

SECTION IV
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972
Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785)
And the South Carolina Conference (1866)
Sunday, June 5, 2016 – Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Florence Civic Center
Florence, South Carolina
Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding
CONFERENCE THEME:
“Creating Space for God to Work”

The First Day – Sunday Evening
June 5, 2016

Registration: Registration began at 1:30 P.M. at the Florence Civic Center. Each registrant received a conference badge, a registration booklet including additional reports and other information, and information regarding the Florence area.

Clergy Session: Bishop Jonathan Holston called The Clergy Session to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Exhibit Hall. Bishop Holston opened the meeting with a word of prayer. Reverend Wayne Horne thanked those who serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and district committees for their service in the past year. Reverend Ted Walter made the report of the Administrative Review Committee. Reverend Mel Arant presented the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Reverend Wayne Horne, Chair of The Board of Ordained Ministry, thanked Reverend Ken Nelson for his assistance and support to him in this position. Reverend Horne introduced the persons newly elected in the following positions: Reverend Kathryn Hunter as Chair, Order of Elders, Reverend Karen Jones as Chair, Order of Deacons, and Reverend Alfonza Jones as Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associates.

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.

Lay Orientation: The Board of Laity conducted an Orientation Session for the Lay Members of the Annual Conference at 5 P.M. in the Arena of the Florence Civic Center. 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 2016 Annual Conference.

The **Opening Service of Worship** began at 7:30 P.M. in the Civic Center with Bishop Jonathan Holston presiding. The Bishop’s sermon entitled “One More Thing!” was based on Romans 8:31-39. His message was a passionate reminder of God’s inseparable love for us. The Mt. Zion UMC, Kingstree, 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 Civic Center for the evening.

**The Second Day – Monday Morning
June 6, 2016**

At 7:30 A.M., the Conference began in the Civic Center with a service of **Holy Communion**. The **Reverend Jason Everson**, was the celebrant for the service.

At 8:32 A.M., **Bishop Jonathan Holston** called the Conference into order and invited those in attendance to sing the historic opening hymn, "And, Are We Yet Alive." **Reverend John Hipp**, Florence District Superintendent and **Reverend Mike Henderson**, pastor of Highland Park UMC welcomed conference attendees

Reverend Ken Nelson, Conference Secretary offered the following motions: to approve the tellers (listed below), to approve the attendance register as the official roll of the conference, and approval of the bar of the conference. Each motion was approved by the delegates. Rev. Nelson advised that the written proceedings of the conference will be available online daily, and the daily *Advocate* will be distributed so that attendees may share these summaries with their local churches. Rev. Nelson then reviewed the contents of the pre-registration packets – specifically the 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.

Clergy Tellers: Tony Adams, Anthony Alford, Henry Altman, David Bauknight, Webb Belangia, Carleathea Benson, Don Brown, Harry Lee Brown, Meredith Dark, Latonya Dash, Daniel Eplee, Terry Flemming, Matthew Greer, Davon Harrelson, Jonathan Harris, Jon Hoin, Lee Johnson, Shay Long, Bill McCown, Sara Relaford, Tenny Rupnick, Eric Shepard, Tim Soucy, Tyler Strange, Mary Teasley, Matt Turner, Merritt Wentz, John Williams, Louise Wright

Lay Tellers: Maeward Belk, Ed Curlee, Betty Davis, Bob Elwood, Travis Feagin, Charlene Fetterly, Larry Fetterly, Tommy Glenn, Ruby Hannah, Vickie Harvey, Ellen Henson, Mike Henson, Alfreda Hill, Francis Hipp, Millie Hopkins, Richard Infinger, Ed Kennedy, Genora Kennedy, Eddie Knox, Sylvia Knox, Eartha Pinckney, Rayford Prince, Marlene Sipes, Ron Taylor, Richard Thompson, Mildred Tillerson, Tony Watson, Steve Whitaker, Joe Wix.

The Committee on Standing Rules report was provided by the **Chairperson, Mr. Willie Robinson**. He directed the attendees to the registration packet for the full report. Amendment to **Standing Rule 28** concerning election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The motion is for the creation of a ballot consisting of all eligible clergy names. The attendees approved the motion.

Standing rule 53 concerning the election and composition of the Board of Trustees of Claflin University. The composition of the Board shall include 3 members (clergy or lay) from the SC Annual Conference and these candidates will be vetted and approved by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. This motion was unanimously approved by the attendees.

Standing rule 54 concerning the election and composition of the Boards of Trustees of Columbia College and for Wofford College. The motion was unanimously approved by the attendees.

Standing rule 70 concerning submission of petitions to the General Conference was unanimously approved.

Standing rule 71 was considered. Rev. Roger Gramling proposed to Amend Proposed Standing Rule 71 by adding the following sentence to the two sentences introducing the proposed rule: "Resolutions to the Annual Conference may be submitted by any clergy member(s), any elected lay member(s), or any organization affiliated with the annual conference." This amendment to Proposed SR 71 was approved. Then SR 71 was approved as amended.

Ms. Martha Thompson introduced **Dr. Luther Smith** from the Candler School of Theology to the Conference who would present the morning Bible Study concerning children in poverty. Dr. Smith thanked Bishop Holston, Ms. Thompson and the task force on Children in Poverty for their exemplary work. The theme of the Bible Study for the week is "Making Space for God to Work" and Luke 18:9-17 was the scriptural text with emphasis on verses 15-18 for this morning's session. Dr. Smith assigned Luke 9 as homework for tomorrow.

Following the Bible Study, **Reverend Barbara Reid**, Chairperson on the Committee on the Episcopacy, provided the committee report. The Committee is responsible on providing residence for the Bishop and Mrs. Holston. She highlighted some of the bishop's many accomplishments including the Bishop's Bash, his leadership of trips abroad, his popularity as a guest preacher, and his reception of two honorary degrees. Rev. Reid then highlighted **Mrs. Felecia Holston's** missions work in our Conference including co-chairperson of No More Malaria. Rev. Reid presented Bishop and Mrs. Felecia Holston

to the Conference attendees. Bishop Holston and Mrs. Holston addressed the Conference and thanked them for their support. The report of the Committee on Episcopacy was unanimously approved.

Bishop Holston presented the Quadrennial officers: Parliamentarian Rev. Timothy McClendon, Secretary Rev. Ken Nelson, Conference Chancellor Kay Crowe, Assistant Secretaries: Rev. James C. Lane, Rev. Angela Ford Nelson, Rev. Mary Johnson, Rev. Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, and Rev. Mel Arant, Jr. The slate of quadrennial officers was unanimously approved by the delegates.

Reverend Joseph James, Jr. provided the report on nominations found on pages 75–94 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. He welcomed Reverend Kyle Randall to the committee. Bishop Holston** then opened the floor for nominations. Rev. John Hipp of the Florence District page 85, line 45 – substituted Mr. Sam Clarkson with Mrs. Rosa Cherry.

Reverend Ken Nelson presented the Consent Calendar discussed the process for removing items from the Consent Calendar and how the calendar would be maintained.

The Conference Chancellor, **Ms. Kay 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. The Conference has adopted a standard listing of coverages that each church should have. She then discussed the process for the sale, transfer, and mortgage or leasing of a church property. She emphasized that the trust clause must be included in any related documents. The delegates unanimously received the report.

Mrs. Emily Evans made a motion that the two alternate clergy and lay delegates to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference receive funding for the SC Annual Conference equal to that received by delegates from the Jurisdictional Conference, inclusive of lodging, meals, and travel. The delegates unanimously approved the motion.

Reverend Wayne Horne recognized the Board of Ordained Ministry and the members of the District Committees. He then presented the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He celebrated those who will be licensed, commissioned and ordained today.

The candidates for commissioning include:

Anthony Griffith Carosiello, Beverly CroweTipton, Shawna Michelle Darnall, LaTonya Monique Dash, Eleanora Coaxum Ellington, Katherine Marie Haselden, Bette Ann Hedden, Jon August Hoin, James Stewart McDowell, Brian Edward Preveaux, Sara Elizabeth Relaford, Sylvia Freeman Watson, James Timothy Whited

The candidates for ordination include:

Deacons: Eric Philip Hendrickson, Andrew Thomas Jones, Bennett William Mazyck, Elizabeth Adams Murray, Martha Ann Timmons

Elders: Doris Regina Bright, Meghan Lindsey Sweeney Cook, William Wallace Culp III, Lillie Kerns Davis, Zackary Harmon Dillard, Sharon Spann Gamble, Michael Eugene Goldston, Erik Kenneth Grayson, Kayla Brooke Harward, Miriam Wilson Mick, James Lawson Morgan, Charlie Thomas, Carly Kirsten Wicklund, James Elbert Williams

He mentioned the diligent preparation and examination that each candidate undergoes. He then discussed the outcome of the Board of Ordained Ministry's planning retreat wherein it was agreed to evaluate a four year cycle of continuing education and a team that will be responsible for assisting pastors who are struggling in their assignments. Lastly, he recognized churches for sending persons into ministry and encouraged the delegates to continue in this important work. **Reverend Karen Jones** celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the ordination of deacons and presented a video highlighting the varied ministries of deacons to the delegates. She recognized all deacons and thanked Bishop Holston and the order of Elders for their support. Rev. Wayne Horne also celebrated 60 years of the ordination of women in the clergy. **Reverend Jim Arant** recognized **Ms. Sallie Anna Barton** who completed Children's Ministry and Christian Education certification and Ms. Anne-Louise Shelton who completed Christian Education certification. Rev. Wayne Horne thanked Rev. Ken Nelson and Ms. Martha Long of clergy services for their support. The report was received unanimously by the delegates.

