

2019 South Carolina Annual Conference Awards



Seeking A More Excellent Way
A Future With Hope





Joseph Benjamin Bethea Distinguished Service Award

This annual award from the Religion and Race Committee of the Advocacy Area of Connectional Ministries is presented to a person who has performed outstanding service in working for racial justice. This year's recipient is:

Anderson Mack Jr.

New Webster United Methodist Church, Wadmalaw Island



"Mr. Mack has been a voice for those who could not and would not speak for themselves out of fear," says the Rev. Pattie E. Gordon, pastor of New Webster UMC who nominated Mack. "He has been instrumental in helping seasonal workers and their families become self-sufficient in a foreign land.

"He has walked with parents and their children, seeking to understand the customs and language on the islands. He has been a vehicle of teaching and serving in the Sea Island communities."

Mack's participation in church ministry includes:

- ◆ Membership on the Religion and Race Committee (8 years)
- ◆ Chairperson of the New Webster UMC Trustee Committee (12 years)
- ◆ Chairperson of the New Webster Administrative Council (4 years)
- ◆ President of the New Webster UMC Choir (8 years)
- ◆ Director of the New Webster UMC Choir (10 years)
- ◆ Membership in Black Methodists for Church Renewal and United Methodist Men
- ◆ Sunday School teacher
- ◆ Vacation Bible School leader and teacher
- ◆ Numerous training, bringing back information/instruction for Johns Island Parish

Mack's community involvement includes:

- ◆ Special Services Coordinator at Rural Mission Inc. (42 years), assisting migrant and seasonal farm workers
- ◆ Assisting families in need of home repair and construction in and around the communities of greater Charleston
- ◆ Working with volunteers from all over the world to assist with renovations and construction of new homes for low-income families

"Mr. Mack, like the late Bishop Joseph Benjamin Bethea, takes a holistic approach to ministry in dealing with the needs of the folk around the Charleston area," Rev. Gordon says.





Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award

This award from the Commission on Religion and Race is presented to a person or organization in the South Carolina Conference who has built bridges of understanding by promoting equity and inclusiveness without regard to race, gender, age, handicap or economic condition. This year's recipient is:

Beckee Garris

Mount Prospect United Methodist Church, Richburg



"Through her involvement and dedication, Beckee has promoted an understanding of Native Americans and promoted their inclusion in the South Carolina Conference," says the Rev. Tracy Pender, chairperson of the Conference Native American Committee, which nominated Garris.

Garris joined Friendship UMC in Rock Hill in 2005, beginning her 14 years of service on the Native American Committee that same year.

"Her previous religious experience taught her that she could not be Indian and Christian at the same time," Rev. Pender says. "She had to leave her culture outside the church door. For the first time in her life, she could be Indian and Christian inside the church. She could even wear her traditional regalia inside the church and play the traditional drum.

"She was impressed with United Methodists' open hearts, open minds and open doors."

As a member of the Native American Committee, Garris has traveled across the conference for Native American Ministries Sunday – one of the UMC's six special Sundays – visiting on average eight to 10 churches a year. She provides a message during worship services, educating fellow United Methodists on Indian traditions, culture and spirituality.

"Beckee's message weaves together scripture, Catawba pottery tradition and Indian culture," Rev. Pender says. "She designs friendship necklaces provided by the committee at the start of a relationship with a local church. Using clay dug in the same location for over 500 years, she fires the necklaces following Catawba pottery-making tradition."

Garris also has served as a delegate to Annual Conference, where she staffs the Native American Committee's table and educates delegates and others about the committee's mission and vision; coordinated the committee's contribution to an American Indian display in the Pacolet Museum; represented South Carolina at the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Native American Ministries; chaired the Southeastern Native American Caucuses; and served as registrar for the committee's annual training for Native American local church representatives.

"Beckee is a true bridge builder, advocating for making the American Indian people visible," Rev. Pender says.





Harry Denman Evangelism Award Youth

This annual award from the Foundation for Evangelism recognizes one youth in each conference for responsible evangelism in the local church. This year's recipient is:

Sarah Adeline "Addie" Hendrix

Lexington United Methodist Church, Lexington



"Addie inspires her fellow youth to bring others to church, in addition to talking about God on social media," says the Rev. Elizabeth Murray, the Lexington UMC youth minister who nominated Hendrix. "She is an example for the adults because she is constantly serving both in the youth group and in the larger community of Lexington United Methodist Church."

"She is incredibly kind in her speech, goes out of her way to include others, and is always looking for ways to help."

