All-Virtual

2020 SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

October 17, 2020

Hosted by
The Florence District and
Cumberland United Methodist Church

PRE CONFERENCE MATERIALS

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
4908 COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 121
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203
TELEPHONE – (803)786-9486
FAX – (803) 754-9327

L. JONATHAN HOLSTON
RESIDENT BISHOP

LOLLIE HASELDEN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2020 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference! As we gather this year, we give thanks to almighty God and celebrate the ways in which we have been seeking and fulfilling God's purpose for the Church.

This year's theme – "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations" – encourages us to trust God with each step that we take.

Miraculous things can happen when we leave our place of comfort and allow God to stretch us in new and different ways. We will come together with hope, remembering who God has called us to be and what God wants for us.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Annual Conference will be like none we have experienced. We have taken a number of steps in our effort to ensure the safety of all who attend, including abbreviating the schedule to one day, requiring everyone to wear a facemask, and strictly observing social distancing guidelines.

We are deeply grateful for the patience exhibited by all clergy and lay members as we have navigated the pandemic-driven challenges over these past few months. Although our time together will be brief, we look forward to celebrating the mission and ministry of devoted South Carolina United Methodists who are answering God's call to live beyond the bounds of expectations.

The hard work of so many people makes this gathering possible. A profound word of gratitude is expressed to the Rev. Terry Fleming and the people and churches of the Florence District, our host district, and to the Rev. Anthony Hodge, the Rev. Frederick Yebuah and members of Cumberland UMC, our host church. For many months, this team has worked closely with our conference secretary, the Rev. Ken Nelson, and the Committee on the Annual Conference to consider every detail. I am certain that you will join me in saluting the proactive leadership of all of these people who have worked so diligently on our behalf.

As we prepare for the 2020 Annual Conference, I ask for your prayers that great and marvelous things will happen through the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us. Pray that our presence in this place will be a living witness to the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ for all whom we meet.

Grace and Peace,

L. Jonathan Holston

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Organized 1972
Continuing the South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South Carolina Conference (1866)

Kenneth L. Nelson
Secretary of the Annual Conference

4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 104
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
(O) 803-786-9486 (F) 803-735-8777
Toll Free: 1-888-678-6272
E-mail: conferencesecretary@umcsc.org

Friends,

Grace and peace to you! As the time for Annual Conference draws near, my enthusiasm for our time together grows. Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come, 'tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home! Join us as we express our thanksgiving to God and renew our commitment to engage in the work of mission and ministry.

Allow me to be among the first to welcome you to the 2020 South Carolina Annual Conference. Our theme this year is "Seeking a More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations."

Enclosed for your review – in the Pre-Conference Packet and the Registration Packet – are the reports, recommendations and resolutions for consideration at the 2020 Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference will be live-streamed, with a link at umcsc.org. We also encourage you to follow the actions of the conference on Facebook (@scumc), Twitter (@umcsc) and Instagram (@umcsc). Daily summaries will be posted at umcsc.org/ac2020 and emailed to those who subscribe to the conference's weekly newsletter.

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there remains tremendous enthusiasm about Annual Conference, and I look forward to sharing in an amazing time with you all.

Blessings for the journey,

Ken

Kenneth L. Nelson

The United Methodist Church
FLORENCE DISTRICT
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
P. O. BOX 408
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29503-0408

TERRY FLEMING
SUPERINTENDENT

Office: (843) 669-5992
Fax: (843) 673-9883
Email: fldist@umcsc.org

Dear Friends,

Welcome back!

It has now been four years since the Florence District last hosted Annual Conference. Let me simply say how pleased I am to serve as your host for the 2020 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

As we gather, we are still recovering from the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Our first General Rule to Do No Harm forced us to close the doors of our facilities, pushed the church outside the walls, and moved many into creative forms of ministry never they had before experienced. Prerecorded worship, Zoom church, drive-in church, Facebook Live, conference calls, online meetings, and other formats never prepared or executed by most pastors and congregational leadership became a new normal.

We wrestled in intense discussions about whether or not to celebrate the sacrament of holy communion while in isolation from the assembled community. Social distancing, a new phrase for most of us, meant that new believers had to wait to come to the waters of baptism. We realized over and over again, in painful and personal ways, that the hoarding of needed resources was to fail again at being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Many experienced for the first time that financial gifts can be given and never pass through an offering plate. So much has happened in these few months that took years to pass by.

Now, here we are, gathered again with old friends, friends yet to be made, lay leadership, colleagues, ordinands, and others . . . members of our South Carolina United Methodist family. We have seen through eyes isolated for many weeks that the created world is not as God intended it to be. Yet, people of faith leaned into hope; the hope of God's good gifts of creation and community renewed.

During our Annual Conference, may we see each other with renewed eyes and experience each other with renewed joy!

Blessings,

Reverend Terry Fleming

aob

Cumberland United Methodist Church

163 South Coit Street
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Church Office: (843) 662-2904
Parsonage Phone: (843) 662-2940

The Reverend Dr. Anthony Hodge, Pastor

Members of the 2020 South Carolina Annual Conference of the UMC:

Cumberland UMC is delighted to serve as host church for this year's Annual Conference. We are eagerly anticipating serving wherever needed during our gathering. I will serve as the liaison for the church and endeavor to offer assistance whenever called upon. Please do not hesitate to confer with me in person during our gathering or by calling the church's office at 843-662-2904.

As we prepare to engage God and one another during this year's Annual Conference, my prayer is that we will keep our episcopal leader, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, and others who will be providing leadership at Annual Conference in our thoughts and prayers.

In line with this year's Annual Conference theme – **Seeking A More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations** – I am sure that each of us can and will wholeheartely embrace this year's Annual Conference theme by asking God for guidance to assist us in looking beyond ourselves to things we may have never imagined in our respective ministry contexts.

I look forward to connecting with as many persons as possible during our upcoming gathering. As stated previously, please do not hesitate to confer with me if the need arises.

In Christ's service,

Anthony Hodge

Anthony Hodge

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843-679-9417

PART I

- **REPORTS**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**

THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations to the 2020 Annual Conference

Each and every disciple of Christ is called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank all United Methodists in South Carolina for their generosity in 2019. We achieved a 90.02% collection rate on apportionments. This is the fifth consecutive year in which apportioned giving exceeded 90% for our Annual Conference. The Council commends all congregations for their continued and sacrificial support of their extended ministry through the South Carolina Annual Conference. We celebrate the Walterboro district for collecting the highest percentage at 98.31%. We also celebrate the Greenville district which had the largest increase in funds collected, an increase of $83,899 over the prior year. The largest percentage point increase was in the Florence district at 5.76.

The biennial stewardship summit was held February 29, 2020, at Union UMC in Irmo. Our speaker was Rev. Bob Crossman who shared many actionable ideas and forty-eight ways to improve your annual stewardship campaign. Approximately 150 people attended.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference for calendar year 2021. The Council has sought to prepare this document with deep prayer and faithful reflection. The Council is aware that the target is to have a budget at or around 15% of total Conference average net funds. It is aware that this percentage had been creeping higher and we are making progress reversing this trend.

The recommended budget for 2021 is reduced by $246,837 and is estimated to be 14.7% of average net funds. The Council anticipated having a more significant reduction in the total budget brought about by reduced apportionments from the General Church. However, because General Conference 2020 is postponed to 2021, we continue to be held to the apportionment formulas passed at General Conference 2016. It is expected that if the next General Conference passes the apportionment formula changes, the apportionments for the remainder of the quadrennium will be adjusted for the excess amount calculated for 2021.

We appreciate the service of Mrs. Elizabeth (Beth) Westbury, whom we recommend to re-elect as our Annual Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, and her gracious staff. I am also constantly grateful for the devoted work of every lay and clergy member of the Council on Finance and Administration. They attend, interact, debate and support the work of the Council in a most faithful and dependable manner.

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

The Reverend Mitch Houston, President, Council on Finance and Administration

Report No. 1

A. The compensation for the District Superintendents for the year 2021 will be set at $106,090, a 3% increase. (DS compensation for 2019 was $103,000 and for 2020 is $103,000.)

B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% ($15,914) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2021 as allocated for parsonage utilities and maintenance ("utility exclusion"), not including expenses paid by the district. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.

C. The District Administration Fund will be handled as follows:

1) The item "Office Expense" in the District Administration Fund will be for the operation of the District Office to pay such items as secretary, postage, and supplies and will be set at $21,000 per district.

2) Exceptions: Inasmuch as the Columbia District Office must be in The United Methodist Center, one-half of that office rent will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund. Inasmuch as the Columbia District superintendent is designated as the Cabinet secretary, one-half of the salary and benefits of the secretary in that office will be paid from the Conference Expense Fund.

3) Travel (in and out-of-district) is set at $170,000 for the total of all districts, <u>which includes $8,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats</u>. This will be set at $13,500 per district or an allocated amount set by the Cabinet not to exceed a total of $162,000. In addition, insurance & pensions is expected to be approximately $330,000 ($27,500 per district), and continuing education will be set at the amount recommended by the Commission on Equitable Compensation (currently at $750 per superintendent).

4) Vouchers for continuing education must be approved prior to payment. The unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance may be carried forward from year to year during a district superintendent's tenure, not to exceed a total amounting to three year's Continuing Education allocation. The accumulation is cancelled in full when a district superintendent leaves the superintendency. It does not carry forward to the new district superintendent. However, by application to the CF&A in advance of leaving the superintendency, the district superintendent may within a reasonable length of time use the unused portion of the Continuing Education allowance to take training that would assist in his/her return to the parish ministry or other appointment. For the year in which there is a move, one-half of the Continuing Education allowance will be available for each superintendent.

5) The funds for program in each district are based on the membership of the district, beginning with a base of $2,800 for the smallest membership district and adding $100 for each one thousand (1,000) members,

or major fraction thereof, above 18,000. These funds are not guaranteed and are contingent upon the apportionment receipts and other requirement of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2021 will be as follows (*Final amounts will be reflected in the 2020 Journal*):

District	2019 Membership	Amount
Anderson		
Charleston	Final amounts will be reflected in the 2020 Journal.	
Columbia		
Florence		
Greenville		
Greenwood		
Hartsville		
Marion		
Orangeburg		
Rock Hill		
Spartanburg		
Walterboro		
Totals		

D. Each District Board of Trustees shall administer all funds for the District Parsonage Fund, which provides funds for parsonage payments, repairs, insurance and furnishings (not to include parsonage utility payments). The moving expenses of an in-coming district superintendent may also be paid from the District Parsonage Fund, not to include more than $350 packing expenses. To comply with the change in tax law effective January 1, 2018 whereby reimbursements of moving expenses become taxable compensation to the recipient, the amount of reimbursement will be included in the district superintendent's taxable income as reported on Form W-2. Reimbursements of moving expenses for district superintendents shall be paid without the benefit of a gross up for taxes. Each district office shall provide its trustees with regular reports of all receipts and expenditures of the District Parsonage Fund.

E. Below are the percentages of average net funds that each church is asked to pay to its respective District Parsonage/Office Fund (*Avg. Net Funds will be printed in the Journal*):

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	40,000	45,000	85,000	
Charleston	25,000	40,000	65,000	
Columbia	25,000	35,000	60,000	Avg. Net Funds
Florence	30,000	40,000	70,000	will be reported
Greenville	30,000	35,000	65,000	In the 2020
Greenwood	40,000	40,000	80,000	Journal.
Hartsville	40,000	40,000	80,000	
Marion	10,000	35,000	45,000	
Orangeburg	25,000	30,000	55,000	
Rock Hill	15,000	35,000	50,000	
Spartanburg	35,000	25,000	60,000	
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	
Total	**340,000**	**440,000**	**780,000**	

Report No. 2

A. We recommend that the following special observances be a part of the program of each local church and that appropriate free-will offerings be received.

Human Relations Day – January 17, 2021
Golden Cross Sunday – February 7, 2021
UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – March 14, 2021
Native American Awareness Sunday – April 18, 2021
Peace with Justice Sunday – May 30, 2021
Epworth Children's Home
- Mothers' Day – May 9, 2021
- Work Day – September 12, 2021
- Church school offering first Sunday each month

Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 8, 2021
Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 19, 2021 (youth offering)
World Communion Sunday – October 3, 2021
Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 7, 2021

United Methodist Student Day – November 28, 2021

B. We offer the following:

1) That all boards, commissions and committees receiving funds from the conference treasurer shall submit with each voucher adequate supporting data (receipts, bills, contemporaneous travel log, etc.). Payments in excess of $1,000 should be approved by the Conference Treasurer in advance.

2) That boards, agencies and conference institutions which are allowed to withdraw lump sums from the conference treasurer shall submit an annual audit (with management letter) by a certified public accountant to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with evidence of fidelity insurance coverage and compliance with payroll tax laws.

3) That all boards, commissions and agencies of the conference reimburse persons at a rate of 24 cents per mile when traveling on conference business. In order to encourage car pooling, we recommend that if a car contains two persons traveling on church business, the mileage rate be increased to 32 cents; if a car contains three or more persons all traveling on church business, the rate be increased to 40 cents per mile. Pastors who are members of such agencies should submit reimbursement requests to their appointed church or charge for the difference between their conference reimbursement and the approved IRS mileage rate, since participation in the ministries of the district and conference is an expected responsibility of all appointed pastors. Conference employees will be reimbursed at the approved IRS mileage rate when traveling on church business. We recommend that other expenses for travel on church business be paid. We also recommend that the guideline amount paid to a person for meals shall be $7.00 for breakfast, $13.00 for lunch and $20.00 for the evening meal.

4) That the balance held for each board, commission, committee or agency on the books of the conference treasurer shall be carried forward from one year to the next and that this shall be taken into consideration in the subsequent budget request.

5) That conference boards and agencies may not spend in excess of funds received on budget for the given conference year, except that funds carried forward may be spent in addition to funds received in the current year if such carryover funds were included in the budget presented to CFA. Any expenses beyond the combination of anticipated receipts (based on previous-year percentage of payment) plus budgeted carryover funds will not be paid by the treasurer.

6) That “average net funds” as used in the calculation of 2021 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2019 and 2018. Newly organized churches will be phased in over four years, but for the years prior to the organization of the new church, the net funds figure will be zero. “Net funds” for churches that provide a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage will exclude the lesser of the actual housing allowance or 25% of the minister’s compensation prior to calculating the church’s average net funds.

7) That “net funds” be defined as the total of figures reported on lines 41 through 47 (inclusive) of Table 2 for 2018 and 2019.

8) That once the apportionments are calculated from Table 2 statistics for any given year, those apportionments cannot be altered. Needed corrections can be made on Table 2 reports for use in future year calculations by providing written explanation of the correction to the Treasurer.

9) Total apportionment funding for Methodist Homes Residents’ Assistance (item 11, Report No. 9) is reduced to reflect changes in funding after Methodist Oaks is sold to a for-profit entity. Methodist Oaks requested the Conference continue assistance for four individuals in residence there. Based on the monthly assistance requested and the life-expectancy of the individuals, an expected need has been projected. For 2021, the apportionment request is reduced and the allocation of funds among the participating homes adjusted. The recommended allocations are:

	2020	**2021**
Methodist Oaks	50%	27%
Wesley Commons	35%	50%
Methodist Manor	15%	23%

10) That the funds received on the apportionment for Senior College Scholarship Fund (item 9, Report No. 9) be divided in three equal parts, one-third each going to Wofford College, Columbia College and Claflin University; that the funds received on the apportionment for Camps and Retreat Ministries (item 12, Report No. 9) be distributed to the various Camps and Retreat Ministries as determined by the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.

11) That the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to grant amounts from the Conference Contingency Fund or Permanent Reserve to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.

12) That the salaries and fixed essential expenses of Conference Connectional Ministries (section A-4 of the Conference Benevolences budget) be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

13) That the salaries and benefits portion of the Campus Ministry budget be funded up to 100% of budget by using funds from the Contingency Fund; the remainder of that budget will be funded at the percentage paid on the line item.

14) That the budgets of the District Superintendent Salaries, Director of Administrative Services, the Conference Archivist Contract and the Coordinator of Clergy Services be funded up to 100% of a year-end

deficit, but not more than the amount budgeted, by using funds from the Contingency Fund.

15) The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% of the salary for each conference clergy staff for the year 2021, exclusive of a designated housing allowance, as allocated for utilities and maintenance ("utilities exclusion"), not including maid service. Any subsequent changes to the utilities exclusion that may be requested by an individual may be approved by the Treasurer on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration.

16) That local churches of the conference incorporate. An informational pamphlet prepared by the Conference Chancellor and the Cabinet is available at www.umcsc.org. After incorporation, churches should take care to maintain with the Secretary of State, an accurate, up-to-date record of the name and address of their registered agent.

Report No. 3

As noted in our report to the 2009 Annual Conference, economic uncertainties led to the reduction in apportioned budgets for the Senior Scholarship Fund, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance Fund. The trend of reducing the budgets for these significant ministries continues. In an effort to increase the funds available for these ministries without adding to the apportionment budget, the voluntary asking Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes was increased from $600,284 for 2017 to $625,000 for 2018. Council recommends the 2021 Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes voluntary asking remain at $625,000 with adjustments to how the funds are allocated (see below). We ask churches with sufficient resources to continue to support the Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes. This combined request will be calculated for churches based on the apportionment formula and included on the bottom of the apportionment statement as a voluntary asking.

	2020 actual	**2021 recommendation**	**Notes for 2021**
Senior Scholarship Fund	66.73%	67%	One-third to each: Claflin University, Columbia College, Wofford College
Methodist Homes	15.31%	15%	Wesley Commons 70% Methodist Manor 30%
Spartanburg Methodist College	17.96%	18%	All to Spartanburg Methodist College

Report No. 4

[Reserved for future use.]

Report No. 5

In accordance with the Disciplinary requirement to publish the conference investment policy at least once a quadrennium, CF&A's investment policy is to invest Conference Funds in accordance with the 2016 Discipline paragraph 613.5 and under the additional guidelines:

A) Forms of investment authorized:
   1) short-term United States treasury bills or bonds and bonds of U.S. government agencies,
   2) savings or money market accounts that are Federally Insured,
   3) certificates of deposit in any Federally Insured savings and loan association, commercial bank, credit union
   4) term notes or demand deposits of The United Methodist Development Fund.
   5) funds managed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)
   6) endowments with The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation

B) Limitations:
   1) no stocks (common or preferred stocks) or real estate may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation
   2) no corporate or municipal bonds may be purchased unless the funds are under the management of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc. or The United Methodist Church Foundation
   3) no loans may be made except where authorized by action of the Annual Conference, or as part of an investment of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)
   4) no investments may be made with maturities longer than 36 months, with the exception of term notes with The United Methodist Development Fund
   5) no investment may exceed the then-current limit on FDIC or FSLIC insurance without approval of CF&A, with the exceptions of: the primary checking account(s); collateralized certificates; or funds on deposit with The United Methodist Development Fund, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or The United Methodist Church Foundation

C) Income on invested funds will be credited to the Permanent Reserve Fund of the Conference unless the funds are for the Annual Conference Trustees, Equitable Compensation, pension or health benefits, or are invested under a trust or as an endowment.

Report No. 6

Following is a listing of the 2019 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2021 apportionments. (Final amounts will be reflected in the 2020 Journal)

District	2019	District	2019
Anderson		Hartsville	
Charleston		Marion	
Columbia		Orangeburg	
Florence		Rock Hill	
Greenville		Spartanburg	
Greenwood		Walterboro	
TOTAL			

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Report No. 7

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

	Fund	Approved for 2020	Requested for 2021	Recommended for 2021	% Change
1	Contingency Fund	$ 165,750	$ 220,000	$ 220,000	32.7%
2	Journal Publication	17,063	17,063	17,063	0.0%
3	Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
4	Director of Administrative Services Office	772,346	787,694	787,694	2.0%
5	Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
6	Conference Expense Fund	243,750	245,726	245,726	0.8%
7	Administrative Committees	3,900	4,900	4,900	25.6%
8	Conference Secretary	43,875	44,493	44,493	1.4%
9	Methodist Center Trustees	35,100	36,533	36,533	4.1%
10	Coordinator of Clergy Services	253,500	259,739	259,739	2.5%
11	General Conference Delegates	4,875	4,875	4,875	0.0%
12	Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	11,700	11,700	11,700	0.0%
	TOTALS	**$ 1,551,859**	**$ 1,632,723**	**$ 1,632,723**	5.2%

Report No. 8

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

Fund	Approved for 2020	Requested for 2021	Recommended for 2021	% Change
A. Connectional Ministries				
1. Conference Advance Specials				
Ministry Programs	$ 155,000	**$ 155,000**	$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	**20,500**	20,500	0.0%
Sub-totals (1)	**$ 175,500**	**$ 175,500**	**$ 175,500**	**0.0%**
2. Board/Agency Programs				
District Councils	$ 63,000	$ 63,000	$ 63,000	0.0%
Advocacy	45,260	45,260	45,260	0.0%
Discipleship	62,480	62,480	62,480	0.0%
Lay Leadership	7,270	7,270	7,270	0.0%
Outreach	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.0%
Total Board and Agency Programs (2)	**$ 198,010**	**$ 198,010**	**$ 198,010**	**0.0%**
3. Board/Agency Administration	**$ 30,000**	**$ 30,000**	**$ 30,000**	**0.0%**
4. Operations (100% guaranteed)	**$ 1,612,804**	**$ 1,650,372**	**$ 1,650,372**	**2.3%**
5. Communications				
Electronics	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	0.0%
Resource Center	17,000	17,000	17,000	0.0%
Public & Media Relations	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (5)	**$ 102,000**	**$ 102,000**	**$ 102,000**	**0.0%**
6. Advocate	**$ 119,700**	**$ 119,700**	**$ 119,700**	**0.0%**
Sub-totals (A)	**$ 2,238,014**	**$ 2,275,582**	**$ 2,275,582**	**1.7%**
B. Other Conference Agencies				
1. Cabinet Emergency Fund	$ 32,000	$ 32,000	$ 32,000	0.0%
2. Bishop's Contingency Fund	12,500	12,500	12,500	0.0%
3. Episcopal Office	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4. Committee on Episcopacy	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0%
5. Episcopal Residence	23,000	23,000	23,000	0.0%
6. Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract	26,780	27,583	27,583	3.0%
7. Ordained Ministry				
a) Operations	91,500	90,000	90,000	-1.6%
b) Career Planning Programs	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
Sub-totals (B)	**$ 210,080**	**$ 209,383**	**$ 209,383**	**-0.3%**
Total Conference Benevolences	**$ 2,448,094**	**$ 2,484,965**	**$ 2,484,965**	**1.5%**

Report No. 9

We recommend that the following funds be apportioned to churches on the basis of percentages of average net funds.

