

SECTION IV
The Forty-Sixth Session of the
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972
Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785)
And the South Carolina Conference (1866)
Sunday, June 4, 2017 – Wednesday, June 7, 2017
TD Convention Center
Greenville, South Carolina
Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding
CONFERENCE THEME:
“A More Excellent Way: We Walk By Faith, Not by Sight”

The First Day – Sunday Evening
June 4, 2017

Registration: Registration began at 2:00 p.m. at the TD Convention Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, a registration booklet including additional reports and other information, and information regarding the Greenville area.

The Laity Reception was held in Room 102 B-C from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Lay Orientation: The Board of Laity conducted an Orientation Session for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference at 4 p.m. in Room 102A. The session began with a welcome by **Ms. Barbara Ware**, Conference Lay Leader. All lay members present were provided information and instruction by the Conference Lay Leader and others concerning the agenda, movement, procedures, and parliamentary process of the 2017 Annual Conference.

An orientation was held at 4:00 p.m. for all who desired to attend.

Clergy Session: **Bishop L. Jonathan Holston** called The Clergy Session to order at 5:00 p.m. in Room 202. **Bishop Holston** opened the meeting with the singing of “Blessed Assurance” and with a word of prayer. **Reverend Fran Elrod** thanked those who serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees for their service in the past year. **Reverend Patricia Parrish** made the report of the Administrative Review Committee. Rev. Parrish shared that after a thorough review, the ARC concluded that the Board of Ordained Ministry did follow the disciplinary process outlined in ¶¶ 327.6, ¶354.2b, and ¶354.5 in recommending to the 2017 Clergy Session that the Rev. Dr. Sheila Koger be discontinued as a provisional members and placed on IVLOA. **Reverend Mel Arant** presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. **Reverend Fran Elrod**, Chair of The Board of Ordained Ministry thanked **Reverend Ken Nelson** for his assistance and support to him in this position.

Clergy members were presented with a full written report for the questions. Business Questions 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24 were presented as information and moved to Record; as no vote was required.

Motion 1: Business Question 25, 26, 29, 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, and 57-59 as reported by the Board of Ordained Ministry, were offered as part of the Clergy Session “consent Calendar.” It was approved by more than two-thirds vote of the Clergy Session.

Motion 2: Authorized the Registrar and Office of Clergy Services to make editorial changes where necessary for the Annual Conference Journal. The Clergy Session acted to approved each of the following Business Questions separately: 18a, 18c, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 42, 45, 46, 48, 50, and 73. More than a two-thirds majority approved questions 32, 33, 34, and 50. More than a three-fourths majority approved question 73.

Following the reading of the names of clergy who had died during the past year, as listed under Question 48, **Bishop L. Jonathan Holston** offered prayer in remembrance and appreciation of their service to Annual Conference. There being no further business, **Bishop Holston** offered the closing prayer, reminded the members of the evening worship session, thanked them for their presence and participation, and declared the Clergy Session adjourned. The materials distributed during the Clergy Session are attached for reference.

The **Opening Service of Worship** began at 7:30 p.m. in the TD Convention Center’s Assembly Hall with **Bishop Jonathan Holston** presiding. The Bishop’s sermon entitled “A Double Dog Dare” was based on II Corinthians 5:1-7. His message was a passionate reminder of God’s call for us to Aviate, Communicate, and Navigate as we walk by faith and not by sight. The Buncombe Street

UMC Choir of Greenville, SC presented the music during the service. The attendees celebrated Holy Communion. The offering received during this service assisted SC United Methodist Conference Disaster Recovery fund. Delegates departed from the TD Convention Center for the evening.

**The Second Day – Monday Morning
June 5, 2017**

A Health Screening began at 7 a.m. in Hall 1.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive was held at 7:30 a.m.

The Kidz Konference kicked off at 8:00 a.m. in rooms 103 and 104.

The Reconciling Ministries Breakfast began at 7:15 a.m.

At 7:30 a.m., the Conference began in the TD Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. **The Reverend Michael Ritter**, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:00 a.m. registration continued.

At 8:39 a.m., **Bishop Jonathan Holston** called the Conference to order and invited those in attendance to sing the historic opening hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." **Dr. George Howle, Greenville District Superintendent; Rev. Bob Howell, Jr, Buncombe Street UMC; Chris Stone-TD Convention Center** welcomed conference attendees.

Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary offered the following organizational motions: That the tellers nominated by the District Superintendents for the 2017 Annual Conference Session be elected as nominated without reading and that their names be published in the 2017 Conference *Journal*. That the attendance register signed at the time of registration be designated the official roll and record of attendance for the 2017 Annual Conference session; That the conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials-along with such scheduling adjustments which the President and Secretary have since made-be adopted as the Agenda for the 2017 Annual Conference Session provided that the President may adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session (approved); Finally, that the seating area of the floor of the TD Convention Center together with any wheelchairs present on the floor arena, and area surrounding the platform be designated as the "**bar of the conference**" for all business sessions of the 2017 Annual Conference session (including sections 24 & 25 to the curtain).

Each motion was approved by the delegates. **Rev. Ken Nelson** advised that the daily the written proceedings of the conference would be available online by 10 PM, and the daily Advocate will be distributed so that attendees may share these summaries with their local churches. Ken then reviewed the contents of the pre-registration packets – specifically the guidelines for parliamentary process; voting recognition form and the ballot forms in the registration packet. He then emphasized the importance of completion of the evaluation form in the registration packet.

Tellers:

Anderson District: Rev. Michael Goldston, Jane Harlin, Rev. Jim L. Morgan, Evelyn Meredith, Jamie McDowell

Charleston District: Rev. Laura Benson, Raymond Gibbs, Kathy Johnson, Rev. Clayton Jones, Rev. Bernie Mazyck, Cassie T. Watson

Columbia District: Rev. Meredith Dark, Rev. Donna Eidson, Tommy Glenn, Francis Hipp, Rev. Shay Long

Florence District: Anthony Caldwell, Rev. Arthur Gamble, Rev. Katherine Haselden, Nita Tolson

Greenville District: Rev. Don Brown, Rev. Matthew Greer, Rev. Devon Harrelson, Mike Henson, Ellen Henson, Jo Nelson

Greenwood District: Charles Adams, Rev. Scott Nurse, Rev. Justin Ritter, Rev. Thessa Smith

Hartsville District: Travis Feagin, Jackie Woods

Marion District: Rev. Anthony Alford, Bob Elwood, Lillian Freeman, Rev. Johnathon Harris, Rev. Elbert Williams

Orangeburg District: Rev. Barry A. Allen, Rev. Jon Hoin, Dena Jackson, Rev. Sara Relaford, Rev. Arthur Rose

Rock Hill District: Rev. Tony Adams, Eddie Knox, Sylvia Knox

Spartanburg District: Rev. David Bauknight, Dale Henry, Vickie Harvey, Sylvia Landrum, Rev. Merritt Wentz

Walterboro District: Rev. Shannon Bullion, Gary Ayers

The Committee on Standing Rules report was provided by the **Chairperson, Rev. Michael Hood**. He directed the attendees to the registration packet for the full report. Amendment to standing rule 30 concerning providing for the quadrennial election of both a conference historian and conference

archivist. These amendments give official standing to the two recognized positions and provide the manner of their selection.

- Add par. g & h. Conference historian and Conference archivist upon nomination by the Conference Commission on Archives and History.
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

Secondly **standing rule 37** concerning allowing both notification and the first meeting of the quadrennium to take place in a more reasonable amount of time.

- Amended by substitution. On page 100, line 9, replace ten with fifteen; delete 'ten' from line 10, and add 'thirty'; delete 'Conference Council on Ministries' in line 11 and replace with 'Connectional Ministries'; delete 'sixty days' from line 20 and replace with 'ninety days'.
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

Thirdly, **standing rule 46** concerning expanding membership on the ministry advisory team to include the Conference Director of Congregational Development (Conference Staff), the chairperson for the Committee on Congregational Development, and the chairperson for the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The motion was unanimously approved by the attendees.

- Amendment by addition. Replace 'Chairperson' from line 51 and with 'Convener'. Add the following at the conclusion – 'the chairperson of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits; the Director of Congregational Development; and the chairperson of the Committee on Congregational Development'.
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

Fourthly, **standing rule 68** – brings the standing rule into alignment with the current structure and practice related to Connectional Ministries and better aligns the work of District nominations committees and Conference Board of Nominations.

- Delete 'and elected' from line 13 on page 102 and following district add 'and elected by the annual conference'; line 17 add '(or her/his designate)' after 'Conference Lay Leader'; line 25 delete 'chairperson' add 'Convener'; from lines 26-28 delete 'the chairperson of COSROW, the chairperson of the Commission on Religion and Race, and the chairperson of the Conference Missional Priority Coordinating Committee' replacing with 'and two representatives of the Advocacy Area of Connectional Ministries responsible for the monitoring functions of the committee on Status and Role of Women and the Committee on Religion and Race'; Delete lines 31-37; line 38 should be '68.a' and read 'It is recommended that there be one clergy person and one lay person nominated by each district committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference'; line 40 is '68.b', line 45 is '68.c' and on line 46 replace 74.c with 68.a; line 50 is 68.d; line 53 is 68.e – replace 74.f with 68.d; line 54 is 68.f; line 60 is 68.g; On page 103, line 1 is 68.h, line 4 is 68.i, line 7 is 68.j, line 11 is 68.k, and line 18 is 68.l.
- Editorial note; par. 68.l. addresses non-United Methodists
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

Fifthly, **standing rule 70** provides a reasonable period of time for delegates to be able to Review petitions to the General Conference prior to Annual Conference and still provide a procedure to care for petitions that arrive after March 15th deadline.

- If a petition comes in after March 15th it will be referred to next year's annual conference. Amendment by substitution. On page 104, line 1 delete 'After March 15 the presenters of petitions must be responsible for printing copies of their petitions for all members of the Annual Conference session' and add 'Petition received after the March 15 deadline shall be referred to the Committee on Petitions to the General Conference for consideration at the next year's annual conference'.
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

Sixthly, **standing rule 71** provides a reasonable amount of time for delegates to be able to Review resolution to the Annual Conference and still provide a procedure to care for resolutions that arrive after the March 15 deadline. Resolutions submitted prior to the deadline are printed in the pre-conference packet.

- Amended by substitution. p. 104-105. At 71.b on line 58-59 add sentence 'Resolutions received after the March 15 deadline shall be referred to the appropriate body for consideration at the next year's annual conference'. From 71.c, delete lines 60-63 on page 104 and lines 1-2 on page 105.
- *The attendees approved the motion.*

At 9:00 a.m. Bishop Holston introduced the Bible Study leader **The Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley**, President and Dean of Gammon Seminary. The topic of the Bible Study pertained to the Historic and Biblical Image of a Watchman – people charged with seeing, charged to walk by faith and not by sight – Prophet (Isaiah 56:10-12)

After a brief transition break at 9:30 a.m. **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference.

Conference Committee on Episcopacy, **Mr. Holbrook Platt**, Chairperson on the Committee on the Episcopacy, provided the committee report. The Committee is responsible for providing a residence for **the Bishop and Mrs. Holston**. He highlighted some of the bishop's many accomplishments including the ministry among clergy and laity in all 12 districts, his leadership of trips abroad, his popularity as a guest preacher, and that he is the recipient of several honorary degrees. **Mr. Platt** then highlighted **Mrs. Felecia Holston's** prolific missions work in our Conference, especially her dedication to Imagine No Malaria and Epworth and Killingsworth Boards. Reappointment to SC Annual Conference for another four years. *The report of the Committee on Episcopacy was unanimously approved.*

Consent Calendar (SR 22) presented by **Rev. Ken Nelson**, will be voted on Wednesday. Petition to remove from calendar is found on page 133.

Point of Personal Privilege was granted to **Rev. David McManus** who informed that body that 2,543 first time professions of faith were celebrated and 1,974 baptisms into new life celebrated during the Conference year. He led the Conference in a prayer of thanksgiving!

Rev. Joseph James, Jr. provided the report on nominations found on pages 79–96 of the Conference Packet. He asked the delegates to submit any changes to the Conference Secretaries prior to the election of the slate of officers that will take place on Wednesday. **Rev. James** thanked his entire team and those who support the work of the team.

Page 80 Line 53, replace **Rev. Sheila Koger**; *elect Rev. Telley Lynette Gadson (UM)*. Page 86 Deleted 43-53. Committee on the Annual Conference submits nomination of **Rev. Christopher Greene** nominated as an Annual Conference Secretary.

Report of Connectional Ministries report presented by **Rev. Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries**; **Rev. Ross Chellis, Chair, Connectional Ministries**. Page 44. Video highlighting ministry undertakings and successes; Orangeburg District computer center in Africa; advance specials; Salkehatchie Summer Service; Belin Trust; FAN-Faith, Activity, and Nutrition; Hurricane Matthew Recovery efforts, **Matt Brodie, Disaster Response coordinator – Ms. Kathy Earle**, UMCOR representative recognized along with ERT and District disaster coordinators, along with plaque to **Rev. George Olive, Rev. James Lewis, Sr., and Rev. Kem Thomas** (Macedonia UMC, Marion District support for the blitzes in Nichols and surrounding areas. **Rev. Ricky Howell, Winthrop Wesley** shared message on Campus Ministry and connection. There are 9 Wesley Foundations serving 16 campuses in South Carolina Annual Conference – SIM – Students in Mission. Second video concerning: Advocacy Ministry Area focused its energy on racial reconciliation – vital conversations on racial reconciliation; ELCC – ethnic and local church committee – grants available; Disaster Recovery Ministries – 2015 Floods and Hurricane Matthew long-term recovery efforts – over 100 clients reached, many more in need; FORWARD FOCUS – healthy churches – Bishop Holston toured all 12 districts with a plan to move forward with a God-sized vision: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Where are we? What are we going to do about it? – more than 125 have said yes to Forward Focus process so far; **Rev. Kathy James** recognized recovery staff, congregational specialists. **Rev. Ross Chellis** recognized executive members of connectional ministries along with conference and district members. The report was unanimously approved.

Rev. Fran Elrod recognized the Board of Ordained Ministry and the members of the District Committees. She then presented the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. She celebrated those who will be licensed, commissioned and ordained today. Expressions of gratitude were offered to churches and the Annual Conference for the ongoing support of the Ministry Education Fund. Through the generosity of SC UM churches, 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 \$99,750 was disbursed for seminarians and \$37,200 for the Course of Study, totaling \$136,950. Also, the BOM was able to consider increasing the amount for each funding tier to assist with the cost of the School of Pastoral Formation.

Slide 1: Move to adopt of the Revised MEF Funding Tier for 2017-2020. *The motion was approved.*

Excellence in ministry continues to be a 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're 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 DCOM we can offer relative and meaningful training and experiences that will enhance leadership development and the mission of the church.

Slide 2: Significant changes to SCBOM Policy Guidelines. See par. 349 BOD. Revisions to the SC Board of Ministry Policy Guidelines are required this year in order to align our policies with the 2016

Book of Discipline paragraphs according to the 2016 General Conference changes. Significant changes:

- Section III. Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry, page 8 (par 310-314)
- Section IV. License for Pastoral Ministry, page 9 (par315-320)

Additions:

- Evaluation for Continuing Formation for Full Members and Local Pastors, page 12 (par 349-351)
- Evaluation (par 349) For clergy serving local churches (par 349.1)
 - ◊ All clergy appointed beyond the local church or in extension ministries (par 349.2)
 - ◊ Eight year professional assessment for all clergy (par 349.3)
- Revised guidelines can be found on SC Conference website. *Moved and Approved.*

In October 2016, 7 members of the BOM along with **Rev. Ken Nelson**, Coordinator of Clergy Services attended the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry quadrennial training for BOMs. From this training, valuable information was gained to better equip the BOM for the broad scope of its work. One significant area of focus was the strengthening of the relationship between Cabinets and the BOMs across the General Connection.

Our Conference was already a step ahead of this recommendation. Since Bishop Holston's retreat with the Cabinet and several members of the BOM in February 2016, there has been a concerted effort from both teams of leadership to create and maintain supportive and cooperative conversation that assists in providing excellence in leadership. We continue to be clear that the BOM's primary roles are leadership development and credentialing, while the Cabinet's primary roles are as missional strategists, supervisors, and in appointment-making.

Slide 3: A Cabinet Response to Ineffective Pastoral Leadership – complying with Par. 334.3,4 BOD. – Revision of 2008 Cabinet Response to Ineffective Leadership Policy. In the 2017 revised policy, Section II, Pastoral Ineffectiveness is defined by specific characteristics. Section III outlines the Potential Reasons for Alleging Ineffectiveness such as service record, clergy assessment documents, reports and Reviews of the District Superintendents, history of church's effectiveness before and after the 'ineffective' pastor, and patterns of ineffectiveness. Section IV offers Recommendations for Responding to the Ineffective Pastor, which is designed to be helpful to the referred pastor in order to use available resources to improve effectiveness. Section V further outlines specific actions to assist in identifying ineffectiveness concerns and to begin a corrective plan of action for improvement. Section VI outlines how this process will be evaluated and how the intended outcomes have been accomplished. An addendum of Resources offers assistance with finding ways to effect corrective measures such as clergy coaching, counseling, career planning, and spiritual direction. A copy of the policy can be found as a part of the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry in Section VII of the 2017 Journal.

Rev. Marvin Caldwell (point of clarification/question) – suggests that presentation slides be visible to the body. Moved the adoption of Conference Ineffectiveness Guidelines; *Approved.*

As our Conference continues to realize the increasing number of potential retirees in the next 5-7 years, the BOM is working toward strengthening recruitment of ministry candidates and retention of clergy in SC Conference. We are soliciting the assistance of recent seminary grads as recruitment connections with United Methodist and Senate approved seminaries, encouraging local churches, campus ministries, and other UM ministry settings to prayerfully consider persons who are exhibiting gifts for ministry and engage them in conversation with clergy, as well as involve them in the numerous ministries and mission of The UMC. Realizing we also have an increasing number of Local Pastors, the BOM seeks to strengthen the relationship among Local Pastors through group mentoring in each district as well as through the Fellowship of Local Pastors.

Group Candidacy Retreats are held each year for persons exploring a call to ministry, followed by group candidacy mentoring to assist with connectional relationships. The Board is appreciative for the leadership of **Rev. Angela Marshall and Rev. Terry Fleming** for coordinating this ministry of discernment.

The School of Pastoral Formation began this quadrennium with a new format for first-time pastors. **Rev. Mel Arant** designed a comprehensive curriculum that was graciously led by Cabinet members, clergy in the conference, and Conference Staff – offering an excellent learning and connectional relationship building experience for new pastors. Also, through the generosity of the Annual Conference, we are able to offer scholarships to assist persons called to ministry to achieve the necessary education to equip them for ministry. This year we recognize the following recipients:

The T. Dennis Smith Scholarship: **Shirley P. Gordon** \$2,500.

The SC Conference Seminary Students Scholarship: **Ms. Rachel Whaley Carter** -\$1,500; **Ms. Cynthia Wolfe Muncie** -\$1,500; **Ms. Emma McClain Mathis** - \$1,500; **Ms. Nona Margaret Woodle** - \$1,500. The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship: **Ms. Frances Hillary Taylor** - \$4,000

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.

We celebrate receiving internship funding from a grant written by Duke University committed to placing two African-American students in ministry settings in SC Conference during the upcoming summer – and for the subsequent three years. **Rev. Megan Gray** serves as the leader of the recruitment committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are an extension of the Board of Ordained Ministry that meet with all candidates for ministry. Appreciation is given to those who serve on our District Boards. The BOM recognized persons who reached a milestone in their preparation for effective ministry. **Rev. Anthony Alford, Rev. Kenneth C. Burr, Rev. Kenneth D. Freeman, Rev. Lewis Christopher King III, and Rev. Merritt Robert Wentz.**

The Board expressed gratitude for the leadership of **Rev. Ken Nelson**, Coordinator of Clergy Services, and **Ms. Martha Long**, Administrative Assistant; **Bishop Holston** as he engages all of us in matters of nurture and accountability and faithfulness. **Bishop Holston, in response to BQ 17, "Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration (Par 604.4, 605.7 BOD)?** The answer is yes with exception of those matters which have been acted upon in the clergy session on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

Moved report to record. *Approved.*

Rev. Mel Arant and Rev. Fran Elrod presented the following candidates for Ordination:

Eugene Aaron Aiken, Yon Taek Bae, Lawrence Cantey Jr., James Derrick Cattenhead, Meredith Marie Dark, Kristin Marie Dollar, Angela Marie Etheredge-Erwin, Ernest Winfred Frierson, Enrique Roberto Gordon, Daniel Robert Griswold, Cheryl Giles Johnson, Brandon Craig Lazarus, Allen Nesmith, Christine Louise Reeves-Pendergrass, Tenny Hutchinson Rupnick and Walter Edward Strawther.

Presented as a candidate for ordination as a deacon in full connection was Kimberly Norbeck Evans.

Presented for commissioning as provisional elders were Meegian Alicia Gossard, John David Jordan, Ann deRosset Kovan, Susan Biggert Maddox, Angela Regina Ford Nelson, Nathan Smalls, Carole Anne Walters and Laura Howard Whitt.

And presented for commissioning as a provisional deacon was Meg Bryce Jiunnies.

During the presentation of the Board of Ordained ministry the following persons were licensed in a service of worship:

Robert Arthur Brawn, Ashley Elaine Buchanan, Shannon R. Bullion, Anthony DéQuan Caldwell, Troy Ja-von Cato, Karl David Coke, Twana Rogers Cruell, John Clarence Elmore, Timothy Espar, Beth Shannon Faulk, William Clay Faulk, Emil Jerome Finley, Joseph Brannon Gambrell, Robert Davin Gordon Jr., Jay Ruldolph Gwaltney III, Robert Earl Harper, Thad Bryant Hinnant II, Raymond Jefferson, Mark Raeburn Johnston, Emma Roderick Jones, Marvin Jones III, John Timothy Jones, Larry Scott King, Alston Flynn Lippert, Dustin Robert Madala, Steven Moore McNeal, Robin Diane Miles, Christopher Mark Payne, Nicholas Daniel Perez, Joaquin Polin, Kathy Jean Powers, Ryan Lee Powell, Yvette Marie Pressley, Cheryl Elizabeth Remchuk, Timothy Scott Reeves, Rebekah Lee Saveland, Steven Sylvester Scheid, Kyu-Seok Shin, Richard Clark Somerville, Stephanie Elaine Stafford, Willie Earl Wade Jr., Roy Leo Wesley and John Woods.

Rev. Ken Nelson offered announcements before adjourning for lunch: \$14,000+ was given in the offering last night. The Conference was also asked to remember the **Rev. Mat Brewington** who is in ICU.

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference for lunch break.

During the lunch break the candidates for ordination and commissioning gathered for a rehearsal, the African American Clergy Women held a luncheon wherein the **Rev. Jeannette Cooper** preached the sermon. A local church mission fair was also held.

At 2:08 PM **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference following the lunch break.

Council on Finance and Administration report (for information only) presented by **Rev. Mitch Houston** and **Rev. Walter Cantwell**. 92% apportionment giving; slightly ahead currently than where we were last year – 2017 goal 95%. Epworth Children's Home has requested to engage in a Capital Campaign and CF&A has affirmed and will report on Wednesday. **Rev. Walter Cantwell** presented 2018 Budget. 17,333,125 requested; 16,946,435 recommended – maintaining goal of 15% of average net funds. General and Jurisdictional apportionments cannot be altered (lines 13-20, 4,169,735 – increase of 110,000 from 2017 – a 2.7% overall increase.). Line items 1-12, page 6

are Annual Conference apportionments 13,163,390 requested; 12,776,700 recommended. Slight increase for conference benevolences, District Superintendent Salaries, Conference Admin (Report 7, p. 5) with 0.5% increase overall. 2018 Budget shows a 1% increase over the 2017 Budget.

Committee Resolutions and Appeals report presented (For information and reference only) by the **Rev. Steve Simoneaux**.

- Resolution to Oppose Human Trafficking and Help End Suicide and Homelessness Among LBGTQ Youth
 - ◊ Edit - Strike names of signees that are not voting members.
- Healing from the Legacy of Lynching
- Resolution Against a Muslim Ban
- Resolution Against the Dakota Access Pipeline in Solidarity with Standing Rock
- Resolution for the Realignment of South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and Its Disaffiliation from the Structures of The United Methodist Church (**See page 99 for Resolution and Judicial Council Ruling of Law**)
 - ◊ Bishop Holston speaks on resolution and rules it out of order. Only General Conference can approve of such separation. Bishop Holston's statement encourages us to be faithful and move forward in prayer under the *Discipline*.
 - ◊ **Rev. Keith Sweat** (*Ware shoals/Capers Chapel*) is recognized – claims his resolution does not remove us from the UMC only develops a taskforce to consider enabling legislation. *Bishop Holston renders action out of order.*
- Resolution Supporting, Recognizing, and Honoring the Services of Law Enforcement Officers
- Resolution: A Formal Apology from Trinity UMC to Centenary UMC
- Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst

Reports of the United Methodist Theological Schools presented by **Dr. Albert Mosley**. Thirteen Schools affiliated with The UMC. Required to have 40% programming related to The UMC. Overwhelming majority of Board members are UM. Educate the overwhelming majority of UM pastors. Host course of study for part time and full time of local pastors. Successful programs to reduce student debt – great deal above MEF funds. Substantial support to Central Conferences, paying for students from abroad to study at our UM seminaries. Faculty rooted in the tradition of the church and dedicated to missional activity and education.

A Word from Our Colleges & Universities: **Dr. Elizabeth Dinndorf, Columbia College** – presented a report for the 4 UM colleges in South Carolina.

Ms. Laney Wood – Columbia College student shared her experience at Columbia – challenged to be a force of transformation in and out of the classroom. She joined Washington Street and served as an intern.

Mr. Robert Gordon – Claflin University – “A city on a hill cannot be hidden” – Great things still do happen on hills. His life has been impacted so that he may impact others.

Mr. Adam Mott – SMC – After dropping out of high school and college and suffering from ADD, **Adam** was able to connect and was offered opportunities and support to succeed.

Mr. Will Randall – Wofford – seeks to go to Medical School and enter into medical missions in the Spanish speaking world. Wofford has prepared him to be a difference-maker. Expressed appreciation for the conference's support of Methodist schools.

Dr. Dinndorf on behalf of all schools offers her appreciation to the people of the UMC in SC. Institutions are places of higher learning and higher yearning. **Bishop Holston** offers appreciation for **Dr. Dinndorf** as she is retiring this year from Columbia College.

Point of Personal Privilege – **Rev. George Straight (Greer)** – to speak to conference about **Rev. Mike Watson** who passed in 2016. Founded the VIM program in South Carolina which became UVMIM throughout the connection. Offer thanks to God for this servant who gave so much to spread the good news far and wide. Offered prayer.

Dr. Jim Salley shared a report from Africa University. **Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey** joined him on stage. Report is found on page 61. Celebrating its silver anniversary. Opened in 1992 in renovated farm buildings; now over 7000 students from 48 countries and over 40 modern buildings adorn its campus. South Carolina conference endowed scholarships in perpetuity. Gratitude expressed to BMCR, ELCC and the African American taskforce and Rev. Ken Nelson for their great support. Bishop Holston will sponsor another trip to University in next year. March 24th a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Claflin University and Africa University fostering a partnership between the two institutions. 100% giving to the Africa University for the third straight year. University functions with no debt and a large endowment. **Dr. Salley showed** his gratitude to

the assembly for ensuring the ongoing success of the African University. Showed a video presenting the change that has taken place at African University. **Dr. Salley** also offered appreciation to Bishop Harvey and the Methodists of Louisiana that embarked on a million dollar campaign that was stopped due to Hurricane Katrina and has been resumed hopefully to be completed within the year. He presented **Bishop Holston and Bishop Harvey** with a baseball cap. Recognized **Mr. Ron Friday** and **Rev. John Culp** for their organization of African University Golf Tournament.

Ms. Rochelle Givens presented on the Black College Fund. Isaiah 40:28-31. Bennett College is one of two black women's colleges. Bibles and pews and handicap accessibility for Bennett College from the Black College Fund.

Rev. Ricky Howell came forward to present some of the faces of the leadership for our Wesley Foundations: Lou Jordan, Steve Simoneaux, Justin Ritter, Connie Barnes, and Edward McCutcheon.

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference for a 15 minute break.

At 4:00 p.m., the Conference reconvened with the singing of "Standing on the Promises".

Rev. Chris Lollis and **Rev. David Anderson** presented the report of Board of Pension and Health Benefits pp. 20-27. **Mr. David Anderson** spoke on the Pension portion of the report. Appreciation to **Ms. Lynn Jenkins** and **Ms. Connie McCutcheon**. 2% increase. Part time clergy 9% with clergy contributing 2%. Moved the adoption of Pensions portion. *Approved.*

Ms. Valerie Brooks Madden presented on Health Flex Exchange (video). More plans with addition of vision and dental coverage. **Mr. David Anderson** presented p.22-27 – Group Insurance Section. WesPath was formerly GBPHB. Manages potential risk. 6 medical/3 vision/3dental – Defined contribution for monthly premium (details lines 3c, d – page 26). Optional vision and dental costs are found on page 27, 7a.b. Offers benefits for church and participants. First communications will come in August with in depth workshops in September, online counseling, October more counsel and make elections in November. **Mr. David Anderson** will dedicate one day in every district to counsel. Plan will begin Jan 2018. Pages 135-136 is the Defined Benefits plan.

Question: **Rev. Keith Ray** (*Anderson Dist.*), thankful for hard work. Why are we doing the billing this way? By charging all eligible keeps overall costs down by spreading it over a larger group.

Rev. Chris Lollis moved reports be approved. *Approved.* **Rev. Lollis** requested gratitude be expressed for the committee's report. *Adopted. In full.*

Video was shown for the UMM retreat: "Come to the Water" – 2/16-18, 2018

Barbara Ware presented the report on Lay Leadership division of Connectional Ministries and the work of the Lay Leader. Over 650 churches were represented in the Bishop's Forward Focus. Expressed Gratitude to **Bishop Holston** and his wife - **Felicia's** leadership and support. District Superintendents commitment was also acknowledged **Rev. Cathy James** and **Rev. Sara White** have also been very faithful to the process. Firsts this year: Newcomers session and Laity reception. **Mr. Donald Love** is the Associate Conference Lay Leader, and he was asked to acknowledge the team members of the executive team. Cabinet representatives and ex-officio members acknowledged. Recognized district lay servant leaders. Expressed gratitude for **Ms. Barbara Ware**. Lay Leadership covers so many facets partnering with clergy who encourage the laity in their churches. Video shown to conclude the report. Moved report into the record. *Approved.*

Mrs. Cynthia Williams made brief presentation on a Quilt Project which the Spirit placed on her heart. Wrap the DS and spouse in the ministries and passion of the districts where they serve as leaders. 12 quilts coming from the districts that have been prayed over will be presented to the Superintendents next year. This year's quilt will be presented to Bishop Holston and his wife Felicia once they've been blessed with prayer.

Rev. Dr. John Holler presented the report for Epworth Children's Home. Epworth's Peanut Butter Ice Cream will soon be available for sale. Originated during the Depression when they received government peanut butter and they tried all kinds of different things with it – ice cream came to be. Report can be found on pages 8-9. Epworth has received a clean audit and 4 star rank. Another class has graduated Dreher and moving to the Independent transitional campus. Expanding living quarters for women with children. This year \$7.36 per member given to Epworth. Only 231 churches did not participate in the Mother's Day offering, number almost cut in half. Expansion beyond the campus walls and reach financial sustainability has been a part of the plan. Financial campaign plan to raise 7-10 million dollars. If 230,000 Methodist gave \$1 a year is over \$80 million. Conference was referred to handout that detailed the expansion plan. Increase the endowment by \$3 million. Support Hartsville School and Fairfield Orphanage as missional giving. So far 1/10 of fundraising goal has been raised – over \$1 million. Video concluded report. *Approved and moved to record.*

Rev. Susan Leonard Ray and **Rev. Joe Long** presented the Report of the Cabinet – p.43. We are leading modern era institutions while living in a post-modern world. The challenge is real and

demanding. **Bishop Holston** is keenly aware and attentive to our present-day realities: race relations, education, flood recovery – among us as a shepherd, leading us to be involved. Looked at what it means to be in ministry; engaging churches in really being who we are. Submitted to record. *Approved.*

Rev. Matt Brewington is out of his coma and talking to his wife. Praise report – **Rev. Ken Nelson** asked those gathered to Review p.78 constitutional amendments to facilitate tomorrow's business.

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference for Dinner at 5:37 pm.

The Conference reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with Pre-Service music offered by St. Mark UMC, Taylors, SC. At 7:30 p.m. the **Service of Commissioning and Ordination** was called to order. **Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey** served as the preacher for the service – admonishing the congregation that we can run, but we can't hide! We are in this ministry together – as the Red Oaks who survive through the harshest of circumstances, we too survive and thrive together because we are rooted and grounded in the love of God! This love enables us to "Walk by Faith and Not by Sight!" This worship service was followed by a reception for the ordained and the commissioned and their guests.

The Third Day – Tuesday June 6, 2017

At 7:30 a.m. The **Reverend Dr. Shawn Armstrong** led the celebration of Holy Communion in a service of worship.

Also at 7:30 a.m. an Awards Breakfast was hosted by **Bishop and Mrs. Holston** to celebrate the accomplishments of the following awardees:

Denman Evangelism Award

This award was established in 1980 by The Foundation for Evangelism, the Denman award honors pastors and laypersons for responsible evangelism in the local church. In 1981, the national award was introduced to annual conferences to choose a clergy person a layperson and youth each year. The Denman award honors people who are effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Howard Thomes, a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Greenwood, is the laity recipient of this year's Denman award.

Mr. Thomes has participated in a host of ministries, including two women's drug recovery homes in Greenwood, which serve about 70 women at any given time; Pathway Homeless Shelter for men in Greenwood (weekly devotional); the Good News Club, an in school and after school program that brings the good news of salvation to grade school children; Bible reading to local neighbors in church; help with Celebrate Recovery, a 12 step, Christian based addiction recovery program at Main Street UMC; Annual Conference delegate; and temporary associate pastor, assisting a newly appointed licensed pastor with a three point charge.

The Rev. Kathryn Scarborough, pastor of Bethel UMC in Pelion, is the clergy recipient of the Denman award. Rev. Scarborough has participated in the South Carolina Board of Laity Task Force on Spiritual Formation (chair); Companions in Christ Bible Study, district trainer; spiritual growth coordinator, Orangeburg District United Methodist Women; Walk to Emmaus; South Carolina Five Day Academies for Spiritual Formation (leadership team); district and conference boards of congregational development; appointed lay supply pastor of Bethel UMC, 2005; licensed as a local pastor in 2010; scheduled in July to complete basic course of study, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award

The Rev. Stephen Gaither, pastor of Windsor UMC, is the recipient of this year's Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award. This award, named after a UMC deaconess, is given 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. The Commission on Religion and Race sponsors the award. A predominantly white congregation with members of African, Asian and Hispanic descent, Windsor has been active in reaching out to and ministering to a variety of cultures through several programs, including its "Skills for Life and Work" ministry, which is supported by the Richland 2 School District and provides English as a Second Language and GED courses; an annual Unity Service each September that brings together four local congregations with diverse cultural and worship styles; the sharing of its facilities with a congregation of Filipino and European persons called the "Fil Am" congregation; various services for the local community; and the hosting of an Immigration Education Forum this February that more than 400 people attended.

The Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award

Sponsored by the Board of Global Ministries, the Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award is given to clergy and laity who exemplify extraordinary mission service.

This year's lay recipient is **Mr. Bobby Rutland**, member of Greenbrier UMC, Winnsboro. After retirement, Rutland became involved in missions, witnessing to people in need in his local community, across the United States and internationally. In 1991, he helped serve a meal to the campers of the first Fairfield County Salkehatchie camp, and he has attended the Fairfield camp every year since. Through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Rutland has traveled to Florida, the Gulf States and North Carolina to assist with hurricane and flood relief. He worked with the Red Bird Mission in Appalachian Kentucky and on Native American reservations in Montana. He has also responded to God's call to serve those in need through mission programs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

This year's clergy recipient is the **Rev. Michael C. Evans**, pastor of the Ebenezer-Panola Charge, Greenwood. As the disaster response coordinator for the Greenwood District since June 2016, Evans has made dozens of trips across the conference, assisting with whatever needs presented themselves. He helped lead the group of volunteers who made a tremendous impact through well planned and executed work blitzes in the lives of those affected by recent flooding in Nichols and Sellers. He and other volunteers from the Greenwood District also adopted the home of one of the survivors of the Sellers flooding, building a bathroom in Greenwood and moving it across the state to Sellers, where they attached it to the home.

Bishop's Five-Star Award

Eighteen churches received the Bishop's Five Star Award, which goes to churches who embrace new ministries geared toward growth and outreach. The award enables small and large churches to receive recognition. The 2017 recipients are as follows: Advent UMC, Simpsonville; Bethel UMC, St. Stephen; Bluffton UMC, Walterboro; Chapin UMC, Chapin; Fair Lawn UMC, Columbia; Grove Hall UMC, Summerville; Mount Harmony UMC, Clover; Mount Zion UMC, Sumter; North Charleston UMC, North Charleston; St. Mark UMC, Sumter; Smyrna UMC, Bennettsville; St. John's UMC, Rock Hill; St. Luke UMC, Walhalla; St. Matthew UMC, Taylors; Mount Prospect UMC, Lugoff; Travelers Rest UMC, Travelers Rest; Wesley UMC, Columbia; and Wesley UMC, Aiken.

Bishop's Award of Excellence (Scouting)

Red Bank UMC, Lexington's Girl Scout Troop 2323, Cub Scout Pack 518 and Boy Scout Troop 518 were the recipients of this year's Bishop's Award of Excellence, which recognizes congregations and units within the UMC that extend their ministry by participation in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America. The South Carolina United Methodist Men and Bishop Holston recognize scouting as an important part of the church ministry because of who is involved: all God's children.

Herbert Hucks Awards

Six local churches received the Commission on Archives and History's Herbert Hucks Award this year: Simpsonville UMC, Simpsonville; Broad Street UMC, Clinton; Mountain View UMC, Taylors; Green Pond UMC, Gray Court; Livingston UMC, Livingston; Pond Branch UMC, Gilbert.

Students in Mission

Students in Mission exposes young adults to the mission of the church; to encourage and develop vocational discernment of young adults; to assist the church in carrying out specialized ministries; to stimulate the church in developing new ministries; to extend the missional outreach of the church; and through young adults, to make the church aware of missional needs in South Carolina. It is an opportunity for young adults to serve as missionaries for the summer in authentic mission sites within South Carolina. It is a meaningful experience of intentional Christian living, faith in action and spiritual formation.

This year, Aldersgate UMC, North Charleston, will host **John Eaves**, a student at Winthrop University and member of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation, and Thomasena Thomas, a student at Florence Darlington Technical College from Salem UMC, Florence.

Brookland United Methodist Church, West Columbia, will host **Jordan Blackwell**, a student at Lander University and a member of Lander Wesley Fellowship.

Rural Mission Inc., Johns Island, will host **Sarah Davis**, a student at Spartanburg Methodist College from Woodland UMC, Rock Hill, and **Desiree Hood**, a student at Winthrop University and a member of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation.

And Transitions will host **Mackin Wall**, student at the University of South Carolina from Washington Street UMC, Columbia.

Scholarships

Students were awarded scholarships for their continued education.

The T. Dennie Smith Scholarship, created to effectively carry forward the legacy of the late T. Dennie Smith of Greer, was awarded to **Rev. Shirley P. Gordon**. **Rev. Gordon**, a native of Kingstree, where her home church is Bethel UMC, has served as the pastor of Mount Carmel UMC, Ninety Six, and New St. Luke UMC, Travelers Rest. She is a graduate of Limestone College and is a seminary student at Asbury Theological Seminary in Florida.

The S.C. Conference Seminary Student Scholarship, established in 1991 to assist students from South Carolina in pursuing a program leading to a first professional degree, was awarded to four students: **Ms. Rachel Whaley Carter**, a seminary student at Pfeiffer University and Wesley Theological Seminary in Charlotte; **Ms. Emma McClain Mathis**, a seminary student at Duke Divinity School of Theology; **Ms. Cynthia Wolfe Muncie**, a seminary student at United Theological Seminary in Ohio; and **Ms. Nona Margaret Woodle**, a seminary student at Boston University School of Theology in Massachusetts.

The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship, created by the conference to honor the memory of the Rev. Bessie Bellamy Parker, the first woman ordained in the former 1785 South Carolina Conference, provides assistance to female students at United Methodist seminaries or theological schools who are preparing for ordained pastoral ministry in South Carolina. This year's recipient is **Ms. Frances Hillary Taylor**, a seminary student at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

The Janie Robinson Thomasson Memorial Scholarship goes to the United Methodist student selected by the Scholarship Committee of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, upon verification of current enrollment, distributes the award amount to the recipient's institution. Preference for all applicants shall be given to members of St. Paul UMC, Clover, or the Rock Hill District. The recipient this year is **Ms. Haley Benfield**, a lifelong member of Woodland UMC, Rock Hill, where she was a sacred dance leader and participated in multiple mission trips and programs to feed the hungry. She plans to attend Wofford College this fall.

The South Carolina Merit Scholarship is an Annual Conference award administered to United Methodist students attending United Methodist institutions. The Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry disperses the Merit Scholarship Award in accord with these guidelines and others, which they may set. Merit can be in terms of academic scholarship, church involvement, financial need and special vocational preparation for ministry or other service, or a combination of these. This year's recipient is **Mr. Azavia Scott**, a lifelong member of Mt. Seal UMC, Hemingway, where he is a member of the United Methodist Men and an acolyte. He plans to attend Claflin University this fall in hopes of becoming a corporate lawyer.

The Advocate College Scholarship was established to help students at one of the four South Carolina United Methodist colleges majoring in business, communications or journalism. This year's recipient is **Ms. Loren Mackenzie Summers**, a freshman at Wofford College and a member of St. John's UMC, Rock Hill, where she has been active in missions and ministry, including Salkehatchie Summer Service, youth group and the music ministry.

Bible Study began at 8:32 a.m. with the singing of a hymn. The study was again led by the **Rev. Dr. Albert Moseley**. The scriptural reference was "The Healing of the Blind Man" – Mark 8:22-26. The points of emphasis included:

- Distorted vision – we run the risk of seeing unclearly and everything else becomes distorted. Even though we have eyes, sometimes we don't see.
- Man sees people, but the people look like trees who are walking – maybe his mind is bad too. When we don't see the way God sees, we begin to place divisive labels where they don't belong.
- Jesus touches his eyes, and he is partially healed – teach lesson by prolonging the blessing. Our eyes have been opened, but we still don't see clearly. Initial touch is the beginning and provides some vision but there is a second touch – leads us to 'exist by faith'.
- We need the continuous touch of Jesus so that our eyes will be opened fully, and proclaim this need and the answer to the world. Each time God touches us, we need to return for new blessings day by day. We depend on God to do for us and to us what only God can do.

Bishop Holston began the business session at 9:04.

Voting on Constitutional Amendment

Ken Nelson explained who are able to vote (Deacons and Elders in Full Connection) on constitutional amendments (found on pages 78 and following). Amendments are debatable but not amendable. Opportunity will be offered for three speeches for and against and then vote. Eligible voters were asked to stand and receive the ballots.

Edward Kennedy (Kannapolis Charge) asked for clarification on the ballots that are to be used – ballots previously received or colored ballots. **Bishop Holston** confirmed that the colored ballots shall be used for the constitutional amendments.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment I

- This adds a new paragraph between current Para. 5 and 6 in the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division I, regarding gender justice. The General Conference approved rationale for the amendment notes that the constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice.
- Discussion:
 - ◊ **Evelyn Johnsey** (Trinity, York) – asks for explanation on how this can enhance women's rights. – AGAINST
 - ◊ **Carol Cannon** (St. Andrews, Orangeburg) – does not mean that we can't call God Father, but encourages a reclaiming of the female imagery and understanding that being neither male nor female all can identify with God. FOR
 - ◊ **Michael Cheatham** (Greenville Lay Leader) – AGAINST
 - ◊ **Fran Connell** (Brookland, West Columbia) – speaks on how change in imagery in language regarding God can change attitudes toward women and girls – FOR
 - ◊ **Rob Bowsky** (Charleston) – Christianity is changing every 500 years and we are becoming more secular than Christian – AGAINST
 - ◊ **Dorothy Turbeville** (Jordan Charge) – God is all genders; amendment changes only the constitution to claim women equal to men – not changing Bible
- **Rev. Thomas Pearson** offered prayer as the ballot was cast.
- **Rev. Ken Nelson** advised that ballots are to be placed in white envelope and they will all be collected together.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment II

- This changes Para. 4, Article IV, of the *2012 Discipline*, also to modify gender equity language. The rationale notes that adding gender to the Constitution affirms and protects the UMC's commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide connection, plus allows gender-specific groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.
- Discussion:
 - ◊ **Ms. Jessi Patterson** (Trenholm Road) – opens the door to issues of gender and marital status, etc. issues that have not been addressed by the Church. – AGAINST
 - ◊ **Ms. Rosanna Ross** (Hartsville) – affirms Scripture saying God welcomes whosoever will come. FOR
 - ◊ **Mr. James Morgan** (Anderson) – sometimes we make every issue about every issue in order to pick fights. Amendment is mainstream UM practice. FOR
 - ◊ **Rev. Jeremy Howell** (Hartsville) – unintended consequence – will not discriminate based on ability and that's what the BOM does. AGAINST
 - ◊ **Rev. Kathy Mitchell** (clergy) – talking about physical status, discrimination exists toward women, single clergy, etc., consider voting for amendment in solidarity with those who have faced discrimination. FOR
 - ◊ **Rev. George Olive** (Hartsville District) – LLP no vote but voice – his daughter is married to her wife in state of Maryland. He believes the church is still discriminating on the basis of marital status. His daughter and daughter-in-law have had to change denominations to be fully involved in the life of the church. AGAINST
 - ◊ **Ms. Frances Hill** offered Prayer as ballot is cast.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment III

- This attempts to fix what the rationale calls "unduly vague" language in Section VI, Para. 34, Article III, of the *Discipline*, with language about delegates to General Conference needing to be elected (not appointed). According to the rationale, the change adds clarity.
- No Discussion.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment IV

- This adds language to Para. 46, Article I, of the *Discipline* about episcopal elections being held in the same manner for central conferences as in jurisdictions.

- No Discussion.
- **Rev. Mitch Houston** offers prayer as ballot is cast.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment V

- This adds a new sentence to the end of Para. 50, Article VI, of the *Discipline* enabling the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work. According to the rationale, Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing Para. 50, so this legislation follows the Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide such oversight.
- No Discussion.
- **Ms. Barbara Ware** offered prayer as ballot is cast.

Tellers received envelopes from voting delegates at 10:04 AM.

Point of personal privilege requested and prayer offered for the 73rd Anniversary of D-Day invasion.

Bishop Holston expressed gratitude for the hard work of the tellers.

The Report of Congregational Development presented by **Rev. Sara White** and **Rev. Richard Reams**. Pages 37-38. **Rev. White** speaks on developing new spaces for new faces. She asserts, often work from a position of fear that there is not enough grace for us all. Equitable Compensation commission work has made this work possible. Appreciation shown to Congregational Development and the Cabinet. Also, appreciation was given to local churches who faithfully pay apportionment dollars that are making connections and forming community and disciples. Thankful for the support of the Bishop. Appreciation was also given for the **Rev. Reams** who is the chairperson of Conference Board of Congregational Development. He shared stories of missional growth and success. St. Andrews By-the-Sea is the second church to launch a multi-site expansion – a satellite that transformed an old bar into new place of worship. **Rev. Daniel Burbage** is the pastor at St. Andrews. Congregational Development doesn't just start new churches but they engage in beginning new services and ministries in existing churches. A New Worship Experience at North Charleston UMC has boosted membership 75%. Ministry at South Main UMC involves prayer and community outreach. Spartanburg Urban Mission is a missional church start that has its start on the streets, doing ministry with people rather than to people. Provide counsel and services to broad spectrum of people. Ann Hope UMC – District 20% funds has helped ministry blossom to serve its community, serve the poor and reach out to its mill community, feeding and bringing people together, and making sure that children are reached (a ministry that includes 50 kids in the life and ministry of the church). The community came to eat meals with us and now serves 100-150 people every Wednesday night to all in and around Seneca. Thanks to help from Congregational Development they have a certified kitchen. **Rev. Reams** spoke of new worship experience at St. Luke Walhalla – bluegrass – received development funds and increased the participation by half. Encouraged all to use Mission Insite tool that is paid for through our Congregational Development funds. Training is available if there is a need. **Rev. Reams** shows the body 'PeoplePlot' to research who lives around your church's people: income level, values, religiosity, etc. Most people in Walhalla, Reams says, identify BBQ, Fellowship, and Bluegrass so we knew that rock bands wouldn't work. Our ministries must be contextually appropriate. **Rev. Reams** asks, 'What will you do to develop new spaces for new faces? How will we walk by faith and not by sight?' As long as there is one person who doesn't know the love and grace of Jesus Christ there is work to do.

Rev. White requests report moved to record. *Approved unanimously.*

Rev. Ken Nelson announced: \$10,960 from offering last night – total offering of over \$24,000 so far.

Bishop Holston dismissed the Conference for a 15 minute break.

At 11:00 a.m. **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Annual Conference with a **Service of Recognition and Celebration of Retiring Pastors** was held at 11:00 a.m. The service recognized and celebrated the faithful service of the following retirees and their spouses:

Kenneth William Barwick, Shirley Williams Dingle, Roger Russell Dodds, Ann Dease Everett, Eugene Lloyd Feagin, III, Leslie Edwin Gardner, Jo Ann Armstrong Garrett, Douglas Wayne Gilliland, Richard Charles Goldie, Debra Elaine Griffis-Woodberry, William, Edward Herlong, Jerry Mills Hill, Alice Elaine MacKeil, Deborah Homes Miller, Sidney Wells Mims, III, Marie Elaine Nuckles, Glenn, Williams Ribelin, Leonard Clifford Ripley, III, Carl Frederick Ritter, Augustus Rodgers, Bruce Evans Rucker, Caroline Adams Salmans, Frederick Johnson Shephard, Larry Glenn Smith, Richard Moses Smith, Keith Donald Sweat, Phillip Carlise Thrailkill, Gregg Scott Varner, Mary Kay Wood, Paul Ariel Wood, Jr.

Ad Interim

Thomas Richard Bailey, Michael Esley Bowers, Stevens Davis Gillespie, Diane Amanda Mosely, Robert T. Williams

Following the service of worship, **Bishop Holston** adjourned the congregation for lunch.

Bishop Holston convened the congregation for a **Service of Thanksgiving and Memory** at 2:00 p.m. The Chancel Choir of Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church led the music during the Memorial Celebration. **The Reverend Leatha W. Brown** served as worship leader, and the **Reverend John W. Hipp** preached a joyful sermon entitled "Extravagant Love." The sermon encouraged us to remember the extravagant love we share with God and with one another.

The following persons were memorialized during the service:

Active Ministers: James Ronald Cannion

Retired Ministers: William Francis Anderson, Donald Randall Bailey, Willie Joe Barr, William Kime Coble, William Guy "W.G." Cowart, Jr., Joe Gibbs, Sr., Carl N. Harris, Gene Austin Harris, Eugene Covington Homes, William Steve Hughes, Clinton Jones "C.J." Lupo, James Michael Morris, Billy Ray Osborne, Calvin Quarles, Thomas Fant Steele, Jr., Van Buren Thomas, Jr.

Spouses: Inez Calhoun Bowser, Carrie Bell Evans Geddis, Sybil Fuller Hall, Sally Currence Hays, Gerda P. Hook, Cecelia S. McAlister, Edith Mildred Reaves Pearson, Eartha L. Thompson

Surviving Spouses: Annie Laure Bell Atkins, Gladys Belk Blackmon, Naomi Louise Breedlove, Vergene Jenkins Colloms, Caroline, Nina Martin Couch, Virginia James Graves, Mary Lee Newton Herndon, Ruth Ellen Cox Jordan, Sunnie A. Cheeks Voorhees

Others: Rosemarie Whitener Nivens, Michael C. Watson, Sr.

Bishop Holston offered the benediction and dismissed the Conference for a break until 3:30 p.m.

Bishop Holston called body back to order at 3:49 PM and the body joined in singing "We are Marching In the Light of God!"

The Report of Commission on Equitable Compensation presented by **Mr. Skipper Brock**. He expressed appreciation to all the members of the committee at the start of his report. Pages 29-36. \$550,000 requested apportionment for 2018 budget; also, in 2018 recommend \$43,071 for Full Time clergy; \$39,880 for Full Time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members; \$36,999 for Full Time Local Pastors. \$0.53.5/mi for travel reimbursement. Disregard underlining on bottom of page 32. Moved to record. *Approved.*

Report of Camps and Retreat Ministries presented by **Mr. Arthur Spriggs**. **Mr. Spriggs** led body in rousing rendition of "Boom-chic-a-Boom." Great turnout to golf tournament. Marion District loses championship trophy to the Greenville District – **Rev. Tim Rogers** made the presentation. Top 4 teams are from Greenville. **Mr. Spriggs** showed a video on Asbury Hills. Asbury Hills celebrates 55 years. US census shows every other child will be other than white by 2020. Initiative to reach all youth. Asbury Hills rated the coolest camps. "Summer Camp that Changes the World." Camp Providence is near completion. The sale of Sewee closed June 1st for a sell of \$4,085,000. He introduced **Ms. Kim Welbum**, new board chair for camps and retreats. Tells story of Mohammed the Wolf, a Bedouin child – 1947 made first discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Like him, campers have no idea of the unexpected pleasures that await them at Asbury Hills. Asbury Hills will continue to be a place of unexpected discovery. The Board of Directors is tasked to make sure every person experiences God's glory in new and amazing ways. The mission of Asbury Hills started when state parks required segregation and their needed to be a place that honored the integrity and blessedness of all God's children. This is still the goal; however, Asbury Hills isn't just for children – there's something for everyone. Expansion is underway. Moved to record.

Rev. Wade Everett (Christ Church, Bennettsville) – shared experiences of faith and transformation at Asbury Hills for churches he has served.

Video for the UM *Advocate*. **Bishop Holston** showed appreciation for Jessica Brodie.

Conference Chancellor Report presented by **Kaye Crowe**. Ms. Crowe stressed the importance of each church having a complete insurance package. The Trustees are responsible for an annual Review of the insurance coverages. This annual Review must be referenced in the meeting minutes. The Conference no longer provides bond coverage. This is the individual responsibility of each church. 2549 BOD was rewritten. We no longer abandoned or discontinued. Churches are now officially closed. A closure may take place by the Annual Conference, but could ad interim as well. New process begins with the D.S. who reaches a belief that the church no longer accomplishes the purpose for which it was organized. Is that church functioning as a UMC? Following that, if no longer being used or maintained, church must go through a ¶213 church assessment. This process takes some determinations by the District where church resides. Also added, ad interim closure, at

any time during the year that there is a vote of cabinet, with support of committee on location a church can be closed. Allows churches to decide at any time to dissolve. 2016 BOD codifies criteria for closing: local church no longer serves its purpose for which it was organized; no longer houses Divine Worship associated with The United Methodist Church. Moved to record. *Approved.*

Report of the Committee on Nominations presented by **Rev. Joseph James**. Next year there will be a description of all boards and agencies of the Annual Conference on the website. By August 1, there will be an online nominations form on the conference website. Expression of gratitude to all committee members. Move report as amended to record with editorial corrections. *Approved.*

Video shown for Revolution Youth event. 2,000 youth come to share in ministry.

Rev. Ken Nelson made announcements: Shuttle provided for Claflin dinner; **Rev. Vicki Phelps** has been in a car accident; visit the prayer room; evaluations are at the last page of registration packet.

Rev. Robin Dease offered prayer – Dinner break until 7:30 p.m. when we will join in worship. The focus is missions.

At 7:30 p.m., Bishop Holston reconvened the Annual Conference in a Worship Service celebrating Missions. The offering collected will go to the *Imagine No Malaria* project.

At 9:00 p.m. a worship service was led by the Black Methodist for Church Renewal. **The Reverend Keith Hunter** preached the sermon entitled “Rivers of Living Water.”

The Fourth Day - Wednesday June 7, 2017

At 7:30 a.m. a Service of Word and Table was held. **The Reverend Will Malambri** led in worship and the **Reverend J. Derrick Cattenhead** preached the Homily entitled “As For Us, Who are Believers.”

At 8:30 a.m. **Bishop Holston** convened the last day of the Annual Conference with the singing of “I Know the Lord!”

The Rev. Dr. Albert Moseley began the Bible Study with greetings and with a reading from Matthew 14:22-31. He admonished the congregation to get out of the boat and to trust that God will enable us to walk on water.

Bishop Holston called the Business session to order at 9:12 a.m.

Rev. Ken Nelson referred the body to the Consent Calendar on p.77. He move the adoption of calendar. *Approved.*

Rev. Steve Simoneaux presented the **Report of Committee on Resolutions** and refers body to **Resolution 1 on page 67**. Committee on Resolutions supported approval of this resolution. FOR

Charles Ard (St. Stephen), is against adding language concerning LGBTQ community.

Rev. John Culp, is for supporting resolution – as ministers of Jesus Christ we took a vow to love and protect the children of God. FOR

Rev. Gary Cochran (Greenwood District), is against resolution putting the churches stance in writing as we already have a lesbian bishop.

Kathy Caughman (Shiloh Charge, Laurens County) – at a young age she heard a Baptist minister call her beyond wretched and came so close to committing suicide but the grace of God saved her. There are people in desperate need. God intends for all to be saved. That day, a knock came at the door and unconditional love saved her that day. FOR

- **Rev. Drew Martin** (Mt. Horeb, Columbia) – presents a motion to amend by addition. Line 57-58 by addition: youth, in accordance with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. (seconded)
- AGAINST – **Rev. John Culp**, ‘this is just muddying the waters’.
- FOR – **John Gibbons** (Salem, Irmo) – protection is just as important for LBGTO community.
- AGAINST – **Rev. Kathryn Hunter**, against restricting clergy counseling certain individuals in the way they are led by the Spirit.
- FOR – **Jim Melbourne**, served in high school administration, this resolution with amendment broadens the scope.
- AGAINST – **Rev. Keith Ray**, spoke of Clemson student who told a story of attempting suicide because she felt ostracized by church community because of her

- orientation. This has nothing to do with marriage or ordination, this has everything to do reaching out to save our youth with the love of Jesus.
- **Rev. Simoneaux** states for clarification, Line 53-56 speaks of all and then specifically points out LBGTQ youth.
 - ◊ VOTE ON AMENDMENT (properly before us) – **Rev. Meg Sweeny-Cook** (Epworth Children’s Home) prays prior to voting. Bishop advised that the vote was too close to call. Must take a count.
 - ◊ *505 For / 491 Against*
 - **Don Plemmons** (Advent UMC) Amendment by subtraction, Line 58, strike ‘LBGTQ’ and add ‘all’
 - ◊ **AGAINST - Rev. Bob Allen** (St James)
 - ◊ **FOR - Cathy Caughman**
 - ◊ **AGAINST- Jim Hunter** (Retired) – in favor of keeping it in there for those who don’t feel a part of all.
 - **Rev. Dr. Rosetta Ross** (Hartsville District) – calling for question on amendment and entire resolution. (2/3 vote required)
 - ◊ **Tom Linder** (Belin) – point of order – suggested that the Body handle the amendment first.
 - * Under Rule 15 we must handle amendment first.
 - ◊ VOTE ON AMENDMENT – *Not Approved.*
 - VOTE ON CALLING THE QUESTION – *Approved.*
 - **Resolution is APPROVED**

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND
HELP END SUICIDE AND HOMELESSNESS
AMONG LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH**

WHEREAS, Paragraph 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states:

“We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence” (Book of Discipline, 2016); and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 162J of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states:

“Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (Book of Discipline, 2016); and

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers; questioning youth are 2 times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers; and 40% of transgender adults report having attempted suicide, of which 92% have been made while under the age of 25 (*The Trevor Project, 2017*); and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth who come from highly rejecting families are 8.4 times as likely to have attempted suicide as their straight peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection, this propensity for rejection being evidenced in the disproportionate rates of LGBTQ homeless youth in comparison to the general population, and an estimated 40% of youth served by drop-in centers, street outreach programs, and housing programs identify as LGBTQ (*Durso & Gates, 2012*); and

WHEREAS, homeless LGBTQ youth often run away or are turned out of their homes due to discrimination, name calling, rejection and abuse and additionally, the lack of support within many institutions that guide the lives of LGBT youth (e.g., their schools, families, and churches) leaves them more vulnerable to experiences that may compromise their mental health, and as a result, LGBTQ youth are more likely to experience low self-esteem issues, putting them at a much higher risk for trafficking or turning to sex work in exchange for shelter, food or rent money (*National Institutes of Health 2013*); and

WHEREAS, during the first 48 hours after running away or being turned out of their homes, one in three homeless youth are recruited by a trafficker into commercial sexual exploitation. (*National Institutes of Health 2013*); and

WHEREAS, 58.7% of LGBTQ homeless youth have been sexually victimized compared to 33.4% of heterosexual homeless youth; LGBTQ homeless youth are roughly 7.4 times

more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than heterosexual homeless youth; LGBTQ homeless youth commit suicide at higher rates (62%) than heterosexual homeless youth (20%) (*National Coalition for the Homeless, 2012*); and WHEREAS, Jesus Christ has expressly given the *least*, the *lost*, and the *hurting* a place among the people of God, which holy privilege must not be denied them and Jesus Christ our Lord teaches us, saying...“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (*Matthew 25:40 NRSV*); and WHEREAS, the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church seeks to follow a biblical mandate of edification of the least, the lost, and the hurting in order to prevent suicide, sexual assault, trafficking, and homelessness of LGBTQ youth; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following resolution is adopted by the 2017 South Carolina Annual Conference:

That we vow, as churches and people of faith, to bear witness to the value of each and every life by not remaining silent when this value is questioned or dehumanized. To that end, we categorically oppose the practices of human trafficking and slavery in all its forms and urge our churches, committees, campus ministries, and all other United Methodist organizations to create safe space for each and every child of God.

Further, in the spirit of advocating for safe spaces, we call upon every United Methodist to respond to acts of prejudice, harassment, bullying, abuse, and violence against all persons, including our LGBTQ youth, with acts of compassion, justice, and liberation.

Moreover, we call upon the Church and society to intentionally support, advocate on behalf of, and minister to all at risk youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Finally, we call upon clergy to provide counseling and emotional and spiritual assistance to the families of LGBTQ youth, in accordance with the social principles of the United Methodist Church, to help them better understand and value their youth and to make the home a safe space that is free of ridicule, bullying, and physical and verbal abuse, wherein the desire for escape by running away from home or by suicide is lessened through acceptance and the enduring love of family and of God.

SIGNED:

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Committee supports **Resolution 2 on page 70** and recommends approval.

- **AGAINST – Lyle Walsler**, does this help us leave behind or keep us imprisoned?
- **FOR Jane Carrera**, (Advent, Greenville) – we need to create a safe environment to have discussion and reconciliation.
- **AGAINST Dr. Jack Myer** (Greenbrier UMC)
- **FOR Rev. Brandon Lazarus** (Rock Hill Dist.), answer is not to stop talking about such issues as racism.
- **VOTE: Approved.**

HEALING FROM THE LEGACY OF LYNCHING

WHEREAS, the genocide of native people, the legacy of slavery and social terror, and the legally supported abuse of social minorities existed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, research on mass violence, trauma, and transitional justice underscores the urgent need to engage in public conversation about social history that begins a process of truth and reconciliation in this country; and

WHEREAS, lynching profoundly impacted race relations in this country and shaped the geographic, political, social and economic conditions of African-Americans in ways that are still evident today; and

WHEREAS, many victims of terror lynching were murdered without being accused of a crime; they were killed for minor social transgressions or for demanding basic rights and fair treatment; lynching of share croppers, ministers, and community leaders who resisted mistreatment occurred; and

WHEREAS, lynching of African-Americans was terrorism, a widely supported phenomenon used to enforce social subordination and segregation, Southern lynch mobs killed more than 4,000 black people between 1877 and 1950; and

WHEREAS, the risk of racial violence led many African-Americans to flee the South. Between 1910 and 1970, national demographics shifted dramatically as nearly six million black refugees from Southern terror relocated to urban centers in the Northern and Western United States; and

WHEREAS, public commemoration plays a significant role in prompting community-wide reconciliation. No prominent public memorial or monument commemorates the thousands of African-Americans who were lynched in America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each United Methodist Church in communities of South Carolina are encouraged to have a ritual of forgiveness and reconciliation at the site of the lynchings in their community and a memorial be placed at this site.

Adopted by the Advocacy Work Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference on February 9, 2017.

*Bernie Mazyck, Convener, Advocacy Work Area
Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the
United Methodist Church*

*Appreciation to the Equal Justice Initiative (www.eji.org) for these facts and the willingness to help erect these memorials.

Committee supports **Resolution 3 on page 70** and recommends approval.