During the presentation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the following persons were licensed:

Minnie Pearl Anderson, Laura Nicole Benson, Tammy Abee Blom, Patricia Peterson Bowman, Timothy Warren Bureson, Willie Mae Cannon, Jeffrey Weldon Childress, Gerald Farrow Clinkscales, Joe Wesley Conner, Karen E. Dowdle-Wells, James L. Drummond, Michael Eugene Evans, Daniel Kaye Fortney, Alisha Christine Hansen, Anthony Allan Harder, Richard

Kent Herd, Roger Dale Hovis, George Palmer Hudson, Annie Kathryn Jackson, Marcus Allen Johnston, Clayton Jonathon Jones, Sr., Harold Ray Kessler, III, Stewart Comer Kidd, Mary Ann Perine Lewis, Rebecca Robin McCorkendale, Patsy McCrea, John Edward McLeod, Jr., Trevor Alvia Miller, J. William Quarles, Juanita B. Raber, Caroline Adams Salmans, Sherri Priscilla Scott, Javon Acosta Seaborn, Kyu-Seok Shin, Matthew Kirk Snelgrove, Stephen Craig Turner, Eric Andrew, Vickery Gerald, LeRoy Watford, Sylvia Freeman Watson, Lisa Montique Way, Barbara Jean McDowell Webster, Gwendolyn T. White, Kendrick Williams

Mr. Scott Cochran, President of Spartanburg Methodist College provided the report of SC United Methodist colleges and universities beginning on page 24 of the Conference materials. He thanked the SC Annual Conference for their support and shared stories of how our colleges and universities have impacted the lives of many in South Carolina. Bishop Holston thanked the leaders of the colleges and universities and expressed an invitation for them to travel with him and the delegation of pilgrims to Zimbabwe and South Africa in 2018.

Dr. James Salley presented the report on Africa University and thanked the SC Annual Conference for leading the way and enabling resolutions that continue to provide funding for the University. He also thanked the Conference for 104% giving to the Africa University Fund and presented a banner to celebrate this accomplishment. The University will celebrate 25 years in ministry this year with more than 7,000 graduates since its inception! Remember March 20–25th on the campus on the university – the celebration of the 25th Anniversary – all are invited. Lastly, Dr. Salley share a video wherein students and university staff members offered words of thanks. The report was unanimously approved by the delegates.

Mr. Herman Lightsey, chairperson and **Reverend David Anderson**, Conference Pension and Health Benefits Officer provided the report of the Board of Pension and Insurance. Mr. Lightsey began by thanking the Board for their fine work. Mr. Lightsey presented the Charles L. Calkins award, conferred by the General Conference, to Rev. David Anderson for excellence in compensation and benefits administration. Rev. Anderson shared that there will be no changes to clergy pension plans in 2017, active rates for health care will increase on average by 12.4%. The delegates unanimously approved Report 1 and the Group Insurance report (page 34). Rev. Anderson reported that we are fully funded in all aspects of our benefits package except for Retiree Medical. The remaining reports were unanimously received for information by the delegates.

Reverend Cathy Jamieson of the Columbia District asked for a point of personal privilege to ask for greetings to be sent to the family of the late Mr. Rhett Jackson, in care of his wife Mrs. Betty Jackson, in light of his significant contributions in the area of race relations in our Conference. Bishop Holston led the delegates in the unanimous approval of this request.

Reverend Wayne Horne recognized the candidates who will be commissioned and ordained this evening.

Reverend Ken Nelson made conference announcements and offered reminders for the Conference delegates. He then acknowledged special guests, Bishop and Mrs. McCleskey, Dr. Smith – our Bible Study Leader, Mrs. Josepha Bethea Walls, Mr. Gary Henderson, Rev. Sonya Brum, Dr. James Salley, and Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers. Bishop Holston recognized Ms. Bettye Rivers, his executive secretary for her support.

At 11:51 A.M. **Bishop Holston** adjourned the morning session following a closing prayer.

The Second Day – Monday Afternoon June 6, 2016

At 2:01 P.M. the conference delegates reconvened. The afternoon session began with the singing of "Shine Jesus Shine".

Reverend David Surrett, chairperson of the **Council on Finance and Administration** directed the delegates to the financial reports beginning on page 1 of the pre-conference materials and the financial reports beginning on page 108 for review. The delegates will be asked to approve these reports later in the session. Rev. Surrett introduced Ms. Elizabeth Westbury, the Conference Treasurer. Rev. Surrett awarded the delegates of the Walterboro district for payment of 100% of their apportionments. Rev. Surrett nominated Ms. Elizabeth Westbury to serve as Conference Treasurer and Statistician for the upcoming quadrennium. Bishop Holston led the delegates in consideration of the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. After highlighting the contents of each of the financial reports, Rev. Surrett advised that the overall net budget increase for consideration is only \$272.00. Rev. Surrett shared an article from the October 1997 *Advocate* which discussed the 13 steps to insure safe church accounting. He reminded the delegates of their responsibilities to employ strong financial controls.

Bishop Holston thanked Rev. Surrent and the Council on Finance and Administration for their report. He then recognized Bishop McCleskey, and Rev. Dr. Betty Clark, the Senior Pastor of Mother Emmanuel AMEC in Charleston, SC.

Reverend Marvin Caldwell presented the report for the **Committee on Resolutions**. These resolutions will be distributed to the delegates for consideration. Rev. Caldwell and his committee will meet with those who are bringing resolutions after the afternoon session in the Pee Dee room.

Bishop Holston directed the delegates to a video presented by United Methodist Seminaries.

Reverend Tim McClendon and **Ms. Barbara Ware** presented the report of the delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference. He began by presenting the delegates who joined him on the stage and then by presenting a video highlighting the 2016 General Conference which was held in Portland, Oregon. Rev. McClendon thanked the delegation for their faithful service. He then shared highlights of the discussions that took place during General Conference. It is possible that there may be a called General Conference to discuss the issues and resolutions that were not concluded. Rev. McClendon presented a slate of 45 nominees for Jurisdictional Conference consideration. This slate was approved by the delegates. Ms. Barbara Ware extended her thanks to the SC delegation. She shared that the delegation had the opportunity to meet the 14 Episcopal nominees. She then presented Rev. Tim McClendon as the Episcopal nominee from the SC Annual Conference. Bishop Holston presented the nomination to the delegates, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stanton Adams, Clemson UMC asked Bishop Holston to consider a motion for the Council of Bishops to do the following concerning the matter of Human Sexuality which is before the General Conference: (1) name the members of *A Way Forward Commission* as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2016; (2) include members of the LGBTQI on the Commission; (3) invite established experts to provide information; (4) provide forum for receipt of input from churches and members; (5) report to the annual conferences once a quarter; (6) provide a final report in advance of any called General Conference; (7) a moratorium on the processing of any current or future complaints. This motion was signed by 68 members of the Annual Conference. Bishop Holston assured the delegates that no decisions concerning this matter have been made by the Council of Bishops; and that any decisions will be made with transparency and consideration.

Reverend Sara White presented the report of the **Conference Board of Congregational Development**. She presented a word cloud which included the words that were used below by the team. She remarked that the name Jesus was foremost in the word cloud. Rev. White discussed the many accomplishments of committee including a 90% success rate for the creation of new ministries by the first class of Discernment Academy attendees. The delegates unanimously approved the report.

Reverend Tom Wall, campus ministry are USC presented the report for Campus Ministries. He asked all who have been impacted by campus ministries to stand. Each of the campus ministers introduced themselves and they received thanks from Bishop Holston and the delegates.

After a 15 minute break, Bishop Holston reconvened the session at 3:46 P.M. with the singing of the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation."

Ms. Barbara Ware presented the Annual Conference Lay Leader report found on pages 9–10 of the Conference packet. She introduced the Associate Lay Leader, **Mr. Donald Love**. Mr. Love thanked all of the participants in the Mission Fair. He then recognized the District Lay Leaders, Lay Servant Ministries director, the United Methodist Men director, the Youth Ministries director and representatives of the Bishop's Cabinet. Mr. Love presented gifts of thanks to members who were retiring from service after serving on the team for 8 years. Ms. Ware recapped what has occurred in the shared ministry of laity and clergy since 2012. She remarked that Bishop Holston's goal of open and honest communication with the goal of building trust is being realized through the listening sessions, the road shows and the barbeque bashes. Over 4,000 persons have attended these avenues for communication. She then presented a video which showcased our shared lives together over the past year. Ms. Ware made a motion to accept the report as the official report as Conference Lay Leader. The delegates unanimously approved the report.

Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray presented the report of the Cabinet found in the preconference materials on page 54. Rev. Ray offered a quote to begin her report: "The first responsibility is to define reality, the last is to say thank you, and in between is to be a servant leader!" She then presented a video to recap all that has happened in our shared ministries in 2016. **Reverend Joe Long** echoed the importance of establishing trust through relationships in our churches. He highlighted the Bishop's work to hear from laity and clergy across the Conference. He asked the delegates to get ready for the Bishop's "Power of Love" tour! The church expects as part of the superintendent ministry that the superintendent will be the chief mission strategist. In order to do this the superintendents are challenged by our Bishop to be strategic thinkers. Lastly Rev. Long emphasized that to

move forward we have to be agile. We have to be focused on giving new ideas a try because the world has changed and the kingdom is coming! Rev. Leonard-Ray thanked **Reverend Patricia Parrish** and **Reverend James Friday** for their leadership over the years and wished them well as they leave the Cabinet. The delegates unanimously received the report.

Bishop Holston recognized **Ms. Ella Mae Colbert** a member of the United Methodist Church in SC for her 100th birthday and the Conference sang “Happy Birthday” to her!

Bishop Holston adjourned the session with a prayer at 4:44 P.M.

**The Third Day, Tuesday Morning
June 7, 2016**

The morning began at 7:30 A.M. with a worship service led by the **Reverend Geneva Stafford** and her choir from St. Mark UMC in Sumter, SC. This worship service included the celebration of Holy Communion.