FUND	Approved for 2020	Requested for 2021	Recommended for 2021	% Change
Conference Apportionments:				
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,448,094	2,484,965	2,484,965	1.5%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,800,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	-22.2%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,236,000	1,273,080	1,273,080	3.0%
4 Equitable Compensation	565,000	565,000	565,000	0.0%
5 District Administration	819,000	831,473	831,473	1.5%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,551,859	1,632,723	1,632,723	5.2%
7 Congregational Development	930,000	951,369	951,369	2.3%
8 Campus Ministry	650,000	662,423	662,423	1.9%
9 Senior College Scholarships	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	618,967	618,967	618,967	0.0%
11 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	526,722	400,000	400,000	-24.1%
12 Camps & Retreats Ministries	319,800	319,800	319,800	0.0%
Sub-total	12,465,442	12,139,800	12,139,800	-2.6%

	General Church and Jurisdiction Apportionments:					
13	World Service **	2,227,887	2,268,426	2,268,426	1.8%
14	Episcopal Fund **	659,768	671,773	671,773	1.8%
15	General Conference Administration **	264,543	269,357	269,357	1.8%
16	Ministerial Education **	752,477	766,169	766,169	1.8%
17	Interdenominational Cooperation **	58,849	59,920	59,920	1.8%
18	Black College **	300,156	305,618	305,618	1.8%
19	Africa University **	67,174	68,396	68,396	1.8%
20	Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	32,554	32,554	32,554	0.0%
	Sub-total	$ 4,363,408	$ 4,442,213	$ 4,442,213	1.8%
	TOTALS	**$ 16,828,850**	**$ 16,582,013**	**$ 16,582,013**	**-1.5%**
	Average Net Funds for Apportionments ##	**$112,969,474**	**$112,500,000**	**$112,500,000**	
	Budget as percentage of Average Net Funds	**14.9%**	**14.7%**	**14.7%**	
	Askings: Extra Mile (reference Report No. 3)	625,000	625,000	625,000	

****** Line items marked with ** are General Conference apportioned funds.
# Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.
Estimated for 2021

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
— Isaiah 25:1

When Conference Connectional Ministries gathered in fall 2016 for its first meeting of the quadrennium, each of our four ministry area groups was presented with a question:

"What is the one thing your ministry area would like to accomplish over the next four years?"

The question was intended to guide our groups in two ways. Firstly, each ministry area would identify one achievable outcome to which its members could strive. Secondly, arriving at this "one thing" would provide the ministry areas with a filter through which they could evaluate their work. In other words, the "one thing" could increase effectiveness in ministry through intentional conversation around an identifiable goal.

The full body of Connectional Ministries has worked diligently over these four years in an effort to strive toward the "one thing" of their ministry areas. Much has been accomplished, and I hope you will agree that the report that follows reflects some of those good things in just that past year. As I look back on the quadrennium and reflect on the work of Connectional Ministries, I am grateful for the powerful presence of God in the midst of all things.

Isaiah declares, "O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure." (Isaiah 15:1). Connectional Ministries and the entirety of the South Carolina Annual Conference have reason to exalt God and to praise the name of God, for our God has done marvelous things in and through the work of these ministries. I look back with great appreciation for the opportunity to have served as Connectional Ministries convener and the unique expression of God this role has offered me.

As our quadrennial cycle comes to a close, I wish to express my gratitude to Zach Dillard (Outreach), Lou Jordan (Discipleship), Bernie Mazyck (Advocacy) and Barbara Ware (Lay Leadership) for serving as the conveners of our ministry areas. I am grateful for Steve King, who has served as our secretary, and for Pamela Goodwine-Glover, who has served as our co-convener.

The work of Connectional Ministries would not be possible without the conference staff. I am beyond grateful for Matt Brodie, Gail Corn, Jim Crews, Tammy Fulmer, Russ McKissick, Dan O'Mara, Doris Seals and Betty Stalnaker. The entire conference is blessed by the service of our congregational specialists, and Conference Connectional Ministries is certainly a recipient of these individuals' gifts and grace. Thank you for all you do, Jim Arant, Cathy Joens, Reggie Lee, Chris Lynch, Millie Nelson Smith and Suzanne Walker.

I also am grateful for the dedicated ministry of our Disaster Recovery staff, who for the past year have been walking alongside South Carolina families whose lives were turned upside-down by Hurricane Florence: Althea Belton, Edna Bowers, Vanessa Jackson, Emily Kirby, Ken Kreitz, Gary Locklear, Bryan Mott, Margaret Nolan, Steve Nolan, Paula Richardson and Tim Whitten.

Finally, Kathy James has been at the head of our ministry team since 2012 as director of Connectional Ministries. This spring, she accepted a new position as director of church relations for Epworth Children's Home. Our God has blessed this annual conference these past eight years through Kathy's unique gifts. She led Connectional Ministries into realizing its new structure, helped our conference respond to several natural disasters, and guided our ministries to vitality and effectiveness. Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your gifts with all of us!

As Connectional Ministries moves into a new quadrennial cycle, I invite you all to be in prayer for the good works that lie ahead. I encourage you to consider how you can support the ministry of our annual conference through the work of Connectional Ministries.

Connectional Ministries plans and performs its work through four ministry areas:

- **Advocacy** works toward justice, equity and sharing the love of God through Jesus Christ. Its subgroups include Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns, Church & Society, Commission on the Status & Role of Women, Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Native American Ministries, Peace With Justice, Religion & Race, and United Methodist Women.
- **Discipleship** endeavors to provide resources for local churches in their efforts to make and grow disciples of all ages. Its subgroups include Adult Ministries, Archives & History, Camps & Retreats, Campus Ministries & Higher Education, Education, Evangelism, Ministries With Young People, United Methodist Men, and Worship.
- **Lay Leadership** strives to develop leaders dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others and leaders who work continually to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Its subgroups include Lay Leadership and Lay Servant Ministries.
- **Outreach** focuses on distributing funding and supporting congregations and agencies that desire to impact their communities in new ways. Its subgroups include Advance Special Ministries, Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry, Disaster Recovery, Disaster Response, Global Ministries, Health & Welfare, Hunger Ministries, Mission Interns, Salkehatchie Summer Service, and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

Key moments of the work of Connectional Ministries from the past year include:

- ELCC worked collaboratively with The Summit on the Black Church, The Carolinas Black Clergy Retreat, South Carolina Black Methodists for Church Renewal, South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development, and various Discipleship events. ELCC funded 27 scholarships totaling nearly $4,000 – 14 for clergy applicants and 13 for lay applicants. ELCC funded five grants for Under-Represented Racial-Ethnic Churches in the South Carolina Conference.
- The Christian Action Council, which receives funding and leadership through the Advocacy Ministry Area, hosted its annual meeting – "Justice: More Than Just Talk" – featuring Bishop Robert Guglielmone of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston; and the McClain Lecture, featuring Dr. Amenti Sujai, associate professor of religion at Allen University.
- Public policy advocacy to reduce gun violence, including closing the "Charleston loophole" by requiring completed background checks, banning assault-type weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and encouraging education on gun safety.
- The Adult Ministries team decided to end the Spiritual Life Retreats it has sponsored for many years in Myrtle Beach. We are entering a time of visioning and searching for ways to enrich and encourage adult members of South Carolina Conference, with a primary goal of increasing communication so that, when an event occurs, it will find its way to those best suited to take action.
- Archives and History responded to 489 requests for historical information or assistance. Renovation has been completed in the library, with new archives and special collection space completed in late December 2019.
- The second installment of the "Come, Follow Me" sermon series and group discussion guide – "A Disciple's Journey Through Lent" – was written in 2019 by South Carolina clergy working with the Discipleship Ministry Area and published in early 2020. The sermon writers were Laura Canine, Robin Dease, Zachary Dillard, Erik Grayson and Emily Sutton. George Donigian edited the sermon series, and he and Jim Arant wrote the group discussion guide.
- Lay Servant Ministries held its second Laity-Clergy Partnership Luncheon at Annual Conference 2019, with more than 400 people attending. (A third luncheon is scheduled for the 2020 Annual Conference in June.) This event is a great reflection of the progress made in building a positive partnership between lay and clergy of the South Carolina Conference.
- The Outreach Ministry Area distributed:
    - $6,000 in school scholarships
    - $7,170 in medical assistance
    - $900 in health-related programming
    - $1,677 in accessibility-to-worship grants
    - $130,200 to Advanced Special Ministries
    - $177,000 in Belin Trust grants
    - $7,900 in Hunger Ministry funds
    - $2,500 Renfro grants

Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Update

UMCSC Disaster Recovery has focused the past year on leveraging partnerships with other organizations to assist South Carolina families affected by Hurricane Florence. The United Methodist Committee on Relief provides the majority of funding and resources that support our work and train our recovery staff. We have received funding from the American Red Cross, the One SC Fund and the United Way of Chesterfield County. These partners have pledged nearly $3.4 million in support of our efforts.

While this financial backing is critical, we couldn't do this ministry without volunteers from across the conference, the nation – even from Canada. At this writing, volunteers have given more than 15,000 hours of sweat, time and love to assisting South Carolina families in recovery. United Methodist volunteer teams from Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia have made significant contributions to the recovery in South Carolina. Mennonite Disaster Services sent volunteer teams here for three months earlier this year. Teams from South Carolina United Methodist churches have contributed to several projects, primarily during the conference-wide Days of Service in September 2019 and January 2020. We also have welcomed volunteers from schools and Baptist churches.

In addition to our volunteer-supported projects, we have begun working with roofing, electrical, plumbing, carpentry and HVAC contractors to complete home repairs as quickly as possible and under budget. Our team also works with local suppliers to provide materials at a discounted price, and Good360 has provided truckloads of shingles and flooring. These relationships have helped us stretch our donor-funded dollars to have greater impact.

Disaster Recovery is a journey of perseverance and humility for our staff, volunteers and the homeowners who allow us to walk alongside them. Working in this environment is living out ministry in one of its purest forms, creating long-lasting relationships. As of this writing, UMCSC Disaster Recovery has started case management for 145 people across six counties – completing construction and closing out 70 of those cases.

Our Hurricane Florence recovery effort is scheduled to last through October 2021, by which time we estimate completion of 270 projects. We have already started scheduling volunteer work teams for 2021 – but we still have dates available for the rest of 2020. If you or your church desire to become part of this volunteer ministry, please email disasterrecovery@umcsc.org or go to umcsc.org/hurricane-florence.

For the coming year, Connectional Ministries desires to:

- Mobilize the United Methodist Church to push the South Carolina General Assembly to enact legislation to restrict predatory interest rates of payday lenders and title loan companies – a significant source of debt for poor and low-income residents.
- Review the grant application process with the goal of creating a better understanding of expectations for those receiving grants and how much may be awarded.
- Work to bring about a re-dedication to our values of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Continue work on a project to digitize all Conference Journals to make them available to the public. Currently, only those dating back to 2006 are available on the conference website.
- Continue planning a conference-wide Children's Conference for 2021. We are in the early stages, but events will include a featured speaker with breakout workshops. The program will be designed to include Sunday school teachers, childcare teachers and those interested in children's ministry.
- Publish the third installment of the "Come, Follow Me" series – a discipleship curriculum for three levels of children's Sunday school classes.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Rossiter Chellis, convener of Conference Connectional Ministries

A personal note from Stephen D. Gaither:

"I would like to thank the South Carolina Annual Conference for the opportunity to have served as chairperson/convener of the Conference Board of Global Ministries for the past eight years. It is my hope and prayer that the ministry done during this time will produce much fruit for the Kingdom of God and the United Methodist Church. It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity. God's blessings on the Conference Connectional Ministries Outreach Team."

LAY LEADERSHIP AREA OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Purpose:

Lay Leadership works in many different areas to bring laity of the SC AC together. Our 3 largest lay-led groups, UMM, UMW and LSM, are making an impact on their communities. Our youth continue to shine and SC is blessed with laity who make a difference and give of their time, talents and resources.

Key moments from the previous year:

In 2019, the Lay Leadership Area of Connectional Ministries welcomed 2 new District Lay Leaders-Orangeburg-Monty Felix and Rock Hill-Stacey Newlon. The Executive Committee of Lay Leadership held two workshops for First Time Attendees to Annual Conference in 2019 and also held two workshops called Laity Conversations where laity and clergy discussed missions and ministries that take place in local churches. In addition, the Lay Leadership Executive Team also sponsored its annual Mission Fair where a variety of ministries were on site to give instruction to interested churches. These ministries included Pillowcase Dresses for Girls, Wheelchair Ramp Ministry, Prayers and Squares, PLARN and B.E.D.S. (Better Education Deserves Sleep).

Objectives for the coming year:

In 2020, Lay Leadership will again sponsor two workshops for First Time Attendees to Annual Conference. This year's mission fair will be combined with an international mission fair in order to create one large event which will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Lay Leadership Executive Team members are Valerie Brooks-Madden, Betty Void, Jenny Rawlings, Pamela Goodwine-Glover, David Salter, Sylvia Green, Jeff Fogle, Rick Hammett, Debbie Watford, and Lisa Fusco, Chairperson

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

We thank the following District Lay Leaders for their 8 years of service to the Annual Conference and their respective districts.

Charleston-David Braddon, Columbia-Betty Void, Greenville-Mike Cheatham, Florence-Dennis Sullen, Marion-Becky Green and Walterboro-Pamela Goodwine-Glover

Narrative:

I will conclude my 8-year term as Conference Lay Leader in June 2020 at Annual Conference.

To the many laity and clergy who welcomed me into your churches and districts, I am forever grateful. To Bishop Holston and Felicia Holston, my sincere thanks for the gift of your friendship. To the Cabinet and Extended Cabinet I served with over the last 8 years, thank you for making me feel welcomed.

To Jenny Rawlings, our LL secretary, the Executive LL team and the DLLs from the last 8 years, I am grateful for the journey we shared. To the 3 Associate CLLs I have served with, Donald Love, David Salter and Betty Void, thank you.

To Conference Connectional Ministries staff and team, you were the best! And, to all the laity across SC, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve the AC and the church.

Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader 2012-2020

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader
conferencelayleader@umcsc.org, (803) 786-9486
Anderson DLL Jeff Fogle, Charleston DLL David Braddon, Columbia DLL Betty Void, , Florence DLL Dennis Sullen, Greenwood DLL Tony Watson, Greenville DLL Mike Cheatham, Hartsville DLL Anna Feagin, Marion DLL Becky Green, Orangeburg DLL Monty Felix, Rock Hill DLL Stacey Newlon, Spartanburg DLL Rick Hammett, Walterboro-Pamela Goodwine-Glover

LAY LEADERSHIP AREA-LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Purpose:

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

Key moments from the previous year:

1. Saturday's Annual Instructors' Academy was proceeded with Worship and Holy Communion Services on Friday evening. The Rev. Dr. Junis Dotson, President/CEO of Discipleship Ministries, delivered a spellbinding, dynamic sermon. On Saturday, Rev. Dotson conducted a profound training to instructors.
2. Superior in-depth "Train-the-Trainer" / hands on training. Infusion of new course offerings, unique alternate training methods in all districts.
3. Wide and varied support of church and community missions in all districts.
4. AC 2019 Luncheon; huge success! Fully attended by Laity & Clergy throughout all districts & conference offices. The Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson (Clergy) delivered an excellent presentation!
5. Tremendous increase in the number of "Certified Lay Speakers & Certified Lay Ministers."

Objectives for the coming year:

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

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

1. Lay Servant Ministries is the backbone of the United Methodist Church.
2. Lay Servant Ministries is the educational wing of the UMC; equally, we are wind the beneath the UMC wings.
3. Lay Servant Ministries is essential to the growth of ministries and missions.

4. Lay Servant Ministries strongly advocates Laity/Clergy partnership!
5. Lay Servant Ministries builds authentic leadership.

Narrative:

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

Respectfully submitted:

Jackie Jenkins, Conference LSM Director
jackiegjenkins@aol.com, (843) 509-1880
Gwendolyn Brown (Anderson District); Constance Wilborn (Charleston District); Deborah Watford (Columbia District); Dr. Evelyn Fulmore, (Florence District); W. Edward Herlong (Hartsville District); Ken Moore, Suzette Alexander, Susan Underwood (Greenville District); Cathy Trevino (Greenwood); David Lovell, Bill Barber (Marion District); Rosa Kennerly-Dance (Orangeburg District); Pam Brenwald, Lynne Tyner (Rock Hill District); Annie Crocker, Beth Lewis, Terry Sturgill (Spartanburg District); Thelma Hudson (Walterboro District). Extended members: Betty Void, David Salters, Pamela Goodwine-Glover, Francis Hipp, Rev. Kris Bergmann, Rev. Cathy Jones, Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson, Tammy Fulmer, and Barbara Ware.

2021 SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Human Relations Day	January 17
Ecumenical Sunday	January 24
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Golden Cross Sunday	February 7, 2021
Black History Month	February
Scouting Ministries Sunday	February 14
Women’s History Month	March
World Day of Prayer	March 5
Alternate Scouting Ministries Sunday	March 14
UMCOR Sunday	March 14
Holy Week	March 28-April 3
Native American Awareness Sunday	April 18
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May
Christian Home Month	May
Older Adult Recognition Day	(any day in May)
National Day of Prayer	May 6
Epworth Children’s Home Mother’s Day	May 9
Aldersgate Day/Heritage Sunday	May 23
Peace with Justice Sunday	May 30
Aldersgate Special Needs	August 8
Epworth Children’s Home Work Day	September 12
Youth Service Fund	September 19
Hispanic Heritage Month	September 15-October 15
World Communion Sunday	October 3
Children’s Sabbath A National Observance	October 15-17
Laity Sunday	October 17
Reformation Day	October 31
Native American Heritage Month	November
All Saints Sunday	November 7
Conference Advance Specials	November 7
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday	November 14
National Bible Week	November 21-28
United Methodist Student Day	November 28
World AIDS Day	December 1

RECOMMENDED ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES
FOR 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY

Agency Description: The Alston Wilkes Society is a non-profit statewide organization founded in 1962. Our mission statement is: **Rebuilding Lives for a Safer Community**. We provide offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at risk youth, veterans and their families the tools they need to become productive citizen and have a positive impact on crime reduction and prevention. The Alston Wilkes Society provides several services within the state.

Community Services providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders, former offenders family members and homeless individuals to rebuild their lives.

Residential Re-entry Centers providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Veterans Homes providing housing for homeless veterans in the Midlands and in the Upstate.

Group Care Intensive Services is a youth housing program serving young males ages 11-21 who have emotional and behavioral problems.

BENNETTSVILLE-CHERAW AREA COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

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

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

History and Mission of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry

The Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry (BCACM) is an Advance Special Ministry of the South Carolina Conference that was established in 1966 to help facilitate the needs of persons living in Marlboro & Chesterfield counties of South Carolina in a shared ministry and vision. The churches that are affiliated with this ministry are Aaron Temple United Methodist Church, Bethel United Methodist Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Level Green United Methodist Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Shiloh United Methodist Church, Smyrna United Methodist Church, Saint Michael United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership less than 2,500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission, and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

The overall mission of the BCACM is to respond to the increasing call in our communities to continue to light the flame of hope by striving to build and sustain communities of character with youth, young adults, adults, and older adults who have high morality, integrity, and commitment to be leaders for the sake of the present and future generation. The BCACM seeks to minister to the family by educating and nurturing the whole person—physically, spiritually, mentally, morally, and ethically.

BCACM aims to be a beacon of light in a dismal world. We seek to spread HOPE for families in search of healing. The opportunities in which we provide by the grace of God are to strengthen, educate, guide, and enhance the whole family—an individual, a couple, or a family.

As the BCACM, our agency embraces the tenets of the United Methodist Church of making disciples for the transformation of the world by coordinating and developing workshops and seminars to empower our laity and clergy. The ministry continues to fulfill its mission by strengthening these churches in the areas of discipleship, outreach, lay leadership, and advocacy.

In addition to the aforementioned, our programs and ministries focus on meeting the holistic needs of families. We strive to meet these needs via weekly member churches bible study, prayer, workshops and seminars, community enrichment by partnering with Drug Free Marlboro Coalition, The Family Coalition of Marlboro County, First Steps of Marlboro County Board, New Beginnings Transitional Shelter Advisory Council, Marlboro Interagency Council and the school district. In addition, we sponsor the Project M.E.N. (Mentoring, Educating & Nurturing) young males 8-18 years if age, Children Ministry (focusing on children & youth ages 5-11) and Ladies of the Future (focusing on abstinence with 8-18 years old girls), Older Adult Ministry, VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, leadership trainings, special worship services and flood buckets/kits

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

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

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER – COLUMBIA

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

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

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

PROGRAMS: Afterschool partnership program with Riverside Apartment Community (Lucius Road) Kids for a Better Community Summer Camp; Introduction to mini -film production for children.

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

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

BETHLEHEM CENTER SPARTANBURG

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

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

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

PROGRAMS:

Afterschool: Serving youth ages 5 and up in a year round literacy and enrichment based after-school program.

Youth Sports participation: Baseball and basketball clinics and leagues (partnership with Upward Sports and the Youth Sports Bureau)

Outreach: Community Events & Programs, Food assistance (3 days per week)

Senior Wellness Programs: Active Living, Sewing to Sow & Feed Your Spirit

Support groups: Weekly NA meetings (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday's)
Highland Neighbor Associations meetings (monthly)

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE BRIDGE

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

Christian Assistance Bridge works towards inspiring our faith community to justice and generosity as we provide help, hope and understanding to people struggling with limited resources. As we join efforts, we will strengthen our mission and our faith, as well as sharing our faith to those we serve. The Christian Assistance Bridge reaches out to the community by offering necessities and hands-up assistance during crisis situations. By representing Christian values, we will grow discipleship through service and obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The most valuable service that Christian Assistance Bridge offers is that we listen to each person's story, how they came to be in a position of need. We then work with them to create a goal to help them get out of their financial crisis and make easy steps for them to accomplish their personal goal. While listening to them, and helping them, we are able to share Christ and pray over each person. In addition to meeting with each person in need, we also give out food, and offer emergency financial assistance such as, utilities, rent, medication, gas and shelter.

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY - COLUMBIA

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

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

WE HELP BECAUSE … As God's created people we are called to be like our Creator – to walk in God's way – the way of love, compassion and mercy. Compassion is at the heart of faith in God and we are called to care deeply and act concretely to alleviate suffering. This is a call to action, and not an easy one, but one which we engage in joyfully and thoughtfully. We are called to release people from bondage to a cycle of poverty. We desire to honor God by reflecting Divine compassion for the working poor.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

Interfaith's mission is to convene, educate and coordinate faith and other community partners to build strong families and strong communities. Our Vision is a united faith community improving the quality of life in South Carolina by working together to build strong families and healthy, thriving children. A primary way we accomplish this is by increasing the capacity of family day care home providers to deliver and promote safety, good nutrition, literacy development and physical activity to produce positive outcomes for the children in their care. We deliver training, technical assistance and resources to family day care providers, with 95% caring for children in school attendance zones where 50% or more of the students are low income.

KILLINGSWORTH

As a ministry of the United Methodist Church Killingsworth provides transitional housing to adult women who are going through significant life changes. In 1947 Corrie Killingsworth's vision of a safe, supportive Christian home for young women leaving home for the first time became a reality. In 1972 our focus shifted to women who had experienced significant life crises and were preparing to transition back into the community as more stable, responsible citizens.

Residents are referred from across South Carolina when they leave addiction treatment facilities, in-patient and outpatient mental health facilities, the prison system, shelters for victims of violence, and from individual helping professionals and local church pastors. Residents are expected to work or go to school and be able to pay a nominal fee for residency. Residents are provided not only a safe supportive community, but also life skills, Bible study and spiritual development, work support, educational assessment, parenting skills and personal counseling as they prepare to return to their homes or create new ones.

JUBILEE ACADEMY

Jubilee Academy is a faith-based organization, working to turn the hearts and lives of inner-city children, youth and families towards Christ and academic excellence.

Vision: At Jubilee Academy, we envision educated, productive citizens who have exchanged the bondage of welfare and poverty for freedom in Christ, in the hopes that these individuals will be the firm foundation for future generations, according to God's word.

There is nothing more critical to a community's long-term sustainability that a well-educated and well-adjusted child, for they are our future! Ensuring that all of the children of the Midlands receive the support they need to become well-adjusted, educated, productive members of the community will guarantee a bright future for both these children and the community at large. Jubilee is committed to changing lives forever and breaking the cycle of generational poverty, which keeps these children from reaching their full potentials.

PATH – POSITIVE AFFIRMATION THROUGH HELPING

Our mission at PATH is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give financial aid to those in crisis. We serve York school district #1, which is York, Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna, and McConnells. We have a food pantry to supply a week's groceries to qualifying households once a month. We give financial aid for basic needs up to every 4 months (maximum 3 times a year), and this would be for rent, electricity, natural gas, water, prescription medications, and other small qualifying needs. The York Lions Club takes their referrals through us for optometric care, and two dentists here provide emergency care to our clients when we call. We have our own thrift store to provide clothing and household needs every two months to each client who needs it

RURAL MISSION, INC.

Facing evolving demographics and a shifting mission field on Johns Island, as well as a challenging financial outlook with a daily growing debt, the Rural Mission Board of Directors voted in May 2019 to dissolve the ministry and transfer all assets and liabilities to South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries.

THE COASTAL SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center fosters hope and healing through professional counseling, consultation and education while respecting and integrating personal and spiritual values. The mission of CSCC is to assist people on their journey toward healing and wholeness. We strive to be the Center of choice for excellence. We value respect, compassion, hospitality, love, excellence, spirituality, and integrity.

While the Center's main office is in the heart of Myrtle Beach at First United Methodist Church, the Center offers eight convenient satellite locations around the Grand Strand. Beyond these local connections, the Center is affiliated with a national network of faith-based counseling centers called The Solithen Institute. The Solihten Institute accredits counseling centers which have a theological purpose, offer basic counseling services, utilize a holistic perspective, and require staff to have professional credentials. The Institute's mission is to help affiliated centers provide team-oriented, cost-efficient counseling, education, and consultation which emphasize the interrelatedness of mind, body, spirit, and community.

THE TRACY JACKSON PROGRAM OF GIFT (GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR TOMORROW)

The Tracy Jackson Program of GIFT has a mission to feed the bodies, minds and spirits of children. We do this by providing a free summer day camp type experience, including free breakfast and free lunch and activities, when school is not in session.

In the summer of 2019 we served an average of 160 breakfasts a day and 190 lunches a day to the children in Abbeville County and in the City of Anderson. In Abbeville 62% of the public school children get free or reduced priced meals at school; in Anderson it's over 94%.

For some of the children, their first knowledge of God is the grace said at meals in our program and the care of our site workers.

Our motto is "We do it for the children." Our prayer is to serve Christ by serving God's children.

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION-
SOUTH CAROLINA UMVIM-SC

Volunteers in Mission began as a vision that ordinary people could make an extraordinary difference in the world. South Carolina is proudly the home of these visionaries and the beginning of this amazing ministry that is now worldwide and supported by many Conferences across the United States. It has also served as the model for other denominations as they have followed the lead to create hands on ministries through the years.

Today VIM is men and women who are adventurous in their faith. They yearn to not only serve Christ, but to serve Him in new and exciting ways. They want to broaden their horizons of faith as well as the height and breadth of their lives. They want to go where the need is greatest and meet that need with faith, hope and love.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is a fellowship of believers, lay and clergy, men and women, adults and youth, who have stepped out in faith to serve the needs of communities around the world.

South Carolina UMVIM consists of people just like you, who have felt and followed the call of Christ in their lives to go out into the world to share this vision and spread the Gospel of Christ through actively working to ease the burdens of others through construction, medical clinics, evangelism, VBS, and many other means.

Acting as the hands and feet of Christ, UMVIM missionaries help others at home and throughout the world through construction, medical and various other activities. Whether it is building a chapel in the Philippines or building and staffing an eye clinic in Haiti, the men and women of UMVIM, SC strive to put shoe leather on their faith. There are multiple opportunities for short term or long-term service, and opportunities year round in many places.

UMVIM-SC meets the first Tuesday of each month at Grace UMC on Harbison Blvd., Columbia at 7:30 pm except in June and July. We invite all to attend even if you have not participated in UMVIM before.

UNITED MINISTRIES OF GREENVILLE

United Ministries was founded as Greenville Urban Ministries in June 1970 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was chartered as an inter-denominational non-profit organization in 1974 and became known as United Ministries in 1982. Today, our integrated service model discourages dependency on charity and promotes the dignity of work by providing crisis assistance, education and employment assistance, and homeless services to Greenville citizens in need. We do this through five programs: Emergency Assistance, Adult Education, Employment Readiness, Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter & interim housing for homeless families), and Place of Hope (day shelter). United Ministries' mission is to serve and empower those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency. Our vision is a community working together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in Greenville.

WALLACE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

The Wallace Family Life Center is a family oriented facility. Our mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people that live in the Wallace/Bennettsville communities.

We currently offer the following programs:

- Adult Education for those desiring to complete their high school education; Arts & Crafts classes for adults to engage in various projects;
- Homemakers' Club to explore and discuss relevant issues such as Power of Attorney is offered through a partnership with the local Clemson Extension Office;
- After School Program Tutoring and Enrichment, operating Monday-Friday for twenty-five scholars;
- Summer Reading Program/Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools program for twenty-five to thirty scholars during the summer months provides learning in a safe and fun environment;
- Youth Council for youths ages 12-18, to help them to become a more active citizen in the community;
- One week of Vacation Bible School at the end of the Summer Reading Program.

Other Ministries, Programs

- Scouting- (Girls and Boys) retired leaders and volunteers are welcome to join and help out
- Food Pantry- (all donations are welcomed) Community food drive is held every year at the Center and BI-LO in Bennettsville, SC
- Clothes Closet (accepting items year round) gentle used clothing/towels for those in need
- Operation Christmas Child (call today for details) you can share with a need child and their family during the Christmas Holiday

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Purpose:

The mission of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry (ASNM) is to provide the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence in Christian homes for adults with special needs. Our Orangeburg home serves six men, our Columbia home serves six women while our Florence home serves four men.

Key moments from the previous year:

ASNM completed our strategic planning process and identified four organizational initiatives. The first is making improvements within our three homes. We created a volunteer program with opportunities for church groups to engage with the ministry through onsite activities. Aldersgate also improved its quality control process.

Our second initiative focuses on advocacy and education. We plan to form a grassroots network within the United Methodist community enabling us to organize advocacy and educational efforts.

ASNM's third initiative is exploring the feasibility of establishing an hourly respite program at a church or community location.

While there is no current government funding for homes similar to our models, we are hopeful this may change. Therefore, our last initiative focuses on assessing options if Medicaid funding for new beds becomes available.

Our residents remain involved in the community. Six are employed and four are community volunteers. Some of their other activities include attending church and Bible studies, playing organized sports and participating in life skills workshops.

August 11th was designated for churches to collect a special offering for ASNM. We are grateful to the many participating churches. ASNM also appreciates the prayers and support of churches and individuals throughout the year.

The ministry's greatest ongoing challenge relates to staffing. Two of our homes are licensed as Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCFs) requiring an onsite licensed administrator. With our smaller homes and budget, it's challenging to develop a succession plan since we compete with larger agencies for quality administrators.

Objectives for the coming year:

Our main objective is continuing progress on our organizational initiatives. We are especially excited about our upcoming pilot as we recruit local church representatives to join our grassroots coalition mentioned in our second initiative. These representatives will be our liaisons for sharing updates, news and engagement opportunities related to the organization and the industry within their church communities. They will also share needs related to serving those with developmental disabilities with ASNM enabling us to become more of an educational resource as our ministry grows.

Aldersgate looks forward to more friend-raising opportunities including sharing about our ministry at churches and participating in community events.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

1. Vote on our Board of Trustees
2. Vote on our Bylaw's amendment:

   The Bylaws shall be amended to add the immediate past president as the fifth voting member of the executive committee. He/she shall serve until replaced by the new immediate past president or for the remainder of their board service, whichever comes first. If his/her board term expires prior to their replacement, he/she shall serve as a non-voting consultant on the executive committee.

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

We are grateful to be able to provide homes to adults with developmental disabilities. Our residents enjoy living in a Christian environment and are encouraged to be as independent as possible. They remain active in the community.

As we continue to make progress on our organizational initiatives, we'll be poised to have a greater impact on the lives of adults with special needs and their families.

"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest." -Isaiah 32:18

Narrative:

When asked about their home, residents said they enjoy living at Aldersgate because it's a Christian home, it helps them be independent and they've made new friends.

For more information, visit our new website at aldersgatespecialneedsministry.org.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Mathis, Executive Director
asnm-sc@att.net, 843-754-8936
2020-2021 Executive Committee:
Chairperson – Susan Kovas
Vice Chairperson – Suzette Catoe
Secretary – Mike Simpson
Treasurer - W.C. Hammett
Immediate Past Chairperson – Sam Waldrep

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth children's home exists to serve children, youth, and families, through a caring, accepting, and safe community where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, and trust in self and others is developed. The key purpose of Epworth is to break the destructive cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame and replace it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity.

Key moments from the previous year include:

I. **Continued to create a culture of success which is reflected in the following information compiled by Epworth's Performance & Quality Improvement department:** For the seventh year in a row Epworth's high school students graduated at a rate of 100%; 96% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals at school; 79% of residents achieved a C average or better each quarter; The 2018 audit resulted in no deficiencies in internal control, and received an unmodified or "clean" opinion of the financial statements.

II. **Epworth was awarded major grants from The Duke Endowment and from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the expansion of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing:** The Institute, when fully established, will be comprised of specialized centers that will engage and serve children and family members through a collaborative strength based approach in order to improve the quality of life of the people it serves. This will be achieved by establishing missional outposts in congregations in each of the 12 districts in our Conference.

III. **Opened the Center for Counseling on Epworth's second campus:** This center provides counseling for children, youth, and adults, and is open to the public. As this center grows and as missional outposts are established counselors will be deployed in communities where counseling services may not be readily available.

IV. **Received the coveted 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management, and commitment to accountability and transparency for the eighth year in a row.** Fewer than 7% of all charities receive the 4-Star rating five or more years in a row. The 4-Star rating is the highest rating awarded.

V. **Epworth was selected by the National Circle of Parents® as the lead agency in South Carolina to establish the Circle of Parents® network.** Circle of Parents was founded in 1999 and the groups are free, confidential, and focus on strength based practices. The plan is to establish groups in congregations across the S.C. conference. The main purpose of Circle of Parents® is to prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen families.

VI. **Congregational giving increased for the 13th year in a row.** The average giving per church member was above $8 in 2019. There continue to be over 200 congregations that fail to respond to the conference appeals for children's ministry through Epworth.

VII. **The Every Child is a Miracle financial campaign has received over $6,000,000 (of the $10,000,000 goal) in contributions and pledges.** This campaign which was authorized by the 2017 Annual Conference is enabling Epworth and United Methodist to strengthen and expand God's transformative work with children and families.

Objectives for the coming year include:

I. **Opening regional outposts in the Spartanburg District and the Greenville District.** This will include establishing a hub in each of the two districts at churches within the districts.

II. **Establishing satellites in other congregations in the Charleston, Greenville, and Spartanburg districts.** The first ministry activities will involve recruiting, training, and providing support for foster parents, grandparents raising children, and other relatives raising children. These congregations will also help with establishing Circle of Parents groups.

III. **Reaching the goal of raising $10,000,000 for the Every Child is a Miracle financial campaign.** This campaign will retire the debt on Epworth's second campus, strengthen and expand Epworth's transformative work, and enable Hartzell School and Fairfield Children's Home in Zimbabwe to give children futures filled with hope.

IV. **Select and open the next outpost of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing in addition to the Greenville and Spartanburg district outposts.** This will involve acquiring funding and finding congregations that are willing to donate space and volunteers to make it sustainable.

V. **Please know this about Epworth:** Epworth has completed 123 years of providing homes, quality care, and other foundational services for children and families from across South Carolina in a faith centered environment. Epworth is now engaged in helping to change the child protection environment in our state as Epworth innovates and models trauma informed and evidence based practices. Epworth continues to aid "all the children we can, as well as we can, with all the resources we can gather."

VI. **Begin planning for Epworth's 125th year anniversary.**

A letter shared:

Rev. Holler – Love the Name!

I was adopted in the sixties. Recently I got sick…I am looking back and seeing my beginnings as a Methodist loving family, and Epworth. My full life begins, I suppose, with Epworth Orphanage. Somehow, if it wasn't for Epworth I would never had a grandmother who worked at the library and shared great books with me; never gone to kindergarten in a fat lighter building with lasting memories; never fished in Alaska with family; never had two of the best dogs in the whole state of S.C.; never met my spouse whose values are Methodist; never had a brother; never had a home with a mama and daddy!

So what can I do to help your teenagers and other folks at Epworth? Money, clothes, more prayer books?

Gratefully yours,

Beth

Submitted by: The Rev. John E. Holler, President, CEO
Email: jholler@epworthsc.org, Phone: 803-256-7394
Submitted by: The Rev. Smoke Kanipe, Pastor, Shandon UMC, Columbia;
Chair, Epworth Children's Home Board of Trustees
Email: skanipe@shandon-umc.org, Phone: 803-256-8383

THE METHODIST MANOR

Methodist Manor's mission is to provide an extraordinary Continuing Care Community offering an exceptional selection of living options and personalized services. We recognize that aging is a normal process that people experience in different ways. We want to provide a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person, wherever he or she may be in that process. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination.

Methodist Manor opened its doors in December 1991 guided by traditional values, strong commitment to service, hospitality, community, friendship and care. Residents enjoy a lifestyle that embraces spiritual, social, emotional and physical well-being. The Community Campus is located in Florence, South Carolina. The Manor offers Independent Living in the form of Patio Homes and spacious one- or two-bedroom apartments; Assisted Living suites for those looking for a supportive environment; Magnolia Terrace for dementia, memory support and Alzheimer's Care; and the Healthcare Center, which provides skilled Nursing Care. Home Health services as well as additional programs designed to provide personal assistance to residents and enable them to retain their independence longer, in the comfort and privacy of their independent home or apartment.

Methodist Manor is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a not-for-profit Senior Living Community. The Manor currently serves about 230 residents. It is guided and directed by Methodist Manor Board of Trustees, some of whom are elected through the SC Annual Conference. They assist the President and CEO and staff to ensure support and continual strategic planning for the growth of current and future Methodist Manor residents' needs.

The Manor always seeks to improve upon services and amenities as the senior population continues to change and grow, those changes now include baby boomers entering the retirement markets of Retirement Communities for the first time. The Manor has been open 29 years and has undertaken numerous renovations throughout the years to accommodate requests for common areas and activities spaces. We are continuing to expand to meet not only our existing community population but allowing us to attract and maintain future generations with the level of quality living experience and care expected by people seeking retirement housing in Florence, SC.

This past year we had a very generous donor who gifted us for a much-needed Club House for our Asbury Village Patio Homes. The Club House will provide an exercise room, movement and weight room, bridge room, a marketing office, a large assembly room that will host Garden Clubs and Civic Groups and can be reserved for special functions such as birthday and anniversary parties. The Club House will have a catering kitchen and will open late spring or early summer. Another addition to our property has been a 9-hole golf course and a croquette court. We simultaneously are constructing a second floor activity area that will include a movie theater, movement room, exercise and weight room, resident/family activity and game room, massage therapist and nail salon, art room and gallery, and a catering kitchen.

We feel the number of services, activities and programs, amenities, and dining choices enhance the residents' quality of life. The Manor embraces a customer-focused model for service delivery that redirects the variety of services and amenities being provided so that residents' choices and conveniences are reflected and incorporated. Methodist Manor regularly offers enriching cultural programs, educational and entertainment, along with organized programs such as shopping and sightseeing excursions, intergenerational programs, and a variety of fitness and wellness programs. A superior dining service offering a culinary-trained chef and professional staff who deliver an elegant dining experience to our residents. The Manor provides numerous activities and programs, multiple dining options, expansive service hours, special events and catering services.

We are appreciative of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for its annual donation to assist in the support of our Residents Financial Assistance Fund. These funds assist residents whose resources have been depleted and are not adequate to meet their monthly service fees. We also are beginning to see our senior population as a whole live longer than previous generations and tend to need the full continuum of care that's offered at Methodist Manor: Independent, Assisted Living and Health Care.

With continued leadership from Methodist Manor Board of Trustees and staff, we are committed to providing a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person. We continually strive to create an independent and secure living environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives through the practice of self-determination for our current population and future older adults.

John Orr, Chairman for the Board of Trustees
Teressa L. Tabor, President and CEO The Manor

THE METHODIST OAKS

Purpose:

The mission of The Methodist Oaks is to provide superior continuing care retirement living and a working environment that nourishes the human spirit and preserves personal dignity by addressing the whole person in an atmosphere that witnesses Christian values and love.

Key moments from the previous year:

At Annual Conference in 2019, the sale of the assets of The Methodist Oaks was approved. Since then, The Oaks

Board of Trustees, staff and the buyer, The Oaks of Orangeburg, have been working diligently to move toward closing the transition. Because of the complex operational, financial and regulatory environment in which The Oaks operates, the closing is dependent on a number of approvals beyond the control of The Oaks or The Oaks of Orangeburg. Steady process is being made and we anticipate a closing in the coming months.

Objectives for the coming year:

In the coming months and year, the objective of The Oaks is to complete the transition to The Oaks of Orangeburg, continuing the mission, although in a different form, so that seniors in the Orangeburg community are served for years to come.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

Most importantly, The Oaks has continued to fulfill its mission in serving up to 400 seniors who live in independent living, assisted living, nursing care, home services and through the PACE program in the larger communities of Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg counties. The Oaks continues to provide jobs for over 200 employees and contributes to the fabric of the community.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Cox, Board Liaison and Chief Operating Officer
andy.cox@theoakssc.com, 803-535-1545
Robert Scarborough, Chairperson
Scott Ewing, CEO

WESLEY COMMONS

Purpose:

Wesley Commons is a vibrant, full-service Life Plan Community for those 55+, which is located on over 150 beautiful wooded acres in Greenwood, South Carolina. Serving roughly 400 individuals, we are leading South Carolina in high-value retirement lifestyles, by offering exceptional residential living, assisted living, home health, memory care and post-acute rehabilitation options.

Key moments from the previous year:

Wesley Commons remains grateful for the continued successes serving the 55+ middle market; a market under served in our country. While the hospitality and medical fields have become more dynamic and sophisticated, we have continued to prosper under solid leadership and advocacy of those we serve. Our efforts to continually modernize our offerings and reposition our operational structure have provided Wesley Commons a solid path for our future. As one example, our modern post-acute and long-term care center remains a model for many. The 51,000-square-foot building provides a vast array of medical services to both long-term and post-acute customers in a bright, invigorating environment. While the architectural design and hospitality service model receives most of the attention, those accolades pale in comparison to our greatest accomplishment with the new program. With over 50% of those served in our medical building being low income (Medicaid), we remain ecstatic to be able to provide all private rooms, regardless of one's financial classification. This accomplishment is rare and is another example of our charge to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities, all in accord with Christian principles.

Objectives for the coming year:

While our inclusive vision of care was realized in the new medical program, Wesley Commons' leadership remains focused on the dynamic changes and risks ahead. Cuts in medical and social funding, as well as increases in regulatory requirements and social divisiveness, will place further pressures on all institutions to innovate and restructure in order to survive. Wesley Commons will continue to reposition our services and offerings to not only remain relevant to our current consumers, but grow to meet the expectations of the middle market Boomer Consumer. This consumer group is expected to impose great pressures on the country in the next two decades, as a result of the combination of its overall size and diverse financial ability of each member of the group. While daunting, we feel Wesley Commons remains better positioned than others to provide value to this population through our constant innovation. As Wesley Commons embarks on our next project in 2020, we will remain forward thinking and intentional as we forge forward into this exciting opportunity.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

Wesley Commons remains grateful for the support and shared heritage of The United Methodist Church. Our ability to continued to serve those in need would be greatly stressed without the financial support of our friends.

Your financial support of Wesley Commons goes to our Resident Support Fund. With this, and the support of others, Wesley Commons remains proud to report that we have never asked anyone to leave our campus when they have, through no fault of their own, exhausted their funds. We celebrate our almost 50 years of operational service and look forward to our future.

In the service of others,

David Buckshorn, President and CEO, Wesley Commons

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

David Buckshorn, President/CEO
dbuckshorn@wesleycommons.org, 864-227-7258

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Purpose:

Founded in 1869 as the first Historically Black College/University in SC, Claflin University has consistently achieved recognition as one of America's best liberal arts colleges by numerous national publications such as U.S. News & World Report, Forbes.com and Washington Monthly. Its historic campus is home to 2,100 students. Claflin students, faculty and staff hail from 43 countries.

Key moments from the previous year:

1. On June 10, 2019, the Claflin University Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack as the university's ninth president. He succeeded Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, who retired after 25 years of transformational leadership at Claflin University.
2. Claflin University concluded its year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration on November 17, 2019, at its Founders' Day program, with guest speaker Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
3. Claflin University's innovative academic programs, world-class faculty, and high-achieving visionary scholars were the catalyst for U.S. News & World Report's ranking Claflin ninth in its 2020 ranking of the nation's top HBCUs. The prestigious publication has recognized Claflin as one of nation's Top 10 HBCUs for nine consecutive years.
4. Claflin's RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Board of Commissioners retroactive from October 1, 2018, until June 30, 2024. CCNE Accreditation ensures that the nursing program consistently demonstrates quality in mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, and curriculum and teaching-learning practices. It also establishes that the program is effective in assessment and achievement of program outcomes.

Objectives for the coming year:

1. Launch Master of Science in Nursing (pending accreditation approval) in Fall 2020
2. Re-engineer Master of Science in Biotechnology to an online delivery platform
3. Develop a Center for Excellence in artificial intelligence
4. Host HBCU Talent Showcase on September 21, 2020
5. Bridge Project partnership with South Carolina State University: Teacher Education Pipeline

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

Claflin University deserves continuous support from The United Methodist Church for sustaining its commitment to nurture and cultivate future leaders for the ministry of The United Methodist Church. Furthermore, the university remains committed to honoring and supporting its affiliation with The United Methodist Church in publications, programs and campus-wide assemblies.

Narrative:

Samarya D. Jenkins, Terin M. Tyson and Frederick U. Uy were selected to serve as Lina H. McCord interns.

Jenkins is a junior psychology major from Columbia, S.C., a member of the NAACP, and Miss Plus Positive. She serves as vice president of the Psychology Club and Miss D.R.E.A.M. of the Claflin University Gospel Choir.

Tyson is a junior management major from Spartanburg, S.C. She is the NAACP president, Miss Purple & Gold of the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and the Student Government Association business manager.

Uy is a junior business administration major from Tacoma, Washington. He is a member of the Global Student Organization, National Society of Black Engineers, Claflin Toastmasters International, Up to Us Net Impact, and the Wesley Foundation. Uy is a 2018-19 Presidential Scholar and a member of the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, President
dwarmack@claflin.edu, (803) 535-5412
Rev. Dr. Robin Dease, superintendent of the Hartsville District and Board of Trustees member; Rev. Larry McCutcheon, interim chaplain; and Rev. Dr. Whittaker V. Middleton, vice president for institutional advancement and pastor of Silas United Methodist Church

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Purpose:

Columbia College prepares every student personally and professionally for success through strong liberal arts and professional programs emphasizing service, social justice and leadership development.

Key moments from the previous year:

Columbia College continues to broaden its reach for the students we serve. New programs have been introduced, including two master's degrees (Healthcare Administration and Athletic Coaching) online, as well as baccalaureate degrees in Healthcare Studies and Health Science. True to our mission of service, leadership and social justice, the Center for Leadership and Social Change organized and led an initiative to prepare more than 30,000 meals in one day. Our student athletes have again been awarded the NAIA Gold Champions of Character award.

The college has proudly been recognized for a number of its programs: National Council on Teacher Quality has released new scores for the 2020 Teacher Prep Review and rated Columbia College with an "A" for the Early Reading Program in the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary program. U.S. News & World Report ranked the college for Veterans, Best Value, and Social Mobility. The online Criminal Justice/Forensic Science program was ranked #4 in the nation by bestcolleges.com.

As the college looks to position itself for growth and to thrive, the Board of Trustees voted to begin the planning and implementation to welcome all students, regardless of gender, to the residential day program. True to the college's roots, the transition also looks to maximize the preservation of women's education. The planning phase has begun and includes more than 15 working groups from a cross-section of campus constituents to assist in preparing the college for Fall 2021.

Objectives for the coming year:

The college will focus on continuing to deliver quality, student-centered education for those who are enrolled.

Concurrently, the faculty, staff and various constituencies will be working diligently toward a smooth transition and rollout for welcoming all students in Fall 2021. Working groups, outreach with students and alumnae, and engaging the community will lead to new opportunities and the building of community for this historic move.

Continued partnerships will be explored to further embrace the communities in which the college resides and in which it is an anchor. From health and wellness to education, leadership and service, the college works with the local community to provide opportunities for our students and those who will benefit from the offerings made available for all.

During 2020-2021, the college will be working across the institution in preparation for its next review by higher education accreditor, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference: None

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

Columbia College is proud of our long-standing affiliation as a Methodist college. Our mission of service, leadership and social justice remain strong and at the heart of our academic programs and the holistic approach that is taken in the education of students.

As the college prepares for the future, it remains responsive to the needs of the community and the fluidity that exists in higher education. Columbia College is committed to the education of all students and takes seriously its role in the education and development of our students. Through change, Columbia College seeks to not only grow, but to thrive for the students of today and tomorrow.

Narrative:

Sometimes, confidence means taking a big step of faith. Aubria Greene is a senior Business Administration major at Columbia College. Her journey prior to joining the Columbia College family was not an easy one. The Columbia, South Carolina, native overcame many life challenges that could have set her back, but ultimately helped her find the faith and confidence to set her own path of success at Columbia College. Throughout her time at the college, Aubria has shined as a student and been a positive influence on her classmates as an orientation leader, McNair Entrepreneurship Fellow, We Chose Honor nominee, and as a 2019 Savory Award finalist. She spent the first part of her senior year interning with The Girl Scouts of SC-MM, gaining tons of great experience for

her future. Aubria graduates with the class of 2020 and has already secured two job offers. She plans to begin working on her graduate degree shortly after graduation.

Respectfully submitted:

Francis Schodowski, Executive Vice President
fschodowski@columbiasc.edu, 8037863178
Peter Mitchell, Interim President
Wilma Allen, VP of Finance
LaNae' Budden, VP of Student Affairs
Harry Cooper, Director of Business Development
Ryan Longe, Dean of Admissions
Madeline Schep, Interim Provost
Francis Schodowski, Executive Vice President

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Purpose:

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

Key moments from the previous year:

SMC launched our Bachelor of Arts program in the fall of 2019. We welcomed our first class of juniors in the history of the institution. These students choose two concentrations out of the current four. In 2019, we had 33 students in History, 23 in English, 22 in Business, and 12 in Religion.

Due to the addition of these programs and students, SMC has hired eight new full-time faculty. Four of these hires have terminal degrees.

We welcomed our largest incoming class for the third year in a row in the fall of 2019, meaning that we are reaching more students who need the education we provide.

SMC's faculty has approved two additional concentrations for the BA program: Psychology and Criminal Justice. These concentrations will enable us to serve a larger range of students who would have had to transfer in the past.

The Pioneer Athletic Department has added Beach Volleyball as a new sport for our athletes.

Objectives for the coming year:

We have two capital projects in the planning phase: a renovation of the Vassey IT Building into a welcome center, and an update to Bridges Arena. The welcome center will enable us to provide a student-focused atmosphere for potential students. The Bridges Arena update will include a modernized playing surface for the basketball court and new bleachers for spectators.

We are contracting with a market research service to explore the market need with an eye to developing future concentrations in our BA and associate's programs.

Our admissions department is working steadily toward a goal of 1,000 traditional, on-campus students.

Our professional development group is dedicated to making sure that every junior at SMC will have an internship opportunity.

SMC is in the process of evaluating our library services to better serve the changing needs of this generation of students.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

SMC will need approval of our Board of Trustees nominees.

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

Since 1911, SMC has provided education and opportunity to young people who might otherwise be able to access it. Every person on this campus, from the staff, to our faculty, to President Cochran, is committed to shepherding these young people in the direction of love, peace and prosperity.

It is our belief that SMC's addition of a Bachelor's degree option will enable us to serve even more of the students we traditionally help. Time and again, we have heard from graduating students that they wish they could remain at SMC in our familial, supportive atmosphere. Now we can offer them that opportunity to continue to grow in knowledge, citizenship and faith, while continuing to be nurtured by our committed, caring faculty and staff.

Narrative:

Joshua Scott-Golden is a freshman at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Joshua is 18 and was born and raised in Columbia. He was born to a mother who was 13, and a 15-year-old father. He was put into foster care with the family he would come to claim. His adopted father died in 2006. In 2009, his adoption was final, giving him a legal mother in the eyes of the law.

Then came another tragedy. His adoptive mother died July 8, 2017. Because he was 17 at the time, he was classified as independent. Joshua overcame every obstacle and on June 4, 2019, he graduated from W.J. Keenan High School in Columbia.

Joshua had his mind set on attending Limestone College. He encountered SMC for the first time at the college fair. He applied and was accepted on November 25, 2018. He was torn between Limestone and SMC. Upon seeing his tuition bill for Limestone, his decision became easier.

He reconsidered SMC's Full Tuition program. He called SMC to ask if there was still room, and received an enthusiastic, "Yes!" He accepted the offer and felt a sense of relief. He received the LIFE Scholarship, the SMC Opportunity Scholarship, the SMC Need-Based Scholarship, and the SMC Annual Fund Scholarship. He also received the Spriggs Book Scholarship and two significant grants. His aid package and conversations with everyone on campus made him realize that everyone truly wanted him to be at SMC and they cared about his success. He was ecstatic.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Timothy C. Drum II,
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations
drumt@smcsc.edu, 864-587-4282

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Purpose:

A liberal arts education helps students develop the ability to think broadly and critically, and Wofford College fills the student experience with abundant opportunities to do just that. After four years at Wofford, students graduate with a sense of place, the power of thought and the impetus to turn thought into positive action.

Key moments from the previous year:

During 2019, the college's Environmental Studies Program celebrated its 10th anniversary, bringing increased awareness of sustainability and stewardship of our natural and human resources to our campus community. The college also was one of 25 institutions to receive an inaugural Humanities Research for the Public Good grant. The initiative promotes student research, addresses issues of public significance, and showcases rich archival and museum collections. The Council of Independent Colleges awarded a grant to Wofford to support a new student-centered project on race, landscape and history.

Wofford students studied local food systems and addressed the problem of food insecurity. Students who were tutoring and mentoring students in the Arcadia community helped the college expand its partnership with Arcadia United Methodist Church to include a nutrition program for Latinx children. Wofford students also provided enrichment for senior citizens living in poverty through the Intergenerational Fellows Program. Although Wofford students certainly provide a great benefit to the community through these programs, they also gain valuable life skills through experiential learning.

Wofford students conducted research around the globe — from Ebola research in Spartanburg to research on non-governmental and faith-based humanitarian organizations in the Middle East — and more than half of the student body completed an internship during the year. These types of experiences are part of the reason Wofford graduates of the Class of 2019 have a 99 percent positive career outcomes rate, which means they are employed, in graduate school, volunteering, serving in the military or pursing a professional path within six months of graduation.

Objectives for the coming year:

During 2019, Wofford broke ground on a new residence hall for first-year students and a new environmental studies building. The college also began renovations on the library.

Wofford College will continue to lead nationally in the collegiate interfaith movement thanks to the expertise in this field of the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, a 1978 graduate of Wofford and the Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, and Dr. Trina Jones, associate professor of religion and associate provost for curriculum and co-curriculum, both of whom have been called upon nationally to speak and consult on the topic. Robinson continues to direct interfaith programs at the college and serves as a credentialed coach through The United Methodist Church. He also teaches classes such as "Religion, Literature and the Environment" and "Religion in the American South." Elizabeth Fields directs the Halligan Center for Religious and Spiritual Life on campus, and the Rev. Paige Matthews Wolfe, a 2007 Wofford graduate and minister of Christian education and programs at Central United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, works with the college's Wesley Fellowship.

Wofford College remains committed to access and affordability. Currently, first-generation students make up 15 percent of Wofford's student body. These students now have access to a new Pipeline to Postsecondary Success program, funded through the Jolley Foundation. The program is designed to help these first-gen students acclimate to campus and build a toolbox of skills that will help them succeed in college and beyond.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

Please continue to support our state's United Methodist colleges and university.

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

During the 2019-20 academic year, Wofford distributed more than $50 million in merit and need-based scholarships, federal and state aid, and outside scholarships and loans. A third of Wofford's budget goes toward scholarships and financial assistance, and 94 percent of Wofford students receive some form of financial assistance. Specifically, the college's 233 United Methodist students (14 percent of the student body) shared in more than $8.1 million in financial aid this year (100 percent of the South Carolina Annual Conference's contribution goes toward financial assistance for these deserving students).

Narrative:

Our sincere thanks go to the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and the many servant-leaders who support higher education.

Please come see for yourself the good work you help make possible at Wofford College.

Respectfully submitted:

David M. Beacham, senior vice president for administration
beachamdm@wofford.edu, 864-597-4010

THE CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Purpose:

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

Key moments from previous year

1. CWF baptized three students this school year and had several professions of faith, celebrating their step of faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to growth as His disciples.
2. CWF sent three mission teams this school year, engaging in mission work in Ecuador and South Carolina. This included over 50 students participating in hurricane recovery work, supporting impoverished children across the globe, engaging in the life of the church and the work of social justice on three continents. In addition to local mission work, the desire of CWF students to engage missionally continues to grow.
3. CWF once again engaged with over 5,000 students through outreach events across the five campuses this year. Additionally, more than 200 students came to the weekly worship gatherings and Bible studies with a weekly high attendance reaching in excess of 250 students.
4. CWF is fostering 12 students who are exploring calls to vocational ministry. These students have heard God's call and are prayerfully discerning how God is calling them to fulfill this call. Two are in the beginning stages of the process to become ordained elders in The UMC. Three other graduates are pursuing ministerial calls outside of The UMC.
5. While local fundraising is currently able to support much of what CWF is doing, keeping up with the financial needs of the ministry continues to be a daunting challenge. In order to effectively engage students at all five campuses, CWF needs for the UMCSC to fund an associate campus minister.

Priorities/objectives for the coming year:

1. Continue to develop leadership infrastructure to assist the CWF campus pastors in engaging students and helping them grow as disciples.
2. Creation of an intentional Christian community space at Trinity UMC that will lead to the eventual goal of a "Wesley House" for intentional Christian community. This space will be a ministry gold mine, providing students a dedicated space for worship, study and community in the name of Christ. The project at Trinity also will create a laundry space that will be shared by college students and the homeless in the community.
3. Continue to grow our vocational internship program in order to strengthen the ministry engagement that CWF has done with students and truly make it a program that helps students discern their call to ministry and equips and guides them on that journey.
4. Develop, in partnership with the local churches on the Charleston peninsula, a worship service geared toward connecting with young adults. Most college students do not attend Sunday morning worship, and those that do, don't choose to do so at UMCs. This service will utilize the space at Trinity UMC and ministry partnerships with Bethel UMC and others to launch this new service and provide a vibrant space for Methodism on the peninsula for years to come.
5. Secure adequate funding for campus pastoral staff. Even with the significant gains in fundraising, CWF needs to secure more reliable sources of income (specifically greater Annual Conference funding) to allow CWF to focus on discipleship development with adequate pastoral staff for the hundreds of students connected to our ministry.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

Vote to prioritize campus ministry and not cut the line items supporting campus ministry when budget cuts or other financial changes are made.

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

God is continuing to work powerfully through CWF and grant wonderful success in its ministry to the college students in the Charleston area. This is evident through participation, professions of faith, baptisms, growth in faith, missional involvement and social justice engagement.

The ministry needs more pastoral support and the fundraising required is causing a constant drain on the ministry. CWF needs the Annual Conference to fund an associate position to keep the ministry at the success level to which it has arrived. As we await further support, God is still moving powerfully and has instilled great excitement in our students about the new intentional Christian space and new worship service!

Narrative:

We live in a world that continues to be marred by the brokenness of sin and separation from God. Many of our students are arriving at college without hope, buying into a narrative of either narcissistic Epicureanism or fatalistic worthlessness. They often come like a rowboat being tossed around by a squall in the middle of a vast unforgiving ocean or like a pleasure cruise seeking to fulfill the "typical" narrative of hedonistic abandon. At CWF, we meet all of these students and give them an opportunity to discover they are actually part of a larger story, one greater than they could ever imagine. Through our theme of "Reset, Redeem, Restore," we are helping our students reset the false narratives in their lives, experience the redemptive love and grace of their Savior Jesus Christ, and experience the restoration available to all through relationship in Him.

Here are some stories from this year:

M&M were two of our freshman students at The Citadel. They came with the excitement and nerves that new "knobs" at the Citadel experience. While adversity is normal at the military college, these two were tragically assaulted at knifepoint. It is hard to imagine the trauma they endured. It was not until weeks later, while on the CWF Fall Retreat, that they were able to tell their story to student leaders and then our pastoral staff. The CWF leadership was able to get them care, ensure that the perpetrator was apprehended and expelled from campus, and continue to help the students as they seek complete restoration from this tragic event.

R, a student at one of our campuses, committed suicide earlier this year. Unfortunately, the school's tone-deaf response to this tragedy left many students reeling. They struggled with many questions and suicidal thoughts. The CWF staff and student leadership were up at all hours of the night responding to the students in our ministry who were affected by this tragedy. CWF partnered with other Christian ministries to offer hope to students affected by this tragedy. This year we have ministered to over a dozen individuals who have had suicidal ideations, as well as scores of students affected by their friends' committing suicide, attempting suicide, or considering killing themselves.

Not all of our ministry is spent responding to tragedy! Every week at our worship gatherings, I watch the faces of our students transform from downtrodden or overwhelmed to joyous and faith-filled. From the simple and welcoming "hello" from our staff or a fellow student to the uplifting musical worship and proclaimed Word, students are being empowered and transformed by the Good News of Jesus' love! Lifelong Christians, new believers, and other folks not so sure about this Christian thing, all gather every week and break bread together. They love each other, and whether they recognize it or not, they experience the transformative love of Christ. For many, it really is a weekly reset and reorientation toward the Holy One, who loves them more than they will ever be able to comprehend.

None of these stories and none of the ministry highlighted above can be done without the support of the Annual Conference and local churches. We need your support more than ever. Know that students are choosing life through the ministry of CWF. Hundreds of students are being regularly strengthened in their faith and thousands of students are being affected by the ministry of CWF every year.

Aaron Meadows, Director, Campus Pastor
aaron@charlestonwesleyonline.org 843-345-3832

Other ministry members:

When CWF's former (non-appointed) associate campus minister left to pursue a full-time Air Force chaplain vocation, CWF hired three young campus ministers; one full-time and two part-time. The full-time minister we hired was not a good fit and transitioned out of CWF in November.

The two part-time ministers, Aly Lain and Anna Grace Sullivan, have been wonderful additions to the pastoral team. Anna Grace will be leaving at the end of the school year to pursue full-time seminary on a track for ordination. In her stead, CWF has hired Brittany Gordon as a new part-time campus minister and will be hiring another full-time minister of discipleship/campus minister to serve in connection with the new service CWF will be launching at the behest of the Charleston District superintendent and Committee on Congregational Development.

CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Purpose:

Clemson Wesley exists to create a Christ-centered community where all students are welcomed as they are, treated like family from day one, challenged to grow in their faith and encouraged to love God and neighbor in concrete ways.

Key moments from the previous year:

This past academic year we saw an influx of students and student leaders after graduating close to 60 students the past two years. During the 2019-2020 school year, Clemson Wesley averaged 196 students in weekly worship and discipleship groups; 146 students participated in our fall and winter retreats, and 50 students served in weeklong mission trips to Tampa, New Orleans and Anchorage, Alaska. We are creating space for students to discern the call God has for them. This fall, two recent graduates will enter seminary to pursue a life of full-time ministry. Another five students are currently discerning calls to ministry and two recent grads finished up seminary this past May. While helping students respond to their calls to ministry is important, we believe all students are called in some way and our goal is to help them think through their lives theologically.

Objectives for the coming year:

At the time of submitting this report, the 2020 General Conference looms large. The main objective for the coming year is for Clemson Wesley to continue to do the vital work of campus ministry with students despite the outcome of GC2020.

What I'd like to celebrate most is the community that we have created. In a time when polarization seems to be the popular choice, we strive to be different. In a time when our denomination mirrors our ugly U.S. political divide, we seek to be different. In a time of insiders and outsiders, we choose to be different. We are not a perfect community, but we seek to live together in love. On a given Sunday night, you'll find conservatives and progressives eating and worshiping together. On a Thursday night, you'll find a small group where vastly different opinions are shared and appreciated. At Clemson Wesley, we welcome all students and treat them like family the moment they walk in the door. We also understand that we all interpret scripture differently and bring various gifts. We love differently and live out our calling as God's children differently. Here at Clemson Wesley, we celebrate that diversity. Our goal is to model what it means to be a community of welcome, affirmation, challenge, growth and service. I'm thankful for this group of students who seek to live life together. Our goal is to continue to be a community for all students after the dust settles from GC2020.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

It would be helpful for the Annual Conference to continue to support campus ministries both financially and by helping to spread the word to incoming students about the great work that's being done on campuses around the conference.

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

Clemson Wesley is a vital campus ministry that is thriving. The students at Clemson Wesley span the spectrum of theological thought and expression just like many local churches. They identify as traditional and progressive. They think differently. They vote differently. They love differently. They live out their call to love God and neighbor differently. Yet, with all this diversity, they choose to do it together. Whatever happens at GC2020, Clemson Wesley plans to continue to be a diverse community where all students can come to belong, worship, grow and serve.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Steve Simoneaux, Director/Campus Minister
steve@clemsonwesley.org, 864-650-3177

COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION – METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK

The Columbia Wesley Foundation-Methodist Student Network is called to be a sign of God's reign among us but still to be fully revealed. We are called to be a people who offer healing, proclaim good news, set free those who are captive to a myriad of additions and idolatries, and bring new sight to those who are blind. The reign of God is breaking into the lives of students at the University of South Carolina and into the campus ministry called the Methodist Student Network (Wesley Foundation) as we worship, serve each other and especially the "least of these," learn about the mysteries of faith, offer hospitality, work for justice and strive to love unconditionally. The Methodist Student Network is a Pentecost community of faith comprised of students from many faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds. It is a community striving to be hospitable to all regardless of background, language, sexual orientation or maturity of faith. We are young, very imperfect but passionate about the spiritual life, and intentional about living it out in practical and faithful ways. These are some of the signs of the reign of God breaking in among us. We have served students this year mostly from USC but also Benedict College, Midlands Tech, USC-Aiken, Columbia College, and young adults not in college but needing a faith community.

We **serve** on seven occasions as a ministry each week. We go daily to the Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar to pour tea, serve food, entertain through music and offer words of encouragement. We tutor and mentor refugee children and families who are struggling to navigate everyday life as they find themselves in a strange land and culture in the USA. Partnering with several other organizations at USC, we serve a meal each week to food-insecure students and staff. We have a number of other one-off service events.

We are **in mission** a number of times each year. This past year, we took five different mission trips to demonstrate and share the gospel in word and deed. We took groups to serve on these occasions for various lengths of time to Nashville, Johns Island and Wadmalaw Island for a firewood ministry, the Texas/Mexico border, Ecuador and Uganda.

We gather weekly in small groups to support one another and to **learn more about our faith**. This year, we held four retreats to allow students more time for building the community and intentionally connecting with God, including participating in the statewide SCUM retreat. We have an interfaith group called Table of Abraham that brings together Christian, Jewish and Muslim students for learning and building trust.

We **worship** Sunday evening in a lively and joyous manner, utilizing the various gifts of students and a diversity of traditions from the global church. Afterward, we eat together a meal donated by a local United Methodist church or prepared by our students. We gather weekly for **contemplative prayer**, believing that silence is fertile soil for cultivating God's presence.

The Campus Ministry Center is a place of **hospitality** where many students gather to socialize, eat, study and talk. It is also home to other groups and ministries. Indeed, after 42 years of Lutheran presence in the center, that ministry has moved out and reconfigured. We now share the building with Hillel-Jewish and are becoming even more so a place of deep ecumenism.

Sincere thanks to all the people and churches who support this connectional ministry. This ministry would not be possible without it. Thanks to the board members, local churches, Sunday school classes, UM Men's and Women's groups. We are grateful that they are so helpful. And, of course, thanks to my students and staff. They are what make us as vital and dynamic as we are. Thanks be to God for all of you.

Tom Wall, United Methodist Campus Minister
Columbia Wesley Foundation Director

THE FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

Purpose:

Francis Marion Wesley Foundation seeks to help students during this stressful time in their lives grow stronger in their faith and love deeply those around us. All are welcome to journey with us. We celebrate all students!

Key moments from the previous year:

We continue to celebrate constant student involvement in our Monday night Bible study, campus activities, fellowship meals, retreats and other on-campus events, as well as off-campus activities. We participate in service projects in the community. We celebrate the students' willingness to go and serve. We celebrate our connectiveness with churches in our community and beyond that support our ministry to students.

Objectives for the coming year:

We will continue to work to raise awareness of our group on campus by continuing to participate in campus events, such as the Intra-Faith Cookout, spring and fall Student Organizational Fairs, and the Frist Friday Night event, along with any other opportunities that come up for our Wesley group. The group continues to explore ways to improve our social media platforms. We would like to increase our ministry to reach more students, especially those who are in need of a community, to be a part of this group. Increasing our engagement with local mission activities is something we will be working on in the coming year. The Wesley Foundation Board is working on our constitution and bylaws. The board is also continuing to work on board participation and board member selection of individuals who are committed to our ministry.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference: None

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

This ministry is dedicated to transforming the lives of students.

Narrative:

In closing, I would like to share with you a word from one of our students:

Being a part of The Wesley Foundation has truly been a wonderful experience. I got to go on adventures and make new friends, all while worshiping God. Growing up in the church instilled many Christian beliefs in me. It wasn't until I started attending this group that I understood those beliefs. This group not only gave me a secure organization that I could fellowship with, but a family that serves the community as well as the Lord. Going out into the real world, I will take with me the lessons we learned, the laughs we shared and the memories we made. I am really going to miss my Wesley Family. — Larrnisha M.

Respectfully submitted:

Lou Jordan, Campus Director
mnjordan@umcsc.org, 843-665-9276

FURMAN WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Purpose:

The ministry of Furman Wesley Fellowship serves the Furman University community in the values of The United Methodist Church. We seek to be "A Place to Be, Belong, Connect & Engage" for the students of Furman.

Key moments from the previous year:

There are many reasons for our Furman Wesley to feel blessed. We have experienced an amazing group of new folks getting involved in many of our activities, as well as a few new ventures this year. We began co-hosting with five other groups a monthly collaborative worship service. It is our desire to worship across the lines that frequently divide us. We began a new Bible Study, in addition to our Weekly Gathering, for those students who desire an additional opportunity to read and study scripture. Both of these opportunities have given Wesley the chance to impact our campus in new and exciting ways. We are also thankful for an amazing Leadership Team. When students graduate, it can leave a void, but often the space left by someone else creates an occasion for others to serve. This is exactly what we have experienced this year.

It is our belief that as students get more involved in their classes and other campus events, their time becomes precious; as a result, it is our desire to provide the students many opportunities to be in fellowship, study, worship and service. In this way, they can easily plug into our group and continue to grow in their faith and life. Furman, Greenville and The UMC are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young leaders who are passionate about their faith and living out that faith in their everyday lives.

Objectives for the coming year:

Obviously, our biggest priority is the sustainable ministry with young adults at Furman University. We have been blessed in our ministry with gracious supporters who see the value in our ministry. However, we recognize the importance of being proactive in the ever-changing environment of The UMC and the world in which we live. Our Wesley Board is continually looking at ways to remain a healthy and vibrant ministry. Another priority continues to be leadership development and vocational discernment. As each student finds their way into our ministry, it is our desire to help them identify their gifts and discover the ways God may desire to use them for the kingdom. Our hope is that we can help each student find their voice in the mission of Christ. One of the things we continue to emphasize to our leadership team is the value of caring for self; it is hard to lead when you have nothing to give. Finally, it is our strong desire at Furman Wesley Fellowship to find ways to engage the larger Greenville and UMC communities. We recognize the connectional nature of our church and our world, and desire to reach beyond the walls in order to give back to the people who are so gracious in supporting our ministry.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference: None

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

The ministry at Furman Wesley Fellowship, and all our collegiate ministries across the denomination, is some of the most important work we do as an Annual Conference. Our Furman Wesley Fellowship desires to pour into the lives of young people, and we pray that our Annual Conference will join our collegiate ministries' mission by making ministry with young adults a priority in our church.

Narrative:

"Wesley was something unexpected to my college experience. When I entered my first Tuesday group meeting, I did not know I would be meeting my Furman family. I remember that lots of people on my new hall were talking about going out, but I decided that Wesley was the way to go on my first day of class. Meeting people was hard in the first month, but knowing that at least three times a week I would be seeing such amazing people made it so worth it. The people I have met in freshman group are now my best friends. Joining Furman's community and being a college freshman was hard, but Wesley gave me the ability to find my family on campus and friends that have helped shape my college experience. I can't wait for next semester!" (Katie Jobe, Richmond, Virginia)

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Edward L. McCutcheon, Director and Campus Minister, Furman Wesley
edward.mccutcheon@furman.edu, 864-238-7273

The names of our Furman Wesley Board are listed in the nominations portion of the Journal

GREENWOOD WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Our dynamic group of students from Lander University and Piedmont Technical College, meet every Tuesday evening at 7:30, off campus at the Susana Wesley Building at Main Street United Methodist Church. This is a perfect meeting place for the students and the students identify with their own place. We gather for a meal beforehand and then move to our area of praise and worship/Bible study. Before and after worship, students can hang out and play pool or board games and just relax in one another's company. This also serves as intimate time where students can share any struggles they may be dealing with. There is a small prayer chapel where the students are

welcome to spend quiet and precious alone time with God.

Our student group stands by our slogan, **"Where Faith and Friends are Formed"** as this is a very diverse group of students, from different socio economic statuses, yet when they are together as a group, they are united and equally loved and accepted by all.

There have been opportunities on both campus, Lander and Piedmont, to promote the Greenwood Wesley Fellowship and we have taken advantage of these occasions, as well as through social media and in person promotion at numerous churches and places.

Through the year we attended many outings and weekend retreats, including a weekend of zip lining in Georgia. Those who were not so brave at the beginning ended up not wanting to leave. The days began with a devotion and ended with reflection, giving glory to God.

For the Passion conference in Atlanta, we partnered with a group of college students from a local Presbyterian Church (who attend out of state and out of town colleges) as we shared in costs for accommodation and travel. This allowed the students to not only meet new students but interact and spend the weekend with other students who are hungry for Christ. It was a great success and my prayers are that this will be a yearly partnership if possible.

We enjoyed fun fellowship evenings of s'mores at the fire pit, bowling and game nights to depressurize before and after exams and at the same time being thankful to God for all the opportunities that we have.

We had a month where various prayer stations were set up, allowing the students to experience different ways of spending time with God in prayer, in an intimate setting. This also proved to be something that the students really enjoyed.

As usual our students took part in the Christmas tree lighting on campus over December and the tree that we sponsor and decorate then gets donated to underprivileged people.

Our monthly mission initiative continues as we sponsor a child in India through Child Fund International. The students are able to write and receive letters from the child and planning was underway for a mission trip to India, where we hoped to meet up with Fahid, our sponsored child, but due to Corona Virus, things are now on hold.

As part of our **Wesley Service Weekend**, we got together and joined the group who helped Rev. Clinkscales with the renovations of his church. This was a great initiative and the students enjoyed this service day.

Various fundraisers were held throughout the year and these included:

- Dunk day- students paid to dunk professors in the dunk tank.
- Pie a professor- Students did not hesitate paying money to throw cream pies in their professors' face. The professors were great sports, as usual and we are grateful to them.
- Pizza Inn- Along with the students and myself, two of our board members waited on tables to raise funds for Wesley Fellowship. This was a great initiative for us with no expenses, and more are planned for the future. All these fundraisers gave us the opportunity to promote the Greenwood Wesley Fellowship.

There were various churches, UMW and UMM groups in our district who invited students to promote and learn more about the Greenwood Wesley Fellowship, and the students were more than willing to do this. We also helped serve at Fall festivals and at a revival at one of the local churches.

This has been a great year, students who had many struggles and who struggled with fitting in, have found a place where all are welcome and together, we serve Christ, willingly.

Unfortunately, Summer plans and trips were cancelled due to the Corona Virus, as well as Winter Jam in March. Most students were looking forward to the new Salkehatchie for college age students, I pray that next year they will be able to attend as planned.

A sincere thank you to Main Street UMC for the use of the building for our weekly meetings, to all our donors who have helped financially as well as those who have provided food for our weekly meetings; (Board members, churches, UMW, UMM, Good News Club, Sunday School groups, Celebration Circle, individuals) and to each and every person who has shown interest in the Greenwood Wesley fellowship. A great thank you to our board members for your willingness to serve and for your interest in our campus ministry. We would not be able to function as effectively without all who have been mentioned and we are truly blessed!

Thank you to all my students who, without you, this group would not exist. I have enjoyed seeing the spiritual growth in each of these students and have experienced tears and joy with them as they found their way to Christ and realized that they have a purpose in God's Kingdom and strive to walk in the way the Lord desires. (1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity*.)

It is my prayer that more local churches would get involved in whichever way they are able to support this ministry and help change the lives of young people.

Sharon Britz; Campus Minister
Greenwood Wesley Fellowship

THE WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Purpose:

The Winthrop Wesley Foundation creates a safe space for students from Winthrop University and York Technical College to experience the love of God, build community, explore and grow in faith, and to live out that faith through service on campus, in the community, and beyond.

Key moments from the previous year:

God through fellowship meals, off-campus outings, retreats, and numerous other social activities on and off campus. We've fostered personal and spiritual growth through weekly worship services, small groups and Bible studies, peer mentoring and support groups, and special joint events with area churches and other campus ministries. And we've helped our students live out their faith through engaging in local missions, participating in numerous service projects in the community and beyond, and supporting global mission and relief efforts. We continue to be particularly successful at connecting with students who have felt marginalized or have not "fit in" anywhere else on campus.

Objectives for the coming year:

With the upcoming transition of directors, our Board is primarily focused on hiring the right person to continue our current work and to generate new ideas and ministry opportunities.

Additionally, the Board continues preparations to update and renovate our existing facilities and to continue strengthening our current fundraising efforts.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

None

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

God has continued to use Winthrop Wesley to impact and transform the lives of college students so that they might become better disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. However, none of that would have been possible without the churches, groups, individuals, and members of our conference who have generously poured out their prayers, encouragement, gifts, and resources to bless, support, and sustain our vital ministry. Thank you for everything you have done and will do to help our students experience the love of Jesus in the midst of an incredibly important time of growth and transition. You have helped us transform lives, and for that we are truly grateful.

Narrative:

"While I did not find Wesley until about half-way through my first semester in college, I felt such a love for God and for others that it wasn't long before I could consider the people and myself as a family…Wesley has been one of the best things to happen for my relationship with Christ and for so many others. It is a great place to fellowship, worship, and to grow a deeper understanding of Christ." (Margaret, Junior)

"Throughout the years Wesley has helped me out so much. I really found Wesley to be another family. I know that no matter what kind of day I am having, I can always go to Wesley and they will be there for me. They have always been there helping me through whatever difficulties I am having. This ministry has really helped me grow throughout the years and I am so thankful to have them be a part of my life. I do not think I would be able to get to this point in college without them." (Savanna, Class of 2019)

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Reber Howell, Jr. (Ricky), Director
rrhowelljr@umcsc.org, 8436013724

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & CAMPUS MINISTRY

Purpose:

Our Board is the primary body to relate between the Annual Conference and both our United Methodist institutions of higher learning, as well as our campus ministries. We do all we can to resource, equip, and oversee these important missions among college students.

Key moments from the previous year:

This past year we saw more major transitions in collegiate ministry. President Henry Tisdale retired from an illustrious career at Claflin University, and a new President, Dr. Dwaun Warmack succeeded him. The Orangeburg Wesley Foundation, which primarily serves both Claflin and SC State, saw a change of leadership with the appointment this year of Rev. Shirley Gordon. Rev. Ricky Howell will be departing as the campus minister at the Winthrop Wesley Foundation; the search for a new minister is under way. And, Dr. Peter Mitchell is also serving now as the interim President of Columbia College.

Our Board has continued to try to be faithful in fleshing out collegiate ministry in South Carolina. We've been excited to see a ministry restart at Lander University go well under the guidance of campus minister Sharon Britz, in partnership with the Greenwood District. Likewise, in an exciting turn, there is the beginning of a new campus ministry taking shape thanks to the initiative of campus minister Emily Kirby, in partnership with the Marion District. These are still primarily locally supported, but the BHECM is working to offer grant funds and resources in their start-ups.

A key challenge for campus ministry is the uncertainty surrounding the future of our denomination. Nearly every dollar of apportionment funds for campus ministry goes directly to ministers' salaries, so the possibility of budget cuts translates directly into "people" cuts -- the loss of livelihood and ministry that could affect both our ministers

and our campuses.

Objectives for the coming year:

We hope to be as creative as possible in maintaining funding for our campus ministries, and for navigating how these ministries could relate to future new expressions of Methodism. We hope that our campuses, and campus ministries, are inclusive and open to all as they continue to make new, younger, more diverse disciples.

We hope that a major part of that diversity is theological diversity -- that students of every perspective find a spiritual home on these campuses, regardless of their personal understanding of human sexuality, Scriptural authority, and so much more. We hope that our ministries balance a proper Wesleyan sense of personal piety and social holiness, free grace and deeply obedient accountability.

And, we intend to keep striving to support new growth in campus ministry, particularly on new campuses.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

Collegiate ministry takes place during what is likely the SINGLE most critical time in a person's spiritual life today. A vast majority of young adults report that they stopped attending church between the ages of 18 and 22. A vast majority of new Christians credit their college experience, and campus ministry, for their spiritual birth. What other facet of ministry should our Annual Conference be supporting, and supporting at the highest level, than this? Please join us in this holy calling, and thank you all so much for already doing so.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Joshua Timothy McClendon, Chair
joshtmcc@gmail.com, 8039849622
South Carolina's United Methodist colleges and universities: Claflin University, Columbia College, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Wofford College.
South Carolina Annual Conference campus ministries: Charleston Wesley Foundation, Clemson Wesley Foundation, Francis Marion Wesley Foundation, Furman Wesley Foundation, Methodist Student Network (University of South Carolina), Orangeburg Wesley Foundation, Winthrop Wesley Foundation, Lander Wesley Foundation, Coastal Carolina Wesley Foundation.

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
PENSION SECTION

Report Number One

A. Past Service Rate

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix **$830** per service year as the rate for annuity payments to retired ministers under the Supplement One of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (otherwise known as Pre-82) for 2021. (This rate was **$813** for the year 2020.) This shall include service annuity credits approved prior to January 1, 1982**.** An eligible surviving spouse shall receive 75% of the formula benefit upon the death of the participant.

B. Direct Billing

1. The Board of Pensions requests that direct billings to salary paying units be made to give the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (The Pension Fund), **$4,876,455** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

2. For 2021, each institution, organization or district to which a minister is appointed and enrolled shall pay to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits an amount equal to **$497** per month for full-time clergy for the Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). This includes all full-time clergy (including deacons) who are under Episcopal appointment (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference. (This rate was $497 per month in 2020.) An amount equal to three percent (3%) of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation shall be paid for the defined contribution portion of the CRSP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 1% by the participating pastor in his/her United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Any surplus funds collected will be used for actuarial and collection smoothing. An amount equal to 3% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation, limited by 200% of the Denomination Average Compensation, shall be paid for Comprehensive Protection Plan funding or other benefit plan. Such payments shall be made for each minister so appointed, and paid monthly crediting in twelve equal installments from deposits made in the Deposit

Account of the South Carolina Annual Conference with Wespath Benefits & Investments, by the treasurer of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Churches/charges participating in ACH automated payment system (bank draft) may receive up to a $10.00 per month discount on their pension payment.

3. For 2021, the Board of Pension & Health Benefits recommends each institution, organization or district to which a part-time minister is appointed and enrolled pay to Wespath Benefits & Investments, an amount equal to twelve percent for participation in a defined contribution 403(b) pension program called the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). For all clergy who are under Episcopal appointment and considered part-time (receiving compensation) at a local church, charge, conference or conference-responsible unit or entity related to the South Carolina Annual Conference, the salary paying unit shall pay an amount equal to 9.0% of the appointed participant's Plan Compensation for the matching portion of the defined contribution portion of the UMPIP. This amount must be matched by a contribution of 3% by the participating pastor in their United Methodist Personal Investment Account. Each church with a less than full-time clergy will be required to complete an adoption agreement with Wespath Benefits and Investments, a general agency of The United Methodist Church. The pension cost, both the church's share and the participant's match, will be billed from Wespath Benefits & Investments.

C. Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the Board of Pensions shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

D. Moving Expenses

1. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits authorizes one-time moving expense reimbursement grants, not to exceed **$1,800**, and including up to $350 in verified packing expenses, for newly incapacitated ministers receiving CPP Incapacity Benefits, surviving spouses of ministers, participants in the Voluntary Transition Program, or newly retired ministers in benefit, moving from the parsonage provided by the charge. Persons moving must file for the one-time reimbursement grant not later than 90 days after first reception of pensions or disability benefits and may use the funds for moving expenses and/or for connection/tap on or hookup fees in the new residence. This amount was **$1,800** for 2020.

E. Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the South Carolina Annual Conference

The South Carolina Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the Wespath Benefits & Investments, during the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the Wespath Benefits/Investments and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3)

the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Report Number Two
2021 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget

Requirement	**2020 Budgeted**	**2021 Estimated**
Past Service Payment		
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	$2,534,522	$2,483,819
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	$1,136,753	$1,161,582
CPP Welfare Plan (3%) or Benefits Funding	$1,112,248	$1,075,054
Clergy Transition	$126,000	$126,000
Grants/Contingency	$30,000	$30,000
Total Estimated Requirement	**$4,939,523**	**$4,876,455**
Estimated Income		
Institutional Payments Apportionments	$156,000	$156,000
Direct Bill Payments	$4,783,523	$4,720,455
Total Estimated Income	**$4,939,523**	**$4,876,455**
Amount to be apportioned		
Clergy Transition	$126,000	$126,000
Grants/Contingency	$30,000	$30,000
Total Apportioned Pensions	**$156,000**	**$156,000**
*To be apportioned		

Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chairperson
Thelma Hudson, Secretary

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
GROUP INSURANCE SECTION

Report Number One

The insurance program of the South Carolina Conference is designed to provide its eligible employees (as defined herein), and their eligible dependents, with a comprehensive plan for major medical benefits and a Medicare supplement.

A. Eligibility: The following are eligible for coverage under the program:

1. Those employed and funded by a local church either as Full or Three-Quarter (3/4) time Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members, Local Pastors, Provisional Elders, within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement.
2. Ministers who are full time or three-quarter time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference boards, councils or agencies.
3. District Superintendents.
4. Lay persons who are full-time employees of and funded by the Annual Conference.
5. Ordained ministers from other United Methodist Annual Conferences and ordained ministers from other Methodist denominations, and other denominations, under Episcopal appointment fully employed and funded by a local church or charge of the South Carolina Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 and 346.2 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.
6. Provisional Deacons, Provisional Deacons/1992, and Diaconal ministers related to and serving a local church enrolled and funded by a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference currently meeting the underwriting guidelines of the South Carolina Annual Conference group insurance plan. The salary-paying unit must establish the funding basis with the Annual Conference on the current advanced premium.

B. Eligibility: The following are eligible for coverage under the retiree program:

1. Retired clergy who have been under full time appointment to a local church with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement

Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.

2. Retired lay employees who have attained age 62 and have been full-time employees of the South Carolina Annual Conference or a local church of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and who are immediately eligible to receive United Methodist pension or incapacity benefits, and who have participation in the active group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the last ten (10) years of which were continuous and consecutive, shall be eligible for participation in the retiree health care program of the Annual Conference and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement. A Retired Participant at the time of his or her Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date, will be allowed to be tolled if coverage under a previous employer's or spouse's group plan is available, during the period of time between the Termination of Employment and the Early Retirement Date or Normal Retirement Date and loss of such coverage.
3. Those retired clergy or incapacitated employees, referred to herein as lay persons, immediately eligible to receive pension or disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation or disability leave with disability benefits takes place, and who had a minimum of ten (10) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the South Carolina Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement or the granting of Basic Protection Plan incapacity benefits by the General Board of Pensions, and their respective spouses if spouse is covered at least five continuous and consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.
4. Funding for the group insurance plans upon retirement in benefit from the South Carolina Annual Conference shall be based on full time employment by the Annual Conference, full time appointment to a local church or eligible extension ministry with pension responsibility by the South Carolina Annual Conference. Funding shall be $100.00 per month for single participant and $200.00 per month for Married participants and an additional $100 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six. (This funding is $200.00 per month for single participant and $400.00 per month for Married participants and an additional $200 per month for dependents who meet the requirements of paragraph six for those retirees who retired in 2015 or earlier). This funding will be paid through a Health Reimbursement Account. This funding cannot be allowed to purchase an employer group policy other than one sponsored or administered by the Annual Conference or its designee. Enrollment in the HRA must be done through the AmWins Benefits Coordinator.

Report Number Two
Major Medical Insurance Benefits

During the year 2019-2020 the South Carolina Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the Board) has reviewed options for providing health benefits for both eligible lay employees and clergy and current and future retirees under the health plan. After review of these options, the Board recommends the following:

A. HealthFlex Exchange

The South Carolina Annual Conference has elected to participate in the HealthFlex Exchange, managed health care plan of Wespath Benefits and Investments for active participants and eligible dependents. The HealthFlex Exchange provides an array of plans to help the needs of our appointed clergy and eligible lay employees. These plans are summarized in the table below.

Plan	Individual Deductible	Participant +1 or Family Deductible	Included Reimbursement Account	Included Reimbursement Account Amount
B1000	$1000	$2000	N/A	NA
C2000	$2000	$4000	HRA	$1,000 Single $2,000 Family
C3000	$3000	$6000	HRA	$250 Single $500 Family
H1500	$1500	$3000	HSA	$750 Single $1,500 Family
H2000	$2000	$4000	HSA	$500 Single $1,000 Family
H3000	$3000	$6000	HSA	$0 Single $0 Family

*HRA – Health Reimbursement Account, HSA – Health Savings Account

B. Dental/Vision Coverage

Eligible participants are also able to select from two optional benefits: an expanded vision benefit and a dental plan. This will be in addition to a coverage selected from the HealthFlex exchange.

C. HealthFlex Incentive Program

The South Carolina Annual Conference will participate in the HealthFlex incentive program in 2021. Details of this plan are available on Wespath Benefits and Investments website (www.wespath.org) under the Center for Health tab which describes the current incentive program. These wellness and incentive

programs support and encourage participants and spouses to choose health behaviors that help positive health results. An active participant and covered spouse can earn up to $400 under this plan. The incentive plan for 2021 is expected to continue to emphasize the completion of the HealthQuotient™ and the Blueprint for Wellness® Screening as well as year round wellness activities.

D. Additional Information

Additional information on the major medical expense plan is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Report Number Three
Retiree Medical Primary Benefits

A. Post 65 Retirees

The South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will be offering their post 65 retirees one group Medicare supplement or the ability to choose a custom Supplemental plan through the Retiree Benefits Choice™ through AmWINS Group Benefits. The group medical plan will be called the Standard plan. The custom option will be a hybrid Medicare Exchange by which a retiree can choose a plan from the Medicare Marketplace. There will be corresponding Rx options with the Standard Plan.

B. Administrator

AmWINS Group Benefits will be the administrator for the retiree benefit plans. AmWINS Group Benefits specializes in retiree benefit programs for companies, municipalities and religious organizations. AmWINS Group Benefits has over 700 retiree benefit clients nationally.

C. Services Provided

AmWINS Group Benefits will provide the following services for retirees of the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

- Retiree communications enrollment kit
- Group retiree meetings
- Retiree call center services
- Retiree website
- Billing and collecting of premiums
- Ongoing service and support for retirees

D. Handbook

A handbook explaining the provisions of Medicare is available from the Social Security Administration office or by visiting medicare.gov.

Report Number Four
Administrative Procedures

A. Enrollment

Enrollment in HealthFlex, the group insurance plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference, must be made within the first thirty days of eligibility or the first day actively at work. Late enrollment or enrollment for January 1st of any year must be completed with the Wespath Benefits & Investments during open enrollment which is prior to November 30th of the preceding year. It should be noted that any continuation, changes, or initiation of Flexible Spending Accounts (Medical Reimbursement or dependent care accounts) must be done during this time through the open enrollment process and not on the ministerial support form.

B. Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Center for Health of Wespath Benefits & Investments, 1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 660025-1604.

C. Billing

At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send premium statements to the salary paying unit of the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program and participants with Flexible Spending Accounts. Payments for group health premiums and Flexible Spending Accounts premiums shall be made on a monthly basis. At the first of each month, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send a statement to the salary paying units share of premiums relating to the participants enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program. These payments should be made on a monthly basis.

D. Cancellation of Coverage

It is imperative that each church/charge remit to the Annual Conference the participant's portion of the Health Benefits withheld from the participants compensation on a monthly basis. **The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has instructed the benefits administrator to cancel the insurance coverage or the Flexible Spending Account of any participant whose payroll withholdings are not paid by the end of the month for which the church/charge has been billed. Clergy whose accounts are 60 days in arrears will be subject to immediate cancellation. Once cancelled the participant's coverage cannot be reinstated until the next open enrollment period, and then only if the unpaid balance has been paid. Churches or salary paying units are responsible for withholding premiums and other Flexible Spending Accounts from the compensation of participants and remitting payment to**

the Annual Conference when billed.

E. Ministers Serving in Eligible Extension Ministries

It is required that all Conference Boards and Agencies, served by ministers and others eligible for group insurance participation, pay for the "institutional share" of the insured's premium. This provision shall apply to the District Superintendents, Conference Staff and those serving United Methodist agencies for whom the South Carolina Annual Conference has pension responsibility. In every case the full cost of the group health premium must be paid by the insured, the employer, or through the combined payments of the insured and the employer. Premium payments shall be made in accordance with the instructions printed on the monthly "Statement of Account". Premium payments are due at the first of the month for which the participant is billed.

F. Applications for Enrollment

Applications for enrollment in the Conference Insurance Program are available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. The changed enrollment form must be completed and in the hands of the benefits administrator within 30 days from the date of eligibility. If not, the applicant will be ineligible until the next following enrollment period.

G. Board Oversight

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits is charged with oversight of the group insurance program of the South Carolina Annual Conference, the benefits of which program are outlined in the reports of the Board submitted to the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference approves the group insurance budget of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board is authorized to negotiate and contract with carriers or the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Administrator to maintain the level of benefits for the eligible participants, as defined by the Annual Conference.

H. Plan of First Refusal

The group health plan of the South Carolina Annual Conference (Conference Plan) shall be the plan of first refusal for covering dependents of clergy appointed to local churches in the Conference. Where covered clergy wish to cover their dependents, the local church will seek to cover such dependents through the Conference Plan, rather than purchasing outside health insurance. Local churches may be excused from this requirement in cases where such dependents may be covered through the employer of a covered clergyperson's spouse, or through a governmental plan, such as an SCHIP, and in cases of demonstrable financial hardship.

Report Number Five
Group Health Insurance Operating Budget

Requirements	**2020 Budgeted**	**2021 Estimated**
Active & Non-Medicare Retiree Group	$7,605,612	$7,979,412
Medicare Eligible Retiree Group*	$1,084,708	$997,712
Incapacitation/Transition	$156,000	$156,000
Contribution to Post-Retirement Medical Reserve	$392,292	$246,288
Total Estimated Requirements	**$9,238,612**	**$9,379,412**
Estimated Income		
Billing to Salary Paying Units	$7,672,932	$7,932,441
Apportioned to Churches	$1,644,000	$1,400,000
Total Estimated Income	**$9,316,932**	**$9,332,441**

*to be apportioned.

Report Number Six
2021 Group Health Costs

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2020 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. Billing

The sum of $8,261,053 be billed to the local church/charge and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2021.

2. Apportionment Request

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits requests an apportionment of $1,400,000 for Transitional Pension Funding, Grants for incapacitated and/or suspended participants, and for Post-Retirement Health Funding.

3. Premium Payments effective January 1, 2021

Active personal group insurance health premiums for eligible active clergy/survivor/conference lay employee categories (Categories delineated in A.1, A.2, A.3, A.4, and A.8 or Report Number One) shall be funded as shown below:

a. **Health Benefit Fee**

Churches/Charges who have an eligible appointed clergy will be billed a health benefit fee of

$1,025.00 per month or $12,300.00 annually. This fee was $1,063.00 per month for 2020.

b. **Premium Credit**

The Health Benefit Fee will be the basis of a Premium Credit toward the HealthFlex Exchange according to coverage tier as shown below.

i. Premium Credit for Participant Only coverage is expected to be $775 per month ($9,300 annually).

ii. Premium Credit for Participant + one dependent coverage is expected to be $1,400 per month ($16,800 annually).

iii. Premium Credit for Participant plus family coverage is expected to be $1,850 per month ($22,200 annually).

4. Total Premiums

Total Premiums for the 2021 HealthFlex Exchange Plans are outline in the table below:

Plan	Participant	Participant +1	Partipant + Family
B1000	$1,057	$2,008	$2,748
C2000	$1,015	$1,928	$2,638
C3000	$884	$1,679	$2,297
H1500	$988	$1,878	$2,570
H2000	$895	$1,701	$2,328
H3000	$780	$1,482	$2,028

5. Default Plan

If a participant fails to make an election during the annual election (open enrollment) period, that participant and any covered dependents will be automatically enrolled in the CDH C3000 P2 plan. **Note: This does not constitute a recommendation by the Annual Conference, in fact, it probably is not the best plan for most participants, but is merely a plan default.**

6. Optional Coverages

Participants have the option to select expanded Vision (Vision Core is included) and Dental Coverages.

a. Dental Care Premiums

Plan	Participant	Participant +1	Partipant + Family
Passive PPO 2000	$48	$96	$144
Dental PPO	$39	$79	$118
Dental HMO	$14	$26	$45

b. Vision Care Premiums

Plan	Participant	Participant +1	Partipant + Family
Vision Core	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Vision Full Service	$8.08	$13.06	$20.64
Vision Premier	$14.16	$22.94	$36.38

7. Retiree (Retiree Spouse) Premiums Non Medicare

a. Premiums for under 65 retirees non-Medicare would be the same as active participants reduced by the Defined Contributions for retirees. For those retired before July 1, 2015, the Defined Contribution would be $200 for single Participants and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be $400 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph A.5. For those retiring after July 1, 2015, the Defined Contribution would be $100 for single Participants and for a couple with a participating spouse it would be $200 per month under the provisions of Report Number One Paragraph A.5.

8. Covered Participants with Negotiated Service, Compensation, & Benefits

The estimated 2021 monthly group health insurance premiums for persons with negotiated service, compensation and benefits, Deacons in Full Connection employed full time, full-time Diaconal Ministers and full-time Lay Employees of local churches, premium for all the plans above and the church or plan sponsor will be billed the entire premium for dental and vision benefits (6a-6b) and the entire rate for health coverage (section 10). The cost sharing between the participant and the church or plan sponsor will be determined by the church or plan sponsor. Enrollment must be made within 30 days of new hire status, or 60 days prior to January 1, 2021.

9. Board of Pension & Health Benefit Authority

It is recommended that the South Carolina Annual Conference delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits the authority to adjust rates and plan designs to meet the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

10. 2021 HealthFlex Exchange Rates

Proposed Monthly HealthFlex Rate Summary
for
Itinerant Clergy, Deacons Employed by the Annual Conference, Conference Lay Employees

Plan Elected	Participant	Participant +1	Participant + Family

B1000	$282	$608	$898
C2000	$240	$528	$788
C3000	$109	$279	$447
H1500	$213	$478	$720
H2000	$120	$301	$478
H3000	$5	$82	$178

Proposed Monthly HealthFlex Rate Summary*
for
Deacons with Negotiated Service, Compensation, & Benefits; Lay Employees of Local Church

*Full Amount Billed to the Local Church/Plan Sponsor. Cost reflects a 5% Subsidy Discount.
Actual Cost to participant is negotiated between participant and church/plan sponsor.

Plan Elected	Participant	Participant +1	Participant + Family
B1000	$1,004	$1,908	$2,611
C2000	$964	$1,832	$2,506
C3000	$840	$1,595	$2,182
H1500	$939	$1,784	$2,442
H2000	$850	$1,616	$2,212
H3000	$741	$1,408	$1,927

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
WELFARE PLAN SECTION

Report Number One

Welfare Plan Structure
The welfare plan made available to South Carolina Conference clergy is the Comprehensive Protection Plan ("CPP") sponsored by Wespath.

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

- Clergy disabled on or after January 1, 2002, the CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC (Denominational Average Compensation.)
- Clergy disabled prior to January 1, 2002, will continue to receive the same CPP disability benefit per the plan document in-force at the time of their disability claim originated.

The following general describes the death benefit amounts payable under the CPP to eligible participants and their beneficiaries.

Active Participant Death Benefits: payable upon the death of an eligible active CPP participant, as follows:

- Participant: $50,000, payable in 12 monthly installments or one lump sum
- Spouse of active participant: 20% of DAC (Denominational Average Compensation) in the year of death
- Surviving spouse of active participant: 15% of DAC in the year of death
- Child of active participant: 10% of DAC in the year of death
- Annual surviving spouse annuity benefit of 20% of DAC, less the annuity benefit payable from CRSP.
- Annual surviving child benefit of 10% of DAC, payable in 12 monthly installments (for those age 17 and younger; benefits are paid through the month in which the child attains age 18)
- Annual surviving child educational benefit up to 20% of DAC, payable in equal installments (for those age 18 through 24 and attending school full-time)

Retired Participant Death Benefits: to be eligible for death benefits in retirement, a clergyperson must have been covered in CPP for a specified number of years. The 2012 General Conference approved a change to the CPP program which increases the length of service requirement for retirees. Retirees with 25 or more years of enrollment in CPP are eligible for the death benefits in retirement, and the eligibility for those with fewer than 25 years in CPP is phased in with one-year increments, as detailed on the following table. **Those who retire under the 20-year rule are ineligible for CPP Death Benefit.

CPP Enrollment Requirement for

Retirement Year	Death Benefit Eligibility
2013	6 of last 10 years
2014	7 of last 10 years
2015	8 of last 11 years
2016	9 of last 12 years

2017	10 of last 13 years
2018	11 of last 14 years
2019+	12 of last 15 years

The Death Benefit amounts associated with retired participants are detailed in the following table:

Plan Provision	**Clergy Who Retire Before January 1, 2013**	**Clergy Who Retire January 1, 2013 or later**
Death of retired participant	30% of DAC in year of death	$20,400
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in year of death	$15,300
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in year of death	$10,200
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in year of death	$8,160
Annual surviving child benefit, payable in 12 mo. installments	10% of DAC	10% of DAC
Annual surviving child educational benefit, payable in installments	20% of DAC	20% of DAC

Denominational Average Compensation

Several of the pension and welfare plans incorporate the Denomination Average Compensation ("DAC") into the formula for determining the plan benefit. As reported by Wespath, the DAC is projected to increase from 2020 to 2021 as follows: The 2020 DAC is **$72,648**. The 2021 DAC is **$74,199.**

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Purpose:

To encourage preservation and study of the history of Methodism in the South Carolina Conference and its predecessor conferences; to support historical education and preservation at the conference and local church levels; and to engage clergy and lay volunteers in service to the "ministry of memory."

Key moments from the previous year:

1) Offered an educational program on the influence of Rev. James Rosemond in the development of African-American churches in the upper piedmont, including John Wesley UMC in Greenville;
2) Provided a table and volunteers at Annual Conference, offering multiple resources for local churches and their historians to encourage study and preservation;
3) Produced two newsletters for Society members and added educational content to the Historical Society page on the Conference website;
4) Raised additional funds for reconstruction of the Burdine Lodge in Pickens County as a site to teach the influence of Francis Asbury and other circuit riders in the development of American Methodism;
5) Continued development of a "historical trail" to promote interest in Methodism around the state.

Objectives for the coming year:

1) Hold one meeting and educational program at a historical church to learn its history;
2) Present a symposium on preservation including archival instruction and preservation of buildings;
3) Convince leaders to reinstate time on the Conference agenda for historical education, as required by the Discipline;
4) Provide a table of educational resources for clergy and historians at Annual Conference;
5) Complete list and historical summary of sites around the state for historical "trail."

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

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

Clergy should help their congregations learn the history of Methodism and their church as a way of building loyalty to the Methodist faith. Every local church needs a designated person to preserve and record its history. In many Bible passages, God instructs us to remember and honor our past. Failure to study our history is a failure to learn from our successes and mistakes and thus dishonors all who have worked to sustain the Methodist church. The Historical Society needs your support and recognition of this truth. Learn more about and join the Society at https://www.umcsc.org/historical-society/

Narrative:

The Historical Society works with but is separate from the Commission on Archives and History. Anyone interested in the work of the Society may join. The ability of the Historical Society to serve the cause of historical preservation and education is entirely dependent on the active involvement of all who recognize the importance of history. We are sincerely grateful to all of our clergy and lay members who have supported the Society's work over the years. During times when the future may look different from the present, it is especially important to care for

and preserve the historical documents of the church. It is also important to record the voices of today, from all perspectives, so that they will not be lost. Stop by the Historical Society table at Annual Conference to obtain resources to help your church preserve and honor its history. Look for the Society's page on the website of the SC Conference to learn more about our work, how to contact us, and how to join. https://www.umcsc.org/historical-society/

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce E. Plyler, President
joyce@charlotte.twcbc.com, 704-847-6096
Rev. Meredith Dark, Vice-President
Rev. Dr. Roger Gramling, Secretary-Treasurer
Rev. Dr. A.V. Huff, Jr., Conference Historian
All members of the Society

THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Report Number 1

A. The Mission and Changing Focus of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation

Historically, the Commission on Equitable Compensation has served for the support of full-time clergy in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the Commission has been guided by the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*; the latest version states the following: "It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference." (*The Book of Discipline, 2016*, Paragraph 625.2 at pg. 442) The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports the overall ministry of the local church, especially in transitional situations.

B. Total Compensation for Clergy

1. The commission on equitable compensation reminds churches and charges that salary is only one portion of total compensation. Churches and charges are urged to consider dispersing compensation in ways that will assist clergy and their families to retain as great a portion of their income as is legally possible. Churches and charges are reminded to consider total compensation and not just think of salary when thinking of clergy family needs. Likewise, clergy are reminded that they are supported in a variety of ways, and total compensation most often exceeds salary.
2. Churches and pastors are urged to keep informed of their income tax responsibilities and rights. Pastors are advised to seek qualified assistance in making decisions that will affect their income tax liabilities.

Report Number 2

A. Budget Request for 2021

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that a line item apportionment of **$565,000** be made to fund the Commission on Equitable Compensation operational budget for 2020. These funds will be used for base compensation supplements, salary support for clergy in new church starts, special situations, and Hispanic Ministries, as well as support required and/or provided under these recommendations.

B. Schedule of Total Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving in the South Carolina Annual Conference

In accordance with the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*, the Commission recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2020, and continuing until changed by the Annual Conference.

FOR FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS AS CLERGY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH:

Category	Amount	
a. Full Time Clergy in full connection	$ 45,643	$46,556
b. Full Time Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	$ 41,492	$42,322
c. Full Time Local Pastors	$ 38,494	$39,263

The recommendation represents a 2% increase over what was approved for 2020. This parallels with the 2% COI suggested by the Social Security Office.

[Please note that the Commission on Equitable Compensation strongly encourages churches to pay the pastor's business expense through an accountable reimbursement plan which is a part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. Please see sections "O," "P," and "Q" below, entitled "O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses," "P. Continuing Education," and "Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost."]

Please be aware that plan compensation for full-time clergy must equal 25% of the denominational average

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

C. For Deacons in Full Connection

Those persons who have responded to God's call to lead in service and to equip others for ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments and are full-time ordained deacons in accordance with Paragraph 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, *beginning at pg. 254*, shall be compensated by the local church not less than the minimum amount for an ordained elder of the annual conference. (See Paragraph 331.10(b) of *The Book of Discipline 2016, pg. 263*.) Deacons who are employed by the congregation, charge, or cooperative parish less than full time shall be compensated proportional to the percentage of time being served. (Half time would receive not less than half the minimum salary.) Deacons not employed by a congregation, charge, cooperative ministry, or who are appointed under Paragraph 331.6(d) are not affected.

D. Longevity Increases

A clergy person, who has completed 5 or more year's full time service in the United Methodist Church, shall receive in addition to the minimum base, a supplement of $175.00 per year of service for up to 10 years of service. (In practical terms, this increase would not be applied until the fiscal year following the completed annual conference year. In other words, the first increase would not be applied until the January after the Annual Conference at which the clergy person complete their fifth year.)

Example:

Year 6	Minimum base compensation plus	$ 875.00
Year 7	Minimum base compensation plus	$1050.00
Year 8	Minimum base compensation plus	$1225.00
Year 9	Minimum base compensation plus	$1400.00
Year 10	Minimum base compensation plus	$1575.00
Year 11+	Minimum base compensation plus	$1750.00

E. Housing Allowances

The Commission recommends that all money given to the pastor for housing by the charge he/she serves be considered income if the pastor is not a resident in the charge which he/she serves.

F. Application for Equitable Compensation Support for Base Compensation Assistance

The District Superintendent shall request the base compensation assistance required by each charge twice each year (by May 15 for the July through December compensation assistance period and by December 15 for the January through June compensation assistance period); these requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made. This request from the District Superintendent shall be accompanied by an application form provided by the Commission and completed by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the District Superintendent indicating income from all sources. Grants shall be made based on fiscal years (January to December), and unless otherwise designated, shall decrease 25% annually. For grants beginning in July, 100% of the approved amount will be provided for the first eighteen (18) months and will decrease 25% annually thereafter.

G. Cross Racial Appointments

If the Bishop and Cabinet, in making a cross-racial appointment, find it necessary to request an equitable compensation supplement, special consideration will be given on an individual basis.

H. Cooperative Parish Ministries

The initial directors or coordinators of a cooperative parish ministry which has been approved by the Board of Global Ministries, and application made by the District Superintendent to the commission by January 1 preceding the appointment in June of the same year may be eligible for funds not to exceed $7,000.00. No pastor shall be eligible to receive funds unless the charge he/she serves agrees in writing to release him/her for these added duties. Assistance will be provided over a 4-1/2 year period and will decrease by 25% each year after the first year and a half.

I. Disbursement of Supplements

All compensation supplements from the Commission shall be paid to the local church involved for disbursement to the pastor or clergyperson, and shall be disbursed monthly. In the case of new mission situations or churches, monies will be dispersed directly to the pastor until there is a church treasurer. Equitable compensation funds will not be used for moving expenses, businesses expenses, or church administration.

For charges receiving CEC supplements, changes to the total compensation may be made for longevity (see D. Longevity Increases above), changes in clergy status, and to reflect changes in minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference. Charges are encouraged to increase their portion of total compensation as they are able and thereby reduce the amount of supplement paid by CEC. Such increases in the portion paid by the local charge above the scheduled amounts will result in a reduction of the CEC supplement by the amount of increase.

J. Utilities Allowance

The Commission requests that the South Carolina Annual Conference designate 15% (or estimate of actual expenses as requested by recipient) of base compensation support funded by this Commission as parsonage utilities allowance. This request is made to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Under

IRS Guidelines, this money may be used for household expenses including mortgage or rent payments.

K. Investment of Reserve Fund

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in "reserve" be invested and the interest used in the Commission's operating account. In accordance with guidelines established with CF&A in 2013 and presented to the 2013 Annual Conference, the "floor" of the reserve is to be set at $300,000 in order to meet general projection shortfalls, to allow for the unanticipated start of a new church or missional situation, or to deal with an unexpected disaster.

L. Interpretation

The commission recommends that an interpretation of its task and policy procedures be given as a part of the District Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee Workshops. It is further recommended that this interpretation be done by a member of the Commission upon invitation by the District Superintendent.

M. Compensation Guidance

The **Commission** recommends that District Superintendents assist churches and charges in setting appropriate compensation and work load packages in accordance with Paragraph 419.4 419.6 of *The Book of Discipline 2016 (pg. 343-344)*

N. Ineligibility

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the following not be eligible for Equitable Compensation support:

Retired supply pastors
Part-time local pastors
Pastors on leave of absence except as provided in Standing Rule 99
Special appointment categories within the itinerancy of the United Methodist Church as defined in Paragraph 344.1 a, b, c of *The Book of Discipline 2016 (pg. 281-282)*.
Deacons as defined in Paragraphs 329 and 330 of *The Book of Discipline 2016 (pg. 254-255)*(except as appointed with regard to Report 3, 4, and 5 of this report and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2016, pg. 443*).

O. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses

The Commission recommends that each church set up a reimbursement account for travel and professional expenses incurred by the pastor in performing pastoral duties. Reimbursement for non-commuting church-related travel shall be at the IRS rate (currently 53.5 cents per mile.) The pastor(s) shall submit a voucher and a log each month for reimbursement. For reimbursement for actual professional expenses (books, subscriptions, periodicals, etc.) the pastor(s) shall submit a voucher with supporting documentation for reimbursement. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with pastor(s) (and the District Superintendent, if desired or needed) by the Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Each charge should annually evaluate the local needs and expectations of its pastors and set an amount for reimbursement accordingly. Also, the procedures for reimbursement should be clearly stated.

P. Continuing Education

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

Q. Reimbursement as Administrative Cost

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

R. Vacation Policy

The Commission reminds churches and ministers that vacation time plus time for renewal and reflection are an expected part of compensation. Time away is necessary for personal, spiritual, and family health. It is recommended that all full-time clergy and diaconal ministers be granted, as a minimum, annual vacation and days of renewal according to the following schedule:

Total Years of Service	Number of Weeks
Less than 5 years	a minimum of 2 (including Sundays)
5 years - 10 years	a minimum of 3 (including Sundays)
More than 10 years	a minimum of 4 (including Sundays)

In addition to the above, it is recommended that the minister, regardless of years of service, be granted one day of retreat a month for prayer and reflection. Also, it is expected that the minister will have at least one day off a week. "Years of Service" reflect number of years under appointment in the ministry of the United Methodist Church, and not the number of years of service on a given charge. "Vacation" is meant as freedom from any responsibility in the local church or charge, district, conference area, jurisdiction, or general conference. Vacation should be a time of rest, recreation, and renewal. It should not be interpreted to mean time the pastor works at a church camp, is on a mission trip, a meeting of a general board, an agency of the conference, or a district retreat. Time away from the charge for annual conference and continuing education events shall not be considered vacation time. The charge shall make available as necessary the funds for pulpit supply while the pastor is on vacation.

It is asked that the Lay Member of the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff

Parish Relations Committee and to the local church.

S. Application Procedure

CEC requests the following for initial grant consideration:

1. A Ministerial Support Form duly adopted by a charge conference that includes information about the nature of the grant, the reason for the grant request, percentages to be paid to the various churches involved, the email of the pastor, contact information of the church/charge treasurer (name, address, phone number, email) and other information as designated by the CEC Chairperson.
2. The above Ministerial Support Form is to be presented and approved in accordance with Cabinet policy and then forwarded to the CEC Chairperson by the appropriate District Superintendent.
3. At the discretion of the CEC Chairperson or request by a member of the CEC Executive Committee, further financial information may be required including, but not limited to: church budgets, ban statements, audit forms, treasurer's reports, etc. Failure to produce the required documents would be cause for non-approval of the grant.

T. Arrearages

An arrearage occurs when full payment of a regularly scheduled payroll, accountable reimbursement, or housing allowance installment is not made to the appropriate pastor. The current procedure for handling an arrearage is outlined in detail at the conclusion of the Commission on Equitable Compensation's report in the *2013 Journal*. The Arrearage Policy is also available on the conference website, www.umcsc.org.

Report Number 3 – New Church Starts

Schedule for New Church Starts

Equitable Compensation for new church starts shall be as follows:

Year 1 and 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum compensation base according to the minister's category and half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits. (New church starts that begin in July will receive 100% funding for the first two and a half years.)

Year 3: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 67% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 4: Support from Equitable Compensation will not exceed 33% of the minimum base compensation amount. The Commission will pay half of the payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

Year 5: Support from Equitable Compensation will cease for both the base compensation supplement and for payment of the direct billing for pensions and health benefits.

New Church Travel: Upon request and appropriate documentation, the Commission on Equitable Compensation will provide travel allowance for new church pastors at the following rates:

First year and a half:	up to $4,000.00 annually
Second full year:	up to $3,000.00 annually
Third full year:	up to $2,000.00 annually
Fourth full year:	up to $1,000.00 annually

Report Number 4 – Renewed Vitality Situations (RVS)

Renewed Vitality Situations are those places that the Conference Committee on Congregational Development has evaluated and determined that short term assistance would possibly greatly enhance the effective ministry taking place. RV grants would be for a maximum of 2 years and subject to the criteria proposed and adopted by the Conference Committee on Congregational Development. Failure to meet said criteria will result in termination of the grant.

Grants will consist of:

a) Up to minimum compensation as described in Report 2. B. above.
b) Up to one-half the appropriate Direct Billing.

Report Number 5 – Mission Situations

A. Definition

Mission situations are new churches and existing churches in transitional circumstances that are in areas that demand an effective ministry but are incapable of providing such ministry without equitable compensation assistance. Mission situations may also include intentional ministry to persons of low income.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for equitable compensation assistance in mission situations the following procedures must be followed:

1. The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation and the Conference Committee on Congregational Development will project all new church starts.
2. The District Board for Congregational Development will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation, and its priority rank among conference needs.
3. The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the Commission of potential new mission situations two years ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The Commission will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.

4. At the time of appointment, the Cabinet will then designate a pastor or clergy person and request an appropriate base compensation for that particular mission situation.
5. In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the Commission on Equitable Compensation by December 15th preceding the Annual Conference at which an appointment is to be made providing, at that time, the projected base compensation cost to be incurred in July.

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

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

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

C. Continuation of Supplements and Annual Evaluation

If the ministry being served is unable to meet the schedule below for two years in a row, support from Equitable Compensation will cease after the next year following.

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

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

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

E. Compensation Schedules for Mission Situations

Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income

Equitable Compensation assistance in ministries with persons of low income will be provided for a pastor or clergy person, when requested by the Cabinet, over a ten and a half year period decreasing as follows:

First Year and a Half: The amount of Equitable Compensation support will be according to the pastor's category. As the sole salary paying unit in this mission situation, the Commission of Equitable Compensation will pay 100% of the clergyperson's direct bill for pensions and health benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Travel for persons in ministry with persons of low income will be provided by the Districts or Districts in which the ministry is located.

F. Ministry with Hispanic/Latino People

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will operate in light of the Annual Conference's decision to make ministry with the Hispanic/Latino population a priority. Support for clergy working in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall be made in accordance with the Schedule for Ministry with Persons of Low Income (Report Number 3e, Part 2). The Commission recognizes that adjustments may be necessary on a case by case basis. The District Superintendent, after consultation with the Cabinet and the Conference Hispanic Committee may request adjustments in the following areas:

1. An extension of the initial time period from 1-1/2 years up to 2-1/2 years in which Equitable Compensation shall pay 100% of the clergyperson's salary and direct bill for pensions and health benefits. In no case

shall this period extend beyond 2-1/2 years. After the extension expires, support will decrease as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be $2,400.
3. Assistance with travel expenses. In limited circumstances, Equitable Compensation shall provide up to a yearly maximum of $4,000 to supplement the support provided by the district. When assistance with travel expenses is requested, the District Superintendent shall certify that the district will spend at least $15,000 in the current year to provide housing and travel for the clergyperson.
4. A salary supplement for experience in ministry with Hispanic/Latino people. This supplement will be in addition to any experience merit that a clergyperson receives on the basis of the policy set forth in Report 2, Section D. A clergyperson who has served 5 or more years fulltime service in United Methodist ministry with Hispanic/Latino people shall receive a supplement of $175.00 per year of service for up to fourteen years of service.

Example:

Year 6:	$875 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 7:	$1,050 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 8:	$1,225 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 9:	$1,400 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 10:	$1,575 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 11:	$1,750 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 12:	$1,925 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 13:	$2,100 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 14:	$2,275 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and experience merit
Year 15+:	$2,450 in addition to Equitable Compensation base and +experience merit

All requests for adjustments shall be made in writing. Requests must be approved by the Commission before payment can be made.

Report Number 6

Categories of Churches receiving support as of:

	Dec. 2016		Dec. 2017		Dec. 2018		Dec. 2019	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New church	2	$57,324	3	$132,121	4	$147,769	5	$194,983

Minimum	10	$65,064	12	$99,342	14	$196,393	10	$166,040
Special	9	$97,619	16	$244,899	6	$93,457	5	$59,401
Low Income	1	$9,720	0	$0	1	$8,100	0	
Hispanic/Latino	1	$13,000	0	$0	0	$0	0	
Cooperative Parish	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	
Mission	2	$49,178	2	$44,314	1	$32,449	2	$36,864
RVS	5	$68,973	3	$44,405				
Direct billing costs		$87,669		$81,497		$90,809		$61,811
TOTALS	30	$448,547	36	$646,578	26	$568,977	22	$519,099

Categories of Pastors receiving support:

	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019
Full Members	13	13	22	11	13
Provisional Members	8	8	4	6	4
Associate Members	0	0	0	0	0
Local Pastors (Full Time)	6	6	7	6	2
Other	1	3	3	3	3
TOTALS	28	30	36	26	22

Sincerely,

The Commission on Equitable Compensation
Skipper Brock, Chairperson
rlbrock@bellsouth.net or sbrock@smeinc.com
Rev. Chris Lollis, Vice-Chairperson
Lollie Haselden, Statistician
Veronica Clinkscales, Secretary

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee on the Annual Conference is a team of persons tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and evaluating the annual conference. The team began meeting soon after annual conference to review and evaluate the 2019 annual conference and to start planning the 2020 gathering.

2020 will see us return to the Florence Center, in Florence, South Carolina. Significant time and energy have given to making certain that our transition back to the Pee Dee Area is a smooth one! Our annual conference will include inspiring worship, an opportunity for service, and robust Christian conferencing. In all that we do, our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

The pre-conference informational sessions will be held in April and May in each of our Districts. A pre-conference video will be shared in each district with the pre-conference materials being published on line. This will enable greater access to this information.

The theme chosen for the 2020 Annual Conference is "**Seeking *A More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations***." On Sunday evening at 7:30, we will gather for our opening worship service with Bishop Holston serving as the preacher. Our Bible Study leader will be The Reverend Dr. Kevin Watson of Candler School of Theology. On Monday afternoon, we will remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have shared in the work of Christ's holy church, and who have joined the church triumphant since we last gathered. The Rev. Joe Long will serve as the preacher.

On Monday night, we will celebrate with those who will be commissioned or ordained for the work of ordained ministry. Bishop James Swanson, the Resident Bishop of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, will serve as the preacher for this service. On Tuesday morning, we will recognize and celebrate the ministry of those who have served the church faithfully across the years and who now enter retirement. On Tuesday afternoon, we will share in a service recognizing the ways in which we are engaged in Global Missions around the world.

¶603 of *Book of Discipline* provides that the Annual Conference sets the place of the meeting for the sessions of the annual conference, and the presiding bishop sets the date. The standing rules of the conference provide that the Committee on the Annual Conference recommend the site of the next annual conference. The Committee on the Annual Conference recommends that we return to Florence Center in 2021 and that we remain there for three years.

Finally, the committee expresses its profound gratitude to the 2020 host team under the leadership of the Rev. Terry Fleming, the Florence District Superintendent, for their spirit of radical hospitality. This team has done tremendous work to ensure a wonderful experience in Florence. They have cared for every detail along the way. We owe them a tremendous level of thanks. A word of gratitude is offered to our host church, Cumberland United Methodist Church and its team under the leadership of the Rev. Anthony Hodge. We are grateful to the many volunteers from the Pee Dee Region and across the state who have supported this conference with their best gifts under the guidance and leadership of Mrs. Dorethea Bailey. We could not have done this without this team.

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

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Purpose:

We exist to ways to create new spaces for new people. We work with existing congregations to revitalize ministries or buildings. Other times we work with District Boards and the Cabinet to identify, resource, and deploy new church plants to reach a changing area. We strive to be a resource for local pastors and congregations.

Key moments from the previous year:

Over the last year we have continued to support our growing church plants. From mission and mercy centers to a brand new worshipping community, the last 12 months have seen sustainable growth and leadership models in the different projects around the Conference.

So we celebrate the diversity of ministry being built across our connection. We're excited to partner with Advent UMC to help them launch a second campus, Two Rivers continues to grow and has already had to move into a new, bigger space to accommodate their growing community! The Trinity Campus of Buncombe Street and The Connection Campus of St. Mark Greenwood have continued to show us the opportunities that multi-site can afford for new ministry possibilities. We were also able to support new staff positions for new ministries and building expansions that are paving the way for new places to experience the grace and love of God. Those accomplishments are only possible because of you and your church's generosity. With much gratitude we say thank you for your generosity and sacrificial giving to Congregational Development through our Connectional giving.

As a Board we have also been working to learn best practices from each other and our District Boards of Congregational Development. There is a large pool of resources, grant money included, in each of our Districts and a large portion of our meeting times have been devoted to learning what is and is not working in our respective districts so that we can be the best stewards of what we have been given.

Objectives for the coming year:

Our goal is to continue and improve upon our ideals of being a resource for local churches interested in new ministry and the spark for planting new places. We will continue supporting our churches through existing grants, which this year range from building renovations in Rock Hill to accommodate a growing shelter ministry to updated modes of communication for churches and some structural repairs. We will continue supporting the current plants and partnerships across the connection, while discerning what next steps or projects could be coming down the line.

One of our major goals this year is intentional reflection on values, purpose and communication. As you're aware, Rev. James Friday began his tenure as the Director for Congregational Development this year and as with every pastoral transition, this provided a great time to take the pulse of where we are, how we got here and where we're going next. So, we'll be spending some intentional time updating our applications and streamlining our communication with Districts and the local church. We hope to continue making what is good better, and what is better the best it can be.

And, as a reminder, last year we had a unique opportunity this year to set aside some existing church grant money for future leadership development. So last year we set a little over $28,000 for future leadership development. For example, we've thought about offering multiple smaller conference-like workshops on things like staff/team development, how to lead a visioning process, multi-site challenges, multi-ethnic transitions, etc.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference: none

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

If there was one take away for you as a delegate it would be this, how we can we help you? We want to be a resource for you, your pastor, your staff, your leadership and your church. That support could look like a variety of things: funding, training, coaching, or something we haven't thought of yet. Whatever it is you are wrestling with, if you think we might be able to help, then call us! We are here for you!

Narrative:

We will be responsive in creating new opportunities of new places for new people and reimagining and resourcing ministries in places where some of our existing local churches are located.

We will be innovative and strategic in identifying places and needs for new church establishment and responsive in resourcing and funding for existing church needs and leadership development for both clergy and lay.

The Conference Office of Congregational Development/Redevelopment:

- Coordinates and collaborates with the Bishop, Cabinet, and Connectional Ministries for conference planning of re-formation of existing churches and the creation of new ones.
- Provides training, demographic information and consultation to local churches and districts
- Assists local churches and agencies in identifying appropriate resources and funding sources from the districts and from agencies of the Annual Conference and the General Church.
- Coordinates efforts with district boards of Congregational Development and Redevelopment

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Reams, Chairperson, richard.reams@gmail.com, 864-985-2440

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Purpose:

Offer support to bishop in oversight of spiritual and temporal affairs of the church:

- Interpret nature & function of episcopal office
- Determine & communicate episcopal needs
- Advise about concerns that affect relationships & people of the conference
- Consultation & appraisal of bishop's relationship & responsibilities
- Report episcopal leadership needs to SEJ COE

Key moments from the previous year:

The committee fully agrees that during the past year Bishop Holston has continued to lead this conference by example and provided insight, encouragement, and motivation for our congregations to grow both spiritually and physically.

Bishop Holston has remained faithful to the leadership of the clergy and laity. During the past year he completed the 2018 -2019 “District Days” (tailored to the needs of each district) and started the 2019 – 2020 tour. The Forward Focus process for local churches has been highly successful. Lay Servant Ministries continues to grow. The relationship between laity, conference staff, and clergy continues to grow. The conference support of apportionments and missions continues to be strong. The Bishop revived the Ministry Advisory Team (MAT).

The SEJ Episcopal Review and Evaluation document for the 2016 -2020 quadrennium was completed and forwarded to the SEJ COE. The Committee on Episcopacy voted unanimously to request the SEJ COE to assign Bishop Holston to the South Carolina Conference for a third term.

Some of the Bishop’s involvement:

- General Board of Global Ministries, Director
- Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM, Board Member
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, Chair
- Pan-Methodist Commission, Vice-chair
- Columbia College Board of Trustees
- Emory University Board of Trustees
- Gammon Theological Seminary, Chair
- Executive Committee, Council of Bishops
- Council of Bishops Missional Committee, Chair
- Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops
- Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees
- Led pilgrimages to the Holy Land, England (Wesleyan Heritage)
- Made mission trips to Honduras and Zimbabwe

Objectives for the coming year:

We will continue to support Bishop Holston in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church by interpreting to our church members the nature and function of the episcopacy office. We are to advise the Bishop concerning conditions within the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

None.

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

This 16 member committee which includes the two South Carolina conference SEJ Committee on Episcopacy members and the conference lay leader meets several times a year to provide support for the bishop's work in our conference and interpret the work of the bishop and the conference staff to our conference church members. It is also the function of this committee to review and evaluate the bishop in eight categories, led by the two SEJ COE members. This information is forwarded to the SEJ COE committee to provide guidance and insight into effective episcopal leadership. The Committee offers its unanimous support of Bishop Holston’s ministry in SC.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Holbrook Platts, Chairperson, hplatts@earthlink.net, 803-943-2777
Jennifer Pettit, Genevieve F. Burgess, Ken Jenkins, Rev Calvin Lee Smith, Barbara Ware, Dr Tim McClendon, Rev George Ashford, Rev Candice Sloan, Rev Jeannetté Cooper, Rev David Taylor, Ronnie Norton, Loretta McKelvey, Dorothy Harrison, Herman Lightsey, Martha Thompson

THE OFFICE CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services is to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to matters of clergy credentialing and leadership development. This office maintains the personnel files for all the clergy of the conference. The Coordinator of Clergy Services serves as a member of the conference Ministry Advisory Team.

Mr. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant to the office of clergy services, continues a tradition of excellent support to the district offices and candidates. He maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the annual reports for which this office is responsible. The work of this office would not happen without him and the twelve District administrative assistants. We owe them a profound measure of gratitude.

It has been a pleasure to work with our Bishop, District Superintendents and their administrative assistants on many matters related to our clergy, and to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervise the clergy of our Conference.

Our process of uploading all of personnel records into e-Bridge continues. Our progress is steady. Annually, we review and update all of the applications and forms on the Clergy Services website. This is always a work in progress as we seek to streamline our process.

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

A great deal of time and energy have been given to helping the Board of Ordained Ministry develop THRIVE. THRIVE is an assessment and renewal process for clergy in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. This program will meet the requirement of the *Book of Discipline* ¶349.3, "Every clergyperson will engage in a six-moth process of personal and professional assessment and development every eight years…"

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

Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, we continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference. We have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas and have worked to update the training of our District Committees on Ministry. It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry and I look forward to the year ahead.

Kenneth L. Nelson
Coordinator of Clergy Service

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

In 2019 Camps and Retreat Ministries was once again able to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church by being able to nurture persons in Christian living. Just as our churches are charged to do, we were able to provide **HOPE:** ***Hospitality*** – Reach out to all persons, ***Opportunity*** – Offer them Christ, ***Purpose*** – Nurture persons in Christian Living, and ***Engagement*** – Send persons out to live their faith. All of this happens at a place set apart from one's own creative work, a place of solitude, where creation formation leads to faith formation, building relationships with trust and confidence at Asbury Hills, Camp Providence, and now the new Sea Island Camp & Retreat Center.

Asbury Hills once again welcomed more than 5,000 guests through their gates in 2019 of which more than 1,200 of them were summer campers, producing one of the highest summer camp numbers on record. At Camp Providence, year three of day camp was launched in partnership with the Anderson County Housing Authority where kids learned to swim, golf, as well as shoot a bow and arrow. Day Campers enjoyed boating on Lake Hartwell and programs such as daily arts and craft projects. Campers at both camps were challenged to "Unleash!" which was the overall theme for the summer, coming from Matthew 17:20. We continue to practice play and relationship building in a way that generates building blocks to leadership development, while being intentional about creating and practicing Christian Community. We are also proud to announce the assumption the former Rural Mission property at John's Island, which is now called Sea Islands Camp and Retreat Center. More information will be forth coming as this property comes online.

As the ministry continues to grow strong from the inside out, this past year was once again filled with many experiences for which we are thankful. For those that haven't been to go camp lately, we were happy to bring camp to them at Annual Conference 2019 with a "mock" campfire. The construction of the new swimming pool at Asbury Hills began in the fall of 2019, with hopes for completion by summer of 2020. A new and beautiful boat/swim dock was installed for guest at Camp Providence, thanks to generous support by the attendees at Providence Church. The bathhouse also received major renovations and updates. Valerie Seevers was hired as the new administrative assistant for Camps and Retreats, and has settled in well as just one of the family. And new

low ropes course, called “The Summit” has been installed at Asbury Hills.

The board is very excited about the vision and future direction of Camps and Retreat Ministries and the impact the ministry has made not just here in South Carolina, but throughout United Methodist Camping across the country. “It is a joy,” says Board Chair Foster Senn, “to have our own South Carolina camping Executive Director serve a second term on the National UMCRM board. Not only is he bringing back best practices for the ministry, but also helping to steer and strengthen camping for a healthier tomorrow.”

South Carolina United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries is committed and will continue the quest for “A More Excellent Way” to serve the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur W. Spriggs, Executive Director
Foster Senn, Board Chair

THE CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Purpose:

To provide for consistent Annual Conference staff personnel decisions, management and policy.

Key moments from the previous year:

The committee has worked to interpret and update policy issues and employee compliance needs.

Objectives for the coming year:

The committee will work together with the Council on Finance & Administration to determine conference staff salary adjustments, oversee the evaluation of staff and consider policy issues and employee compliance needs.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

None

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

The committee supports conference personnel in their efforts to provide the highest quality services, support and resources for churches and clergy across the annual conference.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Chairperson
bishop@umcsc.org, 803-786-9486
Patricia Ann Gannaway, Larry McCutcheon , Alphonza Jones, Pamela Cook, Diana Currence, Mike Galloway, Jane Smith, Robert Bedell, Barbara Ware, Mitch Houston, Ross Chellis

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The primary work of the Board of Trustees (“Trustees”) is to oversee the maintenance and the ultimate disposition of the properties of closed local churches. Trustees also holds in trust properties received by bequest or gift to the Annual Conference.

Utilizing the recent changes in the *2016 Book of Discipline*, individual local churches may be closed by action of the Annual Conference or may be closed on an exigent basis on an *ad interim* basis. Some of the resolutions before you involve such *ad interim* closures.

Some of the properties before you are requested to be disposed of by sale, while others are pending sale. It is the standing policy of the Trustees to seek alternate uses of properties as tools to be used in making disciples of Jesus Christ; thereby affording such properties the opportunity to remain in active mission and ministry within the Church Universal.

Trustees receives no apportionment funds, and are therefore self-funding. The principle source of such funding is derived from the 10% administrative fee assessed on those properties sold after closure. The Trustees

would respectfully remind the Annual Conference that is it the responsibility of Trustees to maintain, insure, and protect all properties received in trust by Trustees until the properties final distribution.

Attached to this report and incorporated herein by reference is an accounting of the funds of the Board of Trustees for the preceding year; as well as a listing of all real property being overseen by Trustees, as is required by paragraph 2512.6 of the *Book of Discipline.*

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Michael Wood
Chair of Conference Trustees

(See next page for Trustees of Annual Conference Accounting by Property - Cash Basis.)

Trustees of the Annual Conference
Report to Annual Conference
Accounting by Property-Cash basis
December 31, 2019

Property	District	12/31/2018 Balance	Sale Proceeds	Other Receipts	Expenses	Transfer to beneficiary	Retained by Trustees	Ending Balance	Designation
Orville (South Main Chapel & Mercy Center)	Anderson	(7,810.84)			(5,420.00)			(13,230.84)	Urban Center/Mission church
Smiths Chapel	Anderson	(658.92)			(113.32)			(772.24)	Undesignated
Union	Anderson	(2,320.00)						(2,320.00)	Pending resolution
Berea (Cordesville)	Charleston	30,106.54		46.76	(874.77)			29,278.53	Pending resolution
Cedar Creek	Columbia	(344.92)			(261.86)			(606.78)	Urban Center
Cedar Creek Cemetery	Columbia	110,041.91						110,041.91	Cemetery funds
St James	Columbia	63,504.91			(2,136.00)			61,368.91	Urban Center
St Luke	Columbia	-			(886.65)			(886.65)	Transferred to another ministry
Beulah (Kingstree)	Florence	(348.50)	1,500.00		(34.50)			1,117.00	Sold in 2019. Pending resolution
Trinity	Florence	1,039.95			(113.32)			926.63	Pending resolution
Trinity cemetery	Florence	-						-	Pending resolution
Zoar	Florence	(327.72)	10,000.00	17,839.41	(99.14)	(26,412.55)	(1,000.00)	0.00	Resolved
Concord (Greenville Korean Mission)	Greenville	33,427.01			(3,520.00)			29,907.01	Urban Center/Mission church
Dunean	Greenville	(2,973.43)	150,000.00		(5,889.02)			141,137.55	Urban Center. Sold in 2019
McKinney Chapel	Greenville	(2,005.82)			(728.00)			(2,733.82)	Urban Center
Piedmont Park	Greenville	-		43,767.17	(1,594.58)			42,172.59	Urban Center
Zion-Andrews (New Beginnings)	Greenville	59,626.78						59,626.78	Urban Center/Mission church
Bath	Greenwood	(2,930.38)		18.99	(1,362.52)			(4,273.91)	Pending resolution
Bath (parsonage)	Greenwood	3,696.68		4,800.00	(1,327.75)			7,168.93	Pending resolution
Gassaway	Greenwood	3,315.35			(2,009.08)			1,306.27	Urban Center
Sandy Springs	Greenwood	-		20,277.64	(999.78)			19,277.86	Urban Center
Sandy Springs cemetery fund	Greenwood	-		6,213.72				6,213.72	
Bethesda	Hartsville	-	22,000.00		(454.40)	(19,345.60)	(2,200.00)	-	Resolved
Mt Tabor (Chesterfield)	Hartsville	218.07			(400.00)			(181.93)	Pending resolution
Oro	Hartsville	-	40,803.16		(2,611.20)			38,191.96	Pending resolution
Snowhill	Hartsville	(160.00)						(160.00)	Pending resolution
Christ/Myrtle Beach	Marion	-		4,000.00	(48,805.91)			(44,805.91)	Pending resolution
Iona	Marion	(1,708.91)			(113.32)			(1,822.23)	Pending resolution
Old Galilee	Marion	(240.41)						(240.41)	Pending resolution
Central Rowesville	Orangeburg	(636.32)			(495.72)			(1,132.04)	Pending resolution
Charles Wesley	Orangeburg	102,955.12						102,955.12	Pending resolution
Rocky Swamp Mission Church	Orangeburg	(4,884.11)			(852.00)			(5,736.11)	Mission church
Pleasant View	Spartanburg	1,980.88				(1,980.88)		-	Resolved
Broomfield	Walterboro	(37.36)						(37.36)	Pending resolution
Jerusalem	Walterboro	(278.92)			(148.32)			(427.24)	Pending resolution
Retained by Trustees	Conference	328,085.87		4,090.13	(3,707.02)		3,200.00	331,668.98	Undesignated
		710,332.51	224,303.16	101,053.82	(84,958.18)	(47,739.03)	-	902,992.28	

Non-cash property receipt

Christ UMC				
FMV of property		4,220,000.00		Fantasy Way and Carolina Forest lot
Debt on property		(3,622,533.09)		Owed to Conference Board of Pensions
Net non-cash property receipt		597,466.91		Not a cash receipt, but property receipt (net of debt)

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

Purpose:

The mission of the Advocate is to inform and connect South Carolina United Methodists by independently reporting relevant news, engaging readers, providing a forum for dialogue and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Key moments from the previous year:

This is the 183rd year the Advocate has served the UMCSC. We consider it an honor and blessing to be able to shine God's light by telling the stories of His people at work throughout this state.

To date, we've garnered 118 awards for writing and journalism excellence, our most recent for a book produced by our Advocate Press and authored by our editor, Jessica Brodie: our hunger-ministry devotional, Feed My Sheep. We produced two more books this spring and have another slated for release later this year. Learn more about the Advocate Press: www.advocatesc.org/books.

Not only are our articles consistently featured in the United Methodist News Service daily digest and other UMC publications across the connection, but we are also striving to be an educational tool. We attended and covered General Conference 2020 and all that happened there, and we will be present at the 2020 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference this July, also to offer helpful coverage.

We are grateful for the apportionment funding we receive from this annual conference, and we are continuing our efforts to reduce our request. We are working to raise additional income for our nonprofit 501(c)3 ministry through tax-deductible donations from private individuals and business. Half of our funds come from our efforts in advertising, circulation and fundraising; the rest comes from apportionments. To learn more: www.advocatesc.org/donation.

We also are honored to produce the Daily Advocate at AC2020, a four-page publication for all attendees each day of the event to help raise awareness about issues, business and legislation.

Objectives for the coming year:

Our print and digital Advocate newspaper is striving to be the very best newspaper it can possibly be, from our articles to our design and photos, and we continue our commitment to fair, balanced news and journalistic excellence. We are also in the process of planning and writing new books to be published by the Advocate Press, as well as increasing our commitment to raising funds from private individuals so we can begin to ask for fewer funds from Annual Conference apportionments. We are also in the midst of a readership and subscription growth campaign.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

Approve nominations to our Advocate Board of Trustees, approve our requested budget, and subscribe to the Advocate (www.advocatesc.org/subscribe).

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

Many people don't know the Advocate is an independent publication led by a staff of two and published by a board of trustees—though we are most definitely part of the South Carolina Annual Conference "family" and receive conference funding. We are independent for purposes of journalistic integrity. The Advocate staff and board are incredibly grateful for the many people who read the Advocate and tell others about it so they, too, can benefit from the great news happening for Jesus across South Carolina through the People Called Methodists. Thank you!

Narrative:

The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate is one of a very few religious newspapers that are not only surviving today but thriving. We believe it is because we are a prayer-driven ministry seeking to do the will of the Lord foremost, and also because we strive to include all news that is relevant to South Carolina United Methodists. We welcome your church's news, feature articles, calendar items, classified ads, photos and other submissions. Our goal is to include every submission we receive; if we do not have room one month, we try our best to get it in the next. Our deadline is the 10th of every month for the following month's paper (with the exception of the July/Annual Conference edition, which has an early deadline of June 1). Email submissions to advocate@umcsc.org or mail to Advocate, 4908 Colonial Dr., Columbia, SC 29203.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica Brodie, Editor
jbrodie@umcsc.org, 8037869486

Staff includes Editor Jessica Brodie and Assistant Editor Allison Trussell, as well as sales representative Toni Strawther. Board of Trustees members for 2019-2020 include Dr. Christopher Greene, chairperson; Dyron Anderson, vice chairperson; Creg Smith, secretary; the Rev. Steven King, treasurer; the Rev. Carleathea Benson; Dr. William Click; Linda DuRant; the Rev. Sh'Kur Francis; Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge; Enid Jenkins; the Rev. Karen Radcliffe; the Rev. Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass; Selena Ruth Smith; Dr. Phillip Stone; Dan O'Mara, ex officio; and the Rev. Cameron Levi, ex officio.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER

Purpose:

The Trustees provide, operate, supervise, and maintain office and meeting space for the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Key moments from the previous year:

The Trustees' most recent activities include installing a second programmable thermostat in the building to further reduce electricity usage. The first programmable thermostat provided some energy savings and the Trustees are continuing with that effort. The Trustees evaluated service contracts and recently engaged new service providers for waste collection and landscaping maintenance at reduced prices. The Trustees continue to inspect the building for safety and maintenance issues each year.

Objectives for the coming year:

The Trustees will continue to seek opportunities to operate the building in a manner reflecting good stewardship of Conference resources and to provide suitable office and meeting space to carry out the mission and ministry to which we are called.

Actions required from the 2020 Annual Conference: None

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

The Trustees of the United Methodist Center appreciate the continued support of the churches through the apportionment system. The Trustees strive to be good stewards of the funds for ensuring the facilities are safe, secure, and properly maintained. The building continues to support the various ministries of the Annual Conference.

Narrative:

The Trustees thank Ms. Christine Dominick for her awesome work and daily guidance ensuring our facility is maintained.

Submitted by:

Ronald D. Friday, Chairperson
Email: bwestbury@umcsc.org

THE MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM

Purpose:

The MAT exists to create excellence in ministry by advising the Bishop, District Superintendents, programmatic, administrative and personnel teams of the Annual Conference. This team also provides oversight for the Bobo Trust Fund which is designated for leadership development.

Key moments from the previous year:

While meeting during the 2019-2020 year, the team echoed the belief of remaining faithful to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Together with the extended cabinet and congregational specialists, the Ministry Advisory Team is working to define conference priorities and align conference resources toward these identified areas. This work is ongoing.

In 2019, funds from the Bobo Trust were dispersed as scholarship support for leadership development training. The end of year balance was $73,541.

Objectives for the coming year:

The Ministry Advisory Team will continue to build on partnerships across ministry areas of the annual conference.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

None

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

This team works together to keep the annual conference bodies focused on how to best support the efforts of local churches working to strengthen connections with their communities to witness to the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop, bishop@umcsc.org, 803-786-9486
Rev. Joe Long, Dean of the Cabinet
Ms. Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader
Rev. Kathy James, Director of Connectional Ministries
Rev. Ross Chellis, Convener, Conf. Connectional Ministries
Rev. James Friday, Director of Congregational Development
Rev. Richard Reams, Chair, Conf. Board of Congregational Development
Ms. Laura Hill, MAT Secretary
Ms. Beth Westbury, Conference Treasurer & Director of Administrative Services
Mr. Smith Patterson, Vice Chair, Conf. Council on Finance & Administration
Rev. Ken Nelson, Coordinator of Clergy Services
Rev. Fran Elrod, Chair, Conf. Board of Ordained Ministry
Rev. Chris Lollis, Conference Benefits Officer
Ms. Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chair, Conf. Board of Pension and Health Benefits

THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet exists to assist the Bishop in creating a healthy culture that engages faith, the community and the connection so that churches are agents of transformation and grace. Twelve District Superintendents are joined by the Conference Lay Leader, Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Clergy Services, Director of Congregational Development, and the Conference Treasurer to form the Extended Cabinet. The aim of our work is challenging in any era. In our time, this is especially so.

This report was (is being) submitted for the preconference materials prior to the 2020 General Conference. By June, we hope to have greater clarity as to the future direction of the United Methodist Church related to issues of human sexual behavior and Christian teaching. There are proposals of possible separation of the UMC into different denominations. We pray the decisions of General Conference will advance the cause of Christ. At the present, we are following Bishop Holston's leadership by focusing on the mission our Lord has given us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our work calls forth our best efforts throughout the conference and in our districts. District Superintendents are extensions of the office of the Bishop and oversee the ministries of clergy and congregations. This involves serving as mission strategists, deployment of pastors, working with various boards, commissions and committees, forming connections, leading by examples, maintaining records and managing reports. Members of the Extended Cabinet have specialized areas of responsibilities.

Throughout the South Carolina Conference, your cabinet serves on the Committee to Annual Conference and sends representatives to many boards and commissions. We invest significant time and energy into connecting with students through seminary visits. We work as volunteers in mission. We participate with congregations engaged in Forward Focus. With the Ministry Advisory Team and Congregational Specialists, the Cabinet this year engaged in conversation to discern priorities for the Annual Conference. We also offered Staff Training to strengthen our churches and enhance teamwork skills of clergy and laity. Pastor Parish Relations Committees now have a handbook and resources available on our conference website. Through appointment making and Pastor Parish Relations Committee training, we sought to address clergy salary inequities. Your cabinet initiated, and continues to sponsor, a Transitions Retreat for moving clergy, which is proving to be helpful in beginning ministry with an appointment change. These are some of the ways your cabinet is seeking throughout the conference to create a healthy culture for making disciples to transform the world.

In the districts, the work of your cabinet finds various forms of expression. Most people see Extended Cabinet members at conference activities and events related to their areas of ministry. District Superintendents are often seen at various district activities and local church events, including worship and charge conferences. Much time is spent in the numerous systems of ministry present in each district: District Connectional Ministries, Committee on Ordained Ministry, Nominations, