

SECTION IV

The Forty-Seventh 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 3, 2018 – Wednesday, June 6, 2018
TD Convention Center
Greenville, South Carolina

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding
CONFERENCE THEME:

“A More Excellent Way: In Mission from Anywhere to Everywhere”

The First Day – Sunday, June 3, 2018

Registration: Registration began at 3:00 p.m. at the TD Convention Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, a registration booklet including additional reports and other information, information regarding the Greenville area, and a Worship Guide Booklet.

The Lay Orientation: The Board of Laity conducted an Orientation Session for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference at 4 P.M. on Level 1, Room 102A & B, and repeated at 5:00 p.m. 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.

Laity Conversations: *Sharing Your Successes* was held on Level 1, Room 102C and repeated again at 5:00 p.m.

Clergy Session: Bishop Jonathan Holston called The Clergy Session to order at 5:00 p.m. on Level 2 Room 202. Bishop Holston opened the meeting with the singing of “Blessed Assurance” and with a word of prayer. The Reverend Fran Elrod thanked those who serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees for their service in the past year. **There was no report from** the Administrative Review Committee as no matters were referred to the committee for action. **The Reverend Mel Arant** presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. **The Reverend Fran Elrod**, Chair of The Board of Ordained Ministry thanked **the 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 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 “Built for God’s Purpose” was based on II Corinthians 4:5-12. His message was a passionate reminder that the church is built for God’s pleasure, not for our purpose. Choral selections were offered by Mass Choir (John Wesley, Bethlehem, Laurel Creek, and St. Matthew United Methodist Churches), Spencer Bennett, director, Velita Jones and Marshall Bennett, accompanists. The attendees celebrated Holy Communion. The offering received during this service assisted the “Strength For Service” Devotional Ministry. Delegates departed from the TD Convention Center for the evening at 9:13 p.m.

The Second Day – Monday, June 4, 2018

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 Conference 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 Hood**, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:00 a.m. registration continued.

At 8:32 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; 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 2018 Annual Conference Session be elected as nominated without reading and that their names be published in the 2018 Conference Journal (**approved**) – 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 (**approved**); 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 2018 Annual Conference Session provided that the President may adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session (**approved**); and 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 daily the written proceedings of the conference will be available online by 10 PM, and the daily Advocate will be distributed so that attendees may share these summaries with their local churches. Rev. Ken Nelson 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:

Rev. Jeri Katherine Warden-Sipes – **Head Teller**

Anderson District: Carol Burdette, Jane Harlin, Jane Hallums, Fran Sofley, Mary Teasley, Matt Turner

Charleston District: Emily Ghassemzadeh, Raymond Gibbs, Judith Knox, Gladys Lemon, Tim Reeves, Sherrie Scott, Walter Strawther

Columbia District: Brenda Ballentine, Cary Ballentine, Meg Cook, Thad Hinnant, Dick Thompson, Martha Thompson, Matt Yon

Florence District: Carleathe Benson, Anthony Caldwell, Lorine Chandler, Arthur Gamble, Cindy Muncie, Patricia Singletary

Greenville District: Don Brown, Matthew Greer, Davon Harrelson, Ellen Henson, Mike Henson, Jo Nelson

Greenwood District: David Christopher, Judy Dorn, John Elmore, Randall Haase, Tim Jones, Grady Senn

Hartsville District: Wes Conner, Travis Feagin, Sarah Horace, Donald MacLeod, Fred McDaniel, James Vaught

Marion District: Anthony Alford, Liz Barber, Bob Elwood, Scott Gilmer, Joan Howard

Orangeburg District: Dennis Fish, Harry Shade

Rock Hill: Barry Allen, Michael Clancy, Eddie Knox, Sylvia Knox, Becky Shirley, Carole Walters

Spartanburg District: Sylvia Landrum, Jimmy Lewis, Ronnie Lybrand, Cynthia Lyles, Merritt Wentz

Walterboro District: Daniel Griswold, MargaLene Irvin, Kesha McNeil, Lisa Way, Sheri White, Tom Woodward

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 (p.86) – opened report with "Lord of the Dance" on harmonica.

• **Standing Rule #11: amend by deletion and addition**

- Rev. Robert Cannon, (St. Andrews, Orangeburg) – Question: Is it in order to refer a resolution to the body? Amend 11b by adding 'refer' to the last line following "adopt, postpone..." Speech for.
- Rev. Roger Gramling, - concern/speech against on 11b.

- Rev. Cathy Jamieson (Columbia District Superintendent) – speech in favor of the amendment.
- Rev. Rosetta Ross (Hartsville District, Connectional Min) – speech against.
- Call the Question. Voted (2/3 to pass).
- **Motion failed.**
- **Standing Rule #27: amend by adding section c.**
 - **Motion approved.**
- **Standing Rule #28: amend by deletion and addition...d**
 - **Motion approved.**
- **Standing Rule #70: amend by addition**
 - Rev. Bob Stillwell (retired, St. Mark, Seneca) – speech against – unnecessary
 - Mr. Edward Kennedy (Charleston District) – speech for – in favor of simplifying process.
 - Vote: **motion approved**
- **Standing Rule #71: amend by substitution and addition...**
 - **Motion approved.**
- **Standing Rule #83: amend by deletion (to bring into compliance with S.C. law)**
 - **Motion approved.**

At 9:23 a.m. Bishop Holston introduced the Bible Study leader **The Rev. Dr. Herbert Marbury (Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Vanderbilt Divinity School)**

- The topic of the Bible Study pertained to the work of mission. Mission isn't about where we go; what we do – what is important is who you are. Who are you bringing to the mission field – "...you will know them by their fruits..." – Spiritual checkup of the fruit on our trees.
- Topics for our week together: A more excellent way in our **love; ministry; vision.**
- Today's scripture: Love – Matthew 18:1-7; 19:13-15
- Disciples can't understand why Jesus keeps focusing on the 'wrong' people.
- Jesus decides to show them what loves means – "...bring the children to me." Jesus loved that society said not to love – those on the margins...especially children...Who are 'the children' among us today?
- Who are the 'right' people to love and the 'wrong' people to love? – Love the wrong people because it's the right thing to do!

Transition Break at 9:59 a.m. After a brief transition break at 10:30 a.m. we sang "Standing on the Promises" and **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference and offered an encouraging reminder of our purpose and work together even in the midst of changing ways – Bishop Holston then gave a report on Council of Bishops work on the Commission on the Way Forward. His report focused on prayer, healthy discussions, practice of the 3 simple rules, and remaining committed to reaching people with the love of God in Jesus Christ. June 6th – July 7th, 2018 is the period for submission of resolutions to the special General Conference.

The Conference Committee on Episcopacy, **Mr. Holbrook Platt**, Chairperson on the Committee on the Episcopacy, provided the committee report (p. 37). Mr. Platt showed appreciation for the members of the committee. 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 increased 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 mission work in our Conference, especially her dedication to Imagine No Malaria and Epworth and Killingsworth Boards. Our apportionment rate highest in modern times at 92.34%. Encouraged commitment to fitness – The Abundant Health Initiative, FAN program. The report of the Committee on Episcopacy was unanimously approved.

Consent Calendar (SR 22) – p. 65 was presented by **Rev. Ken Nelson**. It will be voted on Wednesday. The petition to remove from calendar is found on page 67.

The Committee on Nominations report – Ms. Juliette Philpot and Rev. Joseph James, Jr. provided the report on nominations found on pages 68 – 84 of the Conference Packet. **Ms. Philpot** 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. Derrick Cattenhead gave report #1.

Rev. Julie Songer-Belman, gave Report #2.

Rev. Joseph James, chair, submitted a change for Report #2 and then gave Report #3, Report #4 **Betty Void, Lay Member**, Report #5, Rev. Sandra King will replace the nomination of Rev. Amy Bratton.

Report of Connectional Ministries presented by **Rev. Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries; Rev. Ross Chellis, Chair, Connectional Ministries.** (p. 40-47. Then showed a video highlighting ministry undertakings and successes; A District Ministry Quilt was displayed to exhibit what churches are doing to reach out in ministry across S.C.; 'Come, Follow Me' – sermon series and study guide written by clergy of the S.C. Annual Conference – umcsc.org/home/come-follow-me; S.C. youth testimony, Revolution; Ward Smith, Disaster Recovery Ministries S.C.; Native American Ministries; Forward Focus...

Rev. Chellis offered an invitation to celebrate with various ministries; Revolution is celebrating 10 years; Quilts are located in the exhibit hall; May 17-18, 2019 – Native American Racial Reconciliation Pilgrimage...

The Report of Connectional Ministries 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 (BOM). (p. 89-90) She celebrated those who will be licensed, commissioned and ordained today, and those coming to us from other Annual Conferences and denominations.

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's, the Board of Ordained Ministry has been able to provide financial assistance to students, reducing the cost to them for seminary and course of study. This past year \$103,115 was disbursed for seminarians and \$60,570 for the Course of Study, totaling \$163,685.

A video to highlight the work of GBHEM was shown.

Recipients of scholarships recognized by Rev. Elrod.

Recognition of those who reached milestones in their preparation for effective ministry – completed the 5 year course of study.

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.

The Board expressed gratitude for the leadership of **Rev. Ken Nelson**, 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.

Rev. Elrod moved report to record. The report was *Approved*.

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

Presented as a candidate for ordination as a deacon in full connection was:

Anthony Griffith Carosiello, Jeffrey Weldon Childress, Shawna Michelle Darnall, LaTonya Monique Dash, Eleanora Coaxum Ellington, Brandon Lee Fuller, Katherine Marie Haselden, Jon August Hoin, James Stewart McDowell, Brian Edward Preveaux, Sara Elizabeth Relaford, Edward Tyler Strange, Sylvia Freeman Watson, James Timothy Whited, William McClary WRIGHTEN, LaShelia Mack Wyatt, Beverly CroweTipton, Kyu-Seok Shin

Presented for commissioning as provisional elders were:

Kenneth David Freeman, Tammy Nicole Grey, Steven Moore McNeal, Cynthia Wolfe Muncie, Sammy Omar Pazi, Pamela Denise Richardson, Justin Lee Ritter, Frances Hillary Taylor, Brenda Joyce Thomas, Lisa Montque Way, Sheri Yvette-Base White, Wade Anthony Wyatt Sr., Cheryl Elaine Yates

Note: There were no candidates presented for ordination or commissioning as Deacons.

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

Charles Martin Adams, James Scott Allen, William David Altman, Richard Charles Andrews, Joan Kristine Bergmann, Herman Alexander Black, Henry Lewis Brooks, Sr., James Daniel

Curran, Brent, Lee Dehlbom, John Edward Fahrney, Sh'kur Marquis Rashard Francis, Andre Lemont Gary, Sherman Jerome Green, Paul Vincent Lawton, Corinthia Gee Mack, Jonathan Scott Matthews, James Roscoe McDowell, William Jack McElveen Jr., Karen Fisk McElveen, Edward Roderick McKnight, Dishawn Tyneil Muldrow, Jeremiah Forshee Page, Woongchul Daniel Ra, Darrell Ware Ricketts, James Brunson Rogers, Cynthia Anne Rumsey, Jerry Wayne Shaw, Marvis Lavern Stewart, Brian Lee Underwood

Rev. Ken Nelson offered announcements before adjourning for lunch; clergy choir will rehearse for retirement service.

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. Rosetta Ross** preached the sermon. A local church mission fair was also held.

At 3:33 PM **Bishop Holston** reconvened the Conference following the lunch break as we sang "I Know the Lord Laid His Hands on Me".

The Council on Finance and Administration report (for information only) presented by **Rev. Mitch Houston, Rev. Walter Cantwell, and Ms. Beth Westbury. Rev. Houston** showed appreciation for the members of CF&A and **Ms. Beth Westbury** and staff. Apportionment giving for 2017 was 92.34%. There were 800 churches paid 100% out of 977 units. 149 churches/charges increased their giving. **Rev. Walter Cantwell** presented CF&A 2019 Budget. \$17,343,791 requested (16.1% of average net funds beyond 15% goal); \$16,990,921 recommended – maintaining goal of 15% of average net funds (15.8%).

- Line Items 1-12 (Report 9) contain missions and ministries of the Annual Conference. (Details on increases and decreases found in Report 8 on page 6.)
- 0.3% increase above 2018.
- BOM submitted late request of \$18,000 to cover psychological testing for ordinands.

The Committee Resolutions and Appeals report presented (For information and reference) by the **Rev. Steve Simoneaux**. He showed appreciation for committee members.

- Resolution Affirming Current language in Book of Discipline Regarding Human Sexuality

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CURRENT LANGUAGE IN BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part V: Social Principals regarding Human Sexuality, paragraph 161.G, states:

"We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

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. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.

We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part VI: Organization and Administration regarding the Ministry of the ordained, paragraph 304.3, states:

"While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The

practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part VI: Organization and Administration regarding Unauthorized Conduct, paragraph 341.6, states:

“Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part VI: Organization and Administration regarding the Conference Council on Finance and Administration’s Responsibilities, paragraph 613.19, states:

“To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (§ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church’s official position is fairly and equally represented.”

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part VI: Organization and Administration regarding the General Council on Finance and Administration’s Fiscal Responsibilities, paragraph 806.9, states:

“It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (§ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.¹³ It shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.”

Whereas the United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, Part VI: Organization and Administration regarding Judicial Administration and addressing Chargeable Offenses and the Statute of Limitations, paragraph 2702.1, states:

“A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (§ 370), local pastor,⁹ clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in § 2702.4)¹⁰ with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;¹¹ (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings,¹² including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;¹³ (c) crime; (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (f) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor;¹⁴ (g) child abuse;¹⁵ (h) sexual abuse;¹⁶ (i) sexual misconduct¹⁵ including the use or possession of pornography, (j) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.”

Whereas there are United Methodist Church ordained pastors and bishops who disregard the solemn covenant they made at their ordination to abide by the United Methodist Church’s *Book of Discipline* and who violate the sections of the *Book of Discipline* cited above;

Whereas there are church leaders—United Methodist Church lay people, ordained pastors and bishops—who ignore scripture and attempt to redefine it, thus placing the United Methodist Church in peril; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the members South Carolina Annual Conference affirm all persons are individuals of sacred worth and we commit ourselves to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to be in ministry for and with all persons so that we all gain eternal life at last for Christ’s sake; be it further

Resolved, we are in full agreement with our current biblical position on human sexuality as stated in our *Book of Discipline*; be it further

Resolved, the members of South Carolina Annual Conference challenge the leaders of the United Methodist Church—lay people, ordained pastors and bishops—to rely on scripture and not societal pressure to determine the way forward for the United

Methodist Church and to abide by the *Book of Discipline's* governance of the denomination; be it further

Resolved, a copy of this resolution will be delivered to the Secretary for the South Carolina Annual Conference, the Secretary for the Southeast Jurisdictional Conference, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, and the Secretary for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Darren Hook, Senior Pastor, Covenant UMC
Rev. Linda Guthrie, Associate Pastor, Covenant UMC
Steve Banks, Lay Member of Annual Conference, Covenant UMC
Rev. Jeff Kersey, Senior Pastor, Mt. Horeb UMC
Rev. Faye Stephens, Pastor of Congregational Care, Mt. Horeb UMC
Rev. Ed McDowell, Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care, Mt. Horeb UMC
Pastor Trevor Miller, Director of Students and Young Adult Ministries, Mt. Horeb UMC
Rev. Drew Martin, Pastor of Evangelism and Outreach, Mt. Horeb UMC
Martha Thompson, Chair of Ad. Board and Lay Delegate of Annual Conference, Mt. Horeb UMC
Rev. Dr. Mike Smith, Senior Pastor, Trenholm Road UMC
Jess and Palmira Torres, Lay Members of Conference, Trenholm Road UMC
Jason and Jessie Patterson, Lay Members of Conference, Trenholm Road UMC
Rev. Dr. Jeff Dunn, Pastor, Christ United Methodist, Myrtle Beach
Joan Matejceck, Lay Leader, Christ United Methodist, Myrtle Beach
Rev. Jody Flowers, Lead Minister, Chapin UMC
Sharon Allen, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Chapin UMC
Eldon and Gayle Armstrong, Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Chapin UMC
Ed and Lisa Gohn, Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Chapin UMC
Bill and Shirley Maybin, Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Chapin UMC

- Resolution in Support of Just and Inclusive Policy for Lay Volunteers and Lay Staff

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF JUST AND INCLUSIVE POLICY FOR
LAY VOLUNTEERS AND LAY STAFF IN LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY
Submitted to the South Carolina Annual Conference 2018**

WHEREAS, Paragraph 162 of The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church states: "We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights;" (*Book of Discipline*, 2016); and,

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

"We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends." (*Book of Discipline*, 2016); and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 161R of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: "We affirm the right of all people, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, race, religion, disability, age, physical appearance, sexual orientation and gender identity, to be free of unwanted aggressive behavior and harmful control tactics." (*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, South Carolina United Methodist Churches thrive on qualified laity called to serve the church in volunteer and paid positions, including LGBT members who have been an integral and vital part of the ministries of the church; yet, qualified lay volunteers and employees have been denied or dismissed from their called positions based solely on their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, some United Methodist Churches practice a policy of inquiring about sexual orientation during the interview process and denying employment of called and qualified laity to non-appointed staff positions based on their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the official stance of the United Methodist Church is that of a welcoming space for all persons; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church approved a resolution at the 2015 Annual Conference to oppose bullying in all its forms and to create a safe space for all children of God regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, culture, citizenship, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, lay employees and volunteers of South Carolina United Methodist Churches merit the same “safe space” comfort as do other congregants and warrant equal protection from being bullied, singled out, stigmatized or labeled as unfit to serve the church based solely on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following resolution is adopted by the 2018 South Carolina Annual Conference:

That we encourage all United Methodist congregations in South Carolina to follow employment and volunteer practices that are aligned with our Social Principles. We will encourage and support local churches’ policies in which qualified laity called to serve the church are placed in and/or dismissed from positions based solely on merit and without regard for sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Rev. W. Robert Borom, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Ashland Charge Conference, Columbia, SC, robertborom@aol.com
- Mrs. Charlotte S. Broome, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, smkbroome@aol.com
- Dr. Michael C. Broome, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, smkbroome@aol.com
- Rev. Wiley B. Cooper, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, wileycooper@gmail.com
- John Wesley Culp, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, West Columbia, SC, j.culp@outlook.com
- Rev. Dr. Karin Bascom Culp, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, Columbia SC, kculp@sc.rr.com
- Rev. Dr. Carl D. Evans, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, cevans441@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. George DeWitt Fields, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, Spartanburg, SC, george_fields@bellsouth.net
- Rev. Adrienne Fink, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Cayce UMC, Cayce, SC, ajhamm@umcsc.org
- Dr. Samuel Bolivar George, SC Annual Conference Clergy, First UMC, Myrtle Beach, SC, samgeorge@live.com
- Rev. Michael E. Goldston, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Liberty UMC, Liberty, SC, megoldston@umcsc.org
- Rev. Dr. J. Christopher Greene, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Shiloh UMC, Gilbert, SC, jcgreene@umcsc.org
- Rev. James Ellis Griffith, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, Greenville, SC, jegriffeth@bellsouth.net
- Ms. Jane C. Harlin, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Saint Mark UMC, Seneca, SC, jane.c.harlin@gmail.com
- Rev. Jon A. Hoin, SC Annual Conference Clergy, St. Matthews Charge, St. Matthews, SC, jahoin@umcsc.org
- Rev. Arthur Hardin Holt, SC Annual Conference Clergy, UM Church of the Covenant, Spartanburg, SC, ahholt@umcsc.org
- Dr. James C. Hunter, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Bethel UMC, Old Fort, NC, Hunter62415@gmail.com
- Rev. Kathryn O. Hunter, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, Charleston District, kohunter@umcsc.org
- Rev. Joel Robert Jones, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Simpsonville UMC, Simpsonville, SC, jrjones55@sc.rr.com
- Rev. James H. Knowles-Tuell, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, knowlestuell@yahoo.com
- Ms. Barbara A. Latham, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Central UMC, Spartanburg, SC, blatham708@gmail.com
- Rev. Michael Steven Leonhardt, SC Annual Conference Clergy, St. John’s UMC, Lugoff, SC, msleonhardt@umcsc.org
- Mrs. Paulette G. McCallister, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Inman UMC, Inman, SC, prmcoast@gmail.com
- Rev. Jim Morgan, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Clemson UMC, Clemson, SC, jlmorgan@umcsc.org
- Dr. Steven D. Morgan, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Clemson UMC, Clemson, SC, stevenmorgan1001@gmail.com
- Rev. Diane A. Moseley, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired, amandamose@aol.com
- J. David Myers, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Retired - Attend Bethel UMC, Charleston, SC, jdmcpa@bellsouth.net

Rev. Dr. James Herbert Nates, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Ashland UMC, Columbia, SC, jpnates@aol.com
 Dr. Thomas Harmon Norrell, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Central UMC, Spartanburg, SC, thnorrell@umcsc.org
 Dr. Lyn Pace, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Oxford College of Emory University, Oxford, GA, ppace@emory.edu
 Rev. Sara Elizabeth Relaford, SC Annual Conference Clergy, St. Paul UMC, St. Matthews, SC, serelafor@umcsc.org
 Mr. Larry M. Sanders, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Church of the Palms UMC, Okatie, SC, sandersday@aol.com
 Ms. Cynthia C. Satcher, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Lexington UMC, Lexington, SC, ccsatcher@gmail.com
 Rev. Bruce A. Sayre, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Leesville UMC, Batesburg - Leesville, SC, basayre@umcsc.org
 W. Conard Search, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, St. Mark UMC, Greenwood, SC, searchparty@mywesleycommons.org
 Mr. Robert Sheffield, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Clemson UMC, Clemson, SC, robertshef@gmail.com
 Dr. R. Phillip Stone, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Bethel UMC, Spartanburg, SC, stonerp@wofford.edu
 Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Summers, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, Tomsumm@aol.com
 Rev. Diana C. Westerkam, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, SC, westerkam@bellsouth.net
 Rev. Meg Wilkes, SC Annual Conference Clergy, First UMC, Clover, SC, mwilkes@cloverfumc.org
 Janet Wilson, 2018 SC Annual Conference Lay Delegate, Central UMC, Spartanburg, SC, wilsonpickus@bellsouth.net
 Rev. Dr. Paul Ariel Wood, SC Annual Conference Clergy, Central UMC, Spartanburg, SC, woodtz1955@gmail.com

- Resolution to Ensure that Every Child in State Care Receives Best Care

**RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IN STATE CARE
RECEIVES THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE**

Rationale

During the past fifteen years certain organizations that seek to reform the child welfare system at both the federal and state levels have made the effort through legislative efforts, funding restrictions, and class action lawsuits to have as few children as possible in institutional care (children's homes, group homes). Despite lack of empirical research data, well-funded and politically connected organizations have demonized children's homes as being harmful to children. They have cherry picked negative incidents and used them as examples to represent all children's homes, and have used correlations that do not stand up to scrutiny when compared to unbiased research standards. This has resulted in legislation and a class action federal lawsuit settlement that severely curtails using children's homes in South Carolina, no matter how high the quality of services, and how excellent the results or outcomes. Our former Governor decided not to contest the lawsuit, thus a settlement was signed in 2016 that has brought many unintended, but predictable consequences to many of South Carolina's most vulnerable children.

WHEREAS, Harm has come to children as a result of the impacts of implementation of the Michelle H. Settlement agreement and other directives in South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, The ruling of the Michelle H. Settlement shows bias without merit toward high quality, high performing, Level 1 residential group homes like Epworth, and

WHEREAS, There is no empirical research that demonstrates that care provided by foster families results in better outcomes in children than care provided to children in high quality group homes, and

WHEREAS, High quality residential group home care givers are more intensively trained and supervised than the majority of care givers in other child placement settings, and

WHEREAS, High quality, Level 1 residential group care results in positive outcomes above the norm for children who are in state custody, and

WHEREAS, DSS violated its own trauma philosophy and Best Practices placement disruption philosophy by moving children frequently, dividing sibling groups, placing children in substandard foster homes, placing children far from their homes of origin, placing children in substandard school systems, placing children in the first space available instead of considering which placement is in the best interest of the child, and

WHEREAS, Children twelve years of age and younger are moved from one placement to another to satisfy the age restrictions in the Michelle H. Settlement lawsuit causing additional trauma, and

WHEREAS, The presidents of Epworth Children's Home, Connie Maxwell, and Thornwell wrote letters to the court citing the variety and quality of services provided to all age levels for children placed with their agencies, and the presidents of Epworth and Thornwell testified at the settlement hearing and asked for exceptions in the settlement due to the high quality of work, and positive outcomes for children in their care. Federal court judge Richard Gergel complimented the work of all three institutions and cited Epworth, Thornwell, and Connie Maxwell as the highest performing homes in South Carolina, but granted no exceptions in the settlement with the State of South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, The Michelle H. Settlement is written in such fashion that in practice a child must be placed in any available foster parent home, even if the home is a fair to poor quality placement, before a high performing children's group home is considered for placement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That in order to ensure there are sufficient therapeutic placements for the children who need them, no child or youth who has not been assessed as needing a therapeutic placement shall be placed in a therapeutic foster parent home. DSS shall cease placing non-therapeutic children in therapeutic foster parent homes as a solution to meeting the requirements of Michelle H.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That sibling groups shall not be separated unless it is demonstrated through a clinical assessment that it is in the best interest of the sibling group, and/or that one or more siblings are not behaviorally compatible with a certain placement setting. Age shall not be the determining factor for dividing sibling groups.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Department of Social Services personnel refrain from the practice of placing children in the first and or closest bed available without regard to the quality of services, and instead after assessing the needs of a child place the individual(s) in the place best suited to meet the child's needs.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the maximum number of children residing in a foster parent home be reduced to six, rather than eight as is now permitted. This total number shall count biological and other children residing in the home.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a committee of no more than eight people shall be appointed by Bishop Holston. The committee shall include at least two Epworth staff members, six representatives from the PAN Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty. The purpose of the committee is to research and provide a plan to help resolve practices in South Carolina that result in unintended negative consequences due to state and federal policies and practices. This committee shall convene no later than September 15, 2018.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That Epworth Children's Home, Thornwell Children's Home, and Connie Maxwell Children's Home, due to their request at the settlement hearing of the Michelle H. lawsuit, their records of high quality children's services and outcomes, their national accreditation by the Council of Accreditation (COA), be recommended by The South Carolina Annual Conference, which represents the 230,000 United Methodists in South Carolina, to receive exemptions from the Michelle H. lawsuit settlement that relate to the restrictions regarding age, county of origin, and length of stay of children in state custody.

Respectfully submitted by:
John E. Holler, President, CEO Epworth Children's Home

Epworth Trustees: The Rev. Debra Armstrong, The Rev. Daniel Burbage, Mr. Marion Freeman, The Rev. James Friday, Mr. Vic Hannon, The Rev. Michael B. Henderson, Mrs. Tara Jeffords, Mrs. Charlotte Jones, The Rev. Smoke Kanipe, The Rev. Dickie Knight, Mrs. Laurie Matthews, Mr. David Murphy, Ms. Cindy Nord, Mr. John Pate, Mr. John Roberts, The Rev. Jerry Temple

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING
OLD BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CHARLESTON,
A UNITED METHODIST HISTORIC SITE**

Whereas, construction of Old Bethel United Methodist Church's building began in 1797 and was completed in 1807 as the sanctuary of Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, Bethel built a new sanctuary in 1852, moving the old sanctuary to a new site where it was used by the church's African-American members; and

Whereas, the sanctuary building was given to its African-American congregation and moved again to its present location in 1880; and

Whereas, Old Bethel's sanctuary is the third oldest church building of any denomination in the city of Charleston, South Carolina, and the oldest Methodist structure in the city; and

Whereas, Old Bethel has long been one of the cornerstones of Methodism in Charleston and in the South Carolina Conference, representing over two centuries of history as well as the transition of African-American Methodism from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas, Old Bethel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975; therefore

Be it resolved by the South Carolina Annual Conference, meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, June 6, 2018, that Old Bethel United Methodist Church is hereby designated a historic site of the South Carolina Annual Conference, to be registered with the General Commission on Archives and History.

Submitted by the Commission on Archives and History

Black College Fund – Rev. Millie Nelson Smith introduced speaker, Mr. James Cogman who brought a message on behalf of the Black College Fund. He studied at Claflin University and is currently at Yale Divinity School and intern at Church of the Resurrection.

Reports of the United Methodist Theological Schools presented by **Dr. Fred Edie, Duke Divinity School**: 13 schools are affiliated with The UMC. Required to have 40% programming related to The UMC. Overwhelming majority of Board members are UM. Duke educates the overwhelming majority of UM pastors, and they host the 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. Duke's total enrollment bumped above 600 students; young students compared to other institutions. 18th year of Duke Youth Academy which help young people in discerning calls to ministry. **Dr. Ken Walden, Gammon Theological Seminary** – presented a report telling of Gammon, the only historically black UM seminary. Since 1883, continue to practice a radical inclusivity.

A Word from our Colleges and Universities: **Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford College alongside Dr. Scott Cochran, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Dr. Henry Tisdale, Claflin University (retiring this year after 25 years)** presented report on our 4 local UM institutions of higher learning: Wofford, SMC, Claflin, and Columbia. **Dr. Cochran** briefly spoke on behalf of SMC. **Dr. Tisdale** briefly spoke on behalf of Claflin – 150 years.

Camps and Retreat Ministries report presented by **Arthur Spriggs, Executive Director**. Video presentation including Asbury Hills and Camp Providence. 1,156 campers currently registered for Asbury Hills this summer so far. **Kim Welborn, Board Chair**, also shared in the report. Actively pursuing a Worship Center at Asbury Hills. Anderson District won the Golf Tournament that provided scholarships for Asbury Hills kids.

South Carolina United Methodist Advocate: Jessica Brodie, editor of The Advocate, spoke on behalf of The Advocate newspaper and The Advocate Press. Video presentation.

Students in Mission: Rev. Ricky Howell, Director of the Winthrop Wesley Foundation, spoke on behalf of Students in Mission among Wesley Foundations. A video presentation was provided.

Rev. Ken Nelson offered announcements and Bishop Holston adjourns today's business at 5:07 p.m.

The Commissioning, Ordination and Recognition Worship Service began at 7:00 p.m. with pre-service music offered by Advent UMC.

At 7:30 p.m. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston called the congregation to worship. The sermon, "From God's Mouth to Yours" was passionately delivered by Bishop Mildred Bonnie Hines, Resident

Bishop of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. An offering was received for the Seminary Students Scholarship Fund.

A reception for the Ordinands was held in the Concourse area of Level 2.

The Third Day -Tuesday, June 5, 2018

At 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion, was led by **Rev. Zack Dillard**, pastor of St. John/Wesley Chapel United Methodist Churches, Hartsville, SC

At 7:30 a.m. the Awards Breakfast was held in room 202C. The speaker was Dominic Brown. The awards and recipients included:

Award	Recipient
Joseph Benjamin Bethea Distinguished Service Award – Laity	Ms. Donniss Keinder (In Memorial)
Joseph Benjamin Bethea Distinguished Service Award – Clergy	Rev. Dr. Mike Smith
Harry Denman Evangelism Award – Laity	Mr. L.W. Smith III
Harry Denman Evangelism Award – Youth	Ms. Charena Myers
Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission – Laity	Mr. Willie Rowe
Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission – Clergy	Rev. Fred Buchanan
Students in Mission	Ms. Sonna Boothroyd
	Ms. Fashoda Bradley
	Ms. Iris Gadsden
	Ms. Natalie Hungate
	Ms. Samoria Session
	Ms. Abigail Smith

Board of Ordained Ministry Scholarships

Annual Conference Seminary Student Scholarship	Mr. Carsten Aubrey Bryant Mr. Zachary Dollard deMoya Ms. Emma McClain Mathis
T. Dennie Smith Scholarship	Mr. James Taylor Rev. Shirley P. Gordon Ms. Mamie Lee Pierce Hannah Rev. Alston Flynn Lippert
Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship	Ms. Nona Margaret Woodle
S.C. United Methodist Conference Merit Scholarship	Ms. Sarah Mohler
Janie Robinson Thomasson Memorial Scholarship	Ms. Gracie Anne Pope
S.C. United Methodist Advocate Scholarship	Mr. Andrew Whelchel

Commission on Archives and History

Herbert Hucks Award	Livingston United Methodist Church Mountain View United Methodist Church Tabernacle United Methodist Church
---------------------	---

Bishop's Five-Star Award

Church	Pastor	District
Advent UMC	Rev. Michael Turner	Greenville
	Rev. Laura-Allen Kerlin	
Brown Swamp UMC	Rev. Ann Kovan	Marion
Chapin UMC	Rev. Jody Flowers	Columbia
Fair Lawn UMC	Rev. Scott Bartton	Columbia
First UMC	Rev. Tommy Wilkes, III	Rock Hill
	Rev. Meg Wilkes	
John Wesley UMC	Rev. Charlie Thomas	Greenville
Mt. Carmel UMC	Rev. Thessa Smith	Greenwood
Mt. Harmony UMC	Rev. Sharon Gamble	Rock Hill
Mt. Zion UMC	Rev. Gwendolyn White	Hartsville
North Orangeburg UMC	Rev. Dwight Nelson	Orangeburg
Reidville Road UMC	Rev. Danny Wiley	Spartanburg
Smyrna UMC	Rev. Ebbie Abraham	Marion
St. Matthew UMC	Rev. Brenda Thomas	Greenville
Trinity UMC	Rev. Thessa Smith	Greenwood

Bishop's Award of Excellence

Red Bank UMC

Rev. Dr. Robert Dunn
Mr. Robin O. Smith, Scouting Coordinator
Columbia
Cub Scout Pack 518
Boy Scout Pack 518
Girl Scout Troup 2323

Trinity UMC

Rev. Neal Woods
Ms. Karen S. Smith, Scouting Ministry Coordinator
Spartanburg
Cub Scout Pack 22

The congregation was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Bishop Holston with the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation", to prepare us for this morning's Bible Study with Dr. Herbert Marbury.

Bible Study:

Dr. Marbury begins Bible Study at 8:40 a.m. asking the body to be in prayer for Guatemala, bring them comfort and peace that they will know God is sending them love.

Scripture: 1 Kings 17

- Today we'll add symbolism to our interpretive tool box.
- Episode 1: Face off that happens when faith meets power. Elijah sees evil himself and just confronts it without goading or prompting. The Lord (Yahweh) vs. Ba'al – King Ahab vs. Elijah – when truth meets power. *Who is the source of your power? **When God acts, are we willing to speak truth to power?*
- Episode 2: The land of ancient Israel was clean and outside of Israel was unclean. Clean is that which is normal to them. Unclean meant no normal. (see Leviticus 11) Murder would make you unclean because you spilled blood in a way not approved by a priest... Elijah is in a land that is not normal. Fed by an unclean bird – he/we need the ravens. Who are the ravens in our lives?
- Episode 3: Thrown out of his comfort one, he must desire something familiar – Jerusalem. The Lord sends him deeper into unclean land to Zarephath, to the home of a widow... Widows were ostracized and considered unclean. She's going to be the one who sustains him. She is planning to fix one final meal for her and her son and die, but Elijah, who spoke the word of God, and the woman responded out of her blessing. When he got to Zarephath, he saw that God was indeed already there. Can we stand with those who love the church with the little they have... God made sure the meal jar didn't run out. Elijah and the widow reminds us of our obligation to 'the widow' – Elijah committed himself to the cause of God among the least, lost, and broken, and trusted God that the meal wouldn't run out and the oil would not fail.
- Who is the source of your power? Do we trust in God?

Bishop Holston introduces Dominic Brown, Chief Meteorologist for WIS-TV, and the Holston's Nephew.

9:23 a.m.: **Board of Pension and Health Benefits** report given by Rev. David Anderson and Valerie Brooks-Madden (p. 19-27, 96-99). David Anderson will be retiring and Rev. Chris Lollis will replace him. Appreciation was shown to our Wespeth liaison. Not changing: pension is remaining the same. Welfare plan will be unchanged. Major changes have been made to the pension system.

- Increase of \$300 for moving grant.
- Share p.95-96 with your S/PPRC – projected rates for 2020-21.
- Health insurance costs will increase by 7.8%
- P.26-27 – Health exchange monthly premiums showing net costs / Retiree under 65/over 65
- Motion by Rev Anderson to approve the report.

The motion was approved.

Rev. David Anderson (moment of personal privilege) – shares appreciation for conference staff and those who have served on Board over the last 20 years. Bishop Holston shows appreciation to the work and dedication Rev. Anderson through the years, and introduces Rev. Chris Lollis.

9:46 a.m.: **Rev. Susan Leonard and Rev. Joe Long (incoming dean of the cabinet)** presented the **Report of the Cabinet** – p.93-94. 12 Districts/999 Churches/700 active and retired clergy serving congregations. We are seeking to be grounded in our historic Wesleyan Way of being committed to personal faith and having that faith expressed in social witness in the world. Being a Christian isn't about serving God perfectly, but serving God visibly. Bishop Holston has been a visible witness and leader in all 12 districts. The District Superintendents are grateful that the size of the districts still allow them to be visible among churches and pastors. Three members of the Cabinet are completing

eight years of service: Dr. Paul Harmon, Rev. John Hipp who are retiring; Rev. Susan Leonard will be returning to serve the local church. Joining the cabinet: Rev. Steve Patterson (Anderson), Rev. Cathy Mitchell (Spartanburg), and Rev. Terry Fleming (Florence).

Rev. Joe Long stated the cabinet is committed to solving the inequities in pay and support for clergy and staff regardless of status, race, gender.
Submitted to record. **Approved.**

10:07 a.m.: **The Report of the Laity (Lay Leadership)** given by **Ms. Barbara Ware** (p. 43) who gave appreciation for the visible presence of our Bishop Jonathan Holston and his wife Felecia.

Some Lay Leadership team members throughout the conference shared a few words: Ms. Jackie Jenkins (Lay Servant Ministries), Mr. Herman Lightsey (United Methodist Men), Ms. Marlene Spencer (United Methodist Women), Mr. Donald Love (Associate Conference Lay Leader).

Appreciation shown to **Rev. Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries** and executive committee members – cabinet representatives, district lay leaders, and also appreciation shown local church lay leadership. Appreciation also shown for clergy around the conference.

Token of appreciation given to the **Rev. Dr. Paul Harmon** – paten and chalice hand made by **Rev. Ross Chellis**.

Token of appreciation given to **Rev. Donald Love** who is becoming clergy and will no longer be Associate Lay Leader – cross and flame stained glass. David Salter and Betty Void will become Associate Lay Leaders.

Report moved to record. **Approved.**

10:28 a.m.: Announcements before transition break by conference secretary, **Rev Ken Nelson**. \$13,127 offering received last night / \$25,368.04 given total offering so far.

10:30 a.m.: **Bishop Holston** dismisses for transition for Retirement service at 11:00 AM.

2:07 p.m.: **Bishop Holston** calls body to order as we sang, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."

Bishop Holston recognizes special guest: **Bishop Lawrence McCleskey**.

2:16 p.m.: **Report of Committee on Congregational Development** given by **Rev. Sara White** and **Rev. Richard Reams** (p.36-37). Rev. White tells about resources available to local churches. She recognized **Mr. Skipper Brock** as the chair of Equitable Compensation and thanked him and the Superintendents and extended Cabinet, and **Bishop Holston**.

- \$889,894 given through apportionments toward congregation development. 20% returns to the District. (District committees received \$177,979)
- MissionInsite – demographic data that helps identify where congregational gifts meet community needs.
- Existing Church Grant requests totaled \$236,000 / \$117,000 awarded
- Leadership cohorts and instruction will be available with grants through congregational development.
- Video presentation of Congregational Development Projects: Two Rivers Church, Trinity Campus – Buncombe St UMC, Bethlehem & Laurel Creek UMC, Faith UMC, Enoch Chapel & Aldersgate UMC

Rev. Reams addresses the fear that keeps us from being in ministry from anywhere to everywhere – fear that spreads like a virus.

Moved the report to record.

- Mr. Edward Kennedy (Orangeburg District, Kannapolis) – spoke in favor of missions but against resources.

Approved.

Rev. Ken Nelson spoke on health kit initiative over 1,500 kits packed in 30min.

2:50 p.m.: **The Commission on Equitable Compensation** report given by **Mr. Skipper Brock** (p.28). Recognized all the members of the board. 2017 had some emergency grants and all needs were met due to the generosity of the Annual Conference. For 2019, requesting line item of \$565,000. Also, recommends following minimum salary adjustments: FT \$44,748; FT Provisional \$40,678; FT Local \$37,739 (2% increase over 2018).

- Categories of churches receiving support p.34.
- Asks a favor of the Bishop: *Picture with Flat Jesus...*

Motion to move report to record.

- **Rev. Cathy Jamieson** (D.S.) – clarification, line 37: what are effective members? “Full Elders.”
- **Rev. Robert Cannon** (St Andrews, Orangeburg): any projections for 2018 spending?
- **Rev. Gary Compton** (McBee Charge): why is base for local pastors lower than base for provisional and full elders?
- **Rev. Susan Leonard** (Dean of Cabinet) – discrepancy in numbers reflects cost of educational requirement and costs.

Approved.

3:13 p.m.: **Africa University report introduced by Dr. Jim Salley, Africa University. Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey** gives part one of report. Thanked the Annual Conference for generous support of the Africa University. Over 600 students from 34 countries will graduate next week, making a number of over 9,000 graduates large percentage of which remain on the continent after graduation. Another Africa Tour with Bishop Holston will take place in January 2020.

- Black History Month Tour in Feb of the Africa University Choir.
- In Feb, in N. Charleston, was launch event of the public phase of the \$50,000,000 campaign.
- Drum Award was re-presented to Bishop Jonathan Holston and his wife Felicia for their wonderful support of Africa University. – Ambassador extraordinaire of Africa University.
- **Bishop McCleskey** recognizes **Mr. Jim Salley** for leading the university in raising millions of dollars. **Mr. Jim Salley** has endowed a scholarship at Africa University in memory of his parents **Mr. James and Mrs. Marie Salley**.
- The Bishop’s Golf Tournament, Sept 24, 2018, in support of the university.
- \$50,000,000 endowment campaign – over \$39,000,000 has been received. Individuals and groups can participate. This campaign will increase endowment to \$100,000,000.
- A society becomes great, when its elders plant trees whose shade they know they’ll never sit under. We have the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Jim Salley recognizes **Bishop McCleskey** once more for his service. Appreciation extended to the Charleston District. Thanked Boeing as well, whose Executive Vice President will present the commencement message at the upcoming graduation services. A Video presentation was shown. The written report can be found on pages 56-57. Motion to move report to record.

Approved.

3:33 p.m.: **Report of the Chancellor given by Ms. Kay Crowe** (p.97). Trust Clause – The property held in trust and its usage are subject to Discipline. Activities in the church of groups from outside the church are also held accountable to Discipline and Safe Sanctuary regulations. Have such groups sign a contract and have it certified. Trust clause speaks to building ownership and usage of property. Motion to move report to record.

Approved.

3:44 p.m.: **Report of Epworth Children’s Home given by Rev Dr. John Holler** (p.8). 4-star designation for financial management. Graduates were recognized last Sunday and receive gifts, prayers, and congratulations – 100%; 97% had 2 or fewer behavioral referrals; 80% had a “C” average or higher each quarter; 33% of students earned academic honor roll each quarter.

41% of budget comes from contributions; 20% comes from endowment – United Methodist funds. Ask for \$6 per member.

238 churches gave nothing to Epworth last year. Goal is 100% churches giving.

13,768 volunteer hours estimated value of \$234,056

- Creation of Institute of Child and Family Well-Being
- S.C. #41 on care of children
- Over 91,000 young adults not in school or working
- S.C. rates of physical and sexual abuse rates are climbing...these are our children.
- We have opportunity to change the face of child welfare in S.C.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided:

Every Child Is A Miracle (\$7-10 Million Campaign brochure passed out to the body).

Campaign priorities: Residential Expansion; Strengthen and Expand Programs; Permanent Endowment of Epworth; Global Child Welfare.

Epworthicecream.org

Motion to move report to record.

Mr. Larry Fetterly (First UMC Easley) – issues a challenge to advocate for stronger child welfare laws.

The Report of Epworth was approved.

4:20 p.m.: **In Mission from Anywhere to Everywhere:** (presentation of The Witness of Salkehatchie and UMVIM)

4:30 p.m.: **Re-Vote on Constitutional Amendment # 1.**

This amendment was one of five approved by the 2016 General Conference, but that must be ratified by each Annual Conference before inclusion in the *Discipline*. The amendment was discussed with three speeches for and three against.

Bishop Holston and Rev. Ken Nelson clarifies who are eligible to vote. Properly before us, no further discussion.

Ballots were distributed. Doors were closed. And the conference delegates voted. The results will be released by the General Conference after all Annual Conferences have an opportunity to vote on the corrected amendment.

At 4:48 p.m.: **Rev. Chris Lynch** announced the “Hulapalooza” activity. He explained that we are attempting to break Guinness World Record.”

Bishop Holston adjourned the conference for the day and delegates dispersed for dinner and/or for participation in the Hulapalooza activity.

At 7:30 p.m. **conference participants gathered** for an evening of worship celebrating the Global Health Initiative. Worship was led by **Ms. Emily Lynch Cupelli** of Buncombe Street UMC, comedy was offered by “Brenda and Company”, and a Sacred Circle ceremony was offered by “Keepers of the Word – Native American Drummers”.

At 9:00 p.m., **Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)** held a soul-stirring worship service with the sermon offered by the Reverend Geneva Stafford of St. Mark UMC, Sumter, SC.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday, June 6, 2018

7:30 a.m.: Holy Communion - Rev. Anthony Gryff Carosiello, Covenant United Methodist Church, Greer, SC

8:31 a.m.: Bishop Holston calls us to order as we sang, “*As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*” in preparing us for the morning Bible study.

8:34 a.m.: Bible Study – The Rev. Dr. Herbert Marbury, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible Vanderbilt Divinity School.

- Topic: A More Excellent Way in our Vision – Genesis 1
- One of the last stories written in the OT – our story of creation
- 1. Devastation (contextual reality) – Babylon had brought destruction
- 2. Pain – what happened to the promise to David (1 Samuel 7:12-17)? Without a King, are we even a people? How could another nation destroy the temple in Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:8 -9)? Where is our God without the temple?
- 3. Faith – God gave them Genesis 1 as a testimony of victory. What did God intend? – “In the beginning when God began to create...” – What God created in the beginning Babylon cannot destroy. God is still with us. We can return to ‘Jerusalem’
- 4. Vision in the midst of devastation – Genesis 1: God is a God of Order – On days 1-3 there is infrastructure – On days 4-6 life inhabits the infrastructure; God is a God of Perfection; God is a God of Power – Gen 1:2 (God stands over the chaos and the devastation) – Gen 1 calls the people back to Jerusalem and provides everything they need to rebuild. TOV – Good – Functionality: does it work or is it broken? What God creates works! / Morality: Goodness – nothing that God has created has been tainted by Babylon’s evil...Israel who was rejected by God is reclaimed and deemed ‘very good’.
- Can you envision a world that you have not seen? A world that God intends?
- Set the vision – work for that which you cannot see – dream a God-sized dream

Kidz Konference attendees presented the Bishop with a button Cross.

9:16 a.m.: Advanced Special Ministries report given by **Rev. Kathy James** (p.47-51). Cover 10 counties; served over 31,000 people in S.C. not included those touched by UMVIM trips. This report was removed from the consent calendar. **The Report was approved.**

percentage of apportionments paid – 100.3% -- Rev. Thomas Pearson, Walterboro District. CF&A written report on p.1-7 (5-7 for this afternoon). No action of the Annual Conference effected the recommended budget with addition of the Board of Ordained Ministry request made Monday.

- HANDOUT reflects changes to report as presented Monday. **Rev. Houston** presents the CF&A budget as presented and amended.
- **Approved.**

11:12 a.m.: Resolutions to Close Churches presented by **Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson.**

- Appreciation given to **Ms. Veronica Williams** and **Ms. Kay Crowe.**
- Correction, p. 112: Florence District #2 ad interim closure, January 5, 2018.
- Ad interim: Berea (9-8-17); Bethel (9-8-17); Zoar; Andrews Chapel – Bishop Holston offers prayer for the ad interim closures.
- Resolutions for Closure, p.108-111
 - o St James, Columbia, p. 110 Bishop Holston leads in prayer. **Approved.**
 - o Closing Esperanza (mission closure), Greenville District. **Rev. Emily Scales-Sutton offers prayer**
 - o Andrews Chapel, Latta (Marion District), SC, p. 108. Rev. Tim Rogers offers prayer **Approved.**
 - o **Change Bethel – Pelion to Bethel, Peachtree Rock**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
ANDREWS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA# 957871)
603 Henry Street
Latta, South Carolina 29565 Dillon County, South Carolina
Marion District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The Church Local Conference of Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church ("Andrews Chapel UMC"), Latta Charge, Marion District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has consented to the discontinuation of the church effective June 7, 2018; and

Whereas, Andrews Chapel UMC is an unincorporated association under the laws of the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, The Reverend Timothy J. Rogers, District Superintendent of the Marion District, has recommended that Andrews Chapel UMC be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Marion District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of Andrews Chapel 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 Andrews Chapel UMC; and

Whereas, Andrews Chapel 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 Andrews Chapel UMC is closed, effective June 7, 2018, 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 Andrews Chapel UMC; and be it further

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

Resolved, That any real property and remaining personal property of Andrews Chapel (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including any remaining monies of Andrews Chapel 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 such property, if any, 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 any such monies transferred to it by Andrews Chapel UMC as it deems appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Marion District is authorized to

9:25 a.m.: Adoption of Consent Calendar – **Rev. Ken Nelson**
Approved.

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson (personal privilege) – remember the faithful service of **Dr. Talmadge Skinner**.

Carolyn Briscoe (personal privilege) – **Mrs. Betty Moss** and **Rev. Milton McGuirt**.

9:30 a.m.: **Elections-Committee on Nominations - Rev. Joseph James** (p.68ff). Substitute (p.68, #1, section a Elbert Williams for Allen Nesmith) **INSERT CHANGES. P. 81, report 4 line 9 – add Rev. Eugene Aiken to Congregational Development. Remove from p, 83 line 4. Report Approved.**

9:33 a.m.: **Committee on Resolution and Appeals (SR 71c)** report given by **Rev. Steve Simoneaux**. Appreciation to the committee.

- p.103 Resolution Affirming Current Language:
 - o Committee decision to refer to General Conference delegation.
 - o **Approved.**
- p. 105 Support of Just and Inclusive Policy
 - o Committee recommends non-concurrence.
 - o **Everett Kennedy (Kannapolis)** – raised question about content and purpose of resolution.
 - o **For: John Simmons** (Central-Spartanburg); **Ruth McAlister** (Aldersgate, Greenville)
 - o **Question: Fran Connell** (Brookland, Columbia District) – does amendment change committees recommendation?
 - o **Point of Order: Rev. Smoke Kanipe** – line 6, p. 106; amend – line 6, ~~vow and formerly commit to~~ – add “we encourage all United Methodist congregations in SC to follow”
 - o **Point of Order: Michael Cheatham** – **did we not amend SR 11? NO.**
 - o **Against: Jacob Thompson**, (Mt Horeb, Lexington); **Debbie Nance** (Belvedere, Anderson)
 - o **Smoke Kanipe’s amendment Approved.**
 - o **For resolution as amended: Rev. Paul Wood** (retired clergy); **Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby** (Two Rivers);
 - o **Against resolution as amended: Dennis Gordon** (St Mark, Hartsville Dist.); **Rev. Webb Belangia** (clergy, Piedmont);
 - o **Resolution before the Body for Vote. Too close to call.**
 - o **Richard Lewis** (Buffalo, Spa Dist): what are we voting on? **Resolution as amended**
 - o **Rev. Tenny Rupnick:** requests prayer
 - o **Nancy Thomas** (Covenant, Greenville): why are we not referring to General Conference delegation? **She’s Confused.**
 - o **Mr. John Gibbons:** we would like to hear the recommendation of committee with amendment...
 - o **Ms. Jane Robolot** (Advent, Greenville): not familiar with **Social Principles.**
 - o **Rev. Tenny Rupnick** leads us in prayer.
 - o **Standing Vote: Yes - 754 / No – 378. Resolution approved as amended.**
- Resolution that every child receive the best possible care
 - o For: Committee concurs
 - ♦ Amend line 49, p. 107: insert “6 representative from the pan-Methodist committee on children and poverty” and delete “2 superintendents, and the conference chancellor.”
 - o **Approved.**
- Old Bethel a historic site
 - o For: Committee concurs
 - o **Approved.**

Rev. George Howle shows appreciation to **Bishop Jonathan Holston** and **Felicia Holston** with a model BMW convertible car.

10:42 a.m.: **Bishop Holston** calls for a recess until 11 AM.

11:00 a.m.: **Called back to order** with the singing of “Spirit of the Living God”.

11:03 a.m.: **Council on Finance and Administration (SR 21)** – **Ms. Beth Westbury** and **Rev. Mitch Houston**. **Rev. Houston** and **Bishop Holston** presented award to district that had highest

execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and conveyance of any such remaining Property consistent with the direction of this resolution or the future actions of the Conference Board of Trustees with regards to such property; and be it further
Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Marion District shall oversee the conveyance and transfer of any such property to ensure completion; and be it further
Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Marion District shall ensure that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers, are collected and deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History of the South Carolina Conference.

Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents of the
South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on March 5, 2018.
Certified by Cabinet Secretary, Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson
Approved by the Bishop of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist
Church,
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING
THE CLOSURE OF BEREIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1247 Lem Road, Cordesville, SC 29434
Charleston District
GCFA #275647**

Whereas Berea United Methodist Church located in the Charleston District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. The church has no current attendees and the location is such that there is not a viable plan to continue this church in this location. The District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church (2016) have been complied with.

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*. These include the need to preserve and protect the building and to preserve the limited and existing funds of the church. There is a cemetery on the property and services are no longer being held at this location.

All property of Berea United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Charleston 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 property.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of September, 2017
Reverend Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Secretary of the Cabinet
South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church
I have reviewed this resolution and I consent.
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2104 Old Buncombe Road Greenville, SC 29609 Greenville District
GCFA #273568**

Whereas Bethel United Methodist Church located in the Greenville District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. The Church does not have an active congregation. The District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church (2016) have been complied with.

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.

All property of Bethel United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the 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 property.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of September 2017

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Secretary of the Cabinet of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

I have reviewed this resolution and I consent

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

South Carolina United Methodist Church

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
923 Calhoun Street
Rowesville, SC 29133 Orangeburg District GCFA #959868**

Whereas, Central United Methodist Church located in the Orangeburg District at 923 Calhoun Street, Rowesville, S.C. 29133 no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. The District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church (2016) have been complied with.

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*. 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.

All property of Central United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District and/or any two members 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 property.

Adopted and approved this 18th day of May, 2018.

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson Secretary of the Cabinet
S.C. Conference of the UMC

I have reviewed this resolution, and I consent

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston,

South Carolina Conference

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
SAINT JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 272440)
3390 Pine Belt Road Columbia, SC 29204
Richland County, South Carolina Columbia District,
South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, The local church Charge Conference of Saint James United Methodist Church located in Richland County, South Carolina has voted on October 27, 2017 to close the church, effective June 28, 2018; and

Whereas, The Reverend Cathy Jamieson, District Superintendent of the Columbia District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that Saint James United Methodist Church be closed; and

Whereas, The Columbia District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the closure of Saint James 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 Saint James United Methodist Church closed, effective June 28, 2018, 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 Saint James United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Saint James United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Bethel United Methodist Church, and be it further

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

Resolved, That the real property and remaining personal property of Saint James United Methodist Church (not including those tangible personal property items authorized by the District Superintendent) including the monies of Saint James 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 give due consideration to transferring the property for nominal consideration to Jubilee Academy, a Christian Montessori School, the current tenant, who has been in the facility for 4 years,

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference is authorized to use the monies transferred by Saint James 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 Saint James United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Columbia 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 Columbia 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 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.

Approved by the Majority of the District Superintendents of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on January 5, 2018

Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary

Approved by the Bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church on June 6, 2018.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
ZOAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GCFA # 280416)
1315 Zoar Church Road, Sumter, SC 29153 Sumter County
Florence District, South Carolina Conference**

Whereas, Zoar United Methodist Church located in the Florence District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. Zoar United Methodist Church is no longer able to sustain itself financially. The District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church (2016) have been complied with; and

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*. 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.

All property of Zoar United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Florence 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 property.

Adopted and approved this 5th day of January 2018
Certified by Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet Secretary
I have reviewed this resolution and I consent.
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston,
South Carolina United Methodist Conference

11:29 a.m.: Date of the 2019 Session of Annual Conference – **Rev. Ken Nelson. June 2-6, 2019.**

11:25 a.m.: Recommendation for the Site of the 2019 Annual Conference – **Rev. Ken Nelson and Wayne Jackson** – point of privilege to recognize anniversary of D-Day. Future site sub-committee chairperson. 2019 – Greenville, SC – TD Convention Center.

Committee recommends 3 year contract moving forward. 2019 will be year 3 in Greenville. 2020-2022 – Return to Florence, SC – The Florence Center

Harriet Aaron: Question about length...4 days due to voting year.

Moment of Personal Privilege – **Bishop Holston** recognizes **Bishop Ronald Brailsford (Seminary roommate) and his wife Rev. Carolyn Brailsford** from the AME Church who brings us greetings from Malawi, Africa.

History and Archives presentation. **Bishop Holston** receives token of the 1968 unification.

Rev. Ken Nelson presented a PowerPoint with expressions of Appreciation.

Rev. Ken Nelson presented the 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 2018 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*.

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: "Walking by Faith." The Annual Conference members sang "God of Grace, God of Glory." After the presentation of Appointments by the District Superintendents and Fixing of the Appointments by Bishop Holston, the Annual Conference was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.