Hendrix' participation in ministry has included:

- ◆ Serving as a student adviser to the youth minister as a member of the Lexington UMC student leadership team
- ◆ Attending Salkehatchie Summer Service each year
- ◆ Serving as a lay reader
- ◆ Volunteering as an usher
- ◆ Serving at large church events, such as the annual Fall Festival, the church-wide Holiday Market, and the Shrove Tuesday Supper
- ◆ Helping pack "snack sacks" for the school feeding ministry
- ◆ Volunteering at the Mission Lexington food pantry on days off from school

"Addie has a passion for evangelism and outreach and uses her involvement with the Youth Group as a platform to reach out to others," says Ed Richardson, lay leader at Lexington UMC who also nominated Hendrix. "Her idea and inspiration helped launch a new youth initiative to visit Agape Hospice and to sing hymns with and for the patients and staff.

"Addie wants to make a difference and is constantly looking for a way to help."





Harry Denman Evangelism Award Laity

This annual award from the Foundation for Evangelism recognizes one lay person in each conference for responsible evangelism in the local church. This year's recipient is:

Dr. Dorothy McClam

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Lake City



"Dr. McClam lives a life that is pleasing to God and an example to others," says the Rev. Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge, pastor of Wesley Chapel UMC who nominated McClam. "She does not draw attention to herself, nor does she seek accolades for what she does. She is faithful and focused in her discipleship, her focus is on serving God and growing in her relationship with Christ.

"Dorothy is willing. She serves where she is needed and gifted, but she does not over-extend herself."

McClam's participation in ministry has included:

- ◆ Leading the Nursing Home Ministry by identifying speakers, arranging communion and providing Christmas gifts to the residents
- ◆ Serving as lay delegate to Annual Conference
- ◆ Sunday School Superintendent
- ◆ Member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee
- ◆ Certified Lay Servant
- ◆ Vice-chairperson of Church Council
- ◆ Membership in United Methodist Women
- ◆ Member of the Pastoral Assistant Care Team, which assists the pastor with caring for members who cannot attend worship and who are experiencing grief
- ◆ Starting another outreach ministry to those struggling with grief, especially during the holidays
- ◆ Leader of Wesley Chapel's Nursing Home Visitation Team

"Dr. McClam has strived to live a life reflective of the healing and sustaining power of God in her life," says Dr. Evelyn Fulmore, Wesley Chapel UMC's lay leader who also nominated McClam. "She is a deeply devoted person in everything she does. The basis of how she inspires others is by her consistency of person and spirituality.

"She is the same person whether she is with a stranger or family."





Harry Denman Evangelism Award Clergy

This annual award from the Foundation for Evangelism recognizes one clergy person in each conference for responsible evangelism in the local church. This year's recipient is:

Rev. Carleatha Benson

Mt. Beulah United Methodist Church, Lake City



"Pastor Benson is a dedicated woman of God," says Shirley Woodard, lay leader of Mt. Beulah UMC who nominated Rev. Benson. "She takes the time to engage members of the community, some of whom are homeless, in conversation about who Jesus Christ is, especially in her life. She meets persons in grocery stores, department stores and in the local post office.

"It matters not where, for she believes that everyone is somebody and needs to hear about the Good News of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Benson's participation in ministry has included:

- ◆ Serving as chairperson of the Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
- ◆ Starting the Pastor's Biggest Losers program to encourage church members who struggle with weight issues to eat healthier and to exercise in ways that work for them
- ◆ Serving as coordinator of Black Methodists for Church Renewal for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC
- ◆ Working with Beulah UMC's United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, encouraging them to support missions, the Society of St. Andrew, and local agencies and programs in Lake City
- ◆ Teaching the Basic Lay Servant Ministries Course for 27 years
- ◆ Serving as a member the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate Board of Trustees

"Pastor Benson loves sharing with people how God has blessed her and brought her through many trials," says Renae Hannah, facilitator of the children's ministry at Mt. Beulah UMC who also nominated Rev. Benson.

"She encourages everyone to be better than where they are.

"She pushes us to get outside the walls of the church to tell others about the goodness of the Lord."





Michael C. Watson

Volunteer In Mission Award

Laity

This award recognizes laypersons who exemplify extraordinary volunteer mission service within the South Carolina Conference. This year's recipient is:

Miriam "Mimbee" Baker Ray

Bethel Park United Methodist Church, Denmark



"Black Swamp Salkehatchie is a family because of Mimbee's compassion and love," says Kemper Moody, Black Swamp camp director who nominated her mother. "Each year, she personally welcomes every camper with a smile and a warm hug. Her love extends to the homeowners and to the community. Being from Estill, she has a special connection with the people of Hampton County.

"Every conversation begins with who they know in the community and ends with a laugh and a hug."

Ray's participation in ministry has included:

- ◆ Volunteering with Salkehatchie Summer Service for nearly three decades, including 12 years as camp director at Black Swamp camp in Hampton County
- ◆ Serving more than 4,000 volunteer hours in Hampton County through Salkehatchie
- ◆ Mentoring countless youth and adults, who have gone on to lead in their own ways through Salkehatchie Summer Service
- ◆ Volunteering with Meals on Wheels
- ◆ Driving those in need to the doctor and visiting local nursing homes
- ◆ "Adopting" a family in Denmark, taking the children to the library and encouraging them in their academics, financially supporting them, covering them in prayer daily
- ◆ Serving on a medical mission trip to Honduras, where she assisted her husband in dental work

"Mimbee taught me that the people, not the property, were what was important," says the Rev. Chris Calhoun, pastor of St. Mark and West Green UMCs in Douglas, Georgia, who also nominated Ray and who credits her with inspiring him to start a Salkehatchie camp in Georgia. "The families in the homes and the campers who performed the repairs were the reason we had camp. If it were just about getting the work done, we could just do fundraising and hire someone to fix the houses."





Michael C. Watson

Volunteer In Mission Award

Clergy

This award recognizes clergy who exemplify extraordinary volunteer mission service within the South Carolina Conference. This year's recipient is:

Rev. Nick Elliott

Retired elder, attending Advent United Methodist Church, Simpsonville



"Nick Elliott has been a driving force in missions worldwide for over 35 years," says Paul Webb, a member of Advent UMC who served with Rev. Elliott on four mission trips to Cuba and who nominated him. "He has been Christ's hands and feet in Cuba, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador and many other places. He has brought the love of Jesus to thousands and inspired many others to do the same.

"Many of the mission leaders UMVIM has today can in some way trace a connection to this man and his life's work."

Rev. Elliott's participation in ministry has included:

- ◆ Working as director of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission-Southeastern Jurisdiction, serving from 1999 until his retirement in 2009
- ◆ Ministerial appointments in the South Carolina Conference at Marshall Memorial, Sandy Springs-Zion, Piedmont, Harris, Herbert Memorial, Leesville and St. John's-Lugoff
- ◆ Leading disaster recovery and reconstruction teams across South Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Hugo in 1989
- ◆ Serving as a member of the first UMC mission team that went to Cuba in the early 1990s, helping establish a relationship with that nation – over more than 20 mission trips – that continues today

"Thousands of new Christians and hundreds of new churches exist as a result of the efforts Nick began in Cuba," says Derial Ogburn, chairperson of UMVIM-South Carolina who also nominated Rev. Elliott. "Every congregation Nick served in our conference benefited from his influence.

"I speak from personal experience, since Nick was my pastor in the 1990s and led me to UMVIM and Global Missions."





Discipleship Ministries

One Matters Discipleship Award

This new annual award from Discipleship Ministries lifts up churches that have moved from “zeros” in professions of faith and baptisms to positive numbers in recent years due to their renewed focus on intentional discipleship. In addition to the recognition, recipients receive \$1,000 to continue its efforts. This year’s recipient is:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church (North Charleston)

Rev. Erik Grayson, pastor

Aldersgate UMC was founded in March 1946 as a church start in the living rooms of several local families.

Today, Aldersgate is home to about 175 members, a vital congregation after more than 70 years of ministry and service to God and its neighbors.

Aldersgate UMC’s discipleship efforts have included:

- Creation of “The Gathering,” a Saturday evening service and fellowship meal in cooperation with Enoch Chapel UMC
- Providing a “warming/cooling” shelter in response to the need for refuge during extreme temperatures, a ministry in which other local congregations are becoming involved
- Increasing its intentionality to participate in missions locally and beyond, offering housing space for missional teams who come to the area to work on Disaster Response and Disaster Recovery efforts in the community
- In 2018, increasing the number of baptisms to three



ONE  **MATTERS**
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES AWARD





Commission on Archives and History

Herbert Hucks Award

All churches of the conference are encouraged to celebrate their heritage with this award, which recognizes preservation and interpretation of Methodist history in the local church. This year's recipients are:

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church (Columbia)

Rev. Cynthia Taylor, pastor | James A. Neal, church historian

A relatively younger congregation, Asbury Memorial UMC recently celebrated 60 years of ministry. It has established an archives, thanks in part to celebrating its anniversary. The church historian has contributed to weekly and monthly bulletins and newsletters, and the pastor has taught Sunday School classes on Asbury and Methodist history. They have made great strides toward making history an important part of the church.

Buncombe Street United Methodist Church (Greenville)

Rev. Bob Howell, pastor | Sue Wilson, church historian

Buncombe Street UMC has an active History and Archives Committee and has worked this year to include the history of Trinity Church, which Buncombe Street adopted in the past year. The church has erected a South Carolina historical marker, participated in a local church history tour, reviewed the collections in their archives, and presented information on many Sundays to members at large and to Sunday School classes. The church also has an impressive collection of oral histories, which it has shared with the South Carolina United Methodist Collection at Wofford College.

Grace United Methodist Church (Pickens)

Rev. David C. Taylor, pastor | Elizabeth B. Dalton, church historian

Grace UMC featured history this year as it celebrated its sesquicentennial. Every Sunday, some aspect of the congregation's history was featured, and copies were distributed to each member as a keepsake. The committee has worked all year to collect and preserve history and has made a celebration of the church's history congregation-wide.





Commission on Archives and History

Herbert Hucks Award

All churches of the conference are encouraged to celebrate their heritage with this award, which recognizes preservation and interpretation of Methodist history in the local church. This year's recipients are:

Livingston United Methodist Church

Rev. Graham M. Bennett, pastor | Martha M. Sligh, church historian

Livingston UMC continues its work to preserve and promote church history. It makes its history visible to its membership every Sunday, but especially on Heritage Sunday.

The church historian actively collects and presents history, and members embrace and celebrate it.

Mountain View United Methodist Church (Taylors)

Rev. Carole Walters, pastor | Jim Bever, church historian

Mountain View UMC continues its excellent work and is home to a great example of an active, engaged local church History Committee, which produces a booklet each year documenting events in the life of the church. Its History Committee is active in collecting, presenting and preserving history. Its work demonstrates the congregation's commitment to sharing church history with members and the conference at large.

Smyrna United Methodist Church (Bennettsville)

Rev. Ebbie Abraham, pastor | Linda Sanders, church historian

Smyrna UMC has been a faithful witness in Marlboro County since before the Civil War. Its present church building dates to 1928. The church has printed a timeline of notable events in its history and documented many significant events. Its historian shares the history of the community with confirmation classes, Bible study groups and in worship.





Bishop's Five-Star Award

This award, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee of the Discipleship Area, provides an incentive for churches to embrace new ministries each year geared toward growth and outreach. The award enables small and large churches to receive recognition, for which all of these criteria must be met:

- Increase in Sunday school attendance or enhancement of Christian education ministry
- A "new work" that impacts growth
- Members received by profession of faith/rededication: 1 for every 100 members
- Emphasis on youth ministries that demonstrate growth
- All apportionments paid in full for 2017, or a 25 percent increase in apportionment payments compared to two years prior

This year's recipients are:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>District</u>
Advent UMC (Simpsonville)	Rev. Michael Turner Rev. Laura-Allen Kerlin (associate)	Greenville
Bethel UMC (Charleston)	Rev. Susan Leonard	Charleston
Bethlehem/St. James UMC (Johns Island)	Rev. Pattie Gordon	Charleston
Chapin UMC	Rev. Jody Flowers	Columbia
Christ UMC (Bennettsville)	Rev. Wade Everett	Marion
Fair Lawn UMC (Columbia)	Rev. Scott Bratton	Columbia
First UMC (Clover)	Rev. Tommy Wilkes III Rev. Meg Wilkes (associate)	Rock Hill
Grove Hall UMC (Summerville)	Rev. Virginia Stafford	Charleston
Immanuel UMC (Wellford)	Rev. Andrew Sizemore	Spartanburg
Main Street UMC (Abbeville)	Rev. Brian Arant	Anderson
Mays Chapel UMC (Branchville)	Rev. R. Davin Gordon	Orangeburg
Mt. Harmony UMC (Clover)	Rev. Sharon Spann Gamble	Rock Hill
Mt. Zion UMC (Sumter)	Rev. Gwendolyn White	Hartsville
New Webster UMC (Wadmalaw Island)	Rev. Pattie Gordon	Charleston
North Charleston UMC	Rev. Richard Reams	Charleston
Shiloh UMC (Gilbert)	Rev. Dr. Christopher Greene	Columbia
Smyrna UMC (Bennettsville)	Rev. Ebbie Abraham	Marion



BISHOP'S FIVE-STAR AWARD





Bishop's Award of Excellence

This award recognizes congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith-based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders who participate in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston joins with the United Methodist Men of South Carolina in recognizing Scouting Ministry as an important part of the church's total ministry because of who is involved — all God's children.

This year's recipients are:

Advent United Methodist Church, Simpsonville

Cub Scout Pack 833

- Rev. Michael Turner, pastor
- Mark Funderburk, scouting ministry coordinator

Red Bank United Methodist Church, Lexington

Cub Scout Pack 518 | BSA Troops 518 & 9518

- Rev. Dr. Robert Dunn, pastor
- Robin O. Smith, scouting ministry coordinator

St. Mark United Methodist Church, Greenville

Cub Scout Pack 56 | BSA Troop 56

- Rev. Tony Owens, pastor
- Paul Russell Sr., scouting ministry coordinator

St. Mark United Methodist Church, Sumter

Daisy Troop 679 | Brownie Troop 582

Junior Troop 2250 | Cadet Troop 2402

Senior/Ambassador Troop 680

- Rev. Geneva Stafford, pastor
- Jacqueline Session, scouting ministry coordinator

Trinity United Methodist Church, Spartanburg

Cub Scout Pack 22

- Rev. Neal Woods, pastor
- Steve M. Whitaker, scouting ministry coordinator





Board of Ordained Ministry

Annual Conference Seminary Student Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the South Carolina Conference to assist in-state students pursuing a program of study leading to a first professional degree. This year's recipients are:



Carsten Aubrey Bryant – Bryant is a Columbia native and a seminary student at Duke Divinity School. His home church is Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington. He has served as pianist for the Eno House campus of Union Grove UMC in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and as the Exploring Opportunities in Ministry Intern at Calvary AME Church.



Zachary Dollard deMoya – deMoya is a native of Lexington and a seminary student at Duke Divinity School. His home church is Mt. Horeb UMC in Lexington. He has served as a Bible study leader, small group leader, spring mission trip leader, youth Sunday School teacher and basketball coach.



Joseph Daniel Kovas – Kovas is a native of Pineville, North Carolina, and a seminary student at Duke Divinity School. His home church is Bethel UMC in Chester. He has served as president of the youth fellowship, choir member, worship leader and communion steward. He is the Indian Affairs representative and communion steward at Duke Chapel.



James Taylor – Taylor is a native of Columbia and a seminary student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His home church is Clemson UMC. He has served as assistant youth director at Glenn Memorial UMC, youth minister at Clemson UMC, director of technology at Clemson University, and assistant campus minister for the Clemson Wesley Foundation.





Board of Ordained Ministry

T. Dennie Smith Scholarship

This scholarship carries forward the wishes of the late T. Dennie Smith of Greer, whose will created a trust to assist “any young man or woman...who intend to devote their lives to ministry in the Methodist Church.” This year’s recipients are:



Kim Bryant – Bryant is a native of Summerville. She has served as a special education teacher, a special education coordinator, a special education director and a guidance counselor. She is a graduate of Charleston Southern University and is pursuing a master of arts degree in Christian ministry from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia.



Arthur Lindburg Gamble – Gamble is a native of Fort Pierce, Florida, and his home church is St. John UMC in Lynchburg. He has served as a musician, a Sunday School teacher, a Bible study teacher and a lay servant. He is a graduate of Central Carolina Technical College and Columbia College and is pursuing a master of divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina.



Alston Flynn Lippert – Lippert is a native of Union and currently lives in Columbia, where she is a seminary student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. She has served as a stewardship committee chairperson, a small group chairperson, a Staff-Parish Relations Committee member, a Sunday School teacher, a children’s ministries volunteer and a Salkehatchie Summer Service volunteer.

S.C. United Methodist Advocate Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is for South Carolina United Methodist students with an interest in communications, journalism or business, and planning to enroll or already enrolled at one of the four United Methodist colleges in South Carolina. This year’s recipient is:



Grayson Jeffords – Jeffords, a senior at Trinity-Barnes Collegiate School in Florence, is a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church in Florence, where she has been active in the youth group, Salkehatchie Summer Service, and as a liaison to Epworth Children’s Home. She is student body president and vice president of the National Honor Society at her school, where she also plays varsity soccer and runs cross country. She plans to study communications at Wofford College in Spartanburg.



**It's never too early to
start thinking about the**

**2020 South
Carolina
Annual
Conference
Awards**



**Nominate a worthy
S.C. United Methodist
now at**

umcsc.org/awards