The annual awards breakfast was led by the Reverend Jeffery Salley. Awards were given to the following persons and churches:

- Reverend Kenneth L. Nelson – **Joseph B. Bethea Distinguished Service Award**
South Carolina Conference Laity or Clergy who have shown a strong commitment to Christian social justice for at least five years are eligible.
- Reverend Angela Ford Nelson and Reverend Steven Patterson – **Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builders Award**
The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder award, named after a UMC deaconess, is given to a person or organization in the S.C. conference who has built bridge of understanding by promoting equity and inclusiveness without regard to race, gender, age, handicap or economic condition. It is sponsored by the Commission on Religion and Race.
- Reverend George Olive and Dr. James Salley – **The Michael C. Watson Volunteer In Mission Award**
The Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award is an annual initiative which recognizes clergy and laypersons who exemplify extraordinary volunteer mission service within the South Carolina Conference.

The Bishop’s Five Star Award

Church	Pastor	District
Advent United Methodist Church	Rev. Michael Turner	GV
Bethel United Methodist Church-St. Stephen	Rev. Cindy Shaw	CH
Chapin United Methodist Church	Rev. Joseph Flowers	CO
Dickson Memorial United Methodist Church	Rev. Judy Hames	AN
Goose Creek United Methodist Church	Rev. Debra Dowdle	CH
First United Methodist Church-Clover	Rev. Thomas Wilkes, III	RH
Harmony United Methodist Church-Johnston	Rev. Steven Keck	GW
Lebanon United Methodist Church	Rev. Drew Martin	CO
Little River United Methodist Church	Rev. J. Kevin Gorry	MA
Martha’s Chapel United Methodist Church	Rev. Wade Wyatt, Sr.	GW
Mays Chapel United Methodist Church	Rev. Mark Anthony Williams	OR
Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church-Ninety Six	Rev. Thessa Smith	GW
North Charleston United Methodist Church	Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby	CH
Reidville Road United Methodist Church	Rev. Danny Wiley	SP
St. John’s United Methodist Church-Rock Hill	Rev. Debra Quilling Smith	RH
St. Luke United Methodist Church-Hartsville	Rev. Gene Feagin, III	HA
St. Luke United Methodist Church-Walhalla	Rev. Richard Reams	AN
St. Paul United Methodist Church-Camden	Rev. James Smith	HA
Trinity United Methodist Church-Greenwood	Rev. LaShelia Mack Wyatt	GW
Union United Methodist Church-McBee	Rev. Dr. Steven Todd	HA
Wesley United Methodist Church-Aiken	Rev. Pattie Gordon	OR

Bishop’s Award of Excellence

The Bishop’s Award of Excellence is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders who participate in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America.

Columbia District

Lexington UMC, Rev. Ken Owens, Pastor
Cub Scout Pack 507, James H. Gregory, Scouting Coordinator

Red Bank UMC, Rev. W. Russell Freeman, Sr., Pastor
Girl Scout Troop 2323, Cub Scout Pack 518, Boy Scout Troop 518
Robin O. Smith, Scouting Ministry Coordinator

Scholarships

The Seminary Student Scholarship – Frances Taylor
T. Dennie Smith Scholarship – Carol Waters
Janie Robinson Thomasson Memorial Scholarship Fund Recipient – Kenneth Faulkner
The South Carolina Merit Scholarship – Loren Faulkner
The South Carolina Advocate Scholarship – Ashly Higgins

The Commission on Archives and History Awards

The Herbert Hucks Award for Preservation and Interpretation of Church History goes to four churches this year.

Green Pond UMC, Gray Court, SC

Ann Vaughn, Church Historian, Rev. Bob Keely, pastor

Livingston UMC, Livingston, SC

Martha M. Sligh, Church Historian, Rev. Brandon Fulmer, pastor

Pisgah UMC, Aynor, SC

Judy Floyd, Church Historian, Rev. Jane Pearce, pastor

Mountain View UMC, Taylors

Frieda Anne Liston, Church Historian, Rev. Chris Arries, pastor

Centennial Church Award

Bethlehem, Manning (Jordan) Newman Swamp, Lamar

Florence District Hartsville District

Bi-Centennial Church Award

Simpsonville, Simpsonville Lane, Lane (Greeleyville)

Greenville District Florence District

St. Paul, St. Matthews North Charleston, North Charleston

Orangeburg District Charleston District

Salem, Dorchester Brandon, Greenville

Walterboro District Greenville District

Students in Mission

David Larymore, student at Charleston Southern University and member of the Charleston Wesley Foundation will serve at Rural Mission, Inc.

Joshua Simon, student at Claflin University from St. Paul United Methodist Church (Kingtree) will serve at Rural Mission, Inc.

LaToya Charley, student at Claflin University from New Covenant United Methodist Church (Bowman) will serve at Rural Mission, Inc.

Miyosha Foster, student at Lander University from Central United Methodist Church (Central) will serve at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (Charleston).

Sarah Davis, student at Spartanburg Methodist College from Woodland United Methodist Church (Rock Hill) will serve at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (Charleston).

Following the presentation of the awards Bishop Holston commended all of the recipients and challenged the attendees to continue to dream God Sized Dreams and to do just one more thing in their communities to make a difference.

At 8:30 A.M. **Bishop Holston** opened the Annual Conference with the singing of "Standing on the Promises." After greeting the delegates he introduced Dr. Luther Smith who led us in Bible study. The focus scripture for the morning was Luke 9. Dr. Smith emphasized the importance of having power and authority as well as hospitality. Jesus invited the disciples to give hospitality the opportunity to do its work. Give yourself to the community – because we don't bring it all. God has provided all that we need if we give ourselves over to the hospitality that is found in community. God is the source of sustenance. Dr. Smith challenged the participants not to sit around waiting for God to give them what He has already given. The homework assignment for tomorrow is: Luke 11:1-13. He invited the participants to make space for God to work by sitting with the text.

Reverend Ken Nelson greeted the delegates and thanked the Annual Conference for the Sunday night offering of \$13,228.00 received for Disaster Response and the Monday night offering of \$10,956 to support theological education for persons attending Seminary and Course of Studies.

He also reminded the delegates of the ongoing blood drive. Bishop Holston then led the Conference in a prayer for bereaved families.

Ms. Martha Thompson was featured in a video highlighting their ministries to children around the Conference. John 10:10 – “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” This is what we are called to share with the children of our communities.

Reverend Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries shared a video of their ministries throughout the Conference in 2015 - 2016 after the devastating flood of October. Rev. James reported that over 7000 cleaning buckets and over 2,000 health kits were distributed. The flood affected over 40 UM churches. She shared the diligent work of the Conference Disaster Response Team and asked this team to stand to be recognized. She asked the Emergency Response Teams and the churches that hosted ERT teams to stand to be recognized as well. Mr. Derial Ogburn and the UVMIM team was also recognized. Rev. James then recognized the significant contributions of Rev. Greg Varner, Conference Disaster Coordinator, and presented him with a hammock so he and his family can rest and recover! Rev. James reported that UMCOR has provided us with a \$1,000 grant for staffing under the direction of Mr. Wade Smith, and have received over \$500,000 in donations. Rev. James introduced Mr. Greg Forrester, UMCOR Associate General Secretary, and Domestic Disaster Response to bring greetings. Lastly, Rev. James shared a video highlighting the work of all of the servant leaders involved in Connectional Ministries, and she thanked her team. She thanked **Ms. Cynthia Williams** who has accepted a position to work on the Disaster Response team and has resigned from the position as Convener. Rev. James asked Bishop Holston to receive the report and move it to record. Bishop Holston reminded the Conference that Advance Specials has been removed from the report. **Reverend Steven Gaither** came forth to provide to the report of Conference Global Ministries. He lifted up the work of the 14 Advance Special Ministries. He encouraged the Conference to continue to support Advance Special Ministries through our apportionments and the annual offerings on Advance Special Ministries Sunday. The best way to support these ministries is through involvement. Rev. James again asked that the report be moved to record. **Bishop Holston** asked for questions from the delegates. Mr. Larry Fetterly of First UMC in Easley stood to give credit to **Mr. Neil Van Derlinden** “UMCOR Man”. Mr. Van Derlinden passed away, however his inspiration to all of us continues.

Following the singing of “How Great is Our God” in English and in Spanish, **Reverend Enrique Gordon** invited the Conference to stand if we understood his greeting – which he spoke to us in Spanish (no one stood). **Reverend Richard Reames** then come forth to interpret Enrique’s greeting in English and he then provided the report for Hispanic and Latin Ministries. He challenged us to reach beyond the boundaries of prejudice and racism – because we are better than that! **Reverend Elizabeth Murray** challenged us to push past language as an excuse! She directed the Conference to visit the Facebook page and website that have been established. Pentecost Journey, UMC curriculum was rolled out in February, and more than 20 clergy and laity came and learned about the Latino population in our State. **Reverend Emily Sutton** invited the delegates to another Pentecost Journey which will be provided November 18-19th at Aldersgate UMC in Greenville. Everyone is encouraged to get involved! Bishop Holston presented the report to the delegates for approval. The report was approved unanimously.

Bishop Holston called for the tellers to distribute printed copies of upcoming resolutions.

Mr. Lyle Wazer, stood at microphone #6 asked if there is an English as second language program. He encouraged us to have a Spanish as second language program so we can go out instead of having Spanish speaking brothers and sisters come to us.

A delegate (name not provided) stood at microphone #1 and asked for a point of personal privilege. He remarked about comment he overheard at a local establishment. He heard the staff remarking how kind ‘Those Methodists’ are! He thanked us for being who we are.

Bishop Holston led the Conference in the singing of Happy Birthday to Rev. Tim Rogers.

Reverend Ken Nelson then reminded the Conference to take part in the blood drive!