- **AGAINST** – **Charles Ard** (St Stephens),
- **FOR** – **Ken Strong** (Rock Hill District), the US President calls it a Muslim Ban.
- **AGAINST** – **Kenneth Lee** (Trinity, Anderson)
- **FOR** – **Ronald King** (First, Bennettsville), we should be against any discrimination based on religion
- **AGAINST** – **Rod Belsky** (Orangeburg Dist.)
- VOTE: *Approved.*

RESOLUTION AGAINST A MUSLIM BAN

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us in Psalms 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, those who live in it”, and

WHEREAS, Scripture further tells us in Leviticus 19:33-34, “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God”, and

WHEREAS, When Jesus announced his ministry on earth he said, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”, and

WHEREAS, the United States is a land of immigrants, who inhabited a land already occupied by Native Americans, and

WHEREAS, all of humanity is made by God and should be welcomed in this land,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, The South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church condemn any and all profiling, stereotyping, persecution, and/or banning of any person based on their race, ethnicity, religion or country of origin, and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church convey to the President of the United States, Members of Congress, Governor of South Carolina, and the General Assembly of South Carolina the Church’s desire for no person to be denied citizenship, access to federal or state resources, or be detained or incarcerated based on their race, ethnicity, religion or country of origin.

Adopted by the Advocacy Work Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on March 4, 2017.

*Rev. Bernie Mazyck, Convener, Advocacy, Connectional Ministries of the
SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*

Committee supports **Resolution 4 on page 71** and recommends approval.

- **AGAINST** – **Dennis Bickford** (Folly Beach UMC), saw this as a political statement against fossil fuels rather than in support of Native Americans.
- **FOR** – **Ruth McAlister** (Aldersgate, Greenville District), our Great Thanksgiving calls us to be in solidarity with the poor and disenfranchised.

- AGAINST – **Donald McLeod**, (Lugoff), saw this as a mute point.
- FOR – **Becky Garris**, (Richburg) we need to support our Native population.
- AGAINST – **Ellis Fowler**
- VOTE: 411 FOR / 553 AGAINST --*Not Approved*.

**RESOLUTION AGAINST THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE
IN SOLIDARITY WITH STANDING ROCK**

WHEREAS, the Dakota Access Pipeline crosses under the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and under part of Lake Oahe near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, by treaty, is the permanent homeland for many bands of the Sioux Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Reservation depends on water from the Missouri River for its life-giving powers; and

WHEREAS the health and welfare of the residents of Standing Rock Sioux Reservation are threatened by the Dakota Access Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that: All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings ; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SC Annual Conference, hereby reject the Dakota Access Pipeline as it is proposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SC Annual Conference, call upon other conferences of The United Methodist Church to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Adopted by the Advocacy Work Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on March 4, 2017.

*Rev. Bernie Mazyck, Convener, Advocacy
Connectional Ministries of the SC Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church*

Bishop Holston called for 15 minute break following this vote.

The Conference was called back to order with the singing of "Lord, Listen to Your Children."

Committee supports **Resolution 5 on page 74** and recommends approval.

- AGAINST – **Rev. Drew Martin** (Mt. Horeb, Columbia District), demonstrates no awareness of reality of police brutality.
 - ◊ AMENDMENT – **Rev. James Lewis** (Hartsville Dist.), change from 'Law Enforcement Officers' to 'Public Servants' in Line 12, page 74
 - * AGAINST- Rod Belsky (Stallsville UMC, Chas Dist.)
 - ◆ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Not Approved*.
 - ◊ TECHNICAL AMENDMENT – **Rev. Roger Gramling**, page 75, line 10, delete words... 'bishop and'
 - ◆ *Approved by common consent*
 - ◊ AMENDMENT – **Rev. Rosetta Ross**, page 75, line 9 before the word 'and' insert '...whereas we wish to promote respectful relationships between law enforcement and all communities'
 - ◆ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Approved*.
- FOR – **Rev. Bruce Adams** (St Paul UMC R – Hartsville District),
- AGAINST – **Marilyn Brown** (Centenary UMC, Charleston District)
- FOR – **James McDonald** (Anderson District)
 - ◊ Point of Order: **Tony Watson** (Edgefield Rock Hill District) we did vote on amendment.
 - ◊ **Edward Kennedy** (Charleston District): Respect goes two ways speech
 - ◊ **Jennifer Hudgens** (Rock Hill District) – point of order – can we have a reading of resolution as we are voting for it
 - ◊ AMENDMENT: Miriam Mick (Salem UMC), after line 12, add who have 'served with integrity'
 - ◆ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Approved*
- VOTE ON RESOLUTION AS AMENDED following prayer by **Rev. John Culp** (Retired): *Approved*.

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

WHEREAS, there are more than 920,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a total of 1,531 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty over the past 10 years, an average of three deaths every week or 153 per year.

WHEREAS, recent statistical ranking has South Carolina 50th out of 51 in having the worst crime rate just ahead of New Mexico and just behind Washington, DC.

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

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

WHEREAS, a number of Clergy and Members of the South Carolina Annual Conference are current or former members of the law enforcement community and have dedicated and are dedicating their lives and wellbeing to their official duties, and are sworn to protect and to serve the citizenry of this State, whereas we wish to promote respectful relationships between law enforcement and all communities and,

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*The Reverend Joseph Robert "Bob" Huggins
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
Pomaria, South Carolina*

Committee supports intent of **Resolution 6 on page 75** but sees it as b/n two churches and recommends non-concurrence.

- AGAINST: **Rev. Larry McCutcheon** (Hartsville District)
- FOR: **Dr. Jack Meyer** (Greenwood District)
 - ◊ AMENDMENT by addition: **Rev. David Anderson**, add at end of line 53 Be it further resolved that the SC Annual Conference commend those churches on their action'
 - ◆ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Approved.*
- AGAINST: **Brooke Gerbracht** (Trinity, Charleston District)
- **Frances Hill** (Mt. Zion UMC, Hartsville District) hopes committee changes their mind...
- VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION OF CMTE: *Not Approved. Resolution as amended is approved.*

RESOLUTION: A FORMAL APOLOGY FROM TRINITY UMC TO CENTENARY UMC

Whereas, the first formal Methodist Church was formed in Charleston in 1785 when the Charleston Circuit reported a membership of thirty-five whites and twenty-three blacks assembled in what was to be known as the Cumberland Street Methodist Church. In 1791, the Trinity Primitive Methodist Church was formed from the membership of that church. In 1874, the two churches merged to form what is known today as Trinity United Methodist Church,

Whereas, founder John Wesley and Bishop Thomas Coke's antislavery position led the Methodist Conference to urge the end of slavery and teach all children to read and write in their Sunday school classes causing "outbreaks of mob violence against Charleston's Methodists, its ministers, or visiting bishops for the first twenty years of the nineteenth century",

Whereas, the conflicting opinions and elevated animosity of slavery and Civil War incited division within American Methodism and several Methodist congregations "resulted in segregating free blacks to worship in the galleries and in some cases being physically removed from the sanctuary floor"¹

Whereas Rev. T. Willard Lewis and Rev. Alonzo Webster assisted in the establishment of a new church for “free people of color” stating “there will be no galleries in heaven” and in 1865 the Methodist Episcopal Church appointed Rev. Webster as the pastor. This congregation then became known as the Centenary church after purchasing the former Wentworth Street Baptist Church,²

Whereas, in the 225th year of ministry, the contemporary congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church acknowledges the history and legacy of its congregation in Charleston is a result of the predecessors of the original, combined congregation of the Cumberland church which includes Centenary United Methodist Church and further acknowledges the discrimination Trinity’s white members inflicted against its black members creating segregation within its faith community,

Therefore be it resolved, the members of Trinity United Methodist Church make formal amends to the members of Centenary United Methodist Church to ensure it is understood and acknowledged we are all equal brothers and sisters in Christ. We express regret for the sins of our predecessors, mourn their acts of divisiveness, and ask to show our love for one another by sharing in joint events, worship, congregation development, and mission programs. The harsh lesson to learn from our history is this; we stand stronger united rather than divided. We need to get to know each other so as to demonstrate our sincere desire to end the racial tensions which have continued throughout the centuries and are in hopes this one initial step at achieving unity will encourage other congregations to do the same.

We are the United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that the SC Annual Conference commend those churches on their action.

Submitted on January 29, 2017 by:
Brooke Gerbracht, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
Justin Neal, Lay Leader
William Nettles, Chair, Administrative Council
Greta Bridges, Pastor

¹ Yvette Guy, *A History of Trinity United Methodist Church* (1991)

² www.avery.cofc.edu

Committee supports **Resolution 7 on page 76** and recommends approval.

- **AGAINST – Charles Ard** (St Stephen Charleston District), no distinguishing between legal and illegal.
- **FOR – Rev. Richard Reams** (St. Luke Walhalla), no person is illegal, Jesus says nothing about documentation.
- **AGAINST – Jennifer Hutchins** (Rock Hill District.), based on wording, on line 32 could you define ‘the rights of immigrants’
 - ◊ **Rev. Richard Reams** (St. Luke Anderson District) – pointed to line 25-27 which points of Social Principles passed at 2016 General Conference. Resolution not speaking to comprehensive immigration legislation.
 - ◊ **Sylvia Ziegler**, questions why we have two resolutions basically about the same thing
 - ◊ Committee dealt with them on their merits.
 - ◊ **Rev. Larry McCutcheon**, two resolutions are totally different – one on Muslim ban and other on migrants
- **AMENDMENT:** Jane Robelot-DeCavallo, add language ‘legally documented’ prior to migrants at line 17
 - **AGAINST: Rev. Keith Ray** (Anderson District)
 - **AGAINST: Ken Strong** (Mt. Holly Rock Hill District)
 - **AGAINST: Tim White**
 - ♦ **VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** *Not Approved.*
- **FOR – John Gibbons** (Salem, Irmo)
- **VOTE ON RESOLUTION:** *Approved.*

WELCOMING THE MIGRANT IN OUR MIDST

Whereas, the state of South Carolina is made up of many immigrants who have migrated to our state seeking safety, security and prosperity; and

Whereas, immigrants and refugees sit in the pews and are behind the pulpits of South Carolina’s United Methodist Churches and provide much of the agricultural labor for produce and other goods that sustain us; and

Whereas, we know so well that we have benefitted by their leadership. They have added to our witness for Christ as we have all dedicated ourselves to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

Whereas, the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who "shall be to you as the citizen among you." (Leviticus 19:33-34); and

Whereas early in Jesus' life, he was a refugee to Africa fleeing persecution and violence in his homeland. (Matthew 2:13-15) and told us that nations would be judged on the basis of the way they fed the hungry, clothed the naked and cared for prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46); and

Whereas, careless rhetoric has ignited xenophobic and racist attitudes among some of our fellow citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, commit ourselves to work to eliminate racism and violence directed toward newly arriving migrants from all parts of the world

Be it further resolved that the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, express our opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely on the basis of their religion or national origin;

Be it further resolved that we celebrate the recreation of a Hispanic Latino Ministry Task Force and the formation of an immigration task force by the Conference to help provide guidance to churches seeking to be in ministry to immigrants in South Carolina;

Be it further resolved that, to that end, the Conference encourages all churches to educate and equip its members to provide hospitality and welcome to migrants and refugees in their communities (the Resolution approved by General Conference "Welcoming the Migrant to the United States" would be an excellent resource); and to take further actions and advocacy for just policies through prayer and discernment;

Be it further resolved that the Conference calls upon each church to engage and educate its members by participating in events sponsored by our Conference's Task Force such as Pentecost Journey;

Be it further resolved that the Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy makers to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, inherent values and rights of immigrants.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be signed and forwarded to our Congressional Delegation, both National and State, by our resident Bishop and Conference Secretary.

Submitted by the Hispanic Latino Ministry Task Force

Adopted by the Advocacy Work Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on March 4, 2017.

*Rev. Bernie Mazyck, Convener, Advocacy
Connectional Ministries of the SC Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church*

Council on Finance and Administration report presented by **Rev. Mitch Houston** and **Beth Westbury**. District with highest apportionment percentage was Walterboro District. **Rev. Thomas Pearson**, Walterboro District Superintendent received award. Recommend to amend report by addition of *Report 10* p.6-7 concerning presentation of \$10million capital campaign for Epworth (Par 613.2) – 'Every Child Is a Miracle Campaign'.

After approval of addition full Report is moved to record by the committee.

- **Rev. Carleathea Benson** (Fairfield, Orangeburg District) Report 8 on page 5 AMEND to request full funding (\$50,000) of ELCC as was requested in the 2018 budget. This will go toward funding a 5 day youth trip to Washington, DC African American Museum.
 - AGAINST- **Rev. Houston** did say they did receive a 3% increase. Currently they have \$25,000 in access funds. Calls on **Rev. Ross Chellis** will speak on behalf of Connectional Ministries.
 - ◊ **Ross Chellis** (Orangeburg District) speaks on behalf on Connectional Ministries who ensures trip is funded.
 - **Rev. Benson** states that some of the reserve funds are for the purpose of funding scholarship and grants so it will not be there come the end of the year.
 - FOR – **Rev. Dr. Rosetta Ross** (Hartsville District), asked for clarification on whether **Rev. Chellis** said ELCC would get the funding.
 - AGAINST – **Rev. Jeri Katherine Sipes** (Columbia District)
 - FOR Commentary on the printing of the budget – **Rev. John Culp** (Retired)
 - ◊ **Rev. Houston** states church & society wasn't cut, they simple asked for \$1,000 less than last year.

- ♦ AGAINST – **John Gibbons** (Salem, Irmo, Columbia District)
- ♦ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Not Approved.*
- AMENDMENT - **Rev. Fran Elrod**, proposed amendment – line 7b, page 6 ‘career planning programs’ be granted 100% funding.
 - ♦ AGAINST- **Rev. Houston** states we’re not fully funding a lot of great ministries. MEF funds also exist.
 - ♦ VOTE ON AMENDMENT: *Not Approved.*

CFNA budget moved to record for approval. *Approved.*

Rev. Houston offers expressions of gratitude for all the hard working members.

Rev. Joe Long prayed to dismiss us for lunch specifically raising up **Rev. Mallory Forte** to receive healing mercies.

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference for a break until 2:00 PM.

The Conference was reconvened with the showing of a video on the UMW as people gathered after lunch at 2:05 PM.

The business session resumed after singing ‘Victory in Jesus’ and ‘How Great Thou Art’ at 2:27 PM.

RESOLUTIONS ON CHURCH CLOSINGS

Resolutions to Close Churches presented by **Rev. Joe Long** pp. 107-112.

- Cedar Creek UMC (Columbia District) – *resolution of declare as abandoned*
 - ♦ Scott Bratton asks difference between abandoned and closed.
 - ♦ **Kay Crowe** states that during the conference year no members present.
 - ♦ *Approved*

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS ABANDONED CEDAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 272451) 1209 Cedar Creek Road, Winnsboro, SC 29180 COLUMBIA DISTRICT

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Majority of the District Superintendents with the consent of the Bishop as evidenced by the signatures below declare that pursuant to section 2549 (3) of the 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church Cedar Creek United Methodist Church is abandoned.

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

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

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

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Columbia District is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. It is requested that efforts be made to preserve this church for some use within the United Methodist Church because of its rich history dating back to as early as 1743.

Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on December 9, 2016.

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Bethel UMC (Anderson District) – *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - ♦ *Approved*
 - ♦ Members and clergy recognized

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA #270202)
800 Bleckley Street, Anderson, SC 29625
Anderson District, South Carolina Conference**

**CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

WHEREAS, Bethel United Methodist Church is no longer used by its membership as a place of divine worship. There are five remaining members and they are no longer meeting as congregation and will hold a final service on January 29, 2017.

WHEREAS, The District Board of Church Location and Building, Anderson District has agreed that Bethel United Methodist Church should be closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that under the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016) section 2549 (3) exigent circumstances exist and by vote of the majority of the District Superintendents and with the consent of the presiding Bishop and the District Board of church location and building it is hereby declared that Bethel United Methodist Church SC is closed effective January 30, 2017.

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District shall make an inventory of all property owned by Bethel United Methodist Church and shall forward this inventory to the annual conference board of trustees and shall collect all deeds, records and other official papers and shall forward these to the Conference Chancellor who shall forward the church historical documents to the annual conference commission on archives and history.

Resolved, That title to all real and personal property shall upon the adoption of this resolution vest in the Annual Conference Board of Trustees to hold or dispose of in its sole discretion, and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution.

Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on January 27, 2017.

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Bethlehem UMC (Anderson District) – *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - ♦ **Gary Compton** asked for prayer for each congregation.
 - ♦ **Rick Hammett** (Lay Leader Spartanburg District) – requests time for members past/present to stand to remember
 - ♦ *Approved.*

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA #968671)
6001 Abbeville Highway, Anderson, SC 29624
Anderson District, South Carolina Conference**

**CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

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

WHEREAS, Prior to January 2016, the District Board of Church Location and Building, Anderson District has agreed that Bethlehem United Methodist Church has been abandoned as a place of divine worship

WHEREAS, The *2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* modified the procedures and no longer uses the term abandonment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that under the provisions of *The Book Of Discipline Of The United Methodist Church (2016)* section 2549 (3) exigent circumstances exist and by vote of the majority of the District Superintendents and with the consent of the presiding Bishop and the District Board of Church Location and Building it is hereby declared that Bethlehem United Methodist Church, located at 6001 Abbeville Highway, Anderson SC is closed.

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District shall make an inventory of all property owned by Bethlehem United Methodist Church and shall forward this inventory to the annual conference board of trustees and shall collect all deeds, records and other official papers and shall forward these to the Conference Chancellor who shall forward the church historical documents to the annual conference commission on archives and history.

Resolved, That title to all real and personal property shall upon the adoption of this resolution vest in the Annual Conference Board of Trustees to hold or dispose of in its sole discretion, and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Anderson District is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution.

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on January 27, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Dunean UMC (Greenville District) – ad-interim closure - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD.*
 - ♦ **Dusty Godfrey** (Greenville Dist.) grew up and received call at Dunean. He offers prayer. Members and clergy recognized.
 - ♦ *Approved.*

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AD-INTERIM CLOSURE OF
DUNEAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 273661)
31 Stevens Street, Greenville, S.C. 29605
Greenville District, South Carolina Conference**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

Whereas, Dunean United Methodist Church located in the Greenville District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized .

Whereas, there are exigent circumstances present to support the ad-interim closure of this Church pursuant to section 2549 (3) (b) of the *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. These include the need to preserve and protect the building and to preserve the limited and existing funds of the Church. The Church does not have the means to maintain or insure this property and services are no longer being held at this location.

Whereas, the Greenville District Board of Church Building and Location consents to this action.

Resolved, pursuant to the authority granted to authorize ad interim closure of a church under section 2549 (3)(b) of the *Book of Discipline*, the majority of the District Superintendents agree and consent to the closure of this property.

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on February 15, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Startex UMC (Spartanburg District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - ♦ *Approved.*
 - ♦ Members and clergy asked to stand who have been a part of the ministry of Startex. **Rev. Richard Lewis** leads us in prayer.

**A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
STARTEX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA 279782)
10 Chestnut Street, Startex, S.C. 29377
SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
SPARTANBURG DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

**CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

Whereas, on February 24, 2017, The Church Conference of Startex United Methodist Church (Startex UMC) of the Duncan/Loree/Startex Charge, Spartanburg District, South Carolina

Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to discontinuance and the transference of the membership, church property and other assets effective June 6, 2017; and

Whereas, Startex UMC is incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Reverend Doctor Paul Harmon, District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District, has consented that Startex UMC be discontinued and may transfer the church membership, and other assets; and

Whereas, The Spartanburg District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to discontinuance and transfer of church property to Grace Kingdom of Dominion Ministries, Inc. who have been faithfully using Startex UMC to continue serving the community of Startex, and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to discontinuance and the transference of Startex UMC church membership and other assets other than the real property to Loree United Methodist Church and the transfer of real property to Grace Kingdom of Dominion Ministries, Inc; and

Whereas, Startex UMC since 1895, has brought the message of Christ to many, offered into ministry pastors, church staff, and church leaders, and served the community in which it is located since its founding; and

Whereas, Loree United Methodist Church located in Wellford, South Carolina has agreed to minister to the members of Startex UMC, therefore, be it

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Startex UMC is closed and the church membership and other assets are transferred to Loree UMC, and be it further

Resolved, That title to all real property shall upon adoption of this resolution vest in the annual conference board of trustees to hold and transfer to Grace Kingdom of Dominion Ministries, Inc. pursuant to paragraph 2541, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016 ed.); and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of Startex UMC shall be transferred to Loree UMC located in Wellford, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Startex UMC, and be it further

Resolved, That the monies of Startex UMC held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to Loree UMC located in Wellford, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That the real property and remaining personal property of Startex UMC (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) shall be transferred in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016, ed.); and be it further

Resolved, That as part of winding up the affairs of the local church, any two officers of Startex UMC or the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

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

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

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on February 27, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Trinity UMC (Greenville District) – ad-interim closure and adoption by Buncombe Street UMC. *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - ♦ *Approved.*
 - ♦ Prayer offered by **Rev. George Allen** for the ministry of Trinity and new life. Members and clergy recognized.

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AD-INTERIM CLOSURE OF
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 273967)
2703 Augusta Street, Greenville, SC 29605
Greenville District, South Carolina Conference**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

Whereas, Trinity United Methodist Church located in the Greenville District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. A church conference was held and it is the desire of Trinity United Methodist Church to cease operations as an independent church and to be adopted as a part of Buncombe Street United Methodist Church, hereinafter known as Buncombe Street United Methodist Church-Trinity Campus.

Whereas, there are exigent circumstances present to support the ad-interim closure of this Church pursuant to section 2549 (3) (b) of the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. Closing the Church now will allow a pastor to be appointed at Buncombe Street and for important ministries to continue under the guidance of the people and clergy of Buncombe Street United Methodist Church. This process of adoption represents the best way forward. The Church believes it can best serve the needs of its community by adoption by Buncombe Street United Methodist Church.

Whereas, the Greenville District Board of Church Location and Building consents to this action.

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference and Buncombe Street United Methodist Church consent to this action.

All property of Trinity United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Buncombe Street United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Greenville District and the Chairman of the Conference Board of Trustees are authorized to execute any documents to include any deeds or other legal documents to effectuate this transfer.

Resolved, pursuant to the authority granted to authorize ad interim closure of a church under section 2549 (3) (b) of the *Book of Discipline*, the majority of the District Superintendents agree and consent to the closure of this church and the adoption by Buncombe Street United Methodist Church.

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on February 27, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Bath UMC (Greenwood District) - closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD
 - ♦ *Approved*
 - ♦ Prayer offered by **Rev. Williams** for the life and ministry of Bath. Members and clergy recognized.

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE
BATH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA 274608)
176 Maple Street, Bath, South Carolina 29816
Greenwood District, South Carolina Conference**

**CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of **Bath United Methodist Church** (“Bath UMC”), Bath Charge, Greenwood District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective June 8, 2017; and

Whereas, **Bath UMC** is incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Love, District Superintendent of the Greenwood District, has recommended that **Bath UMC** be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Greenwood District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of **Bath UMC**; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuation of **Bath UMC**; and

Whereas, **Bath UMC** has nurtured the faith of many people and served the community in which it is located since its founding; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Bath UMC is closed, effective June 8, 2017, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016 ed.); and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of **Bath UMC**; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Greenwood District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to **Bath UMC**; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016 ed.); and be it further

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

Resolved, That any two officers of the Board of Trustees of **Bath UMC** or the District Superintendent of the Greenwood District are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution or the future actions of the Conference Board of Trustees with regards to this property; and be it further

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

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

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on April 13, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Gassaway UMC (Greenwood District) - closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD
 - ♦ *Approved.*
 - ♦ Prayer offered by **Rev. Stephen Love**. Members and clergy recognized.

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE

**GASSAWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA# 272872)
1280 McCormick Hwy, Saluda, South Carolina 29138
GREENWOOD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016)

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Gassaway United Methodist Church ("Gassaway UMC"), Bethlehem/Gassaway Charge, Greenwood District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective June 8, 2017; and

Whereas, Gassaway UMC is incorporated as a religious nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Love, District Superintendent of the Greenwood District, has recommended that Gassaway UMC be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Greenwood District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of Gassaway UMC; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the discontinuation of Gassaway UMC; and

Whereas, Gassaway UMC has nurtured the faith of many people and served the community in which it is located since its founding; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Gassaway UMC is closed, effective June 8, 2017, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016 ed.); and be it further

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

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Greenwood District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Gassaway UMC; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference shall hold the property in trust pending a further disposition of the property in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016 ed.); and be it further

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

Resolved, That any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Gassaway UMC or the District Superintendent of the Greenwood District are authorized to execute any and all

documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution or the future actions of the Conference Board of Trustees with regards to this property; and be it further

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

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

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on April 13, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

Two additional resolutions were passed out to the body:

- Pleasant View UMC (Spartanburg District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD.*
 - ♦ Approved.
 - ♦ Prayer offered by **Rev. Jack Washington**. Members and clergy recognized.

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE

**PLEASANT VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA 958875)
5054 South Main Street Cowpens, SC 29330
SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
SPARTANBURG DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

**CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF *THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE*
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016 edition)**

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2017, the Church Conference of Pleasant View United Methodist Church of the Spartanburg Parish Charge consented to discontinuance and the transference of the membership, church property and other assets; and

WHEREAS, the Spartanburg District Superintendent, the Spartanburg District Committee on Church Location and Building, the Presiding Bishop of the South Carolina Conference and a majority of the District Superintendents thereof have consented to the same; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant View UMC since 1896 has brought the message of Christ to many, offered into ministry pastors, church staff and church leaders, and has served the community in which it is located since its founding; and

WHEREAS, Florence Chapel UMC, located in Wellford, South Carolina, has agreed to minister to the members of Pleasant View UMC, therefore be it

Resolved, that upon adoption of this resolution, the South Carolina Conference hereby declares Pleasant View UMC to be discontinued and has transferred church membership and other assets excluding real property to Florence Chapel UMC, and be it further

Resolved, that title to all real property shall upon adoption of this resolution vest in the Annual Conference Board of Trustees pursuant to paragraph 2541 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (2016 edition); and be it further

Resolved, that the South Carolina Conference expresses thanksgiving to God for the Christian ministry rendered across the years by the members and pastors of Pleasant View UMC, and be it further

Resolved, that the membership of Pleasant View UMC shall be transferred to Florence Chapel UMC, located in Wellford, South Carolina, and be it further

Resolved, that the District Superintendent of the Spartanburg District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal items belonging to Pleasant View UMC; and be it further

Resolved, that the monies of Pleasant View UMC held in banks accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to Florence Chapel UMC, located in Wellford, South Carolina, and be it further

Resolved, that as part of the winding up of the affairs of the local church, any two officers of Pleasant View UMC, or the Spartanburg District Superintendent, are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution, and be it further

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

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

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on May 17, 2017.*

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017

Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary

- Timmonsville UMC (Florence District) - *closed pursuant to section 2549 BOD*
 - ◆ *Approved.*
 - ◆ Members and clergy recognized. **Rev. Joe Long** offered prayer.

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE

**TIMMONSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 276221)
403 West Byrd Street Timmons ville, SC 29161
Florence County, South Carolina
Florence District, South Carolina Conference**

CLOSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2549 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (2016 edition)

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Timmons ville United Methodist Church located in Florence County, South Carolina has voted to close the church, effective June 28, 2017; and

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

Whereas, The Florence District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the closure of Timmons ville United Methodist Church; and

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Timmons ville United Methodist Church closed, effective June 28, 2017, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016)*; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the membership of Timmons ville United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Salem United Methodist Church, and be it further

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

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

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

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

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any two officers of the Board of Trustees of Timmons ville United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Florence District are authorized to execute any and all

documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of the Property consistent with the direction of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Florence District shall oversee the transfer of membership and the conveyance and transfer of the Property to ensure completion and shall make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees on the future use of this property; and be it further

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

*Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents
of SC Conference of the United Methodist Church on May 17, 2017.*

*Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary
Approved by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston*

*Approved by the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist on June 7, 2017
Certified by Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary*

Report of Charge Line Changes presented by **Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson** pp. 113-114. These are efforts to strengthen churches for ministry. Resolution *approved*.

Keith Sweat (Greenwood District) – requested a decision of law regarding actions on the 5th of June regarding decision on alignment.

Bishop Holston received the statements below and stated that he believes only the General Conference has the power to engage in what the resolution pertain.

The questions of law include:

- (1) “Regarding the Bishop’s action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of the *Discipline* render it out of order for an Annual Conference to petition the General Conference for enabling legislation so as to allow the Annual Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference?”
- (2) “Regarding the Bishop’s action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an Annual Conference from forming a task force, study commission, or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the *Discipline* at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment?”

(See page 99 for Judicial Council Ruling of Law.)

Robert Cox (Greenville District) expressed gratitude for all of the hospitality team.

Rev. Ken Nelson stated, after consultation with Bishop and Committee on the Annual Conference I would like to offer the following motions:

- That the dates set for the 2018 SC Annual Conference be **June 3-6, 2018**
 - ♦ *Approved.*
- That the host site for the 2018 SC Annual Conference be the **TD Convention Center in Greenville, SC.**
 - ♦ *Approved.*

Rev. Wayne Jackson (Florence District) – Annual Conference future sites committee report. Recommendation for future sites for 2019 and on. Recognized the committee members. Discussed the many facets considered when picking an Annual Conference venue. Recommends that we extend the contract with TD Convention Center in Greenville a third year. TD Center has verbally agreed to do this for us and gave us the best financial incentives to return a third year.

After year 3 in Greenville, it is recommended that we go to Myrtle Beach (2020) for three years, and then back to Florence (2023). It is recommended that this will become a rotation. All venues meet our needs. No matter where we are we’ll accomplish our mission. (*Presented for information*)

- **Ruby Williams Stines** (Hartsville District) – What happened to Columbia which was in the study early on?
 - ♦ **Rev. Jackson** – noted several problems: parking (\$9,000); to accommodate events we’d need to use the Colonial Life Arena and Columbia Convention Center and the issue of moving piano and organ. Rent of convention center required rental of Hotels that were in contract with them.

Jennifer Cheatham (Greenville District) – question answered by **Rev. Ken Nelson** - first week in June and Myrtle Beach dilemma. Sheraton Convention Center does not see high school student traffic being 3 blocks from the Beach. Cued Video expressing gratitude for those who worked tirelessly to make this year’s Annual Conference gathering a success.

Felicia Holston and Lollie Haselden (Executive Assistant to the Bishop) were recognized by Bishop Holston. Appreciation for Bettye Rivers was shown as well.

The Omnibus Motion –This motion will be made at the close of the 2017 Annual Conference.

Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-Conference or registration materials or distributed on the floor during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following the completion of *The Fixing of the Appointments*, that this 2016 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*.

Mary Bennett (St. Paul Bennettsville) – complaint that church was told that they had paid 100% apportionments but in write up it reflected 99.98%.

Roger Gramling (Retired) – we need to vote on the recommendation for 2019 site for Annual Conference.

Omnibus motion *approved*.

2019 site *approved*.

Marty Mason (Latta) – Lay Delegate couldn't be here because of 2 pinched nerves and earlier today should've had his gallbladder removed (**Henry Brunson**). Prayer offered for him by **Bishop Holston**.

After a 10 minute break **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference for a Worship Service of Sending Forth and the Fixing of Appointments. **Bishop Holston** preached a closing sermon entitled: "A Hope and a Promise!" The Annual Conference members sang "We Go Forth to Serve." After the presentation of Appointments by the District Superintendents and Fixing of the Appointments by Bishop Holston, the Annual Conference was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULING OF LAW ON

RESOLUTION FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ITS DISAFFILIATION FROM THE STRUCTURES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RESOLUTION FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ITS DISAFFILIATION FROM THE STRUCTURES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Endnotes are citations of documents and events relative to the specifics of the resolution and include inferences and characterizations. They are to assist the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals in their work. Endnotes are not a formal part of the resolution and need not be distributed with it.

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

"Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it." (1 Corinthians 11:17-18)

"And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand..." (Mark 3:25)

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church asserts that the following is or ought to be obvious to all parties concerning the state of the church:

1. Schism is not separation from a church body but separation within a church bodyⁱ
2. To declare that "we are not of one mind" or "not of the same judgement" is to affirm that we are in schismⁱⁱ
3. The United Methodists Church has been for a generation engaged in divisive debates on numerous matters of doctrine and polity which have created suspicion and mistrust among its peopleⁱⁱⁱ, restricted its ministry^{iv}, and thereby damaged its witness to the world.
4. Attempts by people of good will to recover unity—to speak with one voice as one body—whether through dialogue, legislation, or judicial action have all failed^v

5. The one remaining path, the Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward, has neither in its charge nor in its communication any intent of bringing about unity of purpose or common mission^{vi}, but seeks only to maintain a unity of property and a common purse.
6. Even IF the Bishops' Commission is successful in its goals, and IF they are affirmed by a subsequent General Conference, and IF they are ratified by enough subsequent Annual Conferences, and IF they are then implemented by all our administrative bodies as the General Conference intends, and IF they withstand the inevitable challenges before the Judicial Council; then the result will still condemn us to codified perpetual schism.
7. Because of our ongoing schism and the unwillingness of administrative bodies to implement polity, the General Conference, the one body designated to speak with authority on behalf of the whole church
 - a. cannot establish uniform criteria for the licensing of its professionals^{vii}
 - b. cannot establish uniform criteria for membership in the church^{viii}
 - c. cannot establish uniform criteria for being in "good standing"^{ix}
 - d. cannot establish criteria for the election of members to its own quadrennial body^x
 - e. cannot direct the ministry of its boards and agencies either by requiring them to act in one matter or by restraining them from acting in another^{xi}
 - f. cannot speak authoritatively with one voice on behalf of the church
8. The General Conference cannot perform the essential functions for which it was formed and the United Methodist Church has ceased to exist except as various independent corporations with shared interests in certain properties, copyrights, and trademarks
9. Boards and agencies are already electing to reorganize themselves and remove the term "United Methodist" from their title^{xii}
10. Individual clergy and local churches are already separating themselves from the structures of the former United Methodist Church in a spontaneous and chaotic manner
11. Chaos is not a friend of the Church, and any realignment or change in affiliation ought rightly to be accomplished in an organized way while charity remains with us still

II. WHEREAS

1. Even if the United Methodist Church could find an agreement on its most notorious divisions, "the denomination is faced with many decisions regarding policies and theology with no common ground. We have no desire to continue to engage in these divisive debates nor to be forced to face the crossfire between multiple front lines"
2. "We simply desire to be able to withdraw from engaging in these distractions and move forward with ministry, focused instead on our mission of connecting people to Christ and to one another"
3. An organized realignment of this magnitude takes time to develop and additional time to implement, and furthermore, "the most critical step in being able to recover from a disaster is being prepared for one in the first place." It is, therefore, not advisable to wait until the passions of a 2019 or 2020 General Conference are unleashed upon us, but prudence and charity implore us to develop a plan now which truly allows room for the Holy Spirit to still work among us and which may be paused or set aside at any point

III. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Bishop shall within thirty days of the close of this Annual Conference appoint a task force with the sole charge of developing a plan of disaffiliation of this Conference from the structures of the United Methodist Church for presentation to the Annual Conference of 2018.^{xiii}
2. The task force shall be known as the Task Force on Realignment
3. The task force shall consist of twelve members--not more than six clergy and not less than six laity.
4. The members shall demonstrate a sincere desire to participate in the work of the task force and an unequivocal commitment to the success of their charge.
5. To avoid the actual or apparent conflicts that could result from their unique vows and positions of trust, neither the Bishop nor any District Superintendent shall serve on the task force.
6. The task force shall elect its own chair and other officers as it deems helpful.
7. All officers and employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, its boards, trust, agencies, committees, and other

- subsidiary entities are charged to expedite requests for information from the task force and to make themselves available for interviews.
8. The Conference Treasurer shall make available to the task force a budget of \$10,000 from the Conference Administration Fund for the procurement of legal counsel, financial consultants, and other specialists it may deem necessary to its work. The GCFA shall make such editorial changes to its report as are necessary to provide these funds
 9. Should the task force determine the need for additional funding then they shall be permitted to solicit designated gifts from the local churches to be remitted through the Conference Treasurer's Office.
 10. Since realignment brings with it inherent sadness, hurt, and costs of various kinds; as far as it is within its purview, the plan ought to allow clergy or local churches of this conference who desire to follow a different path the opportunity to do so without extraneous burdens or nonessential costs.

*Submitted to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals
Rev. Keith D Sweat, Mt Bethel/Kings Chapel Charge
Greenwood District, 13 March, 2017*

SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MEMORANDUM NO. 1356

IN RE: Review of a Bishop's Decision of Law in the South Carolina Annual Conference concerning if Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of the Book of Discipline 2016 render it out of order for an annual conference to petition the General Conference for enabling legislation to allow the Annual Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Two written requests for decision of law were presented to the Presiding Bishop by a licensed local pastor on June 7, 2017, the last day of the session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, as follows:

1. Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment; Does Decision 1340 of the Judicial Council or some part of Discipline render it out of order for an Annual Conference to petition the General Conference for enabling legislation so as to allow the Annual Conference to alter its relationship with the General Conference?
2. Regarding the Bishop's action at the afternoon session of 5 June on the Resolution on Realignment: Does Judicial Council Decision 1340 prevent an Annual Conference from forming a task force, study commission or committee if the product of that task force would likely result in a proposal that is contrary to the Discipline at the time it is written, but includes a petition to General Conference for enabling legislation before enactment? (emphasis added).

Three months earlier, on March 14, 2017, petitioner pastor submitted to the Annual Conference Committee on Resolution and Appeals "Resolution for the Realignment of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and Its Disaffiliation from the Structures of the United Methodist Church."

In the afternoon session of the Annual Conference of June 5, 2017, or two days before the twin requests were made, the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals brought to the Conference floor the Resolution for Realignment and Disaffiliation as part of its report, without recommendation, for information only. The bishop ruled it out of order, not properly before the Conference, and that it could not be discussed or acted upon. No further consideration, deliberation, or action, was taken except and until the submission of the request for the decision of law.

JURISDICTION

The Judicial Council has no jurisdiction. The twin requests for a bishop's decision of law arose out of a parliamentary ruling of the bishop on the Conference floor on June 5, 2017, when the Committee on

Resolutions and Appeals brought to the Conference session petitioner's draft Resolution for Realignment and Disaffiliation as part of its report for information only. The Committee presented the Resolution without recommendation. The bishop ruled that the Resolution was out of order, not properly before the Conference, and, therefore, that it could not be discussed or acted upon by the Annual Conference. No further discussion nor any action taken related to the matter until the request for decision of law was submitted on the last day. (Minutes of the Annual Conference, 2nd day, June 5, 2017, pp. 13-14: Transcript of Proceedings, Appendix "A" of Petitioner's Brief)

It is true that review by the Judicial Council of a bishop's decision of law is automatic or mandatory (JCD 799, 1244). Jurisdiction is another matter. It is settled precedent that the Judicial Council has no jurisdiction on a parliamentary matter or verbal ruling made on the conference floor during a session. There is no disciplinary authority for the Judicial Council to assume jurisdiction of a parliamentary ruling by a presiding bishop. (Memoranda 898, 941, 1117, 1187 and 1205).

After the bishop ruled the resolution out of order, the proper recourse for the proponent of the resolution was to appeal that ruling. No request to appeal the ruling was made. (JCD 1117) Hence, the matter was no longer before the Annual Conference. The Bishop was correct in making this ruling.

DIGEST

The Judicial Council has no jurisdiction. The request for a Bishop's decision of law arose out of a parliamentary ruling that the resolution or petition was out of order. We have no jurisdiction to review a parliamentary determination by a bishop.

Dennis Blackwell was absent.
First clergy alternate Timothy Bruster participated in this decision.
