

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

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations to the 2018 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 2017. We achieved a 92.34% collection rate on 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 celebrate the Walterboro district for collecting the highest percentage at 100.12%. We also celebrate the Columbia District which had the largest increase in funds collected, an increase of \$66,254 over the prior year, and the Florence District for having the largest percentage point increase at 2.11.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference for calendar year 2019. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and most faithful reflection. The Council is aware that the target is to have a budget at or around 15% of total Conference average net funds. It is aware that this percentage has been creeping higher. However, in an effort to maintain mission and ministry at past levels with minimal increase to apportionments, budget units have had to spend down reserves. As these reserves are depleted, the budget is adjusted to maintain the existing programs, mission, and ministry. The Council is seeking the assistance of all agencies, boards and commissions to deliver current mission and ministry in more cost effective ways.

Again, CF&A will staff an information table at Annual Conference. 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 Greenville.

Additionally, we will have a dinner and presentation on apportionments at Annual Conference. It is scheduled for Monday, June 4th at 6:00 pm at the TD Convention Center. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required.

We appreciate the service of Mrs. Elizabeth (Beth) Westbury, as well as her faithful staff, 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.

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

*The Reverend Mitch Houston, President,
Council on Finance and Admin.*

Report No. 1

- A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2019 will be set at \$103,000. (DS compensation for 2017 was \$99,500 and for 2018 is \$101,500)
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% (\$15,450) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2019 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance ("utility exclusion"), not including maid service and such expenses as paid by the district. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- 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

\$325,000 (\$27,083 per district), and continuing education will be set at the amount recommended by the Commission on 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. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.
- 5) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of \$2,800 for the smallest membership district and adding \$100 for each one thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, above 18,000. These funds are not guaranteed and are contingent upon the apportionment receipts and other requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2019 will be as follows:

District	2017 Membership	Amount
Anderson	13,690	2,800
Charleston	23,460	3,300
Columbia	33,894	4,400
Florence	16,809	2,800
Greenville	20,818	3,100
Greenwood	15,273	2,800
Hartsville	17,291	2,800
Marion	20,746	3,100
Orangeburg	16,394	2,800
Rock Hill	16,100	2,800
Spartanburg	14,535	2,800
Walterboro	13,803	2,800
Totals	222,813	36,300

- 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. *To comply with the change in tax law effective January 1, 2018 whereby reimbursements of moving expenses become taxable compensation to the recipient, the amount of reimbursement will be included in the district superintendent's taxable income as reported on Form W-2. Reimbursements of moving expenses for district superintendents shall be paid without the benefit of a gross up for taxes.* 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	40,000	37,000	77,000	.010521
Charleston	25,000	40,000	65,000	.005969
Columbia	25,000	45,000	70,000	.003864
Florence	25,000	45,000	70,000	.009177
Greenville	30,000	30,000	60,000	.004889
Greenwood	40,000	40,000	80,000	.010694
Hartsville	17,000	32,000	49,000	.006192
Marion	10,000	35,000	45,000	.004169
Orangeburg	25,000	30,000	55,000	.008045
Rock Hill	15,000	35,000	50,000	.006513
Spartanburg	35,000	25,000	60,000	.007913
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.012118
Total	312,000	434,000	746,000	

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 20, 2019
 - Golden Cross Sunday – February 3, 2019
 - UMCOR(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – March 31, 2019
 - Native American Awareness Sunday – May 5, 2019
 - Peace with Justice Sunday – June 16, 2019
 - Epworth Children's Home
 - Mothers' Day – May 12, 2019
 - Work Day – September 8, 2019
 - Church school offering first Sunday each month
 - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 11, 2019
 - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 15, 2019 (youth offering)
 - World Communion Sunday – October 6, 2019
 - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 3, 2019
 - United Methodist Student Day – November 24, 2019
- 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 2019 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2017 and 2016. 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. "Net funds" for churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage will exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister's compensation prior to calculating the church's average net funds.
 - 7) That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 48 through 57 (inclusive) of Table 2 for 2016. That "net funds" be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 41 through 47 (inclusive) of Table 2 for 2017.
 - 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 by providing written explanation of the correction to the Treasurer.

- 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 a year-end deficit, but not more than the amount budgeted, 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 2019, exclusive of a designated housing allowance, as allocated for utilities and maintenance ("utilities exclusion"), not including maid service. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.
- 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. 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

As noted in our report to the 2009 Annual Conference, economic uncertainties led to the reduction in apportioned budgets for the Senior Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund. The trend of reducing the budgets for these significant ministries continued for several years. In an effort to increase the funds available for these ministries without adding to the apportionment budget, the voluntary asking Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes was increased from \$600,284 for 2017 to \$625,000 for 2018. Council recommends the 2019 Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes voluntary asking remain at \$625,000. We ask churches with sufficient resources to continue to support the Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes. 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

[Reserved for future use.]

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 2016 *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,
 - 3) 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)
 - 6) endowments with The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
- B 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
- C) 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 2017 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2019 apportionments.

District	2017	District	2017
Anderson	7,318,903	Hartsville	7,912,835
Charleston	10,889,578	Marion	10,793,496
Columbia	18,116,092	Orangeburg	6,836,844
Florence	7,627,879	Rock Hill	7,676,891
Greenville	12,272,360	Spartanburg	7,582,292
Greenwood	7,480,771	Walterboro	5,364,135
TOTAL		109,872,076	

Report No. 7

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

Fund	Approved for 2018	Requested for 2019	Recom- mended for 2019	% Change
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	17,500	17,500	17,500	0.0%
3 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
4 Director of Administrative Services Office	792,150	792,150	792,150	0.0%
5 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
6 Conference Expense Fund	240,000	250,000	250,000	4.2%
7 Administrative Committees	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	49,000	45,000	45,000	-8.2%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	36,000	36,000	36,000	0.0%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	260,000	260,000	260,000	0.0%
11 General Conference Delegates	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
TOTALS	\$ 1,585,650	\$ 1,591,650	\$ 1,591,650	0.4%

Report No. 8

The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 1, Report No. 9) will be divided as follows:

Fund	Approved for 2018	Requested for 2019	Recom- mended for 2019	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries				
1. Conference Advance Specials				
Ministry Programs	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	\$ 175,500	\$ 175,500	\$ 175,500	0.0%
2. Board/Agency Programs				
District Councils	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	0.0%
The Board of Church and Society	12,000	16,000	13,500	12.5%
The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	500	500	500	0.0%
The Committee on ELCC	46,100	46,100	46,100	0.0%
The Committee on Native American Ministry	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
The Commission on The Status & Role of Women	300	300	300	0.0%
The Commission on Religion & Race	500	500	500	0.0%
Advocacy Subtotal	62,400	66,400	63,900	
The Board of Education	8,000	8,000	8,000	0.0%
Division on Young People	37,000	37,000	37,000	0.0%
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	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
Discipleship Curriculum	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
The Commission on Archives and History	750	750	750	0.0%
Discipleship Subtotal	82,500	82,500	82,500	
The Board of Laity	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Lay Leadership Subtotal	10,000	10,000	10,000	

Fund	Approved for 2018	Requested for 2019	Recom- mended for 2019	% Change
Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%
The Board of Global Ministries	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
The Board of Health and Welfare Ministries	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%
Disaster Response	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Outreach Subtotal	46,400	46,400	46,400	0.0%
Total Board and Agency Programs (2)	\$ 279,300	\$ 283,300	\$ 280,800	0.5%
3. Board/Agency Administration	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	0.0%
4. Operations (100% guaranteed)	\$ 1,462,184	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,600,000	9.4%
5. Communications				
Electronics	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	0.0%
Resource Center	22,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	22,000	35,000	35,000	59.1%
Sub-totals (5)	\$ 99,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	13.1%
B. 6. Advocate	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (A)	\$ 2,175,984	\$ 2,330,800	\$ 2,328,300	7.0%
Other Conference Agencies				
1. Cabinet Emergency Fund	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	0.0%
2. Bishop's Contingency Fund	12,500	12,500	12,500	0.0%
3. Episcopal Office	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4. Committee on Episcopacy	1,500	2,000	2,000	33.3%
5. Episcopal Residence	23,000	23,000	23,000	0.0%
Archives & History:				
6. Conference Archivist Contract	26,000	26,780	26,780	3.0%
7. Ordained Ministry				
a) Operations	67,000	85,500	76,000	13.4%
b) Career Planning Programs	20,000	23,000	20,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (B)	\$ 194,000	\$ 216,780	\$ 204,280	5.3%
Total Conference Benevolences	\$ 2,369,984	\$ 2,547,580	\$ 2,532,580	6.9%

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 2018	Requested for 2019	Recommended for 2019	% Change
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,369,984	2,547,580	2,550,580	7.6%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	2,000,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	-5.0%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,218,000	1,236,000	1,236,000	1.5%
4 Equitable Compensation	550,000	565,000	565,000	2.7%
5 District Administration	840,000	840,000	840,000	0.0%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,585,650	1,591,650	1,591,650	0.4%
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	1,170,708	1,100,000	0.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	634,838	850,000	634,838	0.0%
11 Campus Ministry	650,000	702,000	650,000	0.0%
12 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	540,228	540,228	540,228	0.0%
Sub-total	12,776,700	13,231,166	12,896,296	0.9%
13 World Service **	2,128,257	2,098,879	2,098,879	-1.4%
14 Episcopal Fund **	630,264	621,563	621,563	-1.4%
15 General Conference Administration **	252,713	249,225	249,225	-1.4%
16 Ministerial Education **	718,827	708,904	708,904	-1.4%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	56,217	55,441	55,441	-1.4%
18 Black College **	286,733	282,775	282,775	-1.4%
19 Africa University **	64,170	63,284	63,284	-1.4%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	32,554	32,554	32,554	0.0%
Sub-total	\$ 4,169,735	\$ 4,112,625	\$ 4,112,625	-1.4%
TOTALS	\$ 16,946,435	\$ 17,343,791	\$ 17,008,921	0.4%
Average Net Funds for Apportionments	\$107,796,341	\$109,872,076	\$109,872,076	
Budget as percentage of Average Net Funds	15.7%	15.8%	15.5%	
Asking (reference Report No. 3)	625,000	625,000	625,000	

** Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds.
Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mitch Houston, President
Smith Patterson, Vice-President
James Bennett, Secretary
Elizabeth G. Westbury, Treasurer

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." – Philippians 3:13

The uncertainty of tomorrow is often the source of the fear restricting us from faithful and obedient living in the present. For Conference Connectional Ministries (CCM), the uncertainty of tomorrow has often been defined by our effort to live into our identity. Conference Connectional Ministries exists to equip and empower local churches for vital and effective ministry. We have learned that remaining faithful and obedient to our purpose will require CCM to be ever developing skills for listening to the voices from local churches and hearing their needs expressed.

The aim of our report is not to expound upon our methodology, but to express our growing awareness of the needs of our local churches, our acknowledgement of the veracity of their needs, and the development of our skills to respond to their needs. Each of CCM's four area groups – Advocacy, Discipleship, Lay Leadership and Outreach – has been asked to illustrate the work unique to their area. My hope is for you to see the intent of the area groups to provide the resources and opportunities that respond to the needs of our local churches. Specifically, my hope is for you to see the effort of CCM to serve local churches by providing resources and opportunities that equip and empower them for ministry in their local context.

The uncertainty of tomorrow does not narrow our view; rather, CCM embraces what lies ahead and will *strain forward* by remaining faithful and obedient to God by serving the needs of the local church so that all are equipped and empowered for vital and effective ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. E. Rossiter Chellis, convener

ADVOCACY AREA

Advocacy

Purpose/Responsibilities: The Advocacy Ministry Area is charged with assessing the needs and interests that will help congregations look beyond themselves to societal needs. We seek to advocate for those who are oppressed by self-imposed factors or community and world factors.

The work of Advocacy is divided into these ministries: Church and Society, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Native American, and Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC).

Because of the social upheaval in our society, the Advocacy Ministry Area continued encouraging and supporting districts to host Vital Conversations on Race. Key conversations took place throughout the Annual Conference to include an event in the Anderson District on April 30, 2017, and an event hosted by the Florence, Hartsville and Marion Districts on Oct. 21, 2017, featuring J. Willis Johnson, author of *Holding Up Your Corner*.

The Advocacy Area began the process of planning two conference-wide events: A Youth Pilgrimage on Race and a Native American Pilgrimage on Race. Both events will take place during the 2018/2019 Conference year.

COSROW

A first state COSROW Conference occurred Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at Francis Burns UMC in Columbia, with 26 registered attendees representing eight clergy and many more survivors. Several committee members assisted COSROW Convener Sheila Haney, who served as host. The Rev. Cathy Mitchell welcomed those in attendance, explained the organization's mission, and provided the opening prayer. Sandra Hamlin acted as registrar.

The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate was represented by assistant editor Allison Trussell, whose article and photograph of state domestic violence victim "tombstones" served as stunning reminders of the state's high national ranking for women killed by men. Many partners assisted as well, the host church was available free of charge, several state agencies assisting victims provided displays. Keynote speaker was Easter LaRoche, longtime director of victims' services for the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. Her guest, Danielle Richardson, recounted a childhood of abuse and parental death.

Attendees completed evaluations with the operative word being "excellent" and phrases included mandating conference/district attendance as well as other suggestions for future conferences.

ELCC

S.C. ELCC has worked collaboratively with The Summit on the Black Church, The Carolinas Black Clergy Retreat, South Carolina Black Methodists for Church Renewal, UMC Discipleship Events, and the School of Congregational Development over the past year. We had a budget of \$37,590, not including a \$15,800 carryover from 2016. The carryover was to help with supporting an Advocacy Trip, which was put forth by the Rev. John Culp, but which did not happen, as well as a Grant Writing Workshop, which also did not happen. We had intended to sponsor scholarships for under-represented racial-ethnic youth from across the conference to participate at a very nominal cost of \$50 each. This left \$4,889.54 to be returned to Advocacy.

Fewer grants were funded due to lack of requested supporting documentation. S.C. ELCC received 59 scholarship applications in 2017 for events, trainings and educational trips. Of those, 21 lay applications were funded, four lay applications were denied, 32 clergy applications were funded and two clergy applications were denied. S.C. ELCC Grant Funding Cycles (1 & 2) in 2017 received 22 grant applications from under-represented racial-ethnic churches in the conference. We funded 11 and denied 11.

With so many under-represented racial-ethnic churches and parsonages in need of repairs, S.C. ELCC voted to include support for grants for repairs other than brick and mortar. We also do not fund salaries and transportation.

ELCC continues to encourage all smaller membership congregations in the conference to apply for scholarships and grants to help train, educate, affirm, communicate and heal your leadership and prospective leadership. Start early and seek assistance from ELCC members, through Doris Seals, Conference Staff, to ensure that your application is in order and can be funded.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Mazyck and Tracy Pender, co-conveners

DISCIPLESHIP AREA

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Purpose/Responsibilities: Responsible for the Annual Conference's ministry of memory. The commission holds the records of the past, collects the records of the present, and makes sure that these records are available for use in our future. The commission also helps South Carolina churches learn about their rich histories and connects South Carolina United Methodists to each other and to their past.

We join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Methodist Church this spring and look forward to helping the South Carolina Annual Conference celebrate that anniversary this year.

The commission relies on the archives at Wofford College and Claflin University to help preserve the conference's records. These records include the minutes of annual conferences; bound and microfilm copies of the South Carolina United Methodist 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. We continue to accept personal papers of clergy who are interested in depositing their materials with us.

In 2017, we responded to 345 inquiries on the conference collection via phone call, email, website and even the occasional letter. We hosted about a dozen visitors who came to do research in the Methodist collections. The staff copied well over 500 obituaries from the Advocate Obituary Index for researchers.

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 and with arranging some of the collections. His work continues to help relate the work of the conference to the ministry of memory. Wofford also provides the services of several other library faculty and staff members who assist in some area of the conference archives, and a student assistant to assist in researching obituaries and other tasks.

The archives continues to work to make more records available at wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx. Wofford also is hosting an online digital repository where we are making more of the conference's rich resources available. It includes historical addresses, a few Methodist books, and the conference pictorial directories from 1901 to 1975. We also have photographs from those directories available on the archives website, which churches may download and print for displays and publications. We anticipate finding a way to host digital versions of older conference journals in the repository, along with other digital resources.

The Claflin University Archives also is 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 all special collections items, to include United Methodist special collections items, are now 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 Breakfast 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 2019 awards will be due around Feb. 1, 2019.

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 always 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 2022, we'll commemorate the 50th anniversary of the merger of the 1866 Conference and 1785 Conference into a new South Carolina Annual Conference. The Annual Conference needs to begin to plan an appropriate way to recognize this significant anniversary.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Luther H. Rickenbaker III, chairperson
R. Phillip Stone II, PhD, conference archivist

Children's Ministry

Purpose/Responsibilities: Support the mission of the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty in South Carolina.

The Children's Ministry Area is sharing stories and connecting to local churches to be involved with and for children in our annual conference. Our local churches continue to be creative with opportunities to serve.

The Columbia District Connectional Ministries supported the "Hand y Mano" summer enrichment program for refugee children during July, reaching more than 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.

Through after school programs, mentoring and tutoring, our churches have connected with local schools to assist with language skills, literacy and math knowledge.

Safe Sanctuary Train-the-Trainer has continued to teach participants to provide Safe Sanctuary policies for local churches.

The Abundant Health Initiative will provide resources and creative avenues to work with children in our conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha F. Thompson, chairperson

Adult Ministries

In early Spring 2017, the Adult Ministries Area (formerly known as Older Adult Ministries) hosted a Spiritual Life Retreat in Myrtle Beach. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston was the retreat leader, and we had an attendance of approximately 250.

Afterward, the retreat planning group determined that the retreat needed to be revamped to include all adults, not just older adults. Part of this discussion stemmed from a workshop held in Nashville (Fall 2016) that focused on the new Baby Boomer ministry push.

In cooperation with The Upper Room ministry, a new location was chosen and a new format of promotion and workshops was put into place. That resulted in the 2018 Adult Spiritual Life Retreat, held Feb. 6-8, 2018, in North Charleston.

Our hope is that through these larger retreats, we can identify topics of interest and make arrangements to take them directly to the districts to better disperse information and resources.

As a body, we sought to promote other events, such as the Festival of Wisdom and Grace, Aug. 13-16, 2018, at Lake Junaluska. We also are working to increase our online presence to promote programs and resources available to adult ministry groups.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hughes, convener

LAY LEADERSHIP AREA

Lay Leadership

Purpose/Responsibilities: The Lay Leadership Area of Connectional Ministries is tasked with offering opportunities and events that showcase the many areas laity are involved in mission and ministry. Our mission is always to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Highlights of group activities and ministries in which Lay Leadership was involved this past year:

Forward Focus

We celebrate the success of Forward Focus, which more than 130 churches have participated in, with more than 30 of those having completed the process. Forward Leaders – most of whom are laity – continue to be a key to the process.

Lay Leadership Executive Team

The focus of the Lay Leadership Executive Team has been to highlight mission work in individual churches around the conference and to inspire other churches to become involved in some of these missions.

The Mission Fair at the 2017 Annual Conference highlighted the work of these churches. The Lay Leadership Executive Team, with information submitted from each church, published a booklet with "how-to" instructions for each mission.

The team organized two sessions at the 2017 Annual Conference: Orientation Session for First-Time Lay Delegates, and a Laity Reception. For the 2018 Annual Conference, we plan to have orientation for first-time delegates and to introduce a new event, Laity Conversations: Sharing Your Successes.

We also maintain a table at each year's Annual Conference, making available various materials from the General Board of Discipleship that might be useful to laity in the local church.

Goodbye to familiar faces, hello to new roles

We recognize and celebrate that Donald Love, our associate conference lay leader, has answered the call to serve as a Lay Supply pastor at three churches in the Rock Hill District. Donald has made the decision to step aside effective at the end of the 2018 Annual Conference. We thank Donald for his long-time commitment and service to the laity of the South Carolina Annual Conference. He will be greatly missed by our team and group.

David Salter and Betty Void are being brought forward to fill the roles of associate lay leaders beginning after the 2018 Annual Conference. They will work with district lay leaders, as well as maintain responsibility for possible projects and programs.

We also wish to thank our cabinet representatives – the Rev. Paul Harmon and the Rev. Thomas Pearson – for their support throughout the year. In addition, we wish Rev. Harmon a happy retirement and again offer our thanks to him for his insight and support over the years to the Lay Leadership Area.

Priorities/objectives for the coming year

Continue to build on successful Annual Conference events.

Offer laity information at events across the Annual Conference as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ware, conference lay leader

Lay Servant Ministries

Purpose/Responsibilities: To educate leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are a bridge connecting churches through the districts and all throughout the world. We strengthen churches by developing local leadership.

Key moments from the previous year:

1. Superior, in-depth "Train-the-Trainers" / hands-on training.
2. Infusion of new course offerings, unique and alternate training methods in the districts.
3. Wide and varied support of church and community missions in all districts.
4. AC2017 Luncheon; huge success, fully attended by laity and clergy throughout all districts and conference office. Virginia UMC Clergy and Certified Lay Speaker delivered excellent presentation.
5. Tremendous increase in the numbers of "Certified Lay Speakers".

Priorities/objectives for the coming year:

1. Work closer with our congregational specialists to promote "connecting with our community."
2. Stay active with the Bishop's Big Vision, Dream, Forward Focus and Mission and Young Adult projects.
3. Going out and offering "HOPE" to our communities.
4. Sharing the knowledge that there's "POWER" in the name of Jesus!
5. Continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this:

1. Lay Servant Ministries is the backbone of the United Methodist Church.
2. We are the wind beneath the UMC wings.
3. Lay Servant Ministries is essential to the growth of ministries and missions
4. Lay Servant Ministries builds authentic leadership.

Narrative:

Lay Servant Ministries supports all facets of the local church and the local church is the arena where "all those people" come in the doors – and disciples are made! Lay Servant Ministries is the key to the growth and the driving force in our church for continued denominational growth and development. Lay Servant Ministries is the spark to making disciples a priority and inspiring others into the ministry.

Ministry members: Gwendolyn Brown (Anderson District); W. Edward Herlong (Hartsville District); Kris Bergmann, Constance L. Wilborn (Charleston District); David Lovell, Bill Barber (Marion District); Deborah Watford (Columbia District); Sheila Shanklin, Mark West (Orangeburg District); Dr. Evelyn Fulmore (Florence District); Pam Brenwald, James Haynes (Rock Hill District); Brian Underwood, Kellie Alexander, Kenneth Mooror (Greenville District); Christine Dawson (Greenwood District); Annie Crocker, Terry Sturgill, Beth Lewis (Spartanburg District); Tom Whitacre, Thelma Hudson (Walterboro District).

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie G. Jenkins, conference director

OUTREACH AREA

Conference Board of Global Ministries

During 2017, the Conference Board of Global Ministries was successful in getting the word out to churches/organizations concerning the grants distributed by the board. As a result, we now have many more requests than we have funding – a blessing in our estimation! 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 of the spring cycle for this year's grants. We believe that those who received grants met the criteria expressed by the intent of the Belin Board of Trust and the Annual Conference. We also identified some potential areas where an application may be slowed down or missed because of deadline requirements. We are currently in the process of updating our applications with this information included so applicants can adjust their timeline accordingly.

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

Spartanburg Methodist College: SMC is not only a highly regarded educational institution, it is also an outreach ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference. SMC provides opportunities and growth and learning for many students who otherwise would not 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. The CBGM approved SMC's request to receive \$850,000 from the Annual Conference for 2017.

Communities of Shalom: We are in the process of defining how the Annual Conference connects with 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. And while the original intent of the support from the Annual Conference was to be temporary, it continues. The congregational specialists continue to work with the Communities of Shalom and will report to the CBGM and the Annual Conference when this relationship is more fully defined. Communities of Shalom are community organizing ministries, helping each community look at issues and problems within the community and how best to address those issues using resources available. The CBGM provided the Communities of Shalom \$2,400 in support in 2017.

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. Due to some leftover funds from previous food drives held at Annual Conference, we were able to distribute \$14,250 to hunger ministries this year.

Church Extension Partnership: Originally a program to help smaller-membership churches (100 members or less) with physical repairs community. There are three "calls" given each year at Lent, Advent and Annual Conference, through which individuals and local churches can contribute to the designated recipient of the call to help with their ministry. This program is currently suspended due to lack of funds.

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. Grants for structures, buildings and salaries are not usually considered. Also, these grants are considered "start-up" funds, so multiple grants for the same project are not usually approved. 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 \$164,500 in support of eight ministries in 2017.

Advance Special Ministries: These missional organizations within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference 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 by the Annual Conference every quadrennium and apply for

funding every year. These organizations have their own boards 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 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. These organizations also are supported by a line item in the Connectional Ministries budget. The CBGM would encourage each church within the Annual Conference to pay 100 percent appointments to increase the amount these ministries receive. This amount was \$130,200 in 2017. 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 to resupply Disaster Response trainers with a grant of \$10,000. The CBGM also used \$1,500 from its contingency fund to make a grant to the new "Me to We" connectional quilt project.

The CBGM looks forward to all the great ministry that will be done in the future as a result of its efforts. A special thank you to all those who served faithfully and diligently as a part of the Conference Board of Global Ministries in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Stephen D. Gaither, convener

Disaster Recovery Ministries

During 2017, Disaster Recovery Ministries completed work on 77 homes damaged by historic floods and storms that swept across South Carolina in 2015 and 2016.

More than \$151,417 was spent on the materials needed to make those repairs.

Some 768 volunteers on 54 volunteer teams put in countless hours of work on those homes – some coming from around the conference, others from neighboring states and beyond.

In spite of that remarkable progress, hundreds of South Carolina families remain in need of assistance. Nearly all of them are living in homes with one or more rooms awaiting repairs in the wake of the floods and storms because they have nowhere else to stay.

All told, 33 of South Carolina's 46 counties were affected by the flooding rains of October 2015 or Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. As other assistance programs move to other states to assist with more recent disasters, Disaster Recovery Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference remains active in coordinating assistance to families that still need help recovering.

Volunteer teams and individuals are needed to help return these families to safe, sanitary and secure homes. Volunteering with Disaster Recovery Ministries is a great way to maintain and learn new skills, which assist local families and helps better prepare teams and individuals to serve with Salkehatchie Summer Service and in other disaster recovery situations.

Please communicate this ongoing need to others – and consider how God is calling you to assist with Disaster Recovery Ministries.

For more information, please call 803-603-1790.

To volunteer, please call 803-726-3105 or email screcover@umcsc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Ward Smith, director

Disaster Response

In 2017 and early 2018, teams from the South Carolina Annual Conference continued to work hard to respond to those in need in the wake of disasters in South Carolina and around the world.

South Carolina Early Response Teams put in more than 4,600 hours in responding to about 100 events across South Carolina including, tornados, severe storms and damaging winter weather. Of those events, 68 involved chainsaw crews and 24 involved tarp/roof patching crews. Among the more significant events were:

June 22, 2017 – A seven-person crew cut a storm damaged tree off of a Summerton home and performed other repairs, putting in a total of 56 hours.

June 28, 2017 – A seven-person crew cut a huge tree off of a Branchville home and performed other repairs, putting in a total of 43 hours.

Sept. 12–14, 2017 – Teams in and near North cut debris out of roadways, opened up access to homes and removed one big tree that had fallen onto a home in the wake of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irma, among other work. Other teams in the Upstate cut out access at 23 different homes and placed tarps on two homes. All told, ERT teams put in a total of 930 hours.

Oct. 25-27, 2017 – A team of 20 volunteers responded to multiple homes after a tornado struck near Spartanburg, putting in more than 400 hours on 13 chainsaw jobs and three tarp/roof repair jobs.

ERTs also responded to neighboring UMC conferences in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, sending teams to Georgia and Florida in 2017, and to Puerto Rico in 2018 to perform cleanup work in the wake of Hurricanes Maria:

Sept. 24-27, 2017 – Billy Robinson, ERT disaster coordinator for United Methodist Volunteers In Mission South Carolina, led a team of 12 to Savannah and Tybee Island, Georgia, logging 312 hours on five chainsaw jobs, one muck-out job and one roof tarp job.

Oct. 8-13, 2017 – Robinson led three ERT teams with 22 volunteers and three work trailers. The teams put in a total of 2,300 hours on 13 chainsaw jobs, eight roof tarp jobs and one muck out job.

Feb. 24-March 3, 2018 – Nate Gibson, an ERT team leader at Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington, led a specialized team of 10 volunteers to Arecibo and Hatillo, Puerto Rico, to help in the rebuild process through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, with plans to return in the future. The volunteers worked about 400 hours on four houses and a Methodist camp, making three of the houses livable again.

With a continued need to grow our capacity to respond effectively to disasters, the South Carolina Disaster Response Team is finding new ways to provide more leadership training for ERTs and better connecting with United Methodist Volunteers in Ministry and Disaster Recovery ministries for long-term recovery solutions.

With a renewed focus on training, the Disaster Response Team also will start to hold larger quarterly trainings across the conference and be in partnership with conference events to provide awareness and training opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Brodie, coordinator

SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2019

A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBGS, CORR)	January 20
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 20
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2019
Golden Cross Sunday (GBGM)	February 3
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 10
Women's History Month	March 2019
World Day of Prayer	March 1
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 10
Holy Week	April 14-20
UMCOR Sunday	March 31
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2019
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2019
Older Adult Recognition Day	(any day in May)
National Day of Prayer	May 2
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	May 5
Christian Family Week	May 6-12
Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	May 19
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBGS)	June 16
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct. 15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 6
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance	October 11-13
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 20
All Saints Sunday	November 3
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 10
United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 24
World AIDS Day	December 1

B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS AND MONTHS

United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 10
Mother's Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home	May 12
Advocate Awareness Sunday	May 19
United Methodist Men's Day	June 9

Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday with Offering
 Call to Ministry Sunday
 Work Day Offering for Epworth Children's Home
 Youth Service Fund Sunday with Offering
 Advance Special Ministries Sunday with Offering

August 11
 August 18
 September 8
 September 15
 November 3

RECOMMENDED ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES FOR 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Alston Wilkes Society

Agency Description: 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 mission of the BCACM is to connect, equip, and empower member churches for witness and service.

The vision of the BCACM: The BCACM will be a unified body of believers making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

History and Mission of the 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 & 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 & Middle School, Clio Elementary & Middle School, and Bennettsville Middle School. In addition, we sponsor the Sacred Saturday (focusing on children & youth ages 5-11) and Tea Time with Teens (focusing on abstinence with 10-18 girls), VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership trainings, health screenings, soup kitchen, food distribution, summer day camps, and flood buckets.

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

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

Bethlehem Community Center – Columbia

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

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

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

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

Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaBethlehemCommunityCenter>

Visit our website at <http://bethlehemcenter.umcsc.org/>

Bethlehem Center Spartanburg

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

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

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

PROGRAMS:

- Afterschool: Serving youth ages 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)

Christian Assistance Bridge

The Christian Assistance Bridge exists to provide hope and support to those in need in our community through a collaborative effort of local churches, individuals and support organizations.

By joining efforts, we will strengthen our mission and our faith, as well as the faith of those we serve. The Christian Assistance Bridge reaches out to the community by offering basic necessities and hands-up assistance during crisis situations. By representing Christian values, we will grow discipleship through service and obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To meet the growing needs of Blythewood and surrounding communities, in addition to food, CAB offers emergency financial aid for utilities, rent, medication, gas and shelter.

The Cooperative Ministries - Columbia

OUR MISSION: To increase the economic self-sufficiency of people experiencing poverty in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs.

OUR HISTORY: In 1982 The Cooperative Ministry was founded by five churches (First Presbyterian Church, Main Street Methodist, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Washington Street United Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church) in downtown Columbia. Their goal was to establish a collaborative method of administering assistance to those in need, while also preventing duplication of services. Since then TCM has grown to encompass congregations of all faiths, over 120 partnering agencies, and countless civic and social organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals. We believe in the honor of all work, we show individuals the respect they deserve.

WE HELP BECAUSE ... As God's created people we are called to be like our Creator – to walk in God's way – the way of love, compassion and mercy. Compassion is at the heart of faith in God and we are called to care deeply and act concretely to alleviate suffering. This

is a call to action, and not an easy one, but one which we engage in joyfully and thoughtfully. We are called to release people from bondage to a cycle of poverty. We desire to honor God by reflecting Divine compassion for the working poor.

Interfaith Community Services

Interfaith Community Services works with faith and community partners to improve the lives of low-income children and families in South Carolina. We have enjoyed a 40-year partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Conference in this work.

Interfaith's 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 honesty and integrity in everything we do. We provide service in the spirit of unity and sincerity. These principles guide our work and inspire our mission.

Killingsworth

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.

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.

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 McConnell's. 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 41st 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.

Please go to www.ruralmission.org to learn more and to be a part of our ministry as a friend and supporter or as a volunteer answering the call to missions. The rural Sea Islands offer a unique setting and experience for all to grow in faith and maturity.

The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center

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

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

The Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT

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- South Carolina UMVIM-SC

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.

UMVIM-SC meets monthly except in June and July the first Tuesday of each month at Leesville, UMC in Leesville, SC at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend even if you have not participated in UMVIM before.

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)*

It was a really good year for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. There were no storms dropping trees on our homes and no flood to chase our ladies away from their resting places. ASNM had all three homes filled all year, Columbia Builder's Care Home with six women in residence, Aldersgate at The Oaks in Orangeburg with six men in residence and Rick's House in Florence with four men in residence. During the year there was only one vacancy. It was at Rick's House and was filled immediately.

Most of the staff of Aldersgate are long-time employees, some going back to the original home openings in 2008 and 2009. There were additions to the work force this year as the needs and opportunities have increased. ASNM in January, 2018 added health insurance coverage for all full-time employees. All three homes earned a "Five Star" rating from the DDSN Quality Assurance and Licensing agency.

Our resident's days are filled with a multitude of activities. Several have part-time jobs, there are workshops and there is time for play. As with most families they help with keeping their homes in order as well as caring for their individual rooms and with personal grooming.

They have opportunity to participate in a number of outside groups. They enjoy attending Churches, and going to community events and festivals. Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army collections at Christmas this year, is an example of their volunteering in community work. The ladies of the Columbia home enjoyed "A Night to Shine" which was specifically for special needs persons, hosted by Mt. Horeb UMC in February.

The residents have become "families" in each home, which is a good relationship for all concerned. The most recent resident coming into Rick's House said goodbye to his parents as they left, calling to them from the door, "Goodbye, this is my home now. I love it!"

The support from Churches, Sunday School classes, community groups, businesses and individuals has continued to grow over these fourteen years of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry's existence. More than 25 % of the South Carolina United Methodist Churches have made contributions to the Ministry. ASNM is grateful to each one and there is a great opportunity to increase that participation.

Sunday, August 12, 2018 is Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday in our South Carolina Conference United Methodist Churches. Tell your congregation about this offering and give them an opportunity to join in this ministry. Let them choose how they will support it.

Every gift may be a seed of things to come.

The needs for homes for adults with special needs will continue to grow beyond the number of homes available. We have made a dent in this need. It is a good start. ASNM asks you to help it grow.

Pray for Aldersgate. God has blessed this ministry and we thank Him. Nearly every church has families with special needs. Not all will require a home away from home, but some will. This is Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry at work.

Brochures, envelopes and information are available at the ASNM display in the exhibit area at Annual Conference.

For more information or materials contact;

Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson

ASNM Board of Trustees

E-mail: mmcguirt@sc.rr.com

Telephone: 843-237-8040

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Moss McGuirt, Chairperson

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 122 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.

The most significant factor in Epworth's operation was a result of a final lawsuit agreement approved by federal judge Richard Gergel. The lawsuit was initiated by Children's Rights, an organization based in New York, and named Governor Haley and the S.C. Department of Social Services. Former Gov. Haley decided not to contest the lawsuit, thus a settlement was signed and has the effect of federal law under which the Department of Social Services operates. This order impacts publicly placed children in South Carolina.

The greatest impact on the work of Epworth is, with few exceptions, children 12 and under are not to be placed in congregant care (children's homes), and if there is another placement available (foster parents, relatives, others) older children are not to be placed in congregate care. Our lower population numbers reflect the impact of this settlement.

Another factor that will influence Epworth's child care is a result of the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act by the U.S. Congress. This act was a last minute insertion into the Budget Extension Bill that was passed to prevent a government shut-down. This act had failed to pass previously but was slipped into the larger bill virtually unnoticed and thus became law. Among other things this bill severely restricts funding for children who are placed in children's homes like Epworth.

Epworth and other children's homes are in various stages of transition because of this and other changes in the child welfare system at both the federal and state levels.

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 fifth year in row Epworth's high school students graduated at a 100% rate; 97% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals at school; 80% of students had a "C" average or better each quarter; and 33% 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 sixth 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 53 children per day in the residential population plus supported 15 higher education students who lived on and off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program served a total of 23 children in a pre-school program. This program serves children who experience developmental delays. The EEIC program also served 46 children and their families on a regular basis through its home-based component. This is a total of 137 children served at any given time.

- IV. Entered year three as a nationally accredited organization through 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 Board of Trustees adopted a budget of \$6,896,698 for the fiscal year 1-1-18 through 12-31-18. This is a decrease of \$487,141 over the 2017 budget.
- VI. Began year 11 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 2017 was \$7.71. This is a decrease of .08 cents per member from 2016. Church giving increased by \$109,541.59 in 2012; by \$22,000 in 2013; by \$204,000 in 2014; by \$92,000 in 2015; and by \$12,111 in 2016. Total giving increased in 2013 by \$102,887; by \$313,000 in 2014; by \$220,000 in 2015; by \$201,500 in 2016 and decreased by \$40,662.06 in 2017. The number of churches that failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals for children increased from 231 to 238. There were 380 churches that met or exceeded the minimum of six dollars per member average. A complete report can be located at www.epworthchildrenshome.org. 805 of 999 congregations ordered materials for at least one of the two Epworth Sundays.
- VII. Completed the fourth 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 PQI initiative. The PQI department is designed to promote evidence based practices and measure all outcomes by objective standards.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. 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 acquisition gives Epworth a second campus from which to operate. The new campus joins the property of Trenholm Road UMC. Building renovations and program location has begun.
- X. The Foster Family Engagement Center has opened on the Trenholm Road campus. Foster families are being recruited and licensed. Our churches are serving as the principal recruiting sites for foster parents. The first foster children were placed with their foster families.
- XI. The Peanut Butter Ice Cream Project is in the test marketing stage. Through volunteer efforts of The Friends of Epworth, Riggs Partners, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm, The Darla Moore School of Business, South-eastern Freight Lines, and others, Epworth's famous peanut butter ice cream was test marketed and is being readied for distribution in 2018.
- XII. The Epworth Every Child is A Miracle financial campaign continues to move toward the goal of raising \$10,000,000 to support the work of the United Methodist Church through Epworth Children's Home.
- XIII. With the assistance of volunteers, donations, and grants three buildings on the new Trenholm Road campus have been significantly upgraded to house the Center for Independent Living, the Center for Foster Family Engagement, and a third program yet to be named.
- XIV. The Center for Social Enterprise has been created and the initial product from this center will be the Epworth Ice Cream project which is led by The Friends of Epworth which is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose purpose is to raise funds for and an awareness of Epworth Children's Home.
- XV. 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 ability 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.

December 2017 brought the completion of the Phase I and II portions of our \$ 27 million expansion that included a new Assisted Living Facility with additional apartments (Wesleyan Suites), activity spaces and amenities. An additional 19 apartments of Alzheimer's/Dementia Care, a new dining venue in the form of a Bistro and a wonderful Auditorium that will be used for a variety of activities, entertainment and speaking engagements. Phase II of the construction, consisted of the complete refurbishment of our Health Care/Skilled Nursing Facility, remodeling and refurbishment of the Main lobby, Activity and Dining spaces within the Independent Living sections of Methodist Manor, additions of a new Solarium and Conservatory. A Physicians Clinic which is now open and operating, with a Physician who attends to any of our Residents that choose them and patients from out in the public. A new Therapy Suite that house Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy, these services are also utilized by our Residents and patients from out in the public. The Manor has been open 28 years and undertaking this complete renovation and expansion to our existing Community allows us to maintain the level of quality living experience and care expected by people seeking retirement housing in Florence, SC.

We feel the 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. We are also beginning to see our Senior population as a whole live longer than previous generations and tend to need the full continuum of Care; Independent, Assisted Living and Health Care that's offered at Methodist Manor.

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
Teresa L. Tabor, President and CEO The Manor

THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE METHODIST OAKS

The mission of The Methodist Oaks is to provide superior continuing care retirement living 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 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as the South Carolina Home for the Aging. With ten residents and Reverend J.F.M. Hoffmeyer as the administrator, the Home opened on January 6, 1954. Today, The Methodist Oaks is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) serving approximately 500 residents and patients on its main campus, at its PACE facility in Orangeburg and in the greater Orangeburg community. On the main campus, the CCRC, Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitative Services are offered. To meet the needs of today's seniors who prefer to stay in their homes as long as possible, The Methodist Oaks has expanded its services to include Senior Solutions, a non-medical home care service. Senior Solutions is available on campus and to residents in Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties. To close the circle in the continuum of care and to provide a necessary service for our residents and the community, the addition of a memory care unit in the assisted living is now being explored.

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides holistic medical and health-related care to poor, elderly patients in Orangeburg, Bamberg, and Calhoun counties who qualify for skilled nursing care. With strong family support and PACE, the residents are able to receive the care they need while remaining in their homes. PACE is operated in a specifically designed facility located at 153 Founders Court in Orangeburg. PACE serves up to 145 participants across the three counties.

On the main campus, The Methodist Oaks offers many activities that nourish residents and clients physically, mentally and spiritually. The Methodist Oaks has fully staffed Campus Life, Wellness and Chaplain's Offices offering a myriad of programs, activities and support for residents and also the community. Passport to The Oaks is a community based membership program that allows members use of the fitness and wellness center as well as participation in activities. Additionally, a physician's office is located on our campus along with an audiologist, podiatrist, and pharmacy services, providing convenient health care services for our residents.

The Methodist Oaks is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, which is a not for profit charitable and religious organization. It is directed by The Methodist Oaks' Board of Trustees, a twenty-one member board consisting primarily of South Carolina United Methodist clergy and laity. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of The Methodist Oaks and works closely with Chief Executive Officer, Andy Cox, and his staff to look strategically at the organization's future. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee meet at least quarterly to monitor the status and review the direction of the organization.

The Methodist Oaks is most appreciative of its connection with the SC Conference of The United Methodist Church. In addition to approving the slate of Board of Trustee members each year, the Annual Conference also provides financial support for the Residents Assistance Fund through apportionment giving. Because of this support, The Methodist Oaks is able to accept Medicaid in the nursing facility and is able to assist other residents in staying at The Methodist Oaks when they have, through no fault of their own, exhausted their own resources. In addition, the first Aldersgate Home is on the campus, and for this relationship through the connection, we are most grateful. In June of 2016 at Annual Conference, Revered Meredith M. Dark was appointed Chaplain and she has been an outstanding addition to the staff and to the community.

As the retirement environment and the needs of those individuals who are served continue to change, The Methodist Oaks will remain committed to its ministry and mission and provide new and necessary services, including a memory care unit, to meet the needs of our residents and the community. If you are not already familiar with The Methodist Oaks, we invite you to contact us and to visit our campus individually or with your church group. To learn more about The Methodist Oaks, please visit us at theoakssc.com.

The Reverend Ron Pettit, Chairperson of Board of Trustees

WESLEY COMMONS

Fiscal Year 2017 ended with several historic accomplishments for Wesley Commons. This past year has positioned our mission on very solid footing for the future. We not only opened new restaurants and activity areas across our campus, but we were able to complete an ambitious replacement of our health services program on an adjacent campus to our residential offerings.

Our campus occupancy is in a very strong position as we continue to see a steady migration of retirees from across the Country. With more than 85% 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 active and engaged retirees. As of this writing, our waiting list continues to grow, as we celebrate our occupancy and reservation levels back above 97%.

To continue and maintain our growth and lifestyle offerings, we opened two unique dining venues. Following the completion of our resort level kitchen project, the Arbor Room Café opened to great fanfare. Soon after, our outdoor venue, the Pavilion opened as well. Our already active outdoor recreation areas were also expanded, with the addition of our new nature trail that now complements our over three miles of sidewalks and trails on campus. Our new pickle ball complex, putting green and new regulation shuffle board courts have all received extensive use from the vibrant residents of our campus.

In addition to our advancements with our Residential offerings; our Assisted Living and Special Care expansion was successfully completed and occupied ahead of schedule. Also, our exceptionally unique post-acute rehabilitation facility and a long term skilled nursing home project has opened and is a testament to amazing vision and dedication of our board and staff. While the building is an architectural marvel and social and philosophical achievement, we are most proud of the fact that we remain one of the very few organizations that offers all private medical residences regardless of ones pay source. Actually, 50% of our new building is occupied by low income individuals receiving Medicaid support at rates lower than most motels. Our challenge, which we remain vigilant to overcome, is to serve these exceptional programs while remaining affordable and viable for a diverse population.

As you can see, our Ministry to serve our older brothers and sisters continues to grow as a result of our expanding programs. In 2017, Wesley Commons provided over \$1,413,640 of subsidized care. We are grateful for the support of the Methodist Conference, in its support of just over 189,940 towards supporting those in need. The support of the Conference and other private supporters enables Wesley Commons to provide support for many in need.

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. 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 Robert E Stillwell, Chairman
David B. Buckshorn, President/CEO

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

HIGHLIGHTS

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University is continuing its upward trajectory towards being recognized as a leading 21st Century institution of higher education that develops a diverse and inclusive community of globally engaged visionary leader. Tisdale graduated with honors in 1965 and began his tenure in 1994 as the eighth president at his alma mater.

Founded in 1869 as the first HBCU in South Carolina, Claflin University has consistently achieved recognition as one of America's best liberal arts colleges by numerous prestigious national publications such as U.S. News and World Report, Forbes.com and Washington Monthly. Its beautiful historic campus is home to more than 2,000 students from every region of the United States and more than 12 international countries. For the seventh consecutive year, Claflin University has earned a place among the top 10 in U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of the nation's Top 20 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Claflin University is an important economic engine in its community, generating substantial economic returns year after year. A recent landmark study commissioned by UNCF (United Negro College Fund) and based on the Class of 2014 reveals that Claflin University is helping to make Orangeburg, S.C. and the region strong by generating an estimated \$79 million in total economic impact. The study was underwritten by Citi Foundation and the economic estimates were prepared by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth. Other key findings of the study show that Claflin University generates 835 jobs for the local and regional economies and graduates of Claflin University can expect to earn \$1 billion over their lifetimes, 70 percent more than they could expect to earn without a college credential.

Clafin University was the recipient of the UNCF/Lilly Endowment Career Pathways Initiative award along with Benedict College and Voorhees College. As the lead institution for the Carolina Cluster Career Pathways Program, Clafin received \$3.3 million of the \$6 million grant among the three institutions. The Carolina Cluster Career Pathways Program will prepare students for high-paying private and public-sector occupations in the Carolinas and elsewhere. It seeks to do this by guided pathways, curricular enhancements and integrated co-curricular engagement. This Carolina Cluster Pathway Program is our collaborative response to America's need for talent and our graduates desire to be competitive in obtaining high-paying 21st century jobs.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction of the BMCR held its 2017 Harambee Youth Conference at Clafin University on June 22-29, 2017, and the event brought together more than 180 youth who engaged each other for spiritual enlightenment and to learn more about The United Methodist Church. Many representatives from The United Methodist Church's 14 general agencies also attended the conference to inspire and encourage participants during their journey to greater spiritual awareness. More than 4,500 youth have participated in the SEJ-BMCR Youth Harambee during the program's 20-year history.

"The State of the Church: Courageous Conversations in Remembering Our History and Seeking a Hopeful Future" was the theme for the 25th Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy held at Clafin University on February 2-3, 2017. Speakers for this event included Bishop James Swanson, Resident Bishop of the Mississippi Conference; Bishop Woodie White, Bishop in Residence at Candler School of Theology; Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society; Dr. William "Bobby" McClain; professor emeritus at Wesley Theological Seminary; and Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop of the South Carolina Conference. The Granville Hicks Leadership Academy honors the Rev. Dr. Granville A. Hicks, a 1957 Clafin graduate who has been recognized for his leadership as a pastor and district superintendent in the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy is to equip laity and clergy for ministry and leadership within the church. It works to empower individuals with biblical knowledge, intellectual growth and theological reflection that will enhance church development, renewal and mission outreach.

Brittani V. Levine and Taylor J. Willis served as Clafin's Lina H. McCord interns. Levine is a politics and justice studies major from Moncks Corner, S.C. She is a member of the Criminal Justice Society, the M.I.S.S. Women's organization, and several honor societies. Willis, a native of Sumter, S.C. and psychology major, is active on-campus as the recruitment chair for the Clafin University Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society and the treasurer of the American Chemical Society.

The ground-breaking ceremony of Clafin's new Health and Wellness Complex on September 7, 2017, launched the construction of a dynamic, multi-purpose facility that will provide a new gateway to the University for area residents. The Health and Wellness Complex is a 31,000 square-foot facility that will expand and renovate the existing Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Center. The complex will provide holistic health, nutrition, life-long wellness education and other benefits to the campus community and residents. The ultra-modern facility will include an auxiliary gym, fitness center, demonstration kitchen, walking track, office space, classrooms, and a farmer's market with locally-sourced foods. The Complex will open Fall 2018.

Clafin's Board of Visitors has launched FOCUS 100 Campaign, which seeks to raise \$1 million over five years to provide financial assistance to students who need funds in order to continue their education at the University.

Clafin University remains committed to honor and support its affiliation with The United Methodist Church in publications, programs and campus-wide assemblies.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Columbia College continues to focus on our students and increasing opportunities through developing strong community partnerships to enhance their experiences and the impact on those in our region. The relationship with the United Methodist Church and our founding in the faith is what leads and guides our commitment to service, social justice and community.

Academics and the education of the whole person are central to who we are and what we do. The curriculum has seen the addition of twelve new programs, with a focus on areas of opportunity for educating young women in the traditional setting as well as providing for those in the various areas of the Communiversy (online, evening, graduate and associate to bachelor). These new programs build on strengths of the institution and needs of the community. Beginning in March, we will launch a partnership established with the City of Columbia Fire Department for a cohort in Fire Science as part of our Emergency Disaster Management degree. Other areas of study that have been approved include concentrations in the business program and sciences.

The College continues to expand its partnership with the South Carolina Technical Colleges. Through an enhanced relationship with Midlands Technical College, students will have an opportunity to engage in a unique program for a BSN beginning in Fall 2018. In addition to articulation agreements with individual institutions for specific programs, a comprehensive agreement was arranged with the Technical College System to ensure a smooth and expedited transition for students. The online bachelor degree programs was recognized by US News and World Report as one of the best, ranking 153 out of more than 300 ranked programs.

In October, the College announced the first six student recipients for micro-seed funding as part of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurism. These students receiving mentoring from professional advisors in the business field to assist with the development of product/services, business plans, marketing and placement. Each student received startup funds that are then supplemented with additional dollars as their plans are produced and implemented. The second round of awards takes place in March.

Our student population shows strength in diversity. More than 50% of our students are of ethnic/racial diversity. The graduation rate for students of color mirrors the overall graduation rate of the student body. The most recent placement data for graduates (2017) is 94% headed to graduate school or finding meaningful employment.

A change in leadership took place with the retirement of Beth Dinndorf at the end of the 2017 academic year. Dr. Carol A. Moore, who last year served as interim provost was appointed interim president on July 1, 2017. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 26, 2018, Dr. Moore's interim title was removed, making her the permanent president. Dr. Robin Rosenthal, a member of the College community within the area of Psychology, now serves as Provost.

Columbia College is proudly building its relationship with the Methodist Church. We have been fortunate to have an association with College Place United Methodist Church for many years. This year we were blessed to enhance that affiliation through the spiritual and religious direction of Rev. Mary Johnson who served our students as college chaplain. In November, through the assistance of several members of the clergy, the College hosted a Prayer Breakfast focused on our common roots. The College continues to look at new ways to draw together a deeper and more meaningful experience for our students and the Church.

In preparation for the year ahead, members of the College community are focused on growing all aspects of the College enrollment and developing a philosophy as a student-ready college.

Carol A. Moore, President

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Mission

Spartanburg Methodist College is a two-year private residential institution within the United Methodist Connection. At SMC, lives are transformed in a values-oriented, student-centered atmosphere in the Christian tradition that encourages academic excellence, intellectual exploration, social awareness, and character development within the liberal arts tradition.

The academic program offers students the option of transferring to a four-year college or university for continued study or entering a career after graduation. The curriculum ranges from the basic liberal arts and transfer program to preparation for immediate entry into the job market through career track options. The College offers to a wide variety of students the opportunity of higher education by providing a competent and dedicated faculty, financial assistance, work-study positions, and special support programs

Vision

Spartanburg Methodist College will be the college of choice for residential or commuting students who desire the advantages of a church-related education. We will offer motivated students a liberal arts education in preparation for the senior college experience and lifelong learning through relevant and challenging academic programs, campus leadership opportunities, and strong athletic programs. We will do this in an environment of community and caring, where each student is respected as an individual with unique needs and is encouraged to achieve his or her fullest potential.

To achieve our vision, we must

1. Continue our ethic of teaching, learning, and caring.
2. Recruit, retain, empower, and reward highly qualified faculty and staff.
3. Improve facilities for academic, athletic, and student life.
4. Grow the institutional endowment to enhance student access through improved student aid opportunities.

Student Profile

SMC currently serves 787 students as they strive to gain knowledge, improve their lives and prepare to make their mark on the world. Of those students, 51% are minorities, 37% are first generation college students and 55% are PELL eligible with 56% of our students receiving the LIFE Scholarship. We are proud that 92% of our students come from South Carolina. Among our student body are 53 students from United Methodist churches who, because of their grounding in faith, are already finding ways to make a difference in our community.

Gratitude

Your commitment to the apportionment line item for SMC provides a mandate that we continue working on your behalf to produce well educated, servant leaders. These citizens will re-join their congregations and communities with essential skills and knowledge necessary for building a better future. Your support affirms the value of our mission.

For over 107 years, we have benefited from your prayers, gifts and especially the students you entrust to us. It is on behalf of those students that we say "Thank you!" for being a church that sees more to education than learning. We are honored to partner with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in pursuing our mission.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Wofford College celebrated another productive year marked by the opening of two new buildings, the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts and the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, as well as a new student fitness, recreation and intramural facility in the Benjamin Johnson Arena. Wofford creates an environment in which all aspects of college life — academics, athletics, residence life and co-curricular programming — work in concert to prepare students for life after Wofford. After four years at Wofford, graduates leave and immediately impact their communities as clergy, ethical business leaders, health care professionals, teachers, coaches, judges, 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.

For example, during the summer of 2017, six Wofford students interned for Project Transformation in Dallas, Texas, an AmeriCorps- and United Methodist Church-affiliated project that supports literacy initiatives for children and youth in under-resourced communities. During 2017, the college also launched the Community-Engaged Faculty Fellows program. The program, which institutionalizes support to faculty who have shown an interest in including civic-engagement in their classes, included 15 members of the faculty across nine disciplines. This program means that students are learning both in the classroom and in the community.

Wofford College remains committed to access and affordability. Currently first-generation students make up 15 percent of Wofford's student body. These students now have access to a new Pipeline to Postsecondary Success program, funded through the Jolley Foundation, designed to help them acclimate to campus and build a toolbox of skills that will help them succeed in college. The college has kept tuition increases to a minimum and offers a robust financial aid program that during the 2016-17 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, the college's 231 United Methodist students (14 percent of the student body) shared in more than \$8 million in financial aid this year (100 percent of the South Carolina Annual Conference's contribution goes toward financial assistance for these deserving students).

The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, Wofford Class of 1978 and the Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, directs interfaith programs at the college and serves as a credentialed coach through the United Methodist Church. He also teaches classes such as "Religion, Literature and the Environment" and "Religion in the American South." Elizabeth Fields directs the Halligan Center for Religious and Spiritual Life on campus, and the Rev. Paige Matthews Wolfe, a 2007 Wofford graduate and minister of Christian education and programs at Central United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, works with the college's Wesley Fellowship.

During their four years at Wofford, 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. For example, Wofford, in cooperation with the United Methodist Church, hosted "Who Lynched Willie Earle: Preaching to Confront Racism," a conference featuring lectures by the book's author Dr. Will Willimon, a 1968 Wofford graduate and retired United Methodist bishop, and Dr. Will Gravely, a 1961 Wofford graduate and longtime scholar on the subject, as well as a panel discussion with Bishop Jonathan Holston and other clergy from the Carolinas.

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

CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Purpose/Responsibilities: The Charleston Wesley Foundation exists on the campuses we serve (The Citadel, College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, Trident Technical College, Charleston Southern University) to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We seek to help followers of Christ grow in their faith and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. At CWF, we proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as articulated by the doctrines of the United Methodist Church. Not all of our students are Methodist (many aren't, and some do not profess the Christian faith). We welcome all who would join us on this journey of faith in Christ, regardless of where they are.

Key moments from previous year (*up to 5 successes, challenges, etc.; 1-2 sentences each*):

1. CWF baptized four students this school year, celebrating their step of faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to growth as his disciple.
2. CWF sent three mission teams this school year, engaging in mission work in Ecuador, Houston, and Sebring Florida. In addition to local mission work, the desire of the students of CWF to engage missionally continues to grow.
3. CWF engaged with over 5,000 students through outreach events across the five campuses this year. Additionally, over 250 students came to the weekly worship gatherings and Bible studies.
4. CWF is fostering 12 students exploring calls to vocational ministry. These students have heard God's call and are prayerfully discerning how God is calling them to fulfill this call.
5. While funding has increased dramatically, keeping up with the financial needs of the ministry has proved a daunting challenge. In order to effectively engage students at all five campuses, CWF needs for the SCAC to fund an associate campus minister.

Priorities/objectives for the coming year (*up to 5 new ministries, opportunities, etc.; 1-2 sentences each*):

1. Continue to develop leadership infrastructure to assist the CWF campus pastors in engaging students and helping them grow as disciples.
2. Create a "Wesley House" for intentional Christian community. This space will be a ministry gold mine, allowing students a dedicated space for worship, study, and community in the name of Christ.
3. Develop a vocational internship program that expands on the ministry engagement that CWF has done with students and truly make it a program that helps students discern their call to ministry and equips and guides them on that journey.
4. Develop programing geared toward students from each school year. While combined worship across campuses with students from all four years of college are wonderful, discipleship programs for freshman, and upperclassmen who are at different stages of life will be essential for maximizing the ability of CWF to meet the needs of the students we serve.
5. Secure adequate funding for campus pastoral staff. Even with the significant gains in fundraising, CWF needs to secure more reliable sources of income (specifically the Annual Conference funding an Associate position) to allow CWF to focus on discipleship development with adequate pastoral staff for the hundreds of students connected to our ministry.

Action required from 2018 Annual Conference (*if any*):

1. Fund and Associate Campus Pastor Position.

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this (*1-4 sentences*): God is continuing to grow CWF numerically and grant wonder success in its ministry to the college students in the Charleston area. The ministry needs more pastoral support and the fundraising required is causing a huge drain on the ministry. CWF needs the Annual Conference to add an additional Conference funded Associate position to keep the ministry at the success level to which it has arrived.

Narrative (*optional*):

Respectfully submitted:

Name: Aaron Meadows

Position: Director, Charleston Wesley Foundation

Email: aaron@charlestonwesleyonline.org

Phone: 843-345-3832

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

This is a great time to serve in campus ministry. As I wrap up my fifth 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 500 students this school year. Several hundred students call CUMC home for Sunday morning worship, while a couple hundred more are active in CW.

Over the course of the last year we had over 92 students total participate in weeklong mission trips to New Orleans, Tampa and Anchorage, AK. In addition to these week-long trips our students also engage in weekly outreach to the local community. Students at CW also participate in small group opportunities throughout the week. We have two worship services, Evensong and Eventide, which average 85 and 38 in attendance, respectively. 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 most bittersweet aspects of campus ministry is the fact that I get the privilege of walking with these students for their four years at college and then they will be gone onto the next phase of life. CW operates with a sense of urgency knowing that time is limited with our students. However, it is also encouraging to see where these young disciples end up. Currently, we have five recent graduates in UM seminaries. This past May we celebrated 28 graduating seniors. That is 28 new engineers, teachers, nurses, genetic counselors, business people and other professionals who will be living and serving in local communities. At CW we truly are a sending ministry as we help make disciples and then send them out into the world to transform it.

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,
Director, Clemson Wesley Foundation

COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION - METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

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

We serve on eight occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, entertain through music and offer words of encouragement. We tutor and mentor two times a week after school at a program for refugee children who are resettled in Columbia. We worked with ESL for adults and caring for the children. Additionally we serve on many other occasions and contexts such as Epworth Children's Home, the Tucker Center and Rural Mission.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year we took five different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to Sebring, Florida to do Hurricane Harvey relief work. We also traveled to Puerto Rico to do home repair and prepare for future teams to serve in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Rural Mission on the Sea Islands was also the site of a mission trip. Over spring Break we went on mission to Misahualli Ecuador, where we did a variety of services including offering an optometry clinic. In May we travelled to Malawi to be the first ever mission team hosted by the AME church in Malawi. There we offered medical, dental and optometry services.

About 60 students gather in small groups throughout the week support one another and to **learn more about their faith**. We have a Freshman groups, several coed groups, a graduate group and men's and women's groups. We have based these groups on a Covenant Discipleship model. We also have had small groups for study- "Pathways to Justice" and "Scripture and Prayer for Thinking People" as well as an interfaith group with Muslims and Jews called "Table of Abraham". This year we held four retreats to allow students more time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God.

We **worship** Sunday evening in a lively and joyous manner utilizing the various gifts of students and a diversity of traditions from the global church. Afterwards we eat together a meal donated by a local United Methodist church of prepared by our students. We include elements of worship in other settings including the small groups.

The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and meet to talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries. We have dinner for internationals and coffee/tea time open on a drop in basis weekly.

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 ALIVE IN CHRIST STUDENT MINISTRIES

2017 marked twenty-five years of ministry on the campus of Francis Marion University. The month of October was dedicated to celebrating our twenty-fifth year. Rev. Bill Heustess, who started the campus ministry, came and spoke along with former students and other guest through out the month.

The Wesley group meets weekly on Monday nights and for other outreach, retreat and fellowship events throughout the year. Our students have enjoyed retreats such as the Next Retreat in Atlanta, Georgia and the South Carolina Wesley Winter Retreats. These retreats have had such an positive impact on the students, that we are planning a new fall retreat for the group next year, in addition to attending the Winter Wesley Retreat. Our goal is to participate in two mission events each semester. To become more visible on campus we are planning to host a campus wide event in the fall just like we do in the spring. We will be implementing a new small group this coming fall, 2018, to target freshmen. This freshman group will be lead by our leadership team.

Two students came up with the idea of having some type of visual recognition of our group at graduation. The Student Affairs Office at FMU granted permission for our group to earn cords for their participation. The students set the bar high to obtain these cords. We have had eight students graduate earning cords in the past year.

Here's what one of our recent graduates had to say about this ministry had done for her. "This organization has changed my perspective about society and myself because things that I learned I could constantly apply in my daily life. There were times the concepts and scriptures from the bible introduced in Alive in Christ challenged my own values, actions and beliefs, and it pushed me to really think about what I believe in, lifestyle choices I have made and why I believe and act in this way. To me, this organization is not only a fellowshipping Christian group, but it is about exploring myself and others identity and seeing this world in a whole different perspective, from God's eyes, in hopes of making it better. This organization has been very fun and engaging. I enjoy the readings, lectures, and group discussions." -Alexis B.

With God's help may we continue to transform the lives of students on our campuses across the state.

Lou Jordan, Campus Director

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

In Paul's letter the Romans, he states, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."* The word Paul uses for "conform" has the root of **SCHEMA** – which means 'the outward form' that varies from year to year. So, for example, we don't have the same **SCHEMA** when we are 17, as we will when we are 70; we don't have the same

SCHEMA when we are going to the gym, as we do when we are going to church! Paul is saying, “Don’t try to match your life to all the fashions of this world; don’t be like a chameleon which takes its color from its surroundings.” In contrast, we are called to be “transformed.” The word used here has the root of *MORPHE* – which means the essential unchanging shape or element of a thing. Paul is challenging us to a life in which our true identity is unchanging even if our surroundings change. It doesn’t matter if we are at the gym, at home, or at church – our outward appearance may change, but the inner essence of who we are is the same.

This is a challenging concept in all of life, but especially on the college campus. There is the constant pull measure up to this ideal or join that group – the strong desire to simply ‘fit in.’ The temptation of course is that we will do whatever it takes to be a part of the in crowd, even if it means changing who we are to seem more like others. Our hope for Furman Wesley is that we can provide a space where students can not only be themselves, but also have a safe place to explore the life to which Christ is calling us. It is through the community of the church, or in our case Wesley [which IS the church], that we grow and are able to be transformed by the grace, love, and courage of Christ. It is in this community that we truly experience “*God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will.*” 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.

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

- Began the year with a gathering of 30+ students as we kicked off our new year.
- During the first month of classes, we visited 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.
- 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 on-campus for campus minister – my office is off-campus.
- Retreats – i.e., Mountain Getaway, Fall Retreat in the mountains, and Spring Retreat at Lake Junaluska.
- Missional Outreach – i.e., Work with Habitat Restore, Spring Break Missions in Honduras, and Relay for Life.
- Fellowship Opportunities – i.e., Lake Day, Football Tailgates, Christmas Party, Wesley Winter Day [ice skating and dinner], Movie Nights, Senior Luau.
- Sent one student to the Exploration event in Portland, OR.

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

LANDER UNIVERSITY METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Greenwood Wesley Foundation is known on Lander Campus as Methodist Campus Ministry (MCM). I have just completed my second year as the Campus Minister at Lander University Methodist Campus Ministry. We are one of four religious groups on campus with Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) being the biggest. We have a core group of 8 students who are dedicated to the ministry and dedicated to seeing it grow. This year we have seen our attendance grow to 17 with an average of 12 students on a given Tuesday night. The excitement and energy is spreading across Lander’s campus as we invite student after student to come checkout our ministry.

We meet on Tuesday Nights for a meal and Bible study in the Science Building on campus. This is a time where we dive deeper into texts. For the fall semester, the students wanted a Bible Study on how Christianity compares to other world religions. During the spring semester, we talked about questions they are questioning over Christianity. Each student submitted questions that they wrestle with and each week we discussed them. What I am most excited

about in our ministry is our diversity of students who are a part of the ministry. This makes our discussions very meaningful because we all have different backgrounds and we learn from each other. This is what ministry is all about; getting to know different people and views as we grow in our faith together.

In addition to our Bible Studies, I meet with the students on Thursdays for coffee. This has been great because it has allowed me to meet some friends of the students, as well as some faculty. It is hard for me to spend much time on campus with the charge in McCormick, but I think being an active presence on campus is crucial. During this time on Thursdays, students want to talk about things happening in their lives and some just want me to meet their friends. Whatever the case, I am there for them. Throughout the year, we took a retreat to John's Island for spiritual growth, participated in a winter retreat at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC for campus ministry across the South Carolina Annual Conference and multiple fellowship opportunities (Pumpkin Carving, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Party, Movie Nights, Exam Study Breaks, Bowling, and Game Nights). We had one student participate in SIM and another went to Portland, OR to participate in Exploration exploring the call to ministry). We also teamed up with the Charleston Foundation and went on a Mission Trip to Ecuador in May.

MCM is changing lives at Lander University and I see it by the love the students have for one another. There is much excitement around the ministry and I know that it will grow. Thanks for the support and I ask that you will continue to keep us in prayer as we provide a Methodist presence at Lander University!

Rev. Justin Ritter, Campus Minister

ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

"Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation has begun a new chapter. On August 1st, 2017, Rev. Mary Haggard, on loan from the Peninsula Delaware Conference, started as the new Director and Campus Minister of **The Wesley of Orangeburg (TWO)**. Students started moving in just 10 days later. We hit the ground running greeting freshmen, families, and support staff with Freeze Pops at SC State and Claflin University. With the South Carolina heat, it sometimes felt like passing out winning lottery tickets.

Ever since, things have been "on the move".

- Praying the Invocation and/or Benediction with students for multiple services and events in the fall semester.
- Meeting with students to discuss how things of the past functioned, and strategies for meeting student needs in the future.
- Meeting students and other campus leaders at SC State's Activities fair.
- Starting our weekly Tuesday night "Nacho Average Bible Study" of the Gospel of Mark. It's a slow progression. We don't too get far, but we definitely dive deep. We'll finish Chapter 6 by the end of the semester.

Some questions that have come up in Bible Study:

1. How a story starts tells you a lot about what to expect. How would the story of you start? "I don't know what you heard, but here's the truth" (Luke), or with a quote like Mark, or history like Matthew, or something real deep like John?
 2. How would you choose your 12 disciples?
 3. What if Jesus chose Judas because he would be strong enough to betray Jesus in the end?
 4. What's the difference between a day off and a sabbath?
 5. Have you ever been embarrassed by your parent's or family member's behavior?
 6. How do you feel about being dirt? What kind of dirt are you?
 7. Does God ever run out of seeds to throw? What does that tell us?
- Working with Dr. Ernest Etheridge at Claflin and Ms. Kenita Pitts at SC State to coordinate efforts and meet the spiritual needs of the students on each campus.
 - Visiting and Worshiping with Trinity UMC, St. Paul's UMC, Edisto Fork UMC, North Orangeburg, and St. Andrew's UMC in Orangeburg.
 - Dreaming and planning with students about how to make the Wesley House more welcoming, modern, and handicap accessible place where students can study, do group projects, print a paper, get away from a roommate, take a nap, watch a movie, etc.

- With the help of a generous donor, turned those dreams and plans turning the Wesley House into a welcoming, modern, comfortable, and fun place to be.
- Made Valentines with SC State students to be handed out at The Oaks Retirement Community.
- Provided study space and late-night pancakes for Spring Semester Midterms, and Finals.
- Developed a Student leadership structure to be implemented for the 2018-2019 school year.

Already word is starting to spread that “something’s going on at Wesley.” We are building on our past while looking for new ways to engage students in their faith journey. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we look forward to growing next year including another night of Bible Study, “Wesley Underground” fellowship activities, prayer activities on both campuses, local and regional mission opportunities, and hopefully a Mission Trip. Also pray as we launch into the 21st Century with a logo, new website, social media presence, and database. We’d like to thank the South Carolina Conference for your support through the years, and look forward to working with all y’all in the future. Mention the following rappers to Rev. Mary Haggard during Annual Conference and get a prize. In the words of Rob Base and DJ EZ Rock,

“It takes **TWO** to make a thing go right. It takes **TWO** to make it outta sight.”

WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Change is an inevitable part of life. Whether it be through the addition of a new baby (as happened in my household this past August) or the graduation of a large senior class (as happened in our ministry last May), life is often full of exciting and challenging times of transition. Unfortunately, even positive changes can also be scary and overwhelming. At the **Winthrop Wesley Foundation**, we are privileged to minister to young persons during one of the most important times of transition they will ever experience.

Thankfully, because of your support, our ministry continues to embody the hope and peace of Christ when our students need to feel them most. “Wesley was also there for me in the hardest time of my life. I had lost my best friend, my dad, suddenly and unexpectedly...I will never forget the support and love I felt from everyone in Wesley when that happened.” (Amber, *Class of 2017*) For other students, Wesley provides a much-needed safe place to grow and feel included. “Wesley...is my home away from home. It’s my second family and it has allowed me to take initiative and grow spiritually and mentally. I constantly come back because I know that I will always be welcomed there.” (Andrew, *Junior*)

Like Amber and Andrew, numerous young persons continue to experience the love of Christ, to grow in faith, and to live out that love and faith in meaningful ways as part of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation. Through weekly meals, worship services, bible studies, small groups, service projects, mission trips, retreats, and fun activities our ministry is constantly impacting college students in powerful and life-changing ways. They are learning to love God more deeply, to care for and serve those in need, and to apply what they believe in the midst of all of life’s transitions.

In short, Winthrop Wesley continues to effectively make young disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. However, none of that would be possible without you- the churches, groups, individuals, and members of our conference who generously pour out your prayers, encouragement, gifts, and resources to bless, support, and sustain our vital ministry. Thank you for everything you do to help our students experience the love of Jesus in the midst of this important time of growth and transition.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Ricky Howell, Campus Minister

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Bishop Holston, members of the Cabinet, Clergy, Lay Delegates and guests of the Annual Conference:

It is a privilege to share with you the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry this morning. You may find the written version of this report on pages 90 - 92 of your registration material.

Every clergy and laity on the Board of Ordained Ministry team of highly dedicated and faithful servants, gives of his or her time and unique gifts to the ministry of leadership development. Together, they prayerfully seek to affirm the calling of each candidate for ministry, with compassionate nurture and accountability. At this time, if you serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry, I invite you to please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

The second year of this quadrennium the Board of Ordained Ministry has been another engaging year as we have continued efforts toward developing effective pastoral leadership.

As the BOM carefully and conscientiously reads and evaluates candidates' responses to the disciplinary questions for Theology and Doctrine and Call and Disciplined Life, prepare sermons for Proclamation and Preaching that have a clear Gospel message, along with Contextual Projects and Bible Studies, we celebrate the gifted candidates who strive to give their best in serving the Church of Jesus Christ.

In a holy time of worship this evening, we will celebrate the fruit of persons who have heard the call to ministry and successfully navigated the requirements for commissioning and ordination. These persons are valued as meeting the basic standards of "readiness" and "effectiveness" for ministry in the local church and other ministry settings. Seventeen clergy will be ordained Elder (including one clergy transferring from Order of Deacon to Order of Elder), thirteen clergy will be commissioned Provisional Elder, one clergy will have Orders recognized from the Korean Methodist denomination, and two clergy will be received into the SC Annual Conference from other Annual Conferences. We give thanks for their service and ask God's blessing on their continued journey in ministry.

With the celebration of persons who will be commissioned, ordained, and recognized this evening, comes the reality that we are retiring more clergy this year, and in most years now, than we are receiving into provisional, associate, and full membership; and even fewer persons identifying seminary as a necessary and/or affordable part of their journey in clergy leadership development. For the Board of Ordained Ministry this poses questions and concerns surrounding the enlistment and retention of persons responding to the call to ministry, whether through the local church setting or in other innovative and missional ministry settings. The Board of Ordained Ministry is committed to creating, developing, and strengthening ways the SC Conference can reach out to persons who are attending University Senate approved seminaries, enrolled in the Course of Study, and nurturing persons who are inquiring, exploring, and declaring God's call upon their life to the vocation of ministry.

We must all be reminded, however, that the responsibility of identifying, nurturing, and providing a clear path to a ministry vocation begins in the local church, ministry settings outside the local church (i.e. Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry), and even in our everyday encounter with persons outside of institutionally established settings. As we encounter persons of all ages and stages whom the Holy Spirit is leading us to recognize and embrace as potential candidates for ministry, it is incumbent upon us to willingly and intentionally respond enthusiastically with support.

As always, we are grateful for the churches and the Annual Conference for ongoing support for the Ministry Education Fund. Through your generosity, the BOM has been able to provide financial assistance to students reducing the cost to them for seminary and Course of Study. This past year \$103,115.00 were disbursed for seminarians, and \$60,570.00 for the Course of Study, totaling \$163,685.00. We praise God for your faithfulness in providing the necessary resources to make it possible to assist with pastoral leadership development. This evening you will have an opportunity to participate in the offering for the Ministerial Education Fund as an act of worship to provide financial assistance. We hope that you will be generous in your giving to God as a means of providing excellent opportunities for leadership development. One day these persons called to ministry may be your pastor.

Excellence in ministry continues to be the major focus for the BOM as we seek to strengthen and discover effective ways of developing excellent leadership in and for the church in an ever-changing culture. We are aware of the need to acknowledge creative and adaptive leadership while maintaining a Wesleyan tradition and spirit as we move forward in and with the culture. The BOM is actively listening to the needs of the clergy and laity of the SC Annual Conference so that through Covenant Groups, Bishop's School of Ministry, Clergy Gatherings, and greater involvement with each District Committee on Ordained Ministry we can offer relative and meaningful training and experiences that will enhance leadership development and the mission of the Church. In addition, the Continuing Education Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry has reviewed and revised guidelines so that clergy have more opportunities to engage in helpful learning and enrichment experiences to assist them in strengthening their ministry, as well as provide clergy with the necessary tools in an ever changing church culture.

In 2017 and 2018, several leadership training events have enhanced the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Southeastern Jurisdictional quadrennial conference provided a forum for cross-conference collaboration and sharing of best practices of boards; by Bishop Holston's invitation several members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Extended Cabinet attended Texas UMC Foundation Outcomes conference which has been a guiding tool for leading with excellence, a team attended the General Board of Higher Education training that provided valuable information for Annual Conferences to develop the eight-year assessment in a way that is helpful to clergy in their own and ongoing journey in ministry.

Group Candidacy Retreats continue to be held twice every year for persons exploring a call to ministry, followed by group candidacy mentoring to assist with connectional relationships in an ongoing covenant and learning environment. The Board is grateful for the leadership of Rev. Angela Marshall and Rev. Terry Fleming for coordinating this important discerning ministry.

The School of Pastoral Formation (commonly referred to as Licensing School) continues to be an enriching experience for persons seeking to be licensed for ministry in the local church. Rev. Mel Arant's design of a comprehensive curriculum that is graciously led by Cabinet members, clergy in the Conference, and Conference staff – offers an excellent learning and connectional relationship building experience for new local pastors.

Also, through the generosity of the churches in SC Annual Conference, the BOM is able to offer scholarships to assist persons called to ministry to achieve the necessary education to equip them for ministry. This year we are delighted to recognize the following scholarship recipients:

The T. Dennis Smith Scholarship:

Shirley P. Gordon	\$1,000.00
Mamie Lee Pierce Hannah	\$1,000.00
Alston Flynn Lippert	\$1,000.00

The SC Conference Seminary Students Scholarship:

Carsten Aubrey Bryant	\$1,500.00
Emma McClain Mathis	\$1,500.00
Zachary Dollard deMoya	\$1,500.00
James David Taylor	\$1,500.00

The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship:

Frances Hillary Taylor	\$1,500.00
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In addition, the BOM also provides summer internship funding for up to three seminary students to assist with further equipping for ministry while serving in a ministry setting that may benefit from additional summer staffing and ministry development. Rev. Megan Gray serves as the leader of the recruitment committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and we extend our gratitude to Rev. Gray for her leadership and helping to make these internship positions available in our conference and seeking the funding to support the positions.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry that are committed to meeting often with all candidates for ministry – exploring and certified candidates, all local pastors, and provisional members. The DCOM's faithfulness to this important ministry and their dedication to serving a most important role in leadership development is paramount as they prayerfully discern the fitness, readiness, and effectiveness of candidates who may one day be your pastor. The BOM is grateful for the hard work of every District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

The BOM would also like to recognize persons who reached a milestone in their preparation for effective ministry. The following person(s) completed the five year Basic Course of Study in 2017:

Patricia Boyer	Duke	July 2017
Ronald Brewer	Emory	June 2017
Louis Perez	Duke	March 2018
Katheryn Scarborough	Emory	July 2017
Gracie Singletary	Duke	March 2018
William Thompson	Duke	July 2017
Charles Wilbanks	Duke	July 2017

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and may I add personally, we are grateful for the faithful and consummate leadership of Rev. Ken Nelson, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and Mr. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant. The work of the BOM could not be done as smoothly and effectively without the blessing of their guidance, leadership, knowledge and professionalism in Conference Clergy Services.

The BOM is also grateful for the leadership of Bishop Holston as he engages us in all matters of nurture and accountability, and as we seek to be faithful in our mission to make and nurture disciples for the transformation of the world.

Bishop in response to BQ 17, "Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration (¶¶604.4, 605.7)?" The answer is yes with the exception of those matters which have been acted upon in the clergy session on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

Bishop, I move the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry to record.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Fran M. Elrod
Board of Ordained Ministry, 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 **\$797** 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 2019. (This rate was \$781 for the year 2018.) This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982. An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.
- B. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **\$4,954,015** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, 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 Clergy-persons 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 Wespeth Benefits & Investments, during the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 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 Wespeth Benefits/Investments and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth 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 2019, 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 \$497 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 \$497 per month for the year 2018.) 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 2019, or in advance for monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with Wespath Benefits & Investments, 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 2019, each institution, organization or district to which a part time minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to Wespath Benefits & Investments, 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, the salary paying unit shall pay an amount equal to 9.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation for the matching portion of the defined contribution portion of the UMPIP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 3% by the participating pastor in their United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Each church with a less than full time clergy will be required to complete an adoption agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, prior to November 1, 2015. The pension cost, both the church's share and the participant's match, will be billed from Wespath Benefits & Investments.
- 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 **\$1,800**, 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 hookup fees in the new residence. This amount was \$1,500 for 2018.

Report Number Two
2018 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

Requirement	2018 Budgeted	2019 Estimated
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	\$2,670,400.00	\$2,601,725.00
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	1,182,917.00	1,110,110.00
CRSP Welfare Plan (3%) or Benefits Funding	1,110,575.00	1,086,180.00
Clergy Transition*	126,000.00	126,000.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$5,119,892.00	4,954,015.00
Estimated Income		
Institutional Payments		
Apportionment*	156,000.00	156,000.00
Direct Bill Payments	5,440,167.00	4,798,015.00

Total Estimated Income	\$5,425,239.00	4,954,015.00
Amount to be apportioned		
Clergy Transition*	126,000.00	126,000.00
Grants/Contingency*	30,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL APPORTIONED PENSIONS	\$156,000.00	\$156,000.00

* To be apportioned

*Valerie Brooks-Madden, 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 employed and funded by a local church either as Full or Three-Quarter (3/4) time Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members, Full Time Local Pastors, Provisional Elders, within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time or Three-Quarter Time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Lay persons who are full time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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*.

9. Provisional Deacons, Provisional Deacons/1992, and Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church 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.
10. 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. Enrollment in the HRA must be done through the AmWins Benefits Coordinator.

Report Number Two Major Medical Insurance Benefits

During the year 2016-2017 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 Exchange, managed health care plan of Wespeth Benefits & Investments for active participants and eligible dependents.

This Healthflex Exchange provides an array of plans to help meet the needs of our appointed clergy and eligible lay employees. These plans include the following:

1. B1000-P1 Plan—This plan is a preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan with a deductible of \$1,000 per individual or a \$2,000 Family Deductible. This plan has no Health Reimbursement or Health Savings Account included.
2. Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) CDHP C2000—This plan is a Consumer Drive Health Plan with a deductible of \$2,000 for an individual or \$4,000 for a family. This plan has a Health Reimbursement account associated with it of \$1,000 for Individual coverage or \$2,000 for Participant plus One Dependent or Participant plus Family.
3. Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) CDHP C3000—This plan is a Consumer Driven Health Plan with a deductible of \$3,000 for an individual or \$6,000 for a family. This plan has a Health Reimbursement account associated with it of \$250 for Individual coverage or \$500 for Participant plus One Dependent or Participant plus Family.
4. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H1500—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$1,500 for an individual or \$3,000 for a family. There is a Health Saving Account available of \$750 for the individual or \$1,500 for family. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.
5. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H2000—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$2,000 for an individual or \$4,000 for a family. There is a Health Saving Account available of \$500 for the individual or \$1,000 for family. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.
6. High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) HDHP H3000—This plan is a High Deductible Health Plan with a deductible of \$3,000 for an individual or \$6,000 for a family. There is no Health Saving Account available under this plan. Under the High deductible plan the individual deductible does not apply if more than one person is covered.

In addition to one of the coverages above, there will be two optional benefits available: an expanded vision benefit and a dental plan. This will be in addition to a coverage selected from the ones above.

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the Healthflex incentive program in 2017 and 2018. Details of this plan are available on Wespeth Benefits & Investments website under the Center for Health 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.

The incentive plan for 2018 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 choose 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 1st of any year must be completed with the Wespeth Benefits & Investments during open enrollment which is prior to November 30th 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 Center for Health of Wespeth Benefits & Investments, 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 salary paying unit of the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and 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. Churches or salary paying units are responsible for withholding premiums and other Flexible Spending Accounts from the compensation of participants and remitting payment to the Annual Conference when billed.

Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries: It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the "institutional share" of the insured's premium. This provision shall apply to the District

Superintendents, Conference Staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the quarterly "Statement of Account". Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 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

Requirements	2018 Budgeted	2019 Estimated
Active and Non-Medicare Retiree Group		
Participant Only	\$2,937,408.00	2,940,240.00
Participant + One	\$2,230,608.00	2,399,220.00
Participant + Family	3,284,280.00	3,260,784.00
Total Estimated Active Group	\$8,452,296.00	8,600,244.00
Requirements	2018 Budgeted	2019 Estimated
Retired Group		
Medicare Eligible Sub Group		
Defined Contribution	\$1,161,935.00	\$953,234.00
Prior Service Amortization	327,161.00	327,161.00
Participant		
Participant +1 (Spouse)		
Participant less Part D Medicare		
Total Estimated Medicare Eligible	\$1,489,096.00	1,280,395.00
Total Retired and Active Groups	\$9,941,363.00	9,880,639.00
Other		
Incapacitation/Transition	167,000.00	167,000.00
Contribution to Post Retirement Medical Reserve	703,496.00	\$1,221,398.00
Total Estimated Other	870,496.00	1,388,398.00
Total Estimated Requirement	\$10,811,859.00	\$11,278,797.00
Estimated Income		
Billing to salary Paying Units	5,778,007.00	5,996,406.00
Apportioned to Churches*	1,844,000.00	1,744,000.00
From Insured	2,770,140.00	2,986,211.00
From Other	0.00	100,000.00
From Institutional Payments	419,712.00	452,450.00
Total Estimated Income	\$10,811,859.00	\$11,269,037.00
Amount to be Apportioned*		
Incapacitated and Transitional Funding	167,000.00	167,000.00
Post Retirement Health Funding	1,703,000.00	1,577,000.00
Total	\$1,834,000.00	\$1,844,000.00

* Apportioned to churches.

**Report Number Six
2018 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2018 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. That the sum of \$6,448,856.00 be billed to the local church/charges and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2019.
2. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$1,900,000.00:
 - a. \$ 156,000.00 for Transitional Pension Funding.
 - b. \$ 167,000.00 for incapacitated and/or suspended participants.
 - c. \$1,577,000.00 for Post Retirement Health Funding.
3. Effective January 1, 2019, premium payments be set as estimated below:
 - a. Active personal group insurance health premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories (Categories delineated in 1,2,3,4, and 8 of Report Number one) shall funded as shown below:
 - b. 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.
 - c. The Health Benefit Fee will be the basis of a Defined Contribution toward the HealthFlex Exchange according to coverage tier as shown below:
 1. Defined contribution for Participant only coverage is expected to be \$700 per month (\$8,400 Annually).
 2. Defined contribution for Participant plus one dependent coverage is expected to be \$1,350 per month (\$16,200 Annually).
 3. Defined contribution for Participant plus family coverage is expected to be \$1,800 per month (\$21,600 Annually).
 - d. The total premiums for the 2019 HealthFlex Exchange Plans are as follows:
 1. Preferred Provider Organization B1000P1 Plan will be \$997 per month (\$11,964 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$2,000 per month (\$24,000 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,737 per month (\$32,844 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 2. Consumer Drive Health Plan CDHP C2000P2 will be \$930 per month (\$11,160 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,954 per month (\$23,448 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,604 per month (\$31,248 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 3. Consumer Drive Health Plan CDHP C3000P2 will be \$803 per month (\$9,636 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,610 per month (\$19,320 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,202 per month (\$26,424 annually) for Participant plus family coverage. If a participant fails to make an election during the open enrollment period, that participant and any covered dependents will be automatically enrolled in this plan. NOTE: THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. IN FACT, IT IS PROBABLY NOT THE PLAN FOR MOST PARTICIPANTS BUT IS MERELY A PLAN DEFAULT.
 4. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP1500P3 will be \$922 per month (\$11,064 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,848 per month (\$22,176 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,528 per month (\$30,336 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 5. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP2000P4 will be \$844 per month (\$10,128 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,688 per month (\$20,256 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,310 per month (\$27,720 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 6. High Deductible Health Plan HDHP HDHP3000P5 will be \$735 per month (\$8,820 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$1,472 per month (\$17,664 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$2,014 per month (\$24,168 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
7. OPTIONAL COVERAGES:
 - A. Expanded Vision Care
 - (1) Exam Core (Included in Health Premium.)
 - (2) Full Service will be \$5.96 per month (\$71.52 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$9.60 per month (\$115.20 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$15.16 per month (\$181.92 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 - (3) Premier will be \$14.38 per month (\$172.56 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$23.32 per month (\$279.84 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$37.02 per month (\$444.24 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.

- B. Dental Coverage
- (1) Dental Passive PPO2000 will be \$57 per month (\$684 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$115 per month (\$1,380 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$160 per month (\$1,920 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 - (2) Dental PPO will be \$47 per month (\$564 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$93 per month (\$1,116 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$131 per month (\$1,572 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
 - (3) Dental Passive PPO1000 will be \$43 per month (\$516 annually) for Participant only coverage; \$84 per month (\$1,008 annually) for Participant plus one dependent coverage; and \$118 per month (\$1,416 annually) for Participant plus family coverage.
- C. Retiree (Retiree Spouse) Premiums Non Medicare Premiums
1. Premiums for under 65 retirees non Medicare would be the same as active participants reduced by the Defined contributions for retirees. For those retired before July 1, 2015, the Defined Contribution would be \$200 per single Participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be \$400 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph five. For those retiring July 1, 2015 and after, The Defined Contribution would be \$100 per single Participant and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be \$200 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph five.
 2. 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.
 3. The estimated 2019 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 all the plans above and the church or plan sponsor will be billed the entire amount. The cost sharing between the participant and the church or plan sponsor will be determine by the church or plan sponsor. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2019.
 4. 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. 2019 Health Exchange Monthly Premiums Showing Net Costs:
1. Active Clergy Cost Shown Below:

PROPOSED 2019 MEDICAL RATES (MONTHLY) ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS						
Plan Elected	Participant Only		Participant + 1		Participant + Family	
	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	\$297	\$997	\$650	\$2,000	\$937	\$2,737
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	\$230	\$930	\$604	\$1,954	\$804	\$2,604
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	\$103	\$803	\$260	\$1,610	\$402	\$2,202
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	\$222	\$922	\$498	\$1,848	\$728	\$2,528
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	\$144	\$844	\$338	\$1,688	\$510	\$2,310
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H3000 P5	\$35	\$735	\$122	\$1,472	\$214	\$2,014

2. Retiree under 65 (retired prior to July 1, 2015) Cost Shown Below:

PROPOSED 2019 MEDICAL RATES (MONTHLY) RETIREE UNDER 65 (retired before July 1, 1965)						
Plan Elected	Participant Only		Participant + 1		Participant + Family	
	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual*	Total monthly cost
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	\$797	\$997	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,137	\$2,737
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	\$730	\$930	\$1,754	\$1,954	\$2,004	\$2,604
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	\$603	\$803	\$1,210	\$1,610	\$1,602	\$2,202
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	\$722	\$922	\$1,448	\$1,848	\$1,928	\$2,528
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	\$644	\$844	\$1,288	\$1,688	\$1,710	\$2,310
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H3000 P5	\$535	\$735	\$1,072	\$1,472	\$1,414	\$2,014

3. Retiree under 65 (Retired after 2015) Cost Shown Below:

PROPOSED 2019 MEDICAL RATES (MONTHLY) RETIREE UNDER 65 (Retired after July 1, 2015)						
Plan Elected	Participant Only		Participant + 1		Participant + Family	
	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual	Total monthly cost	Monthly cost to individual*	Total monthly cost
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	\$897	\$997	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,437	\$2,737
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	\$830	\$930	\$1,754	\$1,954	\$2,304	\$2,604
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	\$703	\$803	\$1,410	\$1,610	\$1,902	\$2,202
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	\$822	\$922	\$1,648	\$1,848	\$2,228	\$2,528
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	\$744	\$844	\$1,488	\$1,688	\$2,010	\$2,310
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H3000 P5	\$635	\$735	\$1,272	\$1,472	\$1,714	\$2,014

These costs are based on Participant and two (2) dependents. Defined Contribution is \$100 per covered individual.

*Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chairperson
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

**UMCSC Health Insurance Rates to remain stable in 2019
But increases projected for 2020, 2021**

With health insurance rates projected to increase over the next three years, the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is taking steps to ease the impact on premiums paid by churches, pastors and conference employees covered by a Wespeth health plan.

Health insurance costs that Wespeth charges to the conference for 2019 will increase by an estimated \$625,000 – about 7.8 percent overall.

The health benefits board will use investment earnings from 2017 to absorb this increase for 2019, resulting in:

No increase in the health fee charged to churches

Decreases in premiums for individuals electing participant-only coverage

A mix of decreases or slight increases in premiums in other tiers

In an effort to ease the burden of expected future premium increases on churches, pastors and conference employees, the health benefits board will continue to subsidize premiums in 2020 and 2021 – but in progressively smaller amounts. The estimated total subsidy for 2020 will be \$265,000. There is no projection yet for 2021.

Conference leaders are giving churches and health plan participants a heads-up now that premiums likely will go up in both 2020 and 2021.

Because the health benefits board is making assumptions about future premium increases and enrollment, it can only project what health rates for churches and individuals might look like in those years. Actual rate recommendations will be presented annually.

These rates do not apply to churches with staff on Conference health insurance. A different rate schedule will apply to them.

Premiums for optional dental and vision plans will not be subsidized and will increase as the rates charged to the conference increase.

Here's a look at actual rates for 2019 and projected rates for 2020 and 2021:

Monthly Church Health Fee	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2021 Projected
All plans and tiers	966.00	966.00	1,063.00	1,169.00

Monthly Individual Contribution (participant only)	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2021 Projected
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	304.00	297.00	335.00	376.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	260.00	230.00	262.00	297.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	139.00	103.00	125.00	149.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	252.00	222.00	254.00	289.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	179.00	144.00	170.00	198.00

Monthly Individual Contribution (participant +1)	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2021 Projected
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	602.00	650.00	729.00	816.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	597.00	604.00	679.00	762.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	270.00	260.00	308.00	361.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	497.00	498.00	565.00	639.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	347.00	338.00	392.00	452.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H3000 P5	132.00	122.00	159.00	200.00

Monthly Individual Contribution (family)	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	2021 Projected
Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) B1000 P1	865.00	937.00	1,048.00	1,170.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C2000 P2	793.00	804.00	904.00	1,015.00
Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDH) C3000 P2	410.00	402.00	470.00	546.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H1500 P3	721.00	728.00	822.00	926.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H2000 P4	517.00	510.00	587.00	673.00
High Deductible Health Plan (HDH) H3000 P5	222.00	214.00	267.00	327.00

2019 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

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 Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. 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 2019 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, 2017, is \$(1,588,243,217), while total plan assets are \$1,700,835,563, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 107%. The South Carolina Conference portion of the liability is 2.7984% and the 2019 contribution is \$2,601,725. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by Deposit Account, Direct Billing. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to over three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The South Carolina Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 100%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2019.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy can 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% to CRSP DC. The 2019 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be \$1,110,110 and will be funded by Direct Billing.

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. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or it may be paid in a lump sum.

Current funding plan information:

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2017 is \$(3,532,916,942), while total plan assets are \$3,701,460,997, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 105%. The required contribution for 2019 is \$0. The South Carolina Conference's percentage of the total liability is 2.6363%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$3,689,292,322 and the South Carolina Conference's portion of that balance is \$96,716,459 or 2.62% of the total.

PRE-82 PLAN

Plan overview:

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit-approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)-the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (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-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-82 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 2019 PSR recommended to the South Carolina Conference will be \$797, representing a 2% increase from the 2018 rate. The conference expects future annual increases to be approximately 2.00%.

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

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 2019 is anticipated to be \$8,600,244 and will be funded by Direct Billing. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 7.90%.

The rationale for these changes is Total for 2018 and 2019 were provided by Healthflex in our 2019 Rate Information.

Claims Incurred But Not Reported (if applicable)

The South Carolina Conference provides the following health plan to its eligible participants: Self-Funded - HealthFlex. As of 12/31/2019, the estimated IBNR claims total is \$0. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 7.90%. It is anticipated that the IBNR claims, if applicable, will be funded via the following:

Additional Plan Sponsor Funded Coverage (if applicable)

The South Carolina Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods where-without plan sponsor -- funded premiums -- the participants would not be provided coverage or benefits (all figures as of 12/31/2017):

1. Clergy Or Lay On Disability (Including Pending Disability): 12 participants at an estimated cost of \$263,520.
2. Surviving Spouses Or Children Of Deceased Active Participants: 6 participants at an estimated cost of \$197,640.

The projected annual cost as of 12/31/2019 for additional plan sponsor funded coverage is \$230,101.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

Program Overview:

The South Carolina Conference currently offers Stipend for Post-Retirement Medical coverage.

Current funding plan information:

The plan sponsor's intention for 2019 is to Retain current plan benefit. PRM benefits provided are as follows: \$200/ month subsidy for those retirees and dependents retiring prior to 2016. Those retiring after 2015 would be a \$100 subsidy for each retiree and dependent.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2017, the following is the funded position of the PRM benefits:

1. Expected Post-Retirement Obligation (EPBO) net plan sponsor cost	\$20,397,743
2. Accumulated Post-Retirement Obligation (APBO) net plan sponsor cost	\$18,318,700
3. Assets (in-plan and outside) designated for PRM	\$12,333,144
4. Service cost (SC) net plan sponsor cost	\$305,463
5. Unfunded APBO, [3. - 2.]	\$(5,985,556)
6. Number of annual payments	20
7. Portion of unfunded APBO, [5. / 6.]	\$299,278
8. Ongoing funding contribution, [4. + 7.]	\$604,741

Future increases/decreases to the assets or APBO will be funded over the duration of the program as calculated in the PRM valuation report, or five years if not available.

These values are based on a 3.35% long-term discount rate, a 0.00% long-term expected rate of return on assets, and a valuation year medical trend (inflation rate) of 6.25% with an ultimate medical trend (inflation rate) of 5.00%, beginning in 2023.

In addition to the PRM funding contribution listed above, the projected annual plan benefit cost for 2019 (subsidies, HRAs, claims or premiums) is \$1,062,440.

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 they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the South Carolina Conference contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Current funding plan information:

For 2019, the South Carolina Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$1,086,180, which is anticipated to be funded by: the anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.40% per year due to: Amount billed for CPP in 2018 increased by 2.4%. Revised using actual billing for 2018. We are collecting for "Premium holiday collections".

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 35 hours per week or more are eligible after 6 months for a plan sponsor-funded pension contribution of 9% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to make contributions toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The conference's estimated contribution for 2019 is \$104,136 and will be funded via: DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

(If applicable) The South Carolina Conference, as of January 1, 2019 is planning on sponsoring the UMPIP for clergy serving 3/4 -time and are eligible for a pension contribution of 9% of salary. The conference's estimated contribution for 2019 is \$468,366 and will be funded via DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

OTHER DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) OBLIGATIONS

Plan Overview:

The South Carolina currently offers the following DC benefit(s): Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees. The estimated contribution for 2019 is \$10,000 with the funding sources to be: Prudential Refund. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be (5.00)% per year due to There are only two (2) persons still eligible for this benefit.

Plan Overview:

The South Carolina currently offers the following DC benefit(s): Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability. The estimated contribution for 2019 is \$18,632 with the funding sources to be: DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.50% per year due to COLA.

CONCLUSION



Wespath
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

Opinion on **South Carolina Conference 2019** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan
The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025

*Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chairperson
Thelma Hudson, Secretary*

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, 'See, this is new'? It has been already in the ages before us" Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

Yet, what is Solomon in his wisdom saying as he goes on in verse 11 "No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them." John Wesley in his Explanatory Notes states, "No remembrance - This seems to be added to prevent the objection. There are many inventions and enjoyments unknown to former ages. To this he answers, This objection is grounded only upon our ignorance of ancient times which if we exactly knew or remembered, we should easily find parallels to all present occurrences. There are many thousands of remarkable speeches and actions done in this and the following ages which neither are, nor ever will be, put into the public records or histories, and consequently must unavoidably be forgotten in succeeding ages; and therefore it is just and reasonable to believe the same concerning former ages."

The South Carolina UM Historical Society continues to work diligently with volunteers that give of their time, knowledge, passion and money to educate and preserve the history of South Carolina Methodism. In early spring of 2017 the Executive Committee gathered to explore opportunities of rediscovery and the need to preserve and educate many of the historical sites in our conference. The executive committee gathered at Mt. Pleasant UMC in Pomaria and reviewed plans for undertaking several projects and the status of the Burdine Lodge project. The committee visited the site of the Mount Bethel Academy and Cemetery. Plans were put into place to hold our fall joint meeting at Washington Street United Methodist Church in Columbia. Bob Huggins met with Bishop Holsten to discuss the idea of a South Carolina United

Methodist 'Heritage Trail'. Also discussed the idea of a History Room/ Library centrally located in the state.

The Historical Society sponsored a table at the 2017 Annual Conference where a variety of resources were available to help local churches understand the importance of their heritage and history with ways to engage their congregations in collecting and preserving documents, displaying and sharing their history. A tri-fold display was on hand with information in the format of a timeline on South Carolina Methodist History along with a collection of pictures and articles relating to and recognizing Mount Bethel Academy and its impact on Methodist and South Carolina history.

In late June, of 2017, South Carolina was represented at the Annual United Methodist Historical Society and the Western Jurisdiction History Commission meeting in Anchorage, Alaska with President J. Robert 'Bob' Huggins attending along with Vice-president Joyce Plyler and Member-at-Large of the United Methodist History Society. One of many speakers was Alfred Day, Chair, General Commission on Archives and History. Also in late June the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society of the United Methodist Church met at Asbury Theological Seminary, in Wilmore, KY. Representing the South Carolina Conference were Roger Gramling, AV Huff and Franklin Buie.

On Tuesday, October 31, 2017 with the presence of Bishop Jonathan Holston, Roger Grambling, Secretary-Treasurer of the SCUMHS, Bob Huggins, President of the SCUMHS, Pickens County representatives, Pickens County Historical Society and many local residents the moment many have been waiting for came to fruition. The ground breaking ceremony for the Burdine Lodge Restoration Project took place at the Hagood Mill Historical Site in Pickens County. Remarks were made by several delegates including those of Bishop Holston and Roger Gramling. Much appreciation goes to The Reverend Dr. Roger Gramling for his dedication with fund raising efforts and tenacity in seeing the project to this moment.

Our Fall meeting was held jointly with the Conference on Archives and History at Washington Street United Methodist Church, Columbia. The program was titled "Mount Bethel Academy, Crenshaw-Finch Cemetery, South Carolina College and Washington Street Methodist Church." Speakers were Ernest Shealy, Board Member of The Newberry County Historical and Museum Society, Mike Broome, Historian of Washington Street United Methodist Church and The Reverend J. Robert 'Bob' Huggins, President of the SCUMHS. The program consisted of information on the important influence Francis Asbury's undertaking in establishing a center of classical education in the Up Country and its effects on many different entities within the history of South Carolina and Methodism. During the meeting Centennial and Bicentennial Churches were recognized and officers for the next two years were elected The Reverend J. Robert 'Bob' Huggins, President, Joyce Plyler, Vice-President and The Reverend Dr. Roger Gramling, Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. A. V. Huff, Conference Historian and editor of Historical Society's newsletter, The Mark, published three times a year and Rev. J. Robert Huggins, President, serve as ex-officio on the Conference Commission on Achieves and History in supporting the efforts of the Commission in its ongoing work of record keeping and historical preservation, as required by the *Book of Discipline*.

The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church promotes interest in the study, preservation, and dissemination of the history and heritage of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents. It works to enlist the support and cooperation of commission on archives and history (or equivalent) at the annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and general Church levels as well as other interested agencies and organizations in the promotion of the historical interests of the Church. The society is financially self-supporting through dues and other sources, except for such services as may be provided by the General Conference Commission on Archives and History. (Paraphrased from ¶1710.1 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*)

Your South Carolina United Methodist Historical Society made up of a volunteer organization of men and women that came before, those presently serving and those that will come after will continue to strive for preserving and educating the rich history of 'The People Called Methodist'.

The Reverend J. Robert 'Bob' Huggins, 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, 2016*, Paragraph 625.2 at pg. 442) 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 2018

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **\$565,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2019. 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 2019 represents a \$15,000 increase over 2018.

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, 2019, 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 | <u>\$ 44,748</u> |
| b. Full Time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members | <u>\$ 40,678</u> |
| c. Full Time Local Pastors | <u>\$ 37,739</u> |

The recommendation represents a 2% increase over what was approved for 2018. This parallels with the 2% COI suggested by the Social Security Office.

[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 plan compensation for full-time clergy must equal 25% of the denominational average compensation (DAC) so that full-time clergy may participate in CPP. **For 2018, the DAC is \$70,202 and 25% of that is \$17,551. For 2019, the DAC is \$71,361 and 25% of that is \$17,841.** Plan compensation is calculated as (a) 125% of base compensation when a parsonage is provided or (b) base compensation plus housing allowance in lieu of parsonage when a parsonage is not provided.

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 2016*, beginning at pg. 254, 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 2016*, pg. 263.) 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_2016* (pg. 343-344)

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 2016* (pg. 281-282).

Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2016* (pg. 254-255)(except as appointed with regard to Report 3, 4, and 5 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, pg. 443).

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 53.5 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the District Superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Continuing Education

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

Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

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

R. Vacation Policy

The Commission reminds churches and ministers that vacation time plus time for renewal and reflection are an expected part of compensation. Time away is necessary for personal, spiritual, and family health. It is recommended that all clergy and diaconal ministers be granted, as a minimum, annual vacation and days of 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, ban 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 15th preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

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

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

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

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

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.

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

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

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

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

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 clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of \$4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least \$15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 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.

Report Number 6

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec. 2014		Dec. 2015		Dec. 2016		Dec. 2017	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	4	\$ 159,500	2	\$81,729	2	\$57,324	3	\$132,121
Minimum	12	\$91,710	10	\$91,710	10	\$65,695	12	\$99,342
Special	12	\$120,184	9	\$115,783	11	\$124,203	16	\$244,899
Low Income	1	\$10,800	1	\$10,260	1	\$10,260	0	\$0
Hispanic/Latino	1	\$30,735	1	\$27,737	1	\$27,737	0	\$0
Cooperative Parish	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Mission	1	\$15,000	2	\$51,148	3	\$58,899	2	\$44,314
RVS								
Direct billing costs		\$86,839		\$86,779		\$86,779		\$81,497.52
TOTALS	31	\$428,014	28	\$490,945	28	\$520,199	36	\$649,579

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017
Effective Members	17	13	13	21
Provisional Members	7	8	8	5
Associate Members	0	0	0	0
Local Pastors (Full Time)	6	6	7	7
Other	1	1	3	3
TOTALS	31	28	31	36

Sincerely,

The Commission on Equitable Compensation
Skipper Brock, Chairperson
rlbrock@bellsouth.net or sbrock@smeinc.com
Rev. Chris Lollis, Vice-Chairperson
Lollie Haselden, Statistician
Veronica Clinkscales, 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 2017 annual conference and to start planning the 2018 gathering.

While the business of the annual conference is part and parcel to what we do, our goal is to provide each member of the annual conference with such an experience of excellence that he or she will want to reproduce that same standard of excellence in every ministry setting across this annual conference. 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 April and 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 2018 Annual Conference is ***"A More Excellent Way: In Mission from Anywhere to Everywhere."*** On Sunday evening at 7:30, we will gather for our opening worship service with Bishop Holston serving as the preacher. Our Bible Study leader will be the Rev. Dr. Herbert Marbury, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible, Vanderbilt Divinity School. On Monday 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. Dr. Mike Alexander, the Senior Minister at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet will serve as the preacher.

On Monday night, we will celebrate with those who will be commissioned or ordained for the work of ordained ministry. Bishop Mildred Bonnie Hines, the Resident Bishop of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will serve as the preacher for this service.

On Tuesday morning, we will recognize and celebrate the ministry of those who have served the church faithfully across the years and who now enter retirement. We will conclude our day with an energetic worship service that affirms our commitment to mission and ministry in SC and around the world. The evening's offering will be given in support of Global Health Advance. Every year, nearly 6 million children under age 5 continue to die from preventable and treatable diseases. This fund supports Global Ministries in reaching 1 million children with health interventions around the world. The United Methodist Church is working to bring better health to people in every place, from our own backyards to around the world.

¶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.

The Committee on the Annual Conference recommends that we remain in Greenville through 2019. It is our hope to return to the Florence Civic Center for the 2020 SC Annual Conference.

Finally, the committee expresses its profound gratitude to the 2018 host team under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. George Howle, the Greenville District Superintendent for their spirit of radical hospitality. This team has been working hard to build upon our wonderful experience in Greenville in 2017. They have tried to care for every detail along the way. A word of gratitude is offered to our host church, John Wesley United Methodist Church and its team under the leadership of the Rev. Charlie Thomas. We are grateful to the many volunteers from the Greenville District and across the state who have supported this conference with their best gifts under the guidance of leadership the Rev. Robert Cox and Mrs. Valerie Brooks-Madden. We simply could not have done this without this team.

L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop
Kenneth L. Nelson, Conference Secretary

THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Ministry name: Conference Journal Committee

Purpose/Responsibilities: The Conference Journal Committee is responsible for helping the Conference Secretary compile, publish, and print the pre-conference materials as well as the official Conference Journal.

Key moments from previous year (*up to 5 successes, challenges, etc.; 1-2 sentences each*):

1. The committee has been working to streamline the process for compiling and publishing the conference journal. We are looking into new software to reduce the number of steps needed to publish the journal.

2. The committee is working towards a new format for annual conference committees to format their reports for annual conference. Our goal is to have this process in place for the 2019 Annual Conference.

Priorities/objects for the coming year (up to 5 new ministries, opportunities, etc.; 1-2 sentences each):

1. Our first priority for the coming year is to finalize the template for annual conference reports from committees. The goal is to make the reports more concise and readable.
2. Our committee plans on making the new annual conference report format available for committees to fill out online, which will hopefully speed up the publication process.
3. Our committee will continue to look at ways that we can reduce the time and effort it takes to publish pre-conference materials and the journal. This may include purchase of new software or shifting of duties within the publishing process.

Action required from 2018 Annual Conference (if any):

If you take away nothing else from this report, know this (1-4 sentences):

The committee is committed to streamlining the process for publishing pre-conference materials and the journal. We are working to create a format for conference committee reports to make them more uniform and easy to read as well as making them concise.

Narrative (optional):

Our committee is mindful that all our work relies on others who are generous in the giving of their time. We want to thank all the individuals who have assisted with producing the pre-conference materials and the Conference Journal. We are especially grateful for J.C. Lane, Jeri Katherine Warden-Sipes, Mary Johnson, Angela Ford Nelson, and Mel Arant, the assistant secretaries for the South Carolina Annual Conference. We would like to thank all the boards and agencies of the SC Annual Conference for their work in submitting reports with integrity and in a timely manner. We are thankful for Dan O'Mara, Conference Communications Coordinator, for his help with developing the report template. We are grateful for the work of the administrative assistants Mrs. Sylvia Hulbert and Mrs. Pat Mack. We would like to thank Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson, the Conference Secretary, for his tireless efforts to produce the Journal with sincerity and diligence. And, many thanks to our friends at Service Printing for publishing the Journal and materials.

Respectfully submitted:

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Position: Chairperson
Email: eaaiken@umcsc.org
Phone: 864-639-2101
Ministry members: Barbara Segars, Eugene Aiken, John Bell, Michael Broome, Inez Lee, Nancy Rivers, Mary Mason, Susan Miskelly, Robert Peak

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee met throughout the year to provide oversight for Conference staffing. The committee determined Conference staff annual salary adjustments for 2018, oversaw the evaluation of staff, participated in the hiring of a new conference benefits officer, considered policy issues, and employment law compliance needs. 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.

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the generosity of the churches in this conference. Your continued dedication and faithful missional giving towards Congregational Development make our work possible. It is nothing short of miraculous when God's people pool their resources to do amazing ministry. In 2017, your churches gave over \$889,894 towards Congregational Development.

Did you know that 20% of that money has already been given back to the Districts? A major portion of what we as a Board, is to equip the people who are already on the ground to continue developing new ministries and deploying resources as they see fit. This happens through the 20% Fund; 20% of every dollar your church gives towards the Congregational Development line item comes directly back to your District Committees on Congregation Development. This year, that totaled \$177,979! Friends, this is something to be celebrated and commended. Our District Committees are hard at work funding new ministries, equipping leaders, and supporting existing congregations. The more you can help us tell that story, the more resources we are able to funnel back into your communities and churches! So, help us tell that story and tell it well!

Another major portion of our work is through Existing Church Grants. This year we received grant applications totaling over \$236,000. This means people around the state are catching the vision and dreaming God-sized dreams. Our current funding structure provided a little over \$117,000 to be allocated for Existing Church Grants. Obviously this meant we would be unable to fund everything at 100%, but we were able to strategically fund some new and vital ministries around this conference. This year's grant recipients include new staff positions for new discipleship ministries, some much needed building and grounds expansion and creating new worship spaces for new faces! In all, we have awarded grants to 4 local churches in 3 of our districts. As we continue to move forward in our work, the more you can help us tell these stories well to local congregations, the more people will be inclined to partner with us for future projects through our missional giving, which will in turn inspire more stories. It's really a beautiful cycle of generosity!

Of course, a major part of our work entails working with the Director of Congregational Development to identify possible new places for ministry in the coming years. We look forward to hearing about the 2018 projects as Bishop Holston and the Cabinet confirm future appointments (at the time of submitting this report, those appointments and decisions had not been officially made). Nevertheless, as we move forward with our work, we continue finding and equipping new leaders through a variety of coaching, continuing education, Leadership Academy opportunities, as well as MissionInsite as a tool available to all clergy and churches. If you have not had the opportunity to utilize that demographic tool, let me highly encourage you to do so, engaging your local District in the process if you require assistance in doing so.

One new aspect of our work will be around the idea of leadership cohorts. We have allocated money, along with matching grants from around the Conference, to create a fund available for coaching and cohort ministry. To be dispersed throughout the Conferences, through Congregational Development at the request and recommendation of District Superintendents, we hope to resource creative ideas for leadership development through group based learning. Examples and foci may include, but not be limited to, pastors and church interested in multi-site or multi-ethnic or small-strong. Our hope is that identified leaders from around the conference will be able to join with others who serve in a similar context with a similar vision in a cohort and coaching relationship made possible via Congregational Development. Information about how to apply for these funds, existing church grants, MissionInsite, and all other Congregational Development can be found at our information table.

Lastly, I would be remised if I did not thank our team for the work that they do. Our board is made of District Chairpersons, at large members (clergy and lay alike) from around the Conference, Cabinet members, representatives from Connectional Ministries, the Hispanic/Latin@ Ministry Task Force, as well as our Director for Congregational Development, Rev. Sara White, and our administrative assistant, Laura Hill.

We also thank the Commission on Equitable Compensation whose partnership and commitment to ministry takes us into greater possibilities; and, the members of the Appointive and Extended Cabinet whose shared work helps in the creation and sustaining of churches both new and existing.

These people make our ministry possible and I am grateful to serve alongside them.

Rev. Richard Reams, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy met three times during 2017 with Bishop Holston to support the bishop in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church. One of our most important roles is to support the bishop by interpreting to the people in our conference the bishop's job. The committee is to be available to the bishop for council, to assist in the determination of the episcopal needs and make recommendations to appropriate bodies, to keep the bishop advised concerning conditions within the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference agencies, and to interpret to the people the nature and function of the episcopal office.

The committee is also responsible to engage in annual consultation and appraisal of the bishop's relationship and responsibilities to the annual conference and thru our jurisdictional committee members to the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference. Our COE also reports the Episcopacy leadership needs to the SEJ Episcopacy Committee through our SEJ COE members.

The Committee on Episcopacy fully agrees that during the past year Bishop Holston has continued to lead this conference by example and provided insight, encouragement, and motivation for our congregations to grow both spiritually and physically. We would like to express our appreciation to Barbara Ware and Dr. Tim McClendon for the leadership and support they have given this committee as our SEJ COE members.

Bishop Holston has remained faithful to the leadership of the clergy and laity. During the past year he continued "The Bishop's Road Show" completing the 2016-2017 Forward Focus Tours (providing tools for congregations to maximize their present and future ministries) and starting the 2017-2018 "By Faith, On Mission, Together" tour holding meetings in all 12 districts with our local church leadership teams to inspire faithful vision and mission work. The Bishop and his wife Felecia traveled over 50,000 miles in 2017 visiting his church family. The Southeastern Jurisdiction has adopted the Forward Focus Tour program. Bishop Holston's concentration and focus included clarity, alignment, and order, with a focus on "Grow the Church, Get Resources to Where They Are Needed, and Communicate". The relationship between the bishop, the conference staff and conference organizations, the laity, and the clergy continues to grow with large attendance and participation in district meetings. Our youth Revolution Weekend continued strong and the SCUM Men had over 1000 attend their meeting in Myrtle Beach. Hundreds of United Methodist Women gathered last fall in Irmo to meet, connect, learn, and engage in Christian missions and fellowship. Over \$400,000 was pledged for five of their major mission projects. The "Imagine No Malaria" program has raised over \$750,000. Our support for UMCOR and the Hurricane Relief has continued to be outstanding. The 2017 Annual Conference "Homeless Initiative" and "Bikes for the World" was successful. Apportionment giving was the highest in modern times with 92.34% with the number of churches giving 100 % continue to grow. Lay Servant Ministries program continues to grow.

Bishop Holston armed with a hula hoop and a commitment to fitness asked the conference membership to join in the denomination's Abundant Health Initiative by participating in initiatives like the Hulapalooza Challenge and the FAN program.

The Bishop's involvement also includes:

- General Board of Global Ministries, Director
- Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM, Board Member
- Gammon Board of Trustees, Chairman
- SBC21 Coordinating Committee, Chairman
- Columbia College Board of Trustees
- Executive Committee, Council of Bishops (Missional Engagement Team)
- Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops
- Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees
- Led pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Greece, & Zimbabwe
- Made annual trip to Honduras with youth of the annual conference in July
- Led Council of Bishops mission awareness tour to Guatemala and Honduras
- Spoke at three annual conferences: West Virginia, Arkansas, North Georgia
- Spoke at United Methodist Men National Meeting in Indianapolis

We also express our appreciation to the Bishop's wife, Felecia, who offers support to Bishop Holston and the South Carolina Methodist Conference. She was a co-chairperson of the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign and serves on the Epworth Children's Home and Killingsworth Home boards.

Respectfully submitted,

Holbrook Platts, Chairperson, Committee on Episcopacy

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. This office maintains the personnel files for all the clergy of the conference. The Coordinator of Clergy Services serves as a member of the conference Ministry Advisory Team.

After four years of dedicated services, Ms. Martha Long retired as the Administrative Assistant for the Office of clergy services. In August of 2017, Mr. Sharome Henry joined the team as the Executive Assistant to the Office of Clergy Services. Mr. Henry continues to tradition of excellent support to the district offices and candidates. He maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the annual reports for which this office is responsible. The work of this office would not happen without him 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.

In 2016, the office of clergy services scanned all existing personnel files to a digital format. We completed that process in 2017. In 2017, we began uploading these files into e-Bridge, with a goal of completing that task by the end of 2018. Our progress is steady. Annually, we review and update 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.

This year, we have begun a process of migrating the information in our existing database system into Shelby. Shelby systems is a church management software company that serves churches and non-profits with membership and financial tools. Our goal is to better align our database and records with both the Conference Benefits and Administrative Service offices. While there are challenges in working in two systems as we make this transition, our hope is for a minimal level of disruptions to quality of the services that we provide or to the data and records which this office safeguards.

As we continue in the 2016-2019 quadrennium, the Board of Ordained Ministry continues to move forward under the excellent leadership of the Rev. Fran Elrod. The depth of her experience, her commitment to excellence, her concern for both credentialing and leadership development ensures that together we will continue to move forward.

Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, we 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 Service

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

Substantial changes to the procedure for the closure of churches were made by the *2016 Book of Discipline*. Churches can now be closed by action of the Annual Conference or they can be closed under exigent circumstances on an ad interim basis. You will notice that the resolutions before you this year ask for your votes to close churches and do not use the prior language of discontinuation. There are also before you resolutions to confirm the ad interim closures.

The changes also change the process for the management of closed church properties and have increased the involvement of the District Superintendents. The hope of these changes is to give closed church property a new opportunity to be used to make disciplines of Jesus Christ.

The Board receives no apportionment money. Under the *2016 Book of Discipline* the Trustees have voted to fund the continuing operations of the Board by retaining a percentage which will be under typical circumstances 10% of the funds received from the sales of the property of closed churches.

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*.

Accounting By Property

District	Property	Designation	
Anderson	Asbury Clark	Undesignated	134,971.74
Anderson	Sharon/Liberty	Transferred to the CME Church	1,709.36
Greenville	Concord (GV Korean)	Undesignated	36,935.01
Greenville	Zion-Andrews	New Beginnings UMC	59,626.78
Greenville	Woodside	Urban Center	107,310.28
Anderson	Orville Church (South Main Chapel & Mercy Ctr)	Pending Resolution	(2,414.84)
Walterboro	Broomfield	Pending Resolution	(37.36)
Greenwood	Laurens Property	Transferred to	(11,621.50)
	(Calvary (Bridging the Gap))	Bridging the Gap 2016	
Greenville	Mckinney Chappel	Pending Resolution	(1,273.82)
Orangeburg	Cameron Property-Sold	Pending Resolution	(1,070.59)
Marion	Old Galilee	Pending Resolution	(99.61)
Anderson	Union	Pending Resolution	(2,320.00)
Rock Hill	Kershaw First	Pending Resolution	(12,677.52)
Marion	Iona	Pending Resolution	(1,593.79)
Hartsville	Twitty (transferred to BOT of Hartsville District)	Undesignated	(3,597.36)
Orangeburg	Charles-Wesley (Open Hearts)	Pending Resolution	
	(8,377.48)		
Florence	Trinity (and cemetery)	Pending Resolution	1,207.87
Anderson	Bethel (Bleckley) Sold 2018	Pending Resolution	5,403.88
Marion	Floyds	SOLD 2017	4,315.60
Hartsville	Mt Tabor (Chesterfield)	Undesignated	614.07

Anderson	Smiths Chapel	Undesignated	(543.80)
Orangeburg	Rocky Swamp	Mission Church	(1,084.47)
Charleston	Berea (Cordesville)	Pending Resolution	(5,060.00)
Florence	Timmonsville	Pending Resolution	(46.05)
Spartanburg	Pleasant View (Cowpens)	Pending Resolution	(28.80)
Walterboro	Jerusalem	Pending Resolution	(128.80)
Greenwood	Gassaway	Pending Resolution	6,883.26
Greenville	Dunean	Pending Resolution	308.57
Columbia	Cedar Creek	Pending Resolution	(90.80)
Columbia	Cedar Creek Cemetery	Pending Resolution	105,176.59
Florence	Beulah (Kingstree)	Pending Resolution	(34.50)
Anderson	Bethlehem	Pending Resolution	(472.80)
Florence	Bethesda (Cades)	Pending Resolution	(28.80)
Greenwood	Bath	Pending Resolution	(1,305.77)
Conference	Undesignated	Undesignated	183,282.08
Grand Total			593,836.63

*Pending Resolution properties held in trust with no current action on property.

Bryan Braddock, Chair
SC Conference Board of Trustees

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The *South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* has much to celebrate as we continue our 181st year as a newspaper ministry.

The *Advocate* is the oldest newspaper in Methodism, and we are honored and blessed to carry our legacy onward. Our mission is to inform and connect South Carolina United Methodists by independently reporting relevant news, engaging readers, providing a forum for dialogue and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All we produce—from articles and columns to photographs and ads—is designed to inform, engage, uplift and transform our readers for the glory of God. We are thriving as a strong, excellent publication dedicated to serving the Lord. Since 2010, we have won 96 writing, general excellence, photography and other journalism awards from the South Carolina Press Association, United Methodist Association of Communicators and Religion Communicators Council, including “best newspaper” in our division multiple times. (This is 12 more awards than we reported to you this time last year.)

Across South Carolina, so many things are happening in United Methodist churches, from missions at home and abroad to significant ministries that make a Kingdom difference. The stories are endless! We wave God’s banner high.

We are excited to lift up some important efforts:

Books for United Methodists from the Advocate Press

In late 2017, the *Advocate* launched a new book-publishing endeavor, the Advocate Press, to produce books for South Carolina United Methodists that uplift the Gospel and foster discipleship. Books are on sale now from the Advocate or at www.advocatesc.org/books. All funds benefit the Advocate.

- *Stories of Racial Awakening: Narratives on Changed Hearts and Lives of South Carolina United Methodists*, an anthology of testimonies from 20 people about how their racial views have changed. Edited with an introduction by *Advocate* Editor Jessica Brodie, the book offers discussion questions and a foreword by Bishop Jonathan Holston.
- *More Like Jesus: A Devotional Journey*, a 40-day devotional by Jessica Brodie that teams Jesus’s words and actions with articles that have appeared in the *Advocate* the last few years, showcasing what it looks like to be a real-life, modern-day Christ-follower.
- Additional books coming soon

Advocate Church Partner program

We also launched the Advocate Church Partner program in 2017. Advocate Church Partners help the *Advocate* shine the light of Christ by participating in a print or online Church Plan. In return, our church partners get the satisfaction of helping the *Advocate* thrive, and they get recognition every month in the paper along with other church partners. Print plans cost \$10 a person (minimum 10 people); online plans are \$1 a person based on church’s average weekly attendance.

Other key highlights from 2017 and early 2018

- The *Advocate* claimed 10 awards in 2017 and two more (as of this writing) in 2018.
- Our articles are consistently featured on UMC.org, in the UMNS daily or weekly digest and in other global and local UMC publications and websites.

- We continue to 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, the United Methodist Men, and others.
- We are increasing efforts to solicit tax-deductible individual contributions to help the *Advocate* maintain its excellence while being good stewards and, over time, asking for less in funding from the Annual Conference. As a nonprofit 501(c)3 ministry, about half our funds come from Annual Conference apportionments, but the other half comes from subscriptions, advertising and, now, book purchases and individual donations.
- We are exploring other efforts to raise funds, such as a golf tournament or other event.
- Website traffic continues to grow, and we post daily on Facebook and Twitter. (Like our page at www.facebook.com/advocatesc and follow us on Twitter @AdvocateSC.)
- *Advocate* Awareness Day was started in 2015 to help spread the word about our newspaper ministry. This year's awareness day was May 20, 2018. We used speakers, bulletin inserts, videos and other resources to help people understand the existence and importance of the *Advocate*.
- We are again producing the *Daily Advocate*, which goes to every lay and clergy member each day of Annual Conference to help members better understand issues, legislation, etc.
- Ad sales and circulation are holding steady.
- 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 continue to help produce the eNewsletter The Messenger, distributed weekly for free to an email communications list that includes about 7,000 people and informs about breaking and important news and events.
- We continue to welcome and solicit news from every church in the conference. The deadlines are the 10th of every month for the following month's paper (except the June paper, which has a June 1 deadline because of Annual Conference).
- Our goal is for every South Carolina United Methodist to read the *Advocate* in one format or another and be inspired by the transformative stories of God at work in South Carolina. In addition to the free content on our website, AdvocateSC.org, we offer:
 1. Subscriptions for individuals for \$15/year (or \$8/year online-only)
 2. Free subscriptions for clergy
 3. Free subscriptions to new church members (churches: email new member names/addresses to advocate@umcsc.org)
 4. Church-wide subscription plans

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, we would love to help: advocate@umcsc.org or 803-786-9486.

Dr. Bill Click, chairperson of the Advocate Board of Trustees
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 strive to be good stewards of the funds for ensuring the facilities are safe, secure, and properly maintained. The building continues to support the various ministries of the Annual Conference. The trustees' most recent activities include receiving a donated automated external defibrillator (AED) and providing first aid/CPR/AED training to staff, improving indoor security cameras, and water proofing the outer wall of the elevator shaft to prevent water seeping in. As replacements are needed, the trustees are upgrading outdoor lighting to LED which is less costly to maintain. The trustees are undertaking a project to develop a deferred maintenance plan and budget for the building. All these good deeds could not be accomplished without the awesome work of Ms. Christine Dominick who provides daily guidance for ensuring our facility is maintained. We also give thanks for Rev. Marvin Caldwell whose term is expiring. We appreciate his faithful participation and will miss his wisdom.

Ronald D. Friday, Chairperson

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 would like to take this opportunity to talk about the Trust Clause. The Trust Clause of the United Methodist Church is set forth in section 2501 of the *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. As set forth in the *Book of Discipline* this trust requirement is an essential element of the historic polity of The United Methodist Church, or its predecessor denominations or communions and has been part of the *Discipline* since 1797. It reflects the connectional structure of the Church and is a fundamental expression of United Methodism. The trust is irrevocable, except as provided by the *Discipline*.

With particular reference to local church property, the Discipline allows for the transfer and mortgage of property only under the procedures set forth in sections 2540 and 2541 of the *Book of Discipline*. Section 2542 of the *Book of Discipline* clearly states that the trust clause can only be released by a sale or mortgage under one of these sections.

Kay G. Crowe, Conference Chancellor

THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

This year the Ministry Advisory Team met in October and March to give some thought to how the Four Areas of Focus in our denomination contribute to the vitality of local congregations. The Four Areas of Focus represent the core values of United Methodists and include:

- Principle centered leadership
- Ministry with the Poor
- New Places for New People
- Abundant Health

At the request of the Connectional Table, in October we reviewed a beta version of an annual conference assessment tool for the Four Areas of Focus. We also discussed the Forward Focus initiative with local churches and how to continue to encourage and invite participation of local churches in this process that equips local churches to adapt to their changing communities and provides information that will enable the districts and conference to better align resources toward fulfilling the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In March we had opportunity to meet with 5 members of the Connectional Table annual conference assessment team and engage them in conversation about the intentional work we are doing in South Carolina to focus on congregational vitality and community engagement at the local level. We shared with them how the Four Areas of Focus inform our work in terms of resourcing local churches around lay and clergy leadership development, new opportunities for engaging the community, care for the poor and commitment to health ministry that leads to abundant life for parishioners and the members of their communities. This conversation was helpful to the MAT in providing an opportunity for us to reflect together on our commitment as annual conference leaders to strengthening and equipping local churches. It was helpful to the Connectional Table team, comprised of General Agency staff, in hearing how the general church, annual conference, district, and local church might better interface and collaborate for the sake of local churches.

The MAT exists to create excellence in ministry by advising the Bishop, the District Superintendents, and the programmatic, administrative, and personnel teams of the Annual Conference. This team will continue to work together to keep the annual conference bodies focused on supporting local churches connecting with their communities to witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

As we mark another year in the life of our Annual Conference, we pause to look back and remember what we have given ourselves to in these past twelve months since we were last together. As you know, the task of the Cabinet is to work alongside Bishop Holston in advancing the witness of the United Methodist Church throughout the twelve districts that comprise our Annual Conference. We are 999 churches strong. We have about 700 active and retired clergy under appointment. In a world that is changing exponentially, we are seeking to be grounded in

our historic Wesleyan Way of being committed to personal faith and having that faith expressed in social witness in the world.

One of my favorite preachers is Barbara Brown Taylor, and I remember her telling the story of how, as she prepared to be ordained as an Episcopal priest, she ordered her new clothes...most specifically a black shirt and white collar. She said she stood before the bathroom mirror trying to figure out how to put the thing on!

While she fiddled with the collar, she remembered two stories. The first was an experience in the Manhattan subway some years earlier. One day while in the subway tunnels, she had become lost. The stress, fear and anxiety built to the point that she was on the verge of a panic attack. At that moment, she saw a nun in traditional habit and simply the presence of that nun calmed her. She said, "I did not for one moment consider that the nun was there for any purpose other than to rescue me."

The second memory that returned was from her childhood. One day, as a little girl, she was riding in the car with her mother, gazing out the window watching the world pass by. Her young eyes caught sight of a group of men wearing striped, black and white outfits. They were working in a field on the side of the road. Surprised by their strange clothing, she asked her mother why the men were dressed like that. Her mother answered that they were prison inmates and that they were dressed that way so that they would stand out in case they escaped.

It was these stories she remembered as she put the collar on for the first time.

Looking in the bathroom mirror, she said, "I could see how I was going to stand out too. For good or ill. I too would have a hard time escaping. As my beloved pastor had told me in seminary, being ordained is not about serving God perfectly but about serving God visibly, allowing other people to learn whatever they can from watching you rise and fall." Being a pastor – or dare I say being a Christian – is not about serving God perfectly but about serving God visibly.

And this visibility is certainly what Bishop Holston and those of us who form his team on the Extended Cabinet are committed to. Once more, Bishop Holston has made his way around to all our Districts, being visible, giving of himself, casting a vision for local churches to live visibly in the communities in which we are placed and calling us forward to a more excellent way. Forward Focus is the tool we are using throughout the Annual Conference that is providing insight and clarification for churches to discern the next faithful step in ministry. Our Congregational Specialists are certainly working hard in using their resources of time and talent with churches who are electing to engage in this church and community assessment. For two years this Bishop has been inviting us to this kind of discovery and it is bearing fruit all across our conference. Together, with the resources of our entire Extended Cabinet, we are seeking to bring a collaborative spirit to this Forward Focus work as we assess our present realities and discern our next faithful step.

Additionally, as the Board of Ordained Ministry does their work of credentialing, the Bishop and Cabinet are entrusted with the weighty work of appointing and sending. We District Superintendents are grateful that the size of our districts (though some of them span to over 100 churches!) are still a size in which it is possible for us to be visible among our churches and pastors. This relationship is crucial in the work of appointment-making as we seek to match the leadership needs of the church with the gifts of the clergy so that the local church is strengthened, the United Methodist witness is expanded, and the Kingdom of God is advanced. Truly, appointment-making is not what we do one week out of the year but represents cumulative hours of prayer, consultations with pastors and local churches, and thoughtful discernment. Though we do not always get it right, I have been amazed time and time again in my 8 years on the Cabinet of how the Holy Spirit has been clearly at work in ways beyond our human understandings to inform and guide our work. It has deepened my appreciation for this system of itineracy that marks our United Methodist way of sending.

Additionally, we meet together as a Cabinet at least two days monthly to respond to the needs and concerns of our churches and pastors, to think and plan strategically, and to make sure we are all moving in the same direction as we nurture our collaborative spirit.

There are three of us who will be completing 8 years of service on the Cabinet at the conclusion of this Conference year. The Rev. Dr. Paul Harmon who has faithfully served the Spartanburg District will be retiring, as will the Rev. John Hipp who has served faithfully in the Florence District. Additionally, the Rev. Susan Leonard will be returning to serve the local church in Charleston. Joining the Cabinet this year are three wonderfully competent pastors and leaders: The Rev. Steve Patterson will be serving the Anderson District, The Rev. Cathy Mitchell will be serving the Spartanburg District and The Rev. Terry Fleming will be serving the Florence District.

We who stand before you are a team. We are collaborative in our work, not competitive. We enjoy and value one another's gifts. We not only share the joys and concerns of our districts, but the realities of our lives. We laugh together, cry together, pray together and show up for one another. We hope you can sense this spirit of collegiality that we share. We think it is pretty remarkable!

And not only are we a team, we are a team with a leader who has a heart for God and a heart for the local church. Having the opportunity to work alongside Bishop Jonathan Holston has given us all a front row seat on his character and integrity, his pastoral heart and his desire to see the United Methodist Church in every corner of our state flourish. His commitment to the church's work of personal faith taking expression in lives of social holiness is true and real. We are grateful for him and for his leadership in our midst.

Finally, these days of living into a post-Christian culture ask of us all a deepening faith; a commitment to learn, discern, grow and change; a desire to see the gifts of faith, hope and love be extended to the next generation to inform their lives; and a willingness to live our faith out loud. Being a pastor – or dare I say being a Christian – is not about serving God perfectly, but it is about serving God visibly...with our hands, our feet, our voices, our choices. May God continue to grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days. For the living of these days!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Leonard, Dean of the Cabinet*

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

Snapshot of SC UMMen's Progress in 2016-17

- ❖ Charters:
 - ◆ SEJ goal for conferences was 5% increase.
 - ◆ SC exceeded its goal with an 8% growth.
 - ◆ Bishop Holston sent a letter to encourage churches that had not renewed to do so and encouraged new church to charter.
- ❖ EMS:
 - ◆ As with many conferences, we have loss EMS members because of men ageing out. We are encouraging our leaders to become EMS.
 - ◆ Bishop Holston became an EMS in 2016 and challenged other leaders to do so.
 - ◆ All district leaders are EMS except three. Hope to be 100% in 2017.
- ❖ Upper Room Prayer Ministries:
 - ◆ SC Men answer the upper room prayer line throughout the year in numerous local churches and at district gatherings.
 - ◆ SC Conference Men sponsor a pray line at our Annual Conference.
 - ◆ At our Spiritual Weekend we have a pray line and we designate one night of offerings to the Upper Room. Churches are also encouraged to bring offering from their churches.
 - ◆ Upper Room Prayer Ministries is a central part of this ministry.
 - ◆ We have added one district prayer advocate, with a goal of one per district.
- ❖ National Gathering:
 - ◆ The National Gathering used the South Carolina Model using a large United Methodist Church for the event.
 - ◆ Bishop Holston of the South Carolina Conference was the keynote speaker. He has been an active advocate and partner in the success of ministry to men in SC.
- ❖ Web site and communication:
 - ◆ We are continuing to improve our web site.
 - ◆ We are utilizing social media to expand our exposure to the younger generation.
 - ◆ In partnership with the SC Conference, we have combined our mailing list to reach monthly over 7,000 clergy and laity, and over 1,000 churches. This has vastly increased our communications.
 - ◆ United Methodist Advocate Newspaper covers and reports on men's ministry in SC. The editor is a huge supporter. She forwards copies of any articles on men to Rich Peck and to our web site.
 - ◆ We continue to utilize our on line registration system for teaching churches and Spiritual Weekend Retreat.
- ❖ Spiritual Weekend:
 - ◆ This is the fifth year since we asked God for guidance to reach men.
 - ◆ We have grown from 160 to over 1100.
 - ◆ Our goal for 2018 is 1500.
 - ◆ The purpose of the is to expose men and clergy to the praise and worship of God; to disciple men that God can use; and send them back as men of God, equipped to make a difference in their families, churches, and communities.
 - ◆ We firmly believe that Godly men, through Jesus, will change the Church.
 - ◆ Each year our theme and purpose is to get men to make a deeper commitment to God and grow in their faith. We are seeing signs of movement.

- ❖ Teaching Churches:
 - ♦ This year we had four teaching churches. As you will see these events have grown from just men in local churches to communities and cross denominational lines.
 - ♦ We partnered with Robert Noland, The Knight Code, for these events. Men from 80s to teenagers attended. Men from other denominations also attended these teaching churches. These were men only events.
- ❖ Disaster Relief:
 - ♦ Men have stepped up all over SC to respond to natural disaster in our state and beyond.
 - ♦ SC men have been active in preparing and transporting "flood buckets".
 - ♦ SC Conference Men continue to support Strength For Service for first responders and military.
- ❖ Leadership Training:
 - ♦ We continue to train leaders through workshops
 - ♦ We held our leaders meeting in Columbia on October 28, 2017. New leaders were received. All district leaders reported on their district goals and their progress on our conference goal set in 2016.
 - ♦ We set Conference goals and asked the districts to support and to set district goals for 2017-18.
- ❖ SEJ YoungER Men's Think Tank:
 - ♦ SEJ commissioned a youngER men's think tank to get ideas from the next generation men.
 - ♦ David Holcombe is South Carolina's Representative & our Conference Treasury.
 - ♦ We have extended invitations to all members of the Think Tank, and other men from their conferences, to attend the SC Spiritual Weekend in 2018.

Our prayer is that this ministry will move across the Church. Please join us in disciplining men that God can use in their families, churches, communities ... the world.

Will you put some personal "Skin in the Game"? Will you "Make Your Mark" for Christ? Will you sink your "Roots" by the river that flows by the Tree of Life? And in 2018.... we are asking men to "Come to the Water (living)" to continue to deepen their walk with Jesus the Christ.

MEN CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD.....BUT CHANGED MEN, THROUGH CHRIST, CAN !!!!!

LAITY, PASTORS, DSs, BISHOP,CHURCH WE NEED YOUR HELP...FOR TOGETHER WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO HOLD OUR HEAD LOW AND LAMENT ABOUT THE DECLINE OF THE CHURCH

The Harvest is plentiful, the labors few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the field. Luke 10:2

Men step up 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 is a community of women rooted in our Christian faith, turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. We are committed to growing spiritually, developing leaders, participating in education that begins with personal transformation, and weaving an interconnected pattern of compassionate service and passionate advocacy. These core commitments have characterized our entire 150-year history of equipping laywomen to follow God's call at home and all over the world. We are a community of women whose purpose is:

To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ

To develop a creative supportive fellowship and

To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We started our 2017 conference year in January when twelve members of the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Executive Team traveled to Charlotte, NC to attend the United Methodist Women's Leadership Development Days (LDD) sponsored by the

UMW national organization. For the 251 women in attendance, this was a weekend filled with moving worship services, workshops, networking and fellowship. Seven of our district presidents attended and they gained much knowledge on their new leadership roles. The engaging workshops help equip United Methodist Women members with tools to lead—not only in our organization, but in our churches, communities and workplaces. The event theme, *'Come to the River'*, placed emphasis on social justice issues and advocacy, in particular those issues that are often divisive. Focusing on water as spirit, life and justice helped us to better relate to our UMW priority issues. The weekend was a wonderful learning experience.

Legislative Advocacy Day, held on February 22nd at Epworth's Children Home in Columbia was another awesome event as we celebrated with the theme – *'Passion, Vision, Action'*. Clara Ester, Deaconess and racial justice advocate from the Alabama-West Florida Conference and vice president of the national UMW Board of Directors was our keynote speaker. She is very passionate when it comes to fighting against injustice. Workshops on "Public Education Issues", "Maternal and Child Health", and "Human Trafficking Awareness" were offered. Several legislators and Bishop Holston greeted the attendees. Our event was featured in the September 2017 edition of *Response* Magazine.

On March 23rd, SCCUMW joined thousands of other United Methodist Women in contributing to the 3rd Annual United Methodist Women Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund as part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration! The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women. Donations were matched by the National office. Also in March, the conference leadership team was fully engaged in learning how to lead our conference as we met for a Leadership Training Event at Mt. Hebron UMC in Columbia. Rev. Fadetra Harrington shared with us how *"God Uses Cracked Pots"*. During this daylong event we learned that our scars – our cracks – bear testimony, not just to our brokenness, but to our healing and wholeness. Our scars are meant to be an encouragement to others whose lives have also been broken, that with God, nothing is impossible.

On April 3-6, South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women traveled to Washington, DC for a four day/three night Mission Trip. The trip attendees visited the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill and did a day of service at the Capitol Area Food Bank. The South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women returned from Washington, DC with a different outlook on our responsibility as United Methodist Women, remembering our call to advocacy and to always be sure to tell our story.

The 2017 SCCUMW Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska was truly a spirit filled, soul inspiring success. Spiritual sisters came from near and far to celebrate the theme *"One in Charity"*, based on Luke 17:21. The messages shared throughout the weekend led us to experience a new awareness of the Lord. Rev. Pattie Gordon, the key note speaker did an incredible job preaching and teaching to the 400 plus ladies in attendance. We felt God's presence, not only through the spoken word, but also through the peaceful melodies from our musician, Rev. Ann Hoyt and song leader, Rev. Rhonda Smith.

The Come Together Be Together event at Cumberland & Central UMC on May 20th, in Florence was special as over 315 women came together to celebrate our theme of *"Sisterhood of Community"*. It was special because two diverse churches came together to offer a respite for the United Methodist Women of the South Carolina Conference. Cumberland and Central are to be commended for the bold step they made to be in community with each other. These two units coming together to host our event in 2017 acknowledges the fact that SCCUMW are fully committed to living out our Charter for Racial Justice. We continue to serve and work throughout the conference year to create a world in which all women, children and youth can thrive. Rev. Kelly Snelgrove, our keynote speaker had a message of hope and wholeness for everyone present. Her story of how obedience to God's word can make a change in our lives was a true blessing. The workshops were fun and very informative.

Probably the highlight of 2017 was the awarding of our first SCCUMW Presidential Scholarship in May. We were encouraged and excited to receive eighteen scholarship applications for our very first SCCUMW Presidential Scholarship. Scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 were awarded to two young women pursuing a degree in higher education in the spring of 2017. Alleah Glover, a member of Sand Hill United Methodist Church, Walterboro District, and Allison Hannah Simpson, a member of Mt. Holly United Methodist Church, Rock Hill District were the scholarship recipients. Alleah will be entering her second year at Columbia College majoring in Early Childhood Education and Allison Hannah is a junior Travel and Tourism student at Clemson University. These young ladies were most appreciative of our financial gifts to assist in furthering their education. The scholarships were on behalf of all South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. Our vision of living out faith, hope and love in action inspired this scholarship.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent the SCCUMW at the 2017 South Carolina Annual Conference held at the TD Center in Greenville. We spent four days conducting the business of the church with other laity and clergy. Moving worship services, Communion, bible

study, the Mission Fair, were enjoyed by all. Special thanks are extended to Marie Clinkscales and the Greenville District UMW for their support in manning our table at Annual Conference.

Our 2017 *Mission u* event held on the campus of Spartanburg Methodist College on July 27-29 was well attended by 221 ladies and youth. This event offered a wonderful educational opportunity for lay and clergy alike. The study leaders were awesome and the Spiritual Growth study on Living as a Covenant Community, the Social Issue study on Climate Justice, and the Geographic Study on The Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States were all topics that are very pertinent to our everyday lives. We were again blessed to have sixteen beautiful young girls, of whom we are prayerful will become future United Methodist Women, on campus with us. These young ladies were excited and came to learn and have fun through bible study and interactive activities. Karaoke with our Mistresses of Ceremonies, Buttermilk Sue, was a hit and enjoyed by all! The craft room raised \$2,189.26 and \$2418.00 was received during the *Mission u* offering. These monies will be divided among our 5 mission projects so that many will benefit from your generosity.

On-line membership reporting continues to be a challenge for SCCUMW. The final result of our 2016 on-line census count shows a membership count of 6,752-a huge drop from previous years. Local units are encouraged to continue working out the kinks to ensure all members are counted. Your patience, hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

Our 45th South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting was a huge success as attendees experienced putting our faith, hope and love into action. The theme for the Annual Meeting was *"Harvesting the Lord's Promises"*. The members of Columbia District and Union United Methodist Church in Irmo shared much hospitality at the two day celebration of our South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women on October 27-28. The 325 registered attendees were inspired, encouraged and motivated. The Limitless Team collected more than two vans full of pantry items for Sharing God's Love-a homeless center in Irmo; five mission project displays were viewed and directors engaged in conversation; gift cards and new stamps were shared with our five SC projects; used stamps were trimmed; pull tabs and Box Tops were collected; resources were bought; photos were taken; donations were made to UMCOR/hurricane relief and the Legacy Fund; travel to Assembly 2018 was reserved; and bible bookmarks were exchanged. Our Bible study leader Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson and Keynote speaker Rev. Millie Nelson Smith both reminded us of the promises to be found in our lives and in Biblical times. We were pleased to have Bishop Holston as our Communion celebrant and as always, appreciate the faithful support of he and Mrs. Holston to our organization. The Singing Men of Mount Horeb, Total Praise from Francis Burns, Leaps of Faith from Union and organists Joey Rothfuss and Frances Webb brought great sights and sounds. Our two Presidential Scholarship recipients, Alleah Glover and Allison Hannah Simpson were a joy to meet. It was exciting to have so many past conference presidents with us. Officers elected to a first two year term were Deborah Edwards-Treasurer, Caron Cooper-Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Eunice White-Education and Interpretation Coordinator, and Evelyn Pauling-Member, Committee on Nominations. A resolution from the State of South Carolina House of Representatives signed by Representatives Chip Huggins and Nathan Ballentine was presented to the SCCUMW congratulating and thanking SCCUMW for our mission work to women, children and youth in South Carolina.

The Officer Training Event at Trenholm Road United Methodist Church was held November 11th. It was a blessing to have Rev. Dr. Mike Smith of Trenholm Road and Kevin Long of Wallace Family Life Center share a devotion and message with us. Our theme *"Building a Better World"* reminded us to take action as leaders. Over 125 district officers joined their conference counterparts for training and sharing of information. Meeting and learning together is one way we fulfill our pledge "to develop a creative supportive fellowship". The very moving special music and Girl Scouts with flags created a most patriotic Veteran's Day.

We closed the conference year with seven members of the conference executive team traveling to Tempe, Arizona to participate in Leadership Development Days (LDD) in November as we joined over 250 UMW leaders from around the United States. We have so many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world and the world needs our courage now more than ever! We learned at LDD that it's time to listen . . . wait . . . and act. For almost 150 years, United Methodist Women have courageously listened . . . waited . . . and acted to get the vote for women, to clear the path for women to become clergy, and now to work for justice for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers and all others who live in the margins. I know we are all not in agreement on many of the issues of the church. But can we agree to disagree in a respectful and loving way? Can we be in conversation and really listen? Can we find "A Way Forward" to be the light that Jesus asked us to be in a dark world? There is so much information on this topic and I encourage all of us to be in the conversation when we are invited.

We're looking forward to 2018 and the UMW National Assembly. The meeting will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio on May 18-20, 2018. The Assembly is a forum for all women and will offer an incredible faith journey through community

building, training for action and visioning for the future. When women unite, bold and courageous actions happen!

So, as this year closes and we embark upon another year in the history of United Methodist Women in South Carolina, let us continue to seek God's blessings in all that we do. We are proud of our heritage, we are passionate about mission and we are women of action! We put our Faith, Hope and Love in Action as we give our pledge to mission, collect used stamps, pull tabs and Box Tops, develop women's leadership skills, participate in hands on mission opportunities and advocate for justice. The total program of United Methodist Women is MISSION...it's why we exist.

Shalom, Grace and Peace for the journey.

Marlene Spencer, President, SCCUMW

SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE LLC

The summer of 2017 was Salkehatchie Summer Service, LLC's first summer season as a limited liability corporation. The following shows data from the final report of the 2017 summer camp activity:

Salkehatchie Summer Service, LLC. 2017 Financial Report:

- 46 Camps
- 220 Homes
- 2,800 Campers
- \$860,000 Total Spent
- \$636,000 Spent on the Homes
- \$2,900 Average spent on each home
- \$565,000 in Campers Fees
- \$315,000 in Cash Donations to the Camps

Submitted by Kathy Hart, Chair of the Salkehatchie Summer Service LLC

SC METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION

The year 2018 marks sixty-three years of service by the South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union (SCMCCU) to the Ministers and their families, the churches and their members, and the institutions of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. The Credit Union was chartered on September 19, 1955, by ten elders of the South Carolina 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. Today, membership encompasses not only the clergy of the South Carolina Conference and their families, but also members of the churches, and employees of the local churches, the Annual Conference, and the United Methodist Colleges, and Retirement homes of the South Carolina Conference.

The Credit Union remains safe, strong and sound in its mission to serve its members. As a member of the Credit Union, individuals and their family members can benefit from a member-owned, not-for-profit, service-driven, relationship-oriented, stewardship model that is at the core of our financial ministry. Although our primary business continues to be new and used automobile loans and personal loans for our members, the Credit Union also offers loans to the local churches and institutions of the South Carolina Conference.

The Credit Union's website (www.scmccu) provides protected access to personal accounts and an interactive feature that allows a member to transfer funds from one of his or her Credit Union accounts to another.

The staff of the SCMCCU remains focused in its mission to serve its members. Reverend Rex Wilson serves as CEO and President of the Credit Union, a role he has held since 2007. Mr. Harry Metz is the Manager of Accounting & Operations, with Mr. Bob Silva (Loans/Member Services) and Mr. Rod Spangler (Member Services) completing the team.

It is the Credit Union's hope that as you get to know it better you will want to share with other United Methodist friends the news of the Credit Union's expanding services, and you are invited to become ambassadors for the Credit Union as it continues to serve United Methodism and United Methodists in South Carolina.

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. Meredith M. Dark.
Mr. James Bradley, Jr., Chairperson, Board of Directors
Rev. Reginald D. Wilson, Jr., President

South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union	12/31/16	12/31/17	Change
Assets	\$	\$	%
Cash & Equivalents	335,344	274,152	-18.2
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	2,249,655	1,687,347	-25.0
Loans Held for Sale	0	0	0
Real Estate Loans	357,498	305,519	-14.5
Unsecured Loans	392,526	357,594	-8.9
Other Loans	2,213,787	2,749,029	24.2
TOTAL LOANS	2,963,811	3,412,142	15.1
(Allowance for Loan & Lease Losses)	(30,367)	(45,523)	49.9
Land And Building	75,157	72,995	-2.9
Other Fixed Assets	452	186	-58.8
NCUSIF Deposit	46,901	48,455	3.3
All Other Assets	23,560	22,219	-5.7
TOTAL ASSETS	5,664,513	5,471,973	-3.4

SCMCCU - Liabilities, Shares and Equity			
Dividends Payable	0	0	0
Notes & Interest Payable	0	0	0
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities \3	10,443	20,999	101.1
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,443	20,999	101.1
Share Drafts	0	0	0
Regular shares	2,847,378	3,067,264	7.7
All Other Shares & Deposits	2,263,543	1,832,185	-19.1
TOTAL SHARES & DEPOSITS	5,110,921	4,899,449	-4.1
Regular Reserve	304,175	304,175	0.0
Other Reserves	0	0	0
Undivided Earnings	238,974	247,350	3.5
TOTAL EQUITY	543,149	551,525	1.5
TOTAL LIABILITIES, SHARES, & EQUITY	5,664,513	5,471,973	-3.4

Income & Expense	12/31/16	12/31/17	Change
	\$	\$	%
Loan Income*	226,932	238,984	5.3
Investment Income*	24,880	27,796	11.7
Other Income*	14,717	17,039	15.8
Total Employee Compensation & Benefits*	177,003	179,470	1.4
Corp. CU Stabilization Exp. & NCUSIF Premiums	0	0	0
Total Other Operating Expenses*	73,452	71,094	-3.2
Non-operating Income & (Expense)*	0	0	0
NCUSIF Stabilization Income*	0	0	0
Provision for Loan/Lease Losses*	6,120	17,120	179.7
Cost of Funds*	8,166	7,759	-5.0
NET INCOME	1,788	8,376	368.5
Net Income (Loss)*	1,788	8,376	368.5

AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT

Africa University enjoyed a banner year in 2017, thanks to the local congregations, leadership, and individual members of The United Methodist Church. Clergy and lay leaders in the South Carolina Conference and throughout the connection spearheaded special celebration events marking Africa University's 25th anniversary. These efforts brought Africa University's progress and ministry contributions to the fore, allowing congregations to reaffirm their commitment to the institution's mission of nurturing global leaders who transform communities.

The university community—students, faculty, administrators and support staff, trustees, alumni, partners and friends—is deeply thankful to the South Carolina Conference for investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 100 percent in 2017. Thank you, South Carolina United Methodists, for your continuing generosity and faithfulness to this ministry.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University hosts a stable, focused and vibrant campus community of 1,800 students as well as faculty, and staff from 31 African nations. Amidst a transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, lectures, research, and outreach activities continue uninterrupted.
- A new academic structure is encouraging innovation and enhancing Africa University's relevance to The United Methodist Church and to sub-Saharan Africa. This includes the launch of the Institute of Theology and Religious Studies which brings together multidisciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Africa University's insectary and researchers are providing critical data on mosquitos and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- The university is also making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and harnessing intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU's ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who lead at every level and in all efforts to make disciples, minister to the poor, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities. A growing number of graduates are answering the call to missionary service, serving across Africa and in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Africa University ended 2017 affirmed, celebrated, and with its highest level of support from The United Methodist Church to date. United Methodist congregations in the United States invested 96.77 percent of their budget commitment to the AUF, the highest ever for a general church fund. Thirty-five of the 56 annual conferences achieved or exceeded their 100 percent investment in the AUF.

The strong support of the South Carolina Conference helped the Southeastern Jurisdiction to achieve an overall investment of 98.15 percent in the AUF. Giving to the AUF increased in all five jurisdictions—with the Western Jurisdiction at 100 percent for the first time and the Northeastern Jurisdiction at 100 percent for the third consecutive year.

As Africa University embraces new opportunities for service and impact, gifts for scholarships, academic development, and infrastructure are vitally important. The four-year, \$50 million Campaign for Africa University is ongoing, with 76.5 percent of the goal or \$38.3 million in cash and pledges already committed.

Thank you, South Carolina Conference, for the ongoing second-mile support efforts such as the annual Bishop's South Carolina – Africa University Golf Outing. Thank you for welcoming and hosting the Africa University Choir's Black History Month 2018 Tour. To the many students like Pierrette Kibanza, who arrive at the Africa University main campus with a dream and on the strength of fervent prayer, scholarships from South Carolina sources have been life-changing.

Thank you, South Carolina Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for being a part of an incredible year of blessings. Thank you for affirming the transformative power of faithfully sowing, standing, and working together as you journey in ministry with Africa University.

*James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
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Nashville, TN 37203-0007, Tel: (615) 340-7438, Fax: (615) 340-7290
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LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

The leadership of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. are happy to report that they once again ended the year "in the black", wrapping up 2017 with a balance of over \$60,000.00. They 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 they remain committed to not only "living within their means" but also to ensure the long term sustainability of their mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. 2017 was also a great year for charitable giving. The organization received \$2,521,170 from 1557 individuals. They are so grateful to continue to receive the support of new and returning donors each year affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As they continue to refine and implement their plans for improvements to their facilities, grounds, and programs, they are also continuing to solidify their commitment to one of their most important assets, their staff. Of the \$60,000.00 "profit" from 2017, \$38,000.00 was distributed, in the form of profit sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2017 along with an across the board 1.5% pay increase for all current staff in 2018. The remainder, along with the generous support of their donors, is being used for a wide array of ongoing capital improvements that they will be looking forward to reporting on next year including a complete renovation of the Lambuth Inn. They are also working diligently to refine and improve their existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with their mission.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction the leadership of Lake Junaluska they 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. They are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted them.

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, please pick up a copy of the 2018 *Discover Lake Junaluska* magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of the programs, to learn about new projects they are working on, and to familiarize yourself with the calendar of events. They hope you will come and visit this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Submitted by the Lake Junaluska Assembly Inc. Executive Team

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we travel together in this journey of discipleship!

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Students:** Our entering students were the most diverse in our history, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchange and fruitful collaboration.
- **Faculty:** We welcomed three amazing faculty this year: **Rebecca Copeland** in Theology (focus on environmental theology); **Theodore Hickman-Maynard** in Black Church Studies; and **Cornell William Brooks** as Visiting Professor of Social Ethics, Law, and Justice Movements. Thanks to loyal alums, we also endowed the Harrell Beck Professorship in Hebrew Scripture and installed Kathe Darr as the first Beck Professor.
- **Congregations:** The Lilly Endowment awarded the Center for Practical Theology \$1.5 million to create an innovation hub, which will foster creative vocational reflection in congregations, and a sharing of the congregations' wisdom.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Scholarships:** We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Dale Andrews Scholarship in Practical Theology and Race, Korean Student scholarship, and the Bishop John H. Adams and Dr. Dolly D. Adams Scholarship for candidates for ordained ministry in the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches.
- **Arts Initiatives:** Recent exhibits and events include "Symbols and Art of China, Korea, and Japan" and "Bridging Divided Communities through the Arts"

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- **Congregational courses:** Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.

- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** Internships and workshops that foster justice and reconciliation.
- **Travel seminars:** Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, India, spiritual life centers, and Serbia and Croatia (with focus on interreligious dialogue).
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while launching robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education with interreligious learning and leadership opportunities.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

- **Campus action:** Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World.”
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

- Faculty and students have led and participated in service for victims of hurricanes and fires, protests on behalf of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, protests of white supremacist movements, protests and services on behalf of immigrants and DACA young people, and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- The community (often student-led) has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological issues). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Anna Howard Shaw Center

As BUSTH looks back on 2017, it celebrates transformational leaders who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Their living legacy and perceptive witness gives us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

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, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler has been included on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for five years running, and was recently named a “Bright Spot in Theological Education” by Auburn Seminary.

Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a demonstrated commitment to service. Our location in Atlanta provides a hands-on learning environment rich with opportunity: The General Board of Global Ministries is headquartered here, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Simply put, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages 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 offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they’re enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 455, reflecting 49 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half 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 2017-2018, we awarded \$5.3 million in Candler scholarships, with 97 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 75 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Half of Candler's faculty are United Methodist and 58% come from traditions within the larger Methodist family. This year, we welcomed fellow United Methodist Helen Jin Kim to the faculty as Assistant Professor of American Religious History, and we sent best wishes along with our colleague Mary Lou Greenwood Boice as she retired after 25 years of remarkable service to Candler.

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 throughout the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Jan Love

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

1325 N College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711 • www.cst.edu

Claremont School of Theology's Mission:

CST is United Methodist in origin and affiliation and ecumenical and interreligious in spirit. Students are nurtured by Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason and are prepared for lives of ministry, leadership, and service. Graduates are prepared to become agents of transformation and healing in churches, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large

Claremont School of Theology's Ministry:

Over its nearly six decades of history, Claremont School of Theology has learned that there is nothing to lose in opening its doors to students and partners of a wide diversity of traditions. Quite the contrary, in fact. It has been our experience that exposure and engagement with traditions different from one's own result in greater depth and clarity of belief and practice.

— President Jeffrey Kuan

CST isn't like most theological schools. Yes, we educate ministers and other leaders through traditional and hybrid degree programs in service of Church and society, and we're rooted in a particular tradition—The United Methodist Church—offering opportunities for spiritual formation, intellectual exploration, and practical preparation, but we are broad in denominational composition and outlook. We're building on desegregating religious education so our students can better learn about others as they learn about themselves. Research is showing that students gain a deeper understanding of their own faith when educated in the presence of religious diversity. It's a ground-breaking approach to ministerial education and Christian formation.

The CST faculty embodies a rich diversity of traditions extending beyond United Methodist roots. Current Christian faculty includes ordained and lay representation from the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, African Methodist Episcopal, Quaker, and Nazarene traditions. New staff and postdoctoral appointments are regularly sought out to enhance learning. CST's faculty adopt an interreligious approach to their wide-ranging research projects. All master's students are required to complete a course in Interreligious Leadership and Dialogue as a core requirement of their curriculum.

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Under the leadership of Elaine A. Heath, dean and professor of missional and pastoral theology, Duke Divinity School has continued to work on our strategic planning process. In the academic year 2017–2018, the strategic planning committee was assembled, composed of representatives from the faculty, staff, student body, and Duke Divinity's Board of Visitors. The committee has sought extensive feedback from stakeholders, including alumni, church leaders, and donors as well as our community of faculty, staff, and students; and it is paying close attention to developments within theological education and the cultural changes affecting both

church and academy. The committee anticipates presenting a framework document in the spring of 2018 with a strategic plan submitted for approval in November 2018.

This year we launched several new programs to equip laypeople and to support students. The Neighborhood Seminary, a partnership with the Northern Piedmont District of the Western North Carolina Conference, is a two-year, noncredit training program that began this year with a cohort of 18 people. The cohort participates in four team-taught courses per year led by faculty, staff, and graduate students from Duke Divinity School in partnership with local practitioners and ministries. The cohort also undertakes an intentional, contemplative model of spiritual practice combined with sequenced contextual learning experiences with local practitioners throughout the two-year program. Heidi Miller, Ph.D., directs the Neighborhood Seminary program.

We also launched a new academic support program to help incoming students learn how to think and write theologically. The Refresher and Intensive for Scholarly Enrichment (RISE) program began with a two-day pre-orientation workshop for new students this August. Over half of the incoming class—83 students—registered for this self-selecting program that includes lectures, panels, and workshops to help them navigate academic work and succeed at seminary. Academic support continues throughout the year, with Divinity School professors and preceptors as well as academic support staff in contact with each other and struggling students to develop plans to help them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2017, our total enrollment was 606 students: 369 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 58 in the M.T.S.; 10 in the Th.M.; 46 in the Th.D.; 83 in the D.Min.; 23 in the M.A.C.P.; 4 in the M.A.C.S.; and 10 who are special students or auditors. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 3 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 46 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 4 percent are Roman Catholic, 10 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 21 other denominations or faith traditions.

Three new certificates were approved this year. The Certificate in Missional Innovation, which can be earned as part of a master of divinity degree, is intended for students interested or involved in innovative forms of ministry. They will receive training in contextual evangelism and church planting with the goal of converting, gathering, and discipling people who are often neglected or unreached by existing church structures. The Certificate in Theology and the Arts, which can be earned alongside the M.Div., M.T.S., or Th.M., aims to help students appreciate and articulate the mutual enrichment of theology and the arts and to create opportunities to involve local churches and communities in the arts. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care is a new fully accredited residential graduate program that provides robust theological and practical engagement with contemporary practices in medicine and health care. The certificate aims to equip Christian health care practitioners with foundational courses in Christian theology, Scripture, and the practical issues they encounter.

In 2017, the Duke Forward comprehensive campaign concluded, having raised critical endowment and expendable funds to support the people, programs, and activities of the university. Duke Divinity School raised \$114.1 million, 143 percent more than the goal of \$80 million. This support enables the Divinity School to provide scholarships and fellowships to students, build faculty excellence, and launch new programs and research efforts. We are grateful to God for the generous partnership of many alumni, other individuals, churches, and foundations. These gifts are helping to move Duke Divinity School forward into preparing men and women who will serve their neighbors and lead the church of the future.

Our faculty continue to provide exemplary service in the classroom, for the church, and to the wider culture. Just one example is Edgardo Colón-Emeric, assistant professor of Christian theology, continues the Duke Divinity tradition of Methodist engagement in ecumenical initiatives. As part of the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church, Colón-Emeric presented to Pope Francis the Spanish translation of the latest bilateral statement. Colón-Emeric has also been actively involved in Methodist churches and seminaries in Latin America, including an effort to train lay pastors in Guatemala that has involved Duke Divinity staff and doctoral students.

A number of efforts and programs at Duke Divinity School this year have sought to further our commitment to supporting and learning from students and communities that have been too often marginalized. Our Convocation & Pastors' School featured professors, pastors, and activists who addressed ways that the church can dismantle bias and hate. The Center for Reconciliation had a full slate of programs, including a conversation series on navigating conflict that was open to the public; a pilgrimage to significant sites in Durham; and participation in reconciliation events in East Africa and Northeast Asia. Thanks to a grant from the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry's Young Clergy Initiative, Duke Divinity School received a grant to help develop leadership for the Black church within the UMC through mentorships,

funded field education placements with experienced Black pastors, and attendance at the Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches. Within our school, Dean Elaine Heath has met regularly with the leaders of the Black Seminarians Union and a team of faculty and staff to address concerns around implicit bias in grading, training in cross-cultural competency, additional scholarship support for students, and staffing needs to support an increasingly diverse student population.

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

Respectfully submitted by the Office of Dean Elaine A. Heath

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

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

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

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

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Grace and Peace,

Ken J. Walden, Ph.D., *President-Dean*

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you news from MTSO. Here are a few highlights from a productive year.

Healthy Congregations Inc. moves in

MTSO entered into a mutually beneficial partnership with Healthy Congregations, an interfaith organization that equips leaders for thinking more clearly about families, relationships and faith communities. The MTSO campus now hosts Healthy Congregations' staff and offices, as well as many of its events. The relationship affords MTSO's students, faculty and staff the opportunity to participate in Healthy Congregations events at reduced cost.

MTSO and Ohio State unite around innovative food hub

The Ohio State University Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) awarded MTSO a \$35,000 grant, which will help fund the development and testing of a new food hub model in Franklinton, a low-income Columbus community. This work brings together residents of Franklinton, the Franklinton Farms urban gardens, and faculty, staff and students from Ohio State and MTSO, including the staff of MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm. To increase

Franklinton residents' access to affordable, local food, the project will use an online food ordering interface – a departure from the traditional brick-and-mortar model of food hubs.

Homiletics events encourage prophetic preaching

The year provided MTSO with two major opportunities to contribute to the craft of preaching. Women from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds gathered in September for Chloe's Circle, presented by MTSO's Theological Commons and WomanPreach! Inc., an organization founded by MTSO Interim Academic Dean Valerie Bridgeman to bring preachers into full prophetic voice. Participants explored the ways preachers can share truth in the face of disparity and injustice. In February, the Schooler Institute on Preaching featured lectures and preaching by Wil Gafney, associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School and author of "Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne."

Students take cross-cultural trip to South Africa

Cross-cultural immersion is a key part of MTSO students' preparation for ministry. Every Master of Divinity student at MTSO takes a cross-cultural immersion trip before graduating. In January, a group of students and faculty visited South Africa for 18 days. Among the stops was Soweto's Regina Mundi Catholic Church, which was central to the anti-Apartheid movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Russell, director of communications

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"NOW TO HIM WHO BY THE POWER OF GOD AT WORK WITHIN US IS ABLE TO
ACCOMPLISH ABUNDANTLY FAR MORE THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE..."

— Ephesians 3:20

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, celebrated a 77% increase in new students for the fall of 2017. While 71 new students enrolled in September 2016, 126 new students enrolled in September 2017. This was made possible by increasing student aid opportunities and empowering faculty members, trustees and administrators to personally recommend candidates for a \$5,000 grant toward tuition. United experienced God's provision, trusting what God said through St. Paul: "[God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Many of the seminary's new students are current pastors who want to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. United's Doctor of Ministry program has 170 students enrolled this year from 29 states, 2 non-US countries and 27 Christian denominations. The average number of doctoral students in all Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is 60 students, making United one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs among ATS member schools.

The Doctor of Ministry program provides academic rigor, peer group support, spiritual growth and practical application. Pastors identify a need within their community and, with the support of a peer group, mentor and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry that will resolve the challenge in their congregations or communities.

Rev. Rudy Rasmus, pastor of the 9,000-member St. John's United Methodist Church in downtown Houston is a current doctoral student, who says he has been both challenged and supported in the DMin program.

"The program is rigorous," Rev. Rasmus says. "It is contextual, it is intentional and the professors and staff are at the top of the form."

United also has 212 students enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program who usually seek to serve as pastors in local congregations. 88% of entering students are ordained or seeking ordination to serve a local congregation compared to 56% in other ATS member schools.

United also provides a two-year Master of Arts in Christian Ministries degree, which many persons serving as Directors of Christian Education or other local church positions pursue.

United provides flexible course options: 90% of students take at least one course online, and courses are also available as traditional on-campus courses, week-long on-campus intensive classes and virtual courses that meet simultaneously on campus and in the cloud via webcast.

If you are interested in pursuing further seminary education, contact United's Office of Admissions at admissions@united.edu or call 800-322-5817.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Kent Millard, President, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary, located in Washington, D.C., continues to equip the next generation of Christian leadership for the church and the world. As a United Methodist seminary, we form students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions.

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for master's or doctoral work or continuing education or simply deeper biblical knowledge, Wesley wants to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in faith, wisdom, and ability.

Expand your leadership skills

Wesley's internationally respected **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** is a key resource for cutting-edge church research and disciple-growing strategies for the local church. Under the directorship of the Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., the Lewis Center's *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter, reaching almost 20,000 people in ministry each week, has launched **its new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk**. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/

The **Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley** continues its innovative **online Health Minister Certificate Program** from Heal the Sick to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. Some scholarships are available for this program. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. **The Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/fpli.

A **Certificate in Wesleyan Studies** is available online via the **Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy**. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at www.beadisciple.com/wesley/.

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley continues to be a leader in **Doctor of Ministry** programs, offering **practical and spiritually renewing tracks** in theological education. Wesley announces an exciting new 2019 Doctor of Ministry track, in partnership with Wesley House in Cambridge, UK: "Winds of the Spirit and Ministries for a Changing World." Other 2019 tracks will include Church Excellence, Spirituality and Story, a 13th Global Asian Church track and Public Engagement: Healing Communal Brokenness and Despair. **Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/**.

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

Wesley understands the struggle of responsibly accepting your call while being concerned about balancing life, family, ministry and student debt. We are here to help make responding to that call possible. Through our partnership with Shenandoah University and our **new 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program**, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degree in 6 years. **Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees**.

Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for summer and fall 2018 at <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/>

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy. Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to **equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit**.

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, Wesley is working with **20 local congregations** to design innovative ministries to enrich the religious lives of young adults. **Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/**. The Wesley Innovation Hub is made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment.

In a time of polarization, the **Center for Public Theology**, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, continues to equip pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center also provides events, such as the Wesleyan Political Theology Project, to help faith leaders lead prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. **For more information, visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.**

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. **For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.**

Stay connected

Ready to join in our mission? Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at **www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/**.

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by **signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.**

We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God's dream together. Blessings to you for a fruitful and faithful Annual Conference.

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President