Reverend John Holler came forth to provide the report for the **Epworth Children’s Home**. He shared that children who arrive at Epworth are hopeless. Many of them may have never experienced an opportunity for a better life. The Conference celebrated 100% graduation rate for students at Epworth as well as the attainment of an exemplary status with the regulatory agency monitors Children’s Homes such as Epworth. Rev. Holler reported on the purchase of the former Carolina Children’s Home. In the next few weeks programs will begin at the new site and continue at the existing site. Epworth is starting the Center for Excellence in Foster Care. This program will focus on training Foster Parents by leveraging the rich connections of our local churches. This will enable children to remain in their communities. Rev. Holler shared the story of a brother and sister who recently graduated from high school and how Epworth will continue to support them as they begin college studies. Lastly, Rev. Holler shared two videos about the life saving ministries of Epworth. Bishop Holston placed the report before the Conference for approval. The report was unanimously approved.

Reverend Ken Nelson asked the Conference to prepare for the retirement service by clearing their areas. **Bishop Holston** invited **Reverend Joe Long** to come forth to offer prayer prior to the beginning of the retirement service.

The retirement service began at 11:00 A.M. with the singing of the hymn "Be Thou My Vision." The retirees and their guests were recognized and honored by Bishop Holston on behalf of the SC Annual Conference. Rev. Ernest Etheredge and Reverend Erik Grayson participated in the passing of the mantle service in remembrance of the passing of the mantle between Elijah and Elisha in 1 Kings. The service concluded with a video featuring some of our retirees who shared reflections from their ministries and the benediction offered by Bishop Holston.

The retirees included: Carol Dianne Allison, John Mayford Altman, Jr., Lee Curtis Bines, Joethel Jeannette Cooper, James Henry Counts, Jr., Ernest Calvin Etheredge, Harry Kyle Gindhart, Jr., James Kevin Gorry, Roger Michael Gramling, Mary E. Green, Michael Loyd Guffee, Robert Wayne Horne, Elizabeth McKay Hudson Timms, Robert Eugene Lee, Stephen Ray Jordan, Pamela Gail Ledbetter, Bonnie Farias Miller, Jacki Sue Mitchel-Ratlidge, Marie Elizabeth, Ray Jonathan Edward Smith, Deborah Ward Taylor, Jerry Eugene Temple, Tina Anderson Thomas, and Mark Anthony Williams. *Ad Interim (effective January 1, 2016):* Robert Lee Allen, Franklin Elbert Copeland.

The Third Day – Tuesday Afternoon June 7, 2016

Following the lunch break the Conference reconvened at 2:00 P.M. for the **Memorial Service** wherein the clergy choir led us in the singing of "Total Praise" and other songs of celebration. **Reverend Patricia Parrish's** sermon: "Remarkable Words of Promise" based on John 14:1-3. She reminded us that while we may not have words to express our feelings during those moments of grief, God has words – remarkable words. Words that bring us life even in the midst of death. Words that challenge us to choose life! Rev. Steven King led the service of Acts of Remembrance by ringing of the bell for each of our beloved clergy and lay members who passed away during the Conference year. The benediction was offered by Bishop Holston.

The following loved ones were remembered during the memorial service:

Active Ministers: Robert Christopher Barrett, Edwina Juliette Williams

Retired Ministers:

Eugene Holland Bedenbaugh, Douglas Arthur Bowling, George Raymond Cousar, Harry Mulford Goewey, Betty Sue Griffin, Franklin Herman Johnson, William Randolph Kinnett, George Alfred McClenan, Edward Donald McKinney, Joseph Robert Nicholson, Sr., Lewis Carroll Pope, Jr., Fred Mortimer Reese, Jr., Dwight Moody Smith, Jr., Woodrow Marshall Smith, Norris McDonald "Donnie" Swett, William Joseph Vines, Seth W. Williams

Spouses

Betty Wilson Alewine, Judy Risinger Benton, Iris Faye Cothran, Patricia Jenkins Cross, Barbara Rate Davis, Jackie Jennings Morris, Sherry Prater Murphy, Alice Patricia "Patty" Padgett, Hazel Marie Abercrombie Templeton, Bernard Issac Timmons,

Surviving Spouses

Helen Hutto Brabham, Carolyn Crenshaw, Olivia Rayfield Davis, Mildred Kennerly Hendrix, Agnes Dawsey Rogers, Dorothy Coker Way, Bernice Martin Wright,

Others

Mary Jo Chreitzberg Reese Brodie

The Conference reconvened at 3:26 P.M. with the singing of a congregational hymn.

Reverend Jeremy Howell presented the report of **Equitable Compensation**. He asked Bishop Holston to present report two A which requests apportionments in the amount of \$550,000 to the delegates for approval. The report was approved. Report two B was also presented to the delegates and approved. Rev. Howell requested to move report 2 to record. This report was approved by the delegates. Rev. Howell then requested to move report 3 to the record. This report was also approved. Report 4 – pertaining to Renewed Vitality Situations was presented and unanimously approved. Rev. Howell asked **Bishop Holston** to move the entire report to record. The delegates unanimously approved the report. Rev. Howell, who will be rolling off of the board thanked his team for their work. He also thanked the District Secretaries and Ms. Beth Westbury. He then thanked **Reverend Sara White** for her support. Lastly, he thanked **Mr. Skipper Brock**, the Vice Chairperson for his work – and he invited Mr. Brock to introduce himself. Mr. Brock thanked Rev. Howell for his faithful service.

Mr. Arthur Springs, Executive Director of **Camps and Retreat Ministries** presented their report. He mentioned that the ministry has purchased a 15 passenger bus. He highlighted the successful golf tournament which was won by the Marion District. **Reverend Tim Rogers** came forth to accept the award. Mr. Springs then showed a video highlighting the ministry's accomplishments. Mr. Springs introduced **Mr. Jay Haar** the Board Chair who presented a resolution requesting an extension of time to sell the Sewee property. The motion was unanimously approved by the delegates. Bishop Holston and the delegates thanked the ministry for their work.

Reverend Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Coordinator presented the report for *Imagine No More Malaria*. She invited her team to join her on stage at which time Bishop Holston thanked each of them individually for their work. Rev. Warden Sipes then presented a video about the *Imagine No More Malaria* ministry. Ephesians 3:12 – *our God is more than able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ever hope for or imagine*. This is certainly what we've seen in our Conference in light of the support that has been received thus far. The SC Annual Conference has donated more than \$400,000 to this cause so far! She introduced Rev. Gary Henderson of the National No More Malaria Association who thanked the SC Annual Conference for our support. Bishop Holston invited the delegates to come back this evening and to return with their pledge forms.

Bishop Holston asked **Reverend Joseph James** to come forth from the **Nominations Committee**
Page 85 line 18 – delete Lori Matthews and add Tara Street Jeffords
Page 92 – change Wyatt C. Minton to Paul Frey

Reverend James requested that Bishop Holston accept the motion to accept the report with corrections. The delegates unanimously approved the report.

Reverend Ken Nelson announced that all attendees are asked to register for the delivery of ice cream by children from Epworth to one local church!

Bishop Holston adjourned the Conference following a prayer offered by **Dr. James Salley**.

The Third Day – Tuesday Night June 7, 2016

At 7:30 P.M. the Conference attendees reconvened for a concert by **the Digital Age and the Youth Choir of the Lake City Charge – Amiri Hooker, Pastor**. The offering collected at this worship service will benefit the *Imagine No More Malaria* campaign.

The Fourth Day – Wednesday Morning June 8, 2016

The SC Annual Conference reconvened for the morning session at 8:30 A.M. with singing of "We Are Marching!" Following a greeting from Bishop Holston, and an introduction of our Bible Study leader, Dr. Smith began his study with a prayer.

Dr. Smith asked this question to begin the study – "How are you making space for prayer?" The study for the morning focused on Luke 11:1-13. Jesus' prayer began with Our Father – Abba. This beginning emphasized the nature of God as more than majesty, but as tender father. God doesn't need us to be persistent so that we are heard. Persistency reflects the fervency of our work – the work of prayer – the work of our spiritual journey.

Reverend Carol Cannon, Trinity UMC stood to thank the Board of Ordained Ministry for the funds to attend the five day academy for Spiritual Formation. She encouraged everyone to avail themselves of the academy as a way of moving toward Spiritual Renewal.

Reverend Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries stood to ask for the suspension of standing rule 30-G in order to consider the election of the Conference Lay Leader for a new quadrennium. The delegates unanimously approved this motion.

Reverend James asked to meet with the district and conference lay leaders, United Methodist Women and Men leaders in the Pee Dee Room.

Reverend Marvin Caldwell came forth to discuss the report for the **Committee on Resolutions and Appeals**.

1. Resolution on Changing South Carolina Department of Education Social Study Standards Regarding Native Americans - **This resolution was approved as presented without amendment.**

**RESOLUTION ON CHANGING SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SOCIAL STUDY STANDARDS REGARDING NATIVE AMERICANS**

RATIONALE

The current Social Studies Standards of the South Carolina Department of Education acknowledges and requires that students are educated about only three tribes; the Catawba, Cherokee and Yemassee. These tribes had a significant impact on South Carolina history. However, educational instruction is provided as if these are the only three tribes of South Carolina. Of these tribes, the Catawba are the only South Carolina tribe that is still extant and has federal recognition. However, no education is provided about how the Catawba were terminated as a tribe by our federal government and about their struggle to regain recognition.

The Cherokee nation did extend into South Carolina. However, the central hub of the Qualla boundary and the Cherokee central government was located in North Carolina. Teachers have a tendency to teach about the North Carolina Cherokee with little explanation about how the Cherokee reached into South Carolina and their impact on South Carolina culture in the upstate.

The Yemassee played a significant role in the Yemassee War of 1715. This period highlighted the sale of Native Americans as slaves to the West Indies and the impact of the war on slavery. These are important facts in South Carolina history; however, the Yemassee are no longer an organized tribe.

South Carolina currently has nine state recognized tribes that were here and are still alive and well. Yet, no education is provided on these tribes. We doubt most educators can name the state recognized tribes. Additionally, Lady Cofitachequi, who was not a member of those three tribes, was a significant person in early South Carolina Indian and state history. She is an example of one of the great women leaders of South Carolina serving as principal chief. There is no mention of her even though Hernando De Soto clearly documented his contact with her in the 1500s. De Soto is included, so why is Lady Cofitachequi left out?

Thus, the standards need to be revised to reflect the significant history of the three tribes, but also require that students are educated on the current federal and state recognized South Carolina tribes. This should include the role and significance of Lady Cofitachequi.

Additionally, there is concern about how South Carolina Native American history is presented. South Carolina's Indian people tend to be the "invisible" people and many times are known as the "dead" people. Students are only instructed about the past early American Indian history, but no instruction is provided on recent history, on current, modern and present day contemporary issues impacting American Indian culture. All other cultures and races have references in "the back" of the social studies books reflecting recent history about today's issues and concerns. Also, there is no mention that during our state's "Separate but Equal" period, there were three school systems, White, Black and Red. Again, the "Red" is invisible and left out.

Finally, teachers lack the training and knowledge about American Indian history and traditions from both South Carolina and across the nation to present this properly in the classroom. As a result, many of the myths and stereotypes about Native Americans are reinforced. Incorrect information is presented as factual. Fictional books are presented as true American Indian history. Thus, there is a great need for professional development to educate teachers in how to present Native American history and culture from past to present.

The next revision for the South Carolina Social Studies Standards is in 2017. Thus, we present here the request from the United Methodist Native American Committee of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference to support these changes and advocate for appropriate education in the South Carolina school system about our Native American brothers and sisters.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the current South Carolina Department of Education Social Studies Standards do not recognize, acknowledge or require education on all of the South Carolina federal and state recognized tribes; and

Whereas there are no requirements to move American Indian people from past to present teaching not only about the past but modern and contemporary issues for both South Carolina and the nation; and

Whereas there is a need for support for teacher professional development to prepare educators to instruct about historically and current, accurate, factual information about American Indian; and

Whereas, the impact of these deficiencies perpetuates the promulgation and reinforcement of stereotypes and myths about American Indian people resulting in them continuing to be "invisible" people within our state and society; this contributes to the historical grief and trauma of the American Indian people reflected by low self-esteem; Native Americans have some of the most grim, negative statistics faced by any racial group in America including poor health,

high substance abuse, high teen pregnancy, high teen drop out, and the highest suicide and accidental death among the youth; and

Whereas, true multiculturalism and diversity require an increase in personal and societal awareness, the learning of new behaviors, and removal of bias and barriers, changes in policies and practices, and structure, and creation of new rules and procedures; and

Whereas, page 162 of the *Book of Discipline* 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...Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons lead us to call for 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 right;*" and

Therefore be it resolved, that the following resolution is adopted by the 2016 South Carolina Annual Conference:

The South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church pledges its support, assistance and advocacy to the United Methodist Native American Committee for demanding changes in the South Carolina Department of Education Social Studies Standards in 2017 to reflect true and accurate information and education about this nation's Native American people and the federal and state recognized tribes of South Carolina, and the proper education bringing American Indians from the past to the present.

The conference continues to reaffirm its pledge to recognize the indigenous people of this nation and South Carolina as citizens and neighbors accepting them for whom God made them to be. As part of that support, we encourage the elimination of continued myths, stereotypes and misinformation in order to support removal of the historical grief and trauma experience by Native Americans. Further we seek to enhance their pride and self-esteem and afford them the ability to overcome the obstacles faced in today's society.

2. Responsibility for Eradication of Racism Resolution: **This resolution was approved as amended by the Annual Conference.**

Ms. Renee Galvin, Rock Hill District stood to speak against the resolution. She didn't agree with the wording regarding preservation of slavery as the war was fought for several reasons. Bishop Holston asked her hold her remarks until we work our way up the resolution.

Amendment of the last "Be It Further Resolved" paragraph:

Ms. Jane Robello, Greenville District stood to speak for the resolution. Although she is in favor she asked to add a line to the end of the paragraph to encourage predominately white and black UMCs to be intentional about planning services together during the calendar year. This motion was seconded. The amendment was approved.

Deletion of the last "Be It Further Resolved" paragraph:

Reverend Jim Arant stood to speak against the resolution – He asked to delete the last "Further Be It Resolved" because it is asking for churches to report information to their charge conferences.

Reverend Amiri Hooker stood to speak for the resolution – He explained why the last "Further Be it Resolved" was included. He explained that the paragraph is needed for clarity to ensure reporting of cross racial interactions.

Ms. Brenda Hook, stood to ask how to vote on deletion of paragraph. Bishop Holston clarified that if we vote to delete we would remove the amended paragraph.

Reverend Dr. Larry McCutchen stood to advise that this paragraph is already addressed.

Ms. Karen Ares stood to advise that there was a misunderstanding about where we are starting with the approvals.

Mr. John Nibbens stood to advise how to resolve the misunderstanding.

Bishop Holston confirmed that we are at the very last "Be It Further Resolve."

Reverend Tim Rogers offered a motion to amend the motion to delete the last paragraph without amendment. Bishop Holston clarified that the paragraph in question has not been amended.

Reverend Carol Cannon stood to ask if the first six words of the paragraph could be read when presenting it for consideration. Bishop Holston agreed.

Bishop Holston presented the last paragraph to the delegates again for deletion. The delegates approved deletion.

Bishop Holston asked for discussion on the next paragraph - no discussion

Bishop Holston then asked for discussion on the next paragraph

Reverend Drew Martin, Lebanon UMC stood to speak for the paragraph – but to amend, so that all clergy and lay leadership will be encouraged to participate – not just “newly ordained clergy.” The motion was seconded. The amendment was approved.

Bishop Holston asked if the delegates were ok with Ms. Robello’s paragraph amendment. The delegates agreed.

Bishop Holston asked for discussion.

A delegate (**name inaudible**) asked to further amend the first “Be It Further Resolved” paragraph. This paragraph has already been approved, thus it is out of order to bring up further changes.

Ms. Nancy Zeigler stood to propose amendment for the “Therefore Be It Resolved” paragraph to add: “and racism including disbanding of all groups....that divide us into racial or ethnic groups.” The motion was seconded.

Ms. Nancy Zeigler stood to expound upon her amendment. She doesn’t feel that dividing into groups will help to be united.

Reverend Shawn Weeks stood to speak against the amendment because there will always be groups that need to meet because of the plight of the people or groups.

Reverend Kathy James spoke to speak against the amendment. She advised that Deacons and African American churches who are a minority in our Conference need avenues of meeting.

Reverend Sheila Elliot spoke against the amendment. She advised that children notice differences but they don’t attach value to it until they grow up and are taught differently.

Reverend Dr. Frederick Yebuah spoke in favor of amendment. Meeting separately breeds suspicion. We cannot be united and be separate at the same time.

Reverend Amiri Hooker, Lake City Circuit stood to ask a question. The SC Annual Conference does not exclude persons of other ethnic groups from participating in various meetings. He asked is the body clear about that.

Ms. Nancy Zeigler advised that she agreed that she is welcomed to attend.

Bishop Holston asked if we are ready to vote.

Reverend Charles Johnson stood to ask if we can talk about disbanding meeting if there are established rules within the UMC which allow for these groups to meet.

Bishop Holston advised that the amendment is out of order in light of Rev. Johnson’s question.

Ms. Renee Gallien stood to speak against the first “whereas” paragraph – asking for deletion.

Reverend Ben Burt stood to speak against deletion of the paragraph because white supremacy exists.

Mr. Edward Kennedy spoke for the amendment because the paragraph doesn’t recognize the strides that have been made.

Reverend John Culp stood to speak against the deletion. Racism is hardly a thing of a past.

Reverend Terry Fleming stood to speak against the deletion. He has personally experienced white supremacy in his pastoral setting.

Ms. Wonderland Pinckney stood to speak against the deletion. She reminded the Conference of the Bible Study last year wherein acceptance of our role in racism was discussed.

Mr. Bob Abbott stood to make a speech, remove “a fact perpetually overlooked by the white supremacy community...” This motion was seconded.

Ms. Ruth McAllister stood to question the parliamentary procedure – she stated that it is not in order to delete a portion of the motion to delete the paragraph.

Reverend Larry McCutchen stood to state that racism is alive and well. This was a speech against deletion of the sentence proposed by Mr. Abbott.

Ms. Sylvia Zeigler speaking in favor of removing the white supremacy paragraph. Racism affects all races – not just black and white.

Reverend Keith Ray stood to speak against deletion of the sentence.

Reverend Robin Dease stood to speak to call the question. Bishop asked for those in favor of calling the question. The delegates agreed to do so.

Bishop Holston called for the vote for deletion of the sentence. The motion did not pass. The sentence remains.

The motion delete the paragraph was submitted to the delegates for vote. The delegates voted not to delete the paragraph.

Ms. Renee Gallien asked to remove the end of the last sentence, “as well as for the local removal of icons of a war fought to preserve slavery.” This is because the war was fought for many reasons – not just the preservation of slavery.

Dr. Phillip Stone, spoke against the motion. No American historian would argue that the war was not fought over the eradication of slavery.

Reverend Amiri Hooker stood to speak against the motion to delete. For a long time persons in this state have suffered under images and icons that are hurtful.

Reverend Jim Dennis stood to ask a question. Does the sentence mean that war memorials would be removed?

Reverend Marvin Caldwell called **Reverend Christopher Thompson** to come forth to answer. Monuments are not intended in this phrase.

Reverend Kathy James spoke against the motion to delete.

Reverend John Adams stood to speak against the motion to delete.

Ms. Renee Gallien stood to speak for the deletion because symbols include monuments.

