	\$ 2,851,013.92	\$ 3,043,909.52
Land	\$ 48,400.00	\$ 48,400.00
Building	\$ 28,469.34	\$ 30,742.02
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 3,848.28	\$ 7,734.12
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 14,674.67	\$ 14,444.84
NCUA Deposit	\$ 45,880.50	\$ 51,066.93
Other Assets	\$ 9,696.90	\$ 6,658.10
Allowance of Loan Losses	\$ (47,204.13)	\$ (30,248.54)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,561,415.43</b>	<b>\$ 5,662,478.12</b>
Liabilities	2015	2014
Shares	\$ 5,016,312.24	\$ 5,081,904.74
Other Liabilities	\$ 3,741.93	\$ 3,425.40
Guaranty Reserve Fund	\$ 304,175.02	\$ 304,175.02
Undivided Earnings	\$ 237,186.24	\$ 272,972.96
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 5,561,415.43</b>	<b>\$ 5,662,478.12</b>

The Board of Directors, Committees and staff of the SCMCCU are grateful for the trust placed in us as our members' financial stewards.

Directors: Mr. James Bradley Jr., Rev. Eugene L. Curry, Mr. George R. Drafts, Rev. Roger M. Gramling, Rev. Dennis R. Lee, Ms. Lisa K. Livingston, Rev. Ronald A. Pettit, Rev. Robert M. Vincent, Rev. Lillian H. Washington

Credit Committee: Rev. John E. Holler, Chairperson, Mr. T. Andy Cox, Mr. H. Parker Evatt

Supervisory Committee: Ms. Christine C. Dominick, Chairperson, Rev. Sara A. White, Rev. Joseph A. Wilson, II.

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

#### AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT

Thank you, South Carolina United Methodists, for continuing to sow into Africa University through your prayers, presence, and gifts. The South Carolina Conference invested 101.41 percent of its asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment, making it one of a record 32 annual conferences to give 100 percent or more in 2015.

Under the leadership of Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, clergy and lay leaders are strengthening the South Carolina Conference's engagement with Africa University. Two major events—the May 1<sup>st</sup> “*Evening of Elegance Scholarship Dinner*” and the second annual “*South Carolina Africa University Golf Outing*” on September 28<sup>th</sup>—generated substantial support for student scholarships and other needs. The university's student choir felt the warmth of home and family as it crisscrossed South Carolina in June and, in the wake of the tragedy in Charleston, the students responded as only family could.

Africa University celebrates an authentic and unwavering partnership with the South Carolina Conference. Through this partnership, young leaders are being equipped for effective discipleship. We pray that the South Carolina Conference will continue to invest generously in Africa University.

**Institutional Update:** Over the past year, Africa University has increased its focus on student success. New staff development strategies are being implemented to ensure that the majority of the faculty has terminal degrees in their various disciplines. Academic programs are being restructured to make them more relevant and marketable and by 2020, enrollment is projected to grow by about 60 percent. A new strategic plan, (2017-2020), is in development. The plan will assign resources more effectively, while ensuring that fiscal responsibility and accountability are maintained. In addition, the university is increasing its friend-making and fundraising efforts in Africa and among its core beneficiaries—the graduates and their families.

**Enrollment:** Currently, Africa University has a total enrollment about 1,500 full-time students who represent 26 of Africa's 54 countries. An additional 770 students are gaining new skills and knowledge as they pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees on a part-time basis.

**Alumni:** Africa University graduates number around 6,200. They are dispersed across the continent and engaged in vigorous efforts to improve public health, food security, peace, stability, and the enjoyment of economic prosperity in Africa. Africa University graduates are leaders and role models who inspire a new optimism.

**Looking ahead:** The ongoing support of the South Carolina Conference is crucial to Africa University's ministry and its impact within Africa. Thank you, South Carolina, for what you have done and for all that you will do in the future. As you journey with Africa University, know that you are part of a ministry that equips Africans to do for themselves and grow the experience of God's promised abundance in the world.

*James H. Salley,*  
*Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*  
*Submitted by: Africa University Development Office*  
PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007  
Tel: (615) 340-7438; Email: [audevoffice@gbhem.org](mailto:audevoffice@gbhem.org)  
[www.support-africauniversity.org](http://www.support-africauniversity.org)

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY: Changing Africa: Learning here. Living here. Leading here.  
Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.**

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#### **LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.**

We are happy to report that Lake Junaluska once again ended the year "in the black", wrapping up 2015 with a balance of over \$200,000. We continue to accomplish this without any operational apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to "live within our means." 2015 was also a great year for charitable giving. We received \$1,079,863.01 from 1,312 individuals. Giving to the Annual Fund was once again, a new record high. We are so grateful that more people are affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As we continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs, we are also solidifying our commitment to one of our most important assets, our staff. Of the \$200,000 "profit" from 2015, \$100,000 was distributed, in the form of profit sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2015. The remainder was used to fund an across the board 2.5% pay increase for all current staff in 2016. We are also proud to report that the renovation of The Terrace hotel began to pay off immediately upon completion, earning more revenue in its nine months of operation in 2015 than it did in the full twelve months of 2014. While our expectations were high for the impact the renovations would have on our guests' experiences, the formal and informal responses of our guests has been overwhelmingly positive. We are also working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission. We are truly seeking every day to make the best possible use of all of our assets.

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

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, we encourage you to pick up a copy of our 2016 *Discover Lake Junaluska* magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

#### **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

Dear Colleagues in the South Carolina Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (STH) walks with you on the journey of discipleship, seeking to love God and to love our neighbors with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Thank you for your prayers that inspire and support the STH mission to love God, build knowledge, and equip leaders for the church and society.

## NEWS

- **New faculty:** This year, Boston University welcomed new faculty in ethics, psychology, theologies of spirituality, comparative theology, church renewal, Black church leadership, and mission studies. We welcomed: Nimi Wariboko (Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics); David Decosimo (Theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard (Evangelism and Church Renewal); Andrea Hollingsworth (Theology); Barbod Salimi (Psychology and Peace Studies); and Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission).
- **Spiritual life:** STH continued to expand and deepen its spiritual life program, led by Charlene Zuill, Spiritual Life Coordinator and United Methodist elder. Bishop Susan Hassinger, Claire Wolfeich, and many others also offer a rich selection of courses in spirituality and leadership.
- **Chaplaincy track:** STH added a chaplaincy track to the MDiv degree, preparing students for hospitals, prisons, and military settings.

**ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE:** STH spent much energy this year in hard conversations on violence, racism, and injustice, seeking to be honest and vigorously open to change, while honoring the dignity of all persons.

- **Power, Privilege and Prophetic Witness** is the STH theme for 2015-2017. We engaged the theme in classes, lectures, retreats, and workshops, seeking to stretch our capacities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.
- **Examining the intersection of theology and race.** The opportunities this year included: a brilliant new documentary on North Korea; a dialogical viewing of *Selma*; dialogues on racism with Thandeka and Andrew Sung Park; a retreat on building race relations; circle worship; a student-led event *Missing Voices, Daunting Choices: The Erasure of Black Women in Black American Movements*; and events on interfaith understanding.

**CARING FOR THE CHURCH** through leadership and service.

- **Serving the United Methodist Church.** Students served local churches and church bodies as interns, staff, and volunteers. Faculty served with such bodies as: United Methodist Women, World Methodist Council, Ministry Study Commission, Women of Color Scholars and Mentors program, Pan Methodist Commission on Children in Poverty, and boards and agencies of the general church and annual conferences.
- **Empowering young Latino/a leaders.** Young leaders gathered with seasoned mentors to enhance their gifts and service as Christian leaders: Hispanic Youth Leadership Initiative (HYLA) and Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute
- **Facilitating dialogues on church renewal.** We launched a new initiative on Evangelism and Church Renewal.
- **Reflecting on worship.** We contributed to a special issue of *Worship Arts Magazine*, edited and written by STH faculty, alumni/ae, and students, and published by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

**CARING FOR THE WORLD**

- **Offering opportunities for engaged learning.** Opportunities included the Doctor of Ministry program in Transformational Leadership; an urban ministry course; travel seminars to India, the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, Mexico, and Turkey (Ephesus); work with leaders in Ferguson, MO; and a travel seminar for UMC clergywomen to Cuba, co-sponsored by GBHEM and STH.
- **Collaborating with the global church.** Collaborations included sponsorship of the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*; events and art exhibits on local and global ecology; and dialogues with global church leaders.

As we at STH seek to be faithful and to partner with you in ministry, we give thanks for *your* witness. Thank you too for your continuing inspiration and contributions to our shared journey. Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore  
Dean of Boston University School of Theology

## CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology** at Emory University has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled, with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—well into the future.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall of 2016.

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

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

## CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

### CHARTING THE COURSE

Claremont School of Theology (CST) stands poised to enter one of the most significant periods of growth in its history. Last July, the Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan, entitled “Leveraging Our Past to Build Our Future.” The plan, which sets CST’s course for the next five years, identifies three strategic goals:

1. Promote Transformative Education
2. Engage Local and Global Communities
3. Achieve Long-Term Institutional Sustainability

All three goals support CST’s driving purpose of *Creating a Difference* for the Church and for the world. The 2015-16 academic year has seen several significant strides taken towards achieving these strategic goals.

CST has invested in growing and developing its programs offered in Hybrid/Online format, which allow students to take advantage of the transformative education that CST offers from wherever their lives are rooted. Students travel to Claremont for two weeks out of the year to take part in intensive in-person, collaborative work, while the remainder of coursework is completed in the context of their current lives and vocations.

CST began offering its Master of Divinity degree program in Hybrid/Online format in the fall of 2014. Enrollment for students in the Hybrid/Online program now equal that of the residential program. In January 2016, CST launched a brand new Hybrid/Online Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Spirituality and Strategic Leadership. The

program offers clergy and professional lay leaders an opportunity to refresh their perspective on vocation and ministry, while pursuing an individualized research topic over a two year period. **Half of students enrolled in both programs are United Methodist.**

Shortly after the Strategic Plan was approved, resources were applied to pursuing a new Campus Master Plan for the School. DCG Real Estate, a consulting firm specializing in master planning efforts by churches and schools, was contracted to evaluate the current campus infrastructure and make recommendations for meeting the School's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In February 2016, the Board approved a period of discernment to evaluate whether it might be possible for CST to engage in a shared land deal with Claremont United Methodist Church, which is also evaluating its campus. In August 2016, the Board of Trustees will evaluate whether such a deal will help CST to achieve its strategic goal of long-term institutional sustainability.

On February 28, 2016 Claremont Sunday was observed for the second year in a row in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Claremont Sunday offers an opportunity for the Annual Conference to celebrate its relationship with its seminary. Faculty, staff and students were invited to preach and share updates on the School at congregations throughout Southern California. And a special offering was taken to support CST's mission to lift up the next generation of clergy and lay leaders for The United Methodist Church.

CST is saddened to share the news of the death of Professor Cornish Rogers, the School's first African-American tenured professor. Prof. Rogers served United Methodist churches in Boston, New York City and Los Angeles. He served as News Editor for The Christian Century and was a classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Boston University.

Claremont School of Theology is looking forward to having a presence at the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church in Portland, OR. Alumni/ae, friends and those interested in pursuing a call to ministry are invited to stop by its booth to catch up and learn more about degree programs at CST. Special events will be held for alumni/ae and friends during General Conference. For details, contact Director of Alumni/ae Relations Noemi Ortega at [nortega@cst.edu](mailto:nortega@cst.edu) or (909) 447-2545.

The year ahead promises to be full of impactful ministry for CST, as it continues in its mission to *Create a Difference* for the Church and the world. Stay connected to life at CST by visiting [cst.edu](http://cst.edu) or following CST on social media on Facebook and on Twitter @CST\_News.

## DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The academic year 2015–2016 has been one of transition as Dean Richard Hays was diagnosed with cancer and forced to step down from his role as dean a year sooner than anticipated. Ellen Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology, accepted the invitation from Duke University President Richard Brodhead to serve as interim dean this year. A robust search committee to select candidates for the dean position had already been assembled, and they have spent this year conducting a thorough and thoughtful process to present final nominations to the president and provost of Duke University, who will make the final decision. The final slate of candidates was presented to the president and provost on Feb. 1, 2016, and we anticipate a final decision later this spring.

In the midst of this year of transition, we continue to engage with the church, academy, and society on important ecclesial and cultural issues. The heart of our work remains the preparation of men and women for Christian ministry and leadership within the church. This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2015, our total enrollment was 626 students: 449 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 36 in the M.T.S.; 19 in the Th.M.; 44 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 33 in the M.A.C.P.; 16 in the M.A.C.S.; and 12 who are special students. Thirty-eight percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 43 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Fourteen percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 8 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 22 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

This year we made a number of strategic staffing decisions to ensure that we are meeting the priorities of the Divinity School. Lacey Warner, associate professor of evangelism and Methodist studies, has been named our senior strategist for United Methodist collaborations. Warner, whose background includes academic administration, parish ministry, theological teaching, and denominational leadership, will bring oversight, guidance, and new ideas about ways that the Divinity School can work with our United Methodist partners in the work of serving local churches and local pastors. She has been named interim regional director and head of Course of Study at Duke, one of the largest Course of Study programs. She will build on the strong existing curriculum to explore new forms of pastoral formation, as well as develop more formal assessments about the effectiveness of Course of Study to ensure that it delivers the best preparation for local pastors and churches.

Warner has also worked with Pastor David McNitzky of Alamo Heights UMC in San Antonio, Texas, to create a certificate program. People in the church were interested in learning more about theology, church history, and biblical studies. The church offers courses and helps people use this training to be transformational leaders in their church and community, and Duke Divinity School recognizes this training with an approved certificate.

Jeff Conklin-Miller, the E. Stanley Jones Assistant Professor of the Practice of Evangelism and Christian Formation and Royce and Jane Reynolds Teaching Fellow, has been named the new associate dean for academic programs. He is also the director of the master of arts in Christian practice (M.A.C.P.) program. Conklin-Miller is an ordained elder in the California-Pacific Conference and has served local churches as an associate pastor, co-pastor, and senior pastor. In addition to his extensive church ministry, he has experience in academic administration and Christian formation. In his role as academic dean, Conklin-Miller draws on these various aspects of his experience in order to ensure that academic and other formation programs at the Divinity School equip our students to further God's work in the church and the world.

We are well aware of the changing landscape in theological education: fewer people express interest in pursuing theological degrees, and the costs of education continue to rise. As part of strengthening our commitment to the priorities of recruitment and financial aid, we have appointed Todd Maberry to the new position of senior director of admissions, recruitment, and student finance. Maberry, who earned an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and an M.P.A. degree from North Carolina State University, has served in academic administration and church leadership. Most recently he was the community pastor at the Church of the Resurrection (Downtown) in Kansas City, Mo., and he comes to Duke under appointment of Bishop Scott Jones in the Great Plains Conference.

Another notable new hire is the appointment of Meghan Feldmeyer Benson as Divinity School Chaplain, following the retirement of Sally Bates. An ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference, she served for nine years as Director of Worship at Duke Chapel. Shortly after Rev. Benson began her chaplaincy last summer, both Richard Hays and Professor Kate Bowler were diagnosed with cancer, and she immediately demonstrated her gift for offering comfort and guidance to the Divinity School community through both skillfully designed worship and pastoral care. In the months since, Benson has continued to foster a spirit of prayerfulness, while also overseeing the Divinity School's worship life and opportunities for spiritual formation.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. Our Thriving Rural Communities initiative hosted "Fan the Flame," a weekend retreat on growth and sustainability for small-membership churches. In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, they also sponsored the 2015 Convocation on the Rural Church, "Living in Community," to discuss issues important for transforming rural churches and communities. The Hispanic House of Studies, supported by both North Carolina Conferences, hosted a retreat for pastors serving the Hispanic and Latino/a community. Duke Divinity School remains committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced communities.

Spirited Life, a holistic wellness program and behavioral health study conducted by the Clergy Health Initiative, has concluded its direct services to pastors, after working with more than 1,100 United Methodist clergy in North Carolina since 2010. The program provided resources for improving mental, spiritual, and physical health through evidence-based programs, coaching, and support. The initiative will continue to conduct and publish research, and will continue to offer information for clergy, congregants, and denominational officials to support the well-being of pastors.

Since 1979, the Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition has been a source of internationally acclaimed research and support for Methodist and Wesleyan studies. The Center hosts the Wesley Works Editorial Project, which this year published a new volume of the works of John Wesley and launched a new website. The new volume, *The Works of John Wesley Volume 27: Letters III (1756–1765)*, is the third of seven volumes devoted to Wesley's correspondence. The new website provides information on the previously published work as well as other resources for the study of John and Charles Wesley.

Several initiatives, specifically in the areas of health care, reconciliation, and the arts, provide opportunities for theological reflection to intersect with the pressing needs in our world today. Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA), Theology, Medicine, and Culture (TMC), the Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS), and the Center for Reconciliation (CFR) each sponsored numerous speakers and events during this past year. *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and "traditioned innovation" for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press "Best of the Christian Press" contest.

Our faculty continue to be recognized for their scholarship and interdisciplinary expertise. Xi Lian and J. Kameron Carter were both named Henry Luce III Fellows for 2015–16. Ross Wagner, Kate Bowler, and Jennie Grillo each received prestigious research grants and fellow-

ships to support their book projects. Faculty continue to be in demand as preachers, speakers, lecturers, and conference presenters all over the world, from academic conferences to leading Sunday school classes, to preaching in churches.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Interim Dean Ellen F. Davis

## DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

### **A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives**

After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken—and are taking—to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, its long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender, and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus—notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically—further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our *curriculum*, strengthening our *community* of learning, and deepening training through revived *co-curricular* initiatives. These three aspect of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth—as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

### **Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation**

To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall of 2017, concurrent with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

### **Student experiences rooted in community**

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.

The success of these efforts is inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

### **Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice**

To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects will range from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program, and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

### **Success so far through our *One and All* Campaign**

As the 14<sup>th</sup> dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in its future.

Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our *One and All* fundraising campaign has raised more than \$12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who serve in our church communities. Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is made by walking. Let’s walk it together.

*The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera  
Dean of the Theological School  
Professor of Pastoral Theology*

## **ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology’s commitment to the Wesleyan ethos of providing hopeful, intellectually alive, and spiritually grounded theological education for each and every student over the course of their lifetime continues. Iliff’s identity is focused on educating leaders for three primary publics: the world, the church, and the academy. At Iliff, we refuse to choose between being a training home only for ministerial candidates, a center only for activists and scholar-activists, or a school only for academics. We believe all three are inseparable and enhance one another as we deliberately situate ourselves in the world and critically operate out of the world’s complexities.

As such, we recognize that the world’s religious landscape is changing and there is much at stake. Iliff recently completed its strategic plan, revised its curriculum, transformed its library, and initiated new relationships with other institutions. In collaboration with the people of Africa, we’ve started a discussion with Africa University (AU) to foster an educational alliance that will benefit Iliff and AU students. We’ve also begun work with Wiley College to strengthen the presence of minority students in seminaries.

Iliff’s enrollment continues to be strong with 365 students joining us this academic year, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in a host of ministry contexts. Their interest continues to be strong in Iliff’s online and hybrid classes. A concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities continues with many MDIV students participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Iliff’s numerous events for area clergy and supporters remains part of our foundation. Via forums on social justice, food justice, the role of faith in politics, world events, and more, campus speakers included Rev. Gerald Durlley, nationally-known civil rights leader and this year’s Jameson Jones Preacher, Heather Jarvis, student debt reduction advocate, and more. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary’s Center for Faith and Service



when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World" and our Master's of Theology Program was ranked seventh in the nation by OnlineColleges.net.

We continue to look forward with a courageous theological imagination. We are sincerely grateful for your support.

*Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe,  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
www.iliff.edu 1-877-887-7822*

## **METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO**

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO.

### **Keeping seminary affordable**

As part of MTSO's continuing commitment to make theological education a financial reality for promising students, we announced the creation of the Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment. Bishop Craig, who led conferences in the Michigan and Ohio West areas, is MTSO's bishop in residence and visiting professor of church leadership. One in three full-time MTSO master's students receives a full-tuition scholarship, and our average non-load aid award is \$8,600 per year.

### **Working for sustainable justice**

This year offered continuing evidence that social justice and the care of creation are core values for MTSO. We hosted "Faithful Justice: Confronting Mass Incarceration" in February and the Institute on Organizing and Preaching for Social Justice in April. A newly installed solar array began providing energy to Gault Hall, our main academic facility. And the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development identified Methodist Theological School in Ohio as one of 25 exceptional North American seminaries (out of 231 surveyed) for faith and ecology. MTSO courses addressing ecotheology and sustainability include Ecological Religious Education; Food, Land and Faith Formation; and Dialogues in Faith and Science.

### **Celebrating 30 years of educating counselors**

Over the past three decades, hundreds of men and women have earned graduate counseling degrees with unique depth from MTSO. Our Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree integrates psychological and behavioral sciences with wisdom from religious tradition. The second most popular MTSO degree, the MACM offers tracks in Pastoral and Professional Counseling, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Addiction Counseling.

Respectfully submitted,

*Danny Russell, Director of Communications*

## **PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the South Carolina Annual Conference:

Qualifying students at Perkins receive \$6,000 each in need-based aid.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2015-16 academic year totals 365 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 40 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 53 percent male and 47 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program has 32 students.

Please note the following faculty additions:

- Dr. O. Wesley Allen Jr. (Ph.D., Emory) joined the Perkins faculty as the Lois Craddock Perkins Chair in Homiletics in August 2015.
- Dr. Evelyn L. Parker (Ph.D., Northwestern), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins, was appointed to the Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology at Perkins.
- Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison (Ph.D., University of St. Andrew's) joined Perkins as the school's Associate Dean for External Programs.
- Dr. Tom Spann was named director of the Perkins Intern Program, succeeding Dr. Bill Bryan, who was named to the newly created position of Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
- Dr. Paul Barton (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University) was named director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program.

Highland Park United Methodist Church provided a \$1.5 million gift to Southern Methodist University that endowed the Umphrey Lee Professorship in Methodist History at Perkins as well as support the HPUMC Future Church Leaders Program.

The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins was awarded a \$500,000 grant by The Henry Luce Foundation's Theology program. The three-year grant will significantly expand the Center's work in promoting an understanding of the different religious expressions within the Latino/a communities in the United States and in Latin America.

Perkins unveiled a new degree option, the Master of Theology (Th.M.), which began enrolling students in the Fall 2015 semester. The Th.M. degree is a second master's and requires 24 term hours within one of four divisions of study: The Biblical Witness, The Heritage and Context of Christianity, The Interpretation of the Christian Witness and The Theology and Practice of Ministry.

Additionally, Perkins revealed that it will begin offering a Spanish-language Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree beginning in fall 2017. The degree, the first of its kind among the 13 United Methodist-related schools of theology, will be a nonresidential program designed for experienced full-time pastors or church/academic leaders.

Perkins also announced the creation of a first-of-its-kind degree, the Doctor of Pastoral Music, which will begin enrolling students in 2016. Areas of focused study will include liturgy, congregational song, worship leadership, performance skills and the theological basis of church music.

Perkins thanks our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for generous support in many ways, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

I will retire as Dean of Perkins School of Theology on May 31, 2016. It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity since 2002. In our mission to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry, the students who have passed through the halls of this school and into the world of ministry are the focus of our work. I am honored to have been a part of their journey.

Grace and peace,

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

## **SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

Over the past five years, Southern Methodist University has celebrated the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915. Highlights of recent developments follow:

- In fall 2015 SMU's total enrollment of 11,643 included 6,411 undergraduates and 5,232 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,652 (14 percent of total enrollment) represented 92 foreign countries, with the largest numbers from China, India and Saudi Arabia.
- SMU ranks among the nation's top universities. In the 2016 *U.S. News & World Report* listings, SMU ranks 61st among 270 of the "best national universities." Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.
- SMU received \$26 million in external funding during 2014-15 for research in the U.S. and worldwide. Current research subjects include water quality, natural hazards, cyber security and treatments for cancer and other diseases.
- SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign reached its \$1 billion goal ahead of schedule in Sept. 2015. It provided funds for 607 student scholarships; 62 endowed faculty positions, making a total of 114; 66 academic programs, including major endowment support for two schools; and 18 capital projects, including new and renovated facilities.
- The Meadows Museum at SMU celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 with exhibitions never before seen in the U.S. The museum houses one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain.

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.

*R. Gerald Turner, President*  
*Southern Methodist University*

## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, DAYTON, OHIO

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio continues to educate a significant number of pastors and local church leaders for the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

United has always focused on developing faithful, fruitful, inspired and inspiring pastors and local church leaders. 83% of the 2015 graduates of United are now serving in local congregations. 53% of the 2015 graduates from all other seminaries affiliated with the Association of Theological Seminaries are serving in local congregations.

Furthermore, 44% of the current 449 students at United are African American which makes United one of the most racially diverse seminaries in the United States. An average of 12% of the student body at most seminaries in the United States are African American. 43% of the students at United are female compared to an average of 33% at other United States seminaries.

United is one of the most racially and gender diverse seminaries in the United States and produces a higher percentage of local church pastors than most other seminaries in the United States.

United is also in the process of leadership transition. In November, 2015 President Wendy Deichmann resigned as President and, after a well deserved sabbatical, will return to serving as a Professor of History and Theology. Under President Deichmann, United was listed as one of the 12 fastest growing seminaries in the United States largely because of the growing Doctor of Ministry program and our on line degree programs. 44% of United's students are in the Master of Divinity program, 41% are in the Doctor of Ministry program and 15% are in other degree or certificate programs.

In January, 2016 The United Board of Trustees selected Dr. Kent Millard, former pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, as Interim President while they search for a new President.

St. Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy these words of advice: "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands." Second Timothy 1:6

United Theological Seminary along with the other 12 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States is committed to helping persons "rekindle the gift of God that is within" to provide educated, inspired and inspiring spiritual leaders for the United Methodist Church throughout the world.

*Dr. Kent Millard, Interim President  
United Theological Seminary  
4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, Ohio 45426*

## NOTES