Mr. John Adams spoke to speak against the motion deletion.

Reverend George Howe called the question to consider the entire resolution as amended.

Dr. Phillip Stone stood to advise that we need to take a series of votes.

Reverend Kathy James asked for clarification on what we are voting on.

Reverend Carleatha Benson stood to rescind the motion to remove the last sentence.

Bishop Holston presented the motion to delete the paragraph concerning removal of icons. The body agreed to keep the paragraph.

Reverend George Howe agreed to approve all that is before us. The delegates agreed.

Bishop Holston placed the motion before the body. The motion was approved.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ERADICATION OF RACISM RESOLUTION

RATIONAL

The church as an historic institution is walking towards the fullness of being the community of the children of God. The vision that leads us ahead - that of a church and a world free of racism, that of just and inclusive communities - is a vision that guides us to being fully transformed children, church, people and creation of God. "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may discern what is good, pleasing and perfect will of God," Romans 12.2. The General Commission on Religion and Race offers resources to facilitate, guide, and support discussions on how to move to efficacy, justice, and courageous positive action. Further GCORR ministry model provides resources for congregations and Church leaders to increase intercultural competency, institutional equity, and vital conversations. The truth is that Local Churches sometime fail to prioritize the work of eradicating Racism. The United Methodist Church in South Carolina is made up of people who have an indigenous history (native-born), immigrant history (migrated from elsewhere) and an imported history (brought by others to the country). Our histories - as different as they may be - are intertwined because they overlap. Regardless of our resident status in the United States, it is essential that we who are United Methodists remember our histories as a way of not treating others in the negative ways our ancestors once were treated. We as an Annual Conference cannot be silent about racism. Regardless of whether it is subtle or not-so-subtle, sophisticated or not, it is insidious.

WHEREAS, conferences, districts, and local congregations within the United States are becoming more diverse; and

WHEREAS, it is predicted that within the United States, the population of persons of European descent will be less than 50 percent before 2050; and

WHEREAS, racism has been a systemic and personal problem within South Carolina and The United Methodist Church (UMC) and its predecessor denominations since its inception; and

WHEREAS, The UMC is committed to the eradication of racism; and

WHEREAS, it takes significant change, learning, time, and healing to eradicate racism; and

WHEREAS, since 1980 the Charter for Racial Justice Policies has served as an articulation of United Methodist understanding of the biblical imperative for the eradication of racism and a guide for action (#161 2004 Book of Resolutions – “A Charter for Racial Justice Policies in an Interdependent Global Community”);

WHEREAS, the 2016 session of the General Conference faced the challenge of the Black Lives Movement and General Board of Church and Society executive Susan Henry-Crowe a South Carolina native acknowledged her confusion with the nature and purpose of the Black Lives Movement; and

WHEREAS, Racial issues epidemic in South Carolina, a state scarred by high rates of police brutality and centuries of racial tension, have been cast into the national spotlight in recent months by two race-based killings in Charleston and North Charleston. The events have sparked cries for a national conversation about race, as well as for the local removal of icons of a war fought to preserve slavery; and

WHEREAS, many black residents in South Carolina said they do not expect South Carolina’s enduring racial problems, a matter of daily life and a fact perpetually overlooked by the white supremacy community, to change in the near future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that every district, and local congregation within the Annual Conference have a strategy and program which educates and supports systemic and personal changes to end racism and development of interculturally competent leaders, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an educational program of interculturally competency which shall include one or more of the following; understanding systemic racism, Racial Reconciling Design Team Pilgrimages, a strategy for its eradication, appreciation and valuation of diversity, and guidelines for working with different groups in communities toward becoming an inclusive church be offered at least yearly within the annual conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all clergy and lay leadership be encouraged to participate in such programs and that all newly ordained clergy be required to participate in these programs in order to hone their intercultural skills, which allows them to establish relevant ministries in a Christian movement that reflects the diversity around us, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations report to their Charge Conference not only cross racial experiences but also their strategies for eradicating racism and reconciliation, and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Conference through Connectional Ministries, congregational specialists, and ministry areas include in their annual report a review of local church/charge strategies of eradicating racism. And also provide a review of the Annual Conference and its District efforts in equipping and supporting leadership to eradicate racism and to promote and sustain institutional equity within the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We encourage black and white churches to be intentional about planning services together during the calendar year.~~

Submitted by:

The Conference Board of Religion and Race

Chair Rev. Chris Thompson Pastor of Wesley Chapel/Allen View

Supported by:

- Advocacy Ministry Area of the Annual Conference Reverend Amiri B. Hooker Convener
- South Carolina Black Methodist for Church Renewal SCBMCR Reverend Pattie E. Gordon Chair, Pastor of Wesley/Open Hearts

At 10:50 A.M. Bishop Holston called for a recess until 11:05 A.M.

At 11:06 A.M. the Conference reconvened with the singing of “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

Bishop Holston advised that we must consider the Standing Rules of our Annual Conference, the UMC *Discipline*, as well as Robert’s Rules of Order when motions are brought forth.

Reverend Marvin Caldwell put the Resolution concerning transgender people.

3. Resolution to Oppose Discrimination Against Transgender People submitted to the South Carolina Annual Conference-**This resolution was approved as presented without amendment.**

Reverend Keith Ray stood to ask about the Parliamentary procedure that we are using. He asked to suspend [rule 7] the rules pertaining to considering one paragraph at a time when considering a resolution. The motion was seconded. Bishop Holston conferred with the Conference Parliamentarian.

Mr. Rod Beleskey stood to oppose the motion.

The delegation approved the motion.

A delegate (**name inaudible**) stood to request deletion of the whereas paragraph concerning major businesses.

Reverend Carol Kennedy stood to speak against deletion of the paragraph.

Mr. Dan Moore asked to delete the whereas statements related to Governor Haley. Bishop Holston advised that we are not addressing this paragraph. Mr. Moore clarified that he would like deletion of the whereas paragraph concerning major businesses.

Reverend John Culp stood to speak against deletion of the paragraph.

Bishop Holston asked the delegates if they were ready for the vote. The delegates agreed.

The delegates agreed to keep the paragraph.

Reverend Emily Sutton made a motion that following two speeches for and two speeches against that we move to question. The motion was seconded. The delegates approved the motion.

In a speech against the resolution, **Mr. John Gibbons** asked do we need 12 resolutions to address this matter fully – as our discipline already addresses discrimination against groups. He stated that the resolution itself is discriminatory.

Reverend Michael Cheatham made a motion to refer this resolution to the Advocacy Committee of Connectional Ministries.

Reverend John Culp stood against referral of the resolution.

Reverend Fran Connell stood to speak against referral.

The delegates did not agree to refer the resolution.

Reverend Keith Ray stood to speak in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Jessica Moore moved to remove the statement, “Whereas Nikki R. Haley”. The motion was seconded.

Bishop Holston called for a vote on the removal of the statement. The delegates did not approve.

Reverend Webb Belangia spoke against the resolution.

Bishop Holston placed the resolution before the body. The delegates approved the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE SUBMITTED TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

WHEREAS, Paragraph 162 of the Book of Discipline 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;”* And,

WHEREAS, transgender people are a minority who are victims of verbal and physical abuse which have resulted in cases of murder (1200 transgender people, more than 200 each year have been reported killed over the last five years)¹ and suicide (41 percent of transgender people living in the United States have attempted suicide)² out of proportion to their numbers due to ignorance, prejudice, and a lack of understanding or education among the majority; And,

1. From the Transgender Europe – TGEU research project, “Trans Respect Versus Transphobia” tables http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org/uploads/downloads/2013/TMM-english/TvT-TMM-Tables-2008-12_EN.pdf and http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org/en_US/tvt-project/tmm-results/tdor-2013.htm

2. "Injustice at Every Turn" A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey Executive Summary, 2011 http://transequality.org/PDFs/Executive_Summary.pdf

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, the Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the State of South Carolina, has publicly opposed laws that required transgender people to use the public bathroom that corresponds to the gender on their birth certificates; And,

WHEREAS, major business organizations throughout South Carolina, have opposed laws that require transgender people to use the public bathroom that corresponds to the gender on their birth certificates; these organizations include the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, South Carolina Economic Development Association, South Carolina Hospital Association, Upstate SC Alliance (Private/public partnership of over 1400 manufacturing companies), Midlands Industrial Leadership Forum, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the following resolution is adopted by the 2016 South Carolina Annual Conference:

That we vow, as churches and people of faith, to no longer be silent about the value of each and every life. To that end, we categorically oppose discrimination against transgender people in all its forms. And, in the spirit of advocating for safe sanctuary, we call upon every United Methodist to respond to acts of discrimination against transgender people with acts of compassion. We will take a public stand against speeches of hate, exclusion, harassment and acts of intimidation and violence filled with long-held prejudices.

Signed:

Stanton Michael Adams, Clemson UMC, Clemson, stantonmadams@gmail.com

Rev. Warren Ashmore, Retired Clergy, SC Annual Conference, Liberty, warrenashmore@mac.com

Dr. Barbara Borom, Ashland UMC, Columbia, barbarajborom@aol.com

Drucilla Brookshire, Trenholm Road UMC, Columbia, 803-787-3027

M. Malissa Burnette, Esq., Washington Street UMC, Columbia, mmburnette@callisontighe.com

Michael Clancy, First UMC, Lancaster, SC, irishclancy@yahoo.com

Rev. John Culp, Retired Clergy, SC Annual Conference, West Columbia, j.culp@outlook.com

Carol and Don Fowler, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, don@fowlercommunications.com

Sidney Gatch, Lexington UMC, Lexington, 803-239-6595

Rev. Megan Gray, Cokesbury UMC, North Charleston, mgray@umcsc.org

Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby, North Charleston UMC, North Charleston, pastorwendyhi@gmail.com

Dr. James C. Lane, Washington Street UMC, Columbia, jlane@columbiasc.edu

Vicki McCartha, Inman UMC, Inman, vmccartha@gmail.com

Lill Mood, Chapin UMC, Chapin, lhwood@bellsouth.net

Rev. Dr. Keith D. Ray II, Clemson UMC, Clemson, keith@clemsonumc.org

Anne and Eric Snider, Clemson UMC, Clemson, sniderah@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Summers, Retired Clergy, SC Annual Conference, Columbia, tomsumm@aol.com

Sandy Warren, Mt. Vernon UMC, Hickory Grove, warrennannysandy@hughes.net

Rev. Meg Wilkes, First UMC, Clover, mwilkes@cloverfumc.org

4. Resolution for to Support the Nature of High Quality Public Education South Carolina - **This resolution was referred to Connectional Ministries as presented without amendment.**

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NATURE OF HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION SOUTH CAROLINA

Rational

In the past, The United Methodist Church has issued statements supportive of public education, and now at a time when public education has become a political battleground, the church is called to remember the well-being of all God's children. Education is a right of all children and is affirmed by Scripture which calls us to "train children in the way they should go," (Proverbs 22:6). Furthermore, the Social Principles affirm that education "can best be fulfilled through public policies that ensure access for all persons to free public elementary and secondary schools and to post-secondary schools of their choice" (§ 164E). The South Carolina Annual Conference has also shown in the past a desire to provide leadership in the state in the areas of inequality in funding and the idea of not meeting minimally adequate educational standards in impoverished districts. Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness. On average, 41 percent of South

Carolina's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 34 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.

South Carolina's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty. In 2013, 72 percent of South Carolina's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 65 percent were unable to compute at grade level. 87 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 85 percent could not compute at grade level. 79 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 75 percent could not compute at grade level. 72 percent of South Carolina public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing South Carolina 45th among states. 64 percent of Black students and 72 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 76 percent of White students.

WHEREAS, High-quality public education is an economic necessity, an anchor of democracy, a moral imperative and a fundamental civil right. Without the foundation a strong education provides, our other rights can never be fully realized. We believe in and stand ready to fight for public education because it is the means by which we help all children dream their dreams and achieve them; and

WHEREAS, All children—those who have abundant advantages, and those for whom every day is a struggle; those who worry about getting into a good college, and those who worry about their parents getting deported—deserve the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental responsibility of the South Carolina General Assembly to provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free public schools to prepare our state's children for a future of promise; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that such a system of free public schools must foster a variety of superior learning programs so that each of our children is effectively afforded the opportunity to achieve in a rapidly changing world; and

WHEREAS, the words "minimally adequate" should not be deemed as acceptable to either describe or define our state's commitment to public education, to public education equity or to public education funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED, that the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference to meet the needs of all children and families in poverty by:

1. Advocating to ensure that all children have the opportunity to attend great schools that provide a safe and welcoming environment in their own neighborhood, and uniting local community bodies with parent groups and others to oppose mass school closings that seem to target our most impoverished communities;
2. Advocating for investment in the teaching profession to ensure that teachers are well-prepared and supported by working for comprehensive teacher development and evaluation systems that do not deny teachers their due process; increased opportunities for ongoing professional development so they can improve their skills; and providing fair compensation systems;
3. Advocating for a comprehensive, multi-provider system that ensures voluntary access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education and care from birth forward, so our youngest children are ready to succeed when they enter school; and advocating for equitable wages for the early education workforce.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church lead its congregations by:

1. Educating Congregations and members about the importance of engaging curriculum by promoting a greater understanding of the State Standards and what they mean to their children's education;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that The South Carolina Annual Conference help organize its constituent bodies to do the work of discipleship equipping in the arena of education by:

1. Mobilizing our members to advocate for implementation of the standards in a way that is fair and fully supported at the federal, state and local levels; raising awareness around the obsession with high-stakes testing and test preparation and the negative effect it is having both on students and on the quality of the overall curriculum;
2. Mobilizing our members and Partner organizations like the South Carolina Christian Action Council(SCCAC) to fight for federal, state and local legislation, policies and funding that ensure our children have the great public schools they deserve.
3. Encouraging all churches to support provisions that enable parents and guardians to participate fully in their children's education, including family and parental leave to attend school meetings and to volunteer in schools.

*Submitted by The Advocacy Ministry Area of The South Carolina Annual Conference,
Rev. Amiri B. Hooker, Pastor of the Lake City Circuit, Area Convener.*

5. Resolution for Uninsured Poor Adults in South Carolina - **This resolution was referred to Connectional Ministries as presented without amendment.**

RESOLUTION FOR UNINSURED POOR ADULTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Rational

Health is the ultimate design of God for humanity. Though life often thwarts that design, the health we have is a good gift of God. Among Jesus' statements on the purpose of his presence is the statement that He came that we might have abundant life (John 10:10). Every account of Jesus' ministry documents how Jesus saw restoration to health as a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven becoming present amongst us. The biblical narrative is filled with stories of God's healing presence in the world. This includes spiritual, psychological, emotional, social, as well as physical healing.

For John and Charles Wesley, health was integral to salvation. In the Wesleyan understanding of salvation, Christ's self-giving on the cross not only freed us from the guilt of sin, but restored us to the divine image in which we were created, which includes health. John Wesley not only preached spiritual health, but worked to restore physical health among the impoverished people who heard his call. He encouraged his Methodists to support the health-care needs of the poor. Charles Wesley's hymns reflect early Methodism's awareness of spiritual health as a component of salvation.

One of the major coverage provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to nearly all low-income individuals with incomes at or below 138 percent of poverty \$27,724 for a family of three in 2015. While the Medicaid expansion was intended to be national, the June 2012 Supreme Court ruling essentially made it optional for states.

Further, because the ACA envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, it does not provide financial assistance to people below poverty for other coverage options. As a result, in states that do not expand Medicaid, many adults fall into a "coverage gap" of having incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits but below the lower limit for Marketplace premium tax credits.

WHEREAS, Closing the gap is a smart investment in the hard-working people who call South Carolina home, raise their families here and make the economy grow. More and more South Carolinians are working yet numbers of the uninsured in South Carolina total 224,000. 36,000 eligible for Medicaid, and 123,000 in the coverage gap.

WHEREAS, Closing the gap is good for our economy and businesses. Workers with health insurance for themselves and their families miss less work due to illness and are more productive. There will be a decrease in the upward pressure on premiums paid by businesses due to less cost shifting for healthcare services for the uninsured.

WHEREAS, Palmetto Plus is a private market proposal for expanding health insurance coverage that will lead to a healthier and prosperous South Carolina. The Palmetto Plus Plan is South Carolina's way of offering health care options to the low-income uninsured using fiscally conservative, private sector solutions.

WHEREAS, The plan of Palmetto Plus and other Pro-Senate Bill 845 groups will be an economic boom for South Carolina and is modeled on the success of other Southern states' efforts. Senate Bill 845 will enable 123,000 South Carolinians who currently fall into the insurance gap to purchase health insurance using federal dollars on the private market.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to call upon South Carolina United Methodists around the state to accept responsibility for modeling health in all its dimensions. Specifically, we call upon our members to: continue the redemptive ministry of Christ, including teaching, preaching, and healing. Christ's healing was not peripheral but central in his ministry. As the church, therefore, we understand ourselves to be called by the Lord to the holistic ministry of healing: spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to call upon entities within our United Methodist Conference connection to take steps toward health and wholeness and encourage The South Carolina Annual Conference to: continue their support and provision of direct-health services where needed through hospitals and homes, clinics, and health centers; work toward a comprehensive health system which would provide equal access to quality health care for all clergy and lay employees, including retirees;

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Annual Conference undertake specific actions to promote the passing of Senate Bill 845 which will enable 123,000 South Carolinians who currently fall into the insurance gap to purchase health insurance using federal dollars on the private market;

LASTLY BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Annual Conference also encourage congregations and community partners to support efforts like that of Palmetto Plus private market proposal for expanding health insurance coverage.

Resources:

General Board of Church and Society John 10:10 Challenge
<http://umc-gbcs.org/resources-websites/john-1010-challenge>

The purpose of the John 10:10 Challenge is to build a faithful movement for health care justice by engaging a national network of teams to promote, preserve, and implement affordable health care for all people on local, state, and federal levels.

Palmetto Plus <http://palmettoplusc.org>

Palmetto Plus Website. Palmetto Plus is a proposal to cover more people and grow our state's economy at the same time.

Numbers come from Kaiser: <http://kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid-an-update/>

2016 South Carolina County Health Rankings: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/south-carolina/2016/measure/factors/85/map> and here: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/state/downloads/CHR2016_SC.pdf

*Submitted by The Advocacy Ministry Area of The South Carolina Annual Conference,
Rev. Amiri B. Hooker, Pastor of the Lake City Circuit, Area Convener.*

6. Resolution for an Assessment, and a Plan of Action for the African American Historical Methodist Flagship Churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference. **This resolution was approved as amended.**

The Resolution for Assessment and a Plan of Action for the African American Historical Methodist Flagship Churches of the SC Annual Conference. "...use the current assessment method to evaluate, the past, present and future..." delete "...for African American Ministries."

Reverend Patricia Parrish made a motion to strike the word 'worth' in the first 'Be it resolved.' And to include the word 'potential ministries.'

Reverend Norman Brown, author of the resolution stood to explain what is meant by 'Flagship' churches. These churches would be 150 years or older and formerly had approximately 400 members at one time.

Ms. Francis Hill spoke against the resolution.

Bishop advised that what was before the body is to strike the word 'Worth.'

Reverend Carleathea Benson spoke in support of the resolution because preservation of history is needed.

Ms. Paula Ford stood to speak against the resolution because it divides the church.

Mr. Tommy Wilkes spoke to amend the resolution. Bishop advised that the resolution is before the body. Mr. Wilkes asked how to we determine what is a flagship church and what is not.

Reverend Amiri Hooker stood to explain the term, "Flagship" – it is a term that would be understood by persons performing the assessment.

Bishop Holston placed the resolution before the body for vote. The delegates approved the resolution.

Reverend Marvin Caldwell thanked his team for their work.

Reverend Rett Haseldan IV, reminded the Annual Conference that resolutions are needed before the March 15th deadline.

Reverend Wendy Hudson Jacoby asked that the SC Annual Conference engage in conversation about sexual identity.

Reverend Cathy Jamieson stood to offer a point of clarity – stating that these conversations have begun in her district and beyond.

Reverend Jacoby's motion was approved.

**RESOLUTION FOR AN ASSESSMENT, AND A PLAN OF ACTION FOR
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL METHODIST FLAGSHIP CHURCHES
OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Whereas: This 2016 Annual Conference marks the 150th year of the 1866 Central Jurisdictional Conference as "united" Methodists in South Carolina Methodism;

Whereas: It was the 1866 conference that gave the African American Community and African Methodism the historic churches and institutions that empower our people today;

Whereas: These African Methodist historic churches served as the foundations for preachers, pastors, District Superintendents, and 4 African American Bishops that were nurtured in South Carolina Methodism;

Whereas: In the communities where 1866 conference churches proclaimed the prophetic mission of the church as a transforming agent in the world are now experiencing a shift in the demographics, and a major decline in their populations;

Whereas: The Black United Methodists, and the present 2016 South Carolina Conference have a rich history which requires us to protect and preserve our legacy to better secure our future;

Be it resolved: That the SC Annual Conference in its annual session, June 5-8, 2016, at Florence Civic Center, Florence, SC establish **use the current assessment methods** to evaluate the past, present, and future **worth potential for ministry** of the SC 1866 "Flag Ship" Churches and each African American United Methodist Church in SC;

Be it further resolved: that the SC Annual Conference shall direct *the Congregational Specialists, for African-American Ministries, the Congregational Development, CFA, BMCR, & others* to implement an **Assessment, and a Plan of Action** for the historical Black Churches of this conference to **further determine** if family centers, community centers, or historical sites have possibilities.

Written by Norman A. Brown and Supported by SC BMCR

Note the word flagship: *a ship that carries the commander of a fleet or subdivision and flies the commander's flag; and is the finest, largest, or most important one of the fleet, series, network, or chain.*

Listed are a few Flagship churches, and churches 150 years old: Mt. Sinai – Anderson District, Old Bethel – Charleston District, Wesley – Columbia District, Cumberland/Mt. Zion – Florence District, John Wesley and St. Matthew – Greenville District, Camden First (Trinity)/Emanuel – Hartsville District, Wesley – Marion District, Trinity – Orangeburg District, Wesley – Rock Hill District, Silver Hill Memorial, Spartanburg – District, Springtown - Walterboro District.

The Consent Calendar was placed before the body by **Reverend Ken Nelson** for vote. The delegates unanimously approved.

Reverend David Surret moved for the adoption of the CF&A reports with revisions by the Annual Conference. Rev. Surret thanked his team and recognized those who will be completing their service.

Reverend Thomas Bowman asked for a point of personal privilege wherein he asked clergy members who are interested to join the clergy choir.

Ms. Jackie Jenkins presented the nominations in accordance with Standing Rule 30-G

Ms. Barbara Ware - Conference Lay Leader

Mr. Donald Love – Associate Conference Lay Leader

Ms. Jenny Rawlings – Secretary Lay Leadership Area

The nominations were approved by the Annual Conference.

Reverend Cathy Jamieson presented the **Resolution to Discontinue and Realign Churches**. The resolution is on page 123–125 of the Conference packet. Rev. Jamieson presented the resolutions to discontinue Bethlehem, Mt. Tabor, and Charles Wesley United Methodist Churches. After each resolution was presented, and approved by the body, Bishop Holston led the Conference in prayer. The delegates then voted on the charge line changes found on pages 125 and 126. The vote was unanimous in favor of the changes.

**A RESOLUTION OF DISCONTINUANCE AND TRANSFERENCE
BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GREENWOOD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENWOOD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Conference of Bethlehem United Methodist Church ("Bethlehem UMC"), Bethlehem Charge, Greenwood 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 8, 2016; and

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

Whereas, The Reverend James L. Friday, District Superintendent of the Greenwood District, has consented that Bethlehem UMC be discontinued and may transfer the church membership, property and other assets; and

Whereas, The Greenwood District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance and transference of church property and other assets of Bethlehem UMC; 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 Bethlehem UMC church membership, real property and other assets; and

Whereas, St. Mark United Methodist Church located in Greenwood, South Carolina has agreed to minister to the members of Bethlehem UMC; and

Whereas, Bethlehem 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 Bethlehem UMC has discontinued and transferred church membership, real property and other assets, effective June 9, 2016, pursuant to paragraph 2541, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012 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 Bethlehem UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of Bethlehem UMC shall be transferred to St. Mark United Methodist Church located in Greenwood, South Carolina; 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 Bethlehem UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That the real property and remaining personal property of Bethlehem UMC (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including the monies of Bethlehem UMC held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be conveyed and transferred to St. Mark United Methodist Church located in Greenwood, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That the St. Mark United Methodist Church located in Greenwood, South Carolina 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 St. Mark United Methodist Church located in Greenwood, South Carolina is authorized to use the monies transferred by Bethlehem UMC for the care and maintenance of the property until the further disposition of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That as part of winding up the affairs of the local church, any two officers of the Bethlehem UMC 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 Greenwood 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 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.

*Adopted: April 12, 2016 at Greenwood, South Carolina
The Reverend James Friday, Greenwood District Superintendent*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
MT. TABOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHESTERFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Conference Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church located in Chesterfield County, South Carolina has voted to discontinue the church, effective June 1, 2016; and

Whereas, The Reverend Robin Dease, District Superintendent of the Hartsville District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, has recommended that the Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Hartsville District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuance of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church; and

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

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference does hereby declare Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church discontinued, effective June 1, 2016, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012); 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 Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, that the membership Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, Chesterfield shall be transferred to Wesley United Methodist Church and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Hartsville District shall have the authority to authorize the disposition of the tangible personal property items belonging to Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church and be it further

Resolved, That the real property and remaining personal property of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church (not including those tangible personal property items authorized for disposition by the District Superintendent) including the monies of Mt. Tabor 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 the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Conference and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of winding up the affairs of the discontinued local church, any officer of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church or the District Superintendent of the Hartsville 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 Hartsville 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 Hartsville 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.

*Adopted: May 4, 2016, Chesterfield, South Carolina
The Reverend Robin Dease, Hartsville District Superintendent*

**A RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE
CHARLES WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AIKEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
ORANGEBURG DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The Church Conference of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, Orangeburg District, South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, consents to the discontinuation of the church effective June 30, 2015; and

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

Whereas, The Reverend Dr. Frederick N. Yebuah, District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District, has recommended that Charles Wesley UMC be discontinued; and

Whereas, The Orangeburg District Board of Church Location and Building has consented to the discontinuation of Charles Wesley 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 Charles Wesley UMC; and

Whereas, Charles Wesley 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 Charles Wesley UMC discontinued, effective June 30, 2015, pursuant to paragraph 2549, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2012); 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 Charles Wesley UMC; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the church building property of Charles Wesley UMC, located at 3510 Trolley Road, Aiken, South Carolina shall be conveyed and transferred to the South Carolina Conference pending permanent disposition of the property; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bishop and Cabinet are authorized to determine the ministry uses of the property pending permanent disposition thereof; and be it further

Resolved, That if the Bishop and cabinet determine that there are no practical future ministry uses for this property, they shall be authorized to notify the Conference Board of Trustees that they are authorized to dispose of the property; and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop and Cabinet are directed to present to the annual conference, at such time as may be appropriate, recommendations for the permanent disposition of the church building property located at 3510 Trolley Line Road, Aiken, South Carolina; and be it further

Resolved, That any funds of Charles Wesley UMC held in bank accounts or otherwise, shall be transferred to the South Carolina Conference, that the Conference Treasurer is authorized to

expend any undesignated funds to reimburse the South Carolina Conference for any costs incurred related to the discontinuation of Charles Wesley UMC; and be it further

Resolved, That any remaining undesignated funds shall be transferred to the Conference Board of Trustees; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of the winding up of the business affairs of the church, any two officers of the church corporation of Charles Wesley UMC are authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all other actions necessary to convey and transfer the real and personal property consistent with this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the South Carolina Conference requests that the officers of the church corporation of Charles Wesley UMC take all actions necessary under South Carolina law to dissolve the church corporation as part of the winding up of the business affairs of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Superintendent of the Orangeburg District shall oversee the transfer of membership and the conveyance of the real and personal property to ensure completion; and be it further

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

***No Cemetery

Reverend Ken Nelson made a motion for the 2017 Annual Conference to be June the 4-7 at TD Convention Center in Greenville, SC. The Conference approved the motion.

Reverend Ken Nelson invited **Reverend George Howle**, District Superintendent of the Greenville/Spartanburg area to come forward to greet the delegates and to provide updates on what is planned for 2017. Rev. Howe mentioned that a 'Kids Camp' is being planned. **Ms. Michelle Stoudamier** from Greenville, SC came forth to discuss logistics. Hotel reservations will open on June 22, 2016. Save the date cards are available and will be distributed by our tellers. **Reverend Ken Nelson** invited the entire staff of the Florence Civic Center to come forth to accept our thanks.

At 1:00 P.M. **Bishop Holston** called a recess of the Conference until 1:15 P.M. when the Conference reconvened for the closing worship service and the fixing of appointments.

The Conference was adjourned at 2:00 P.M. with the Benediction offered by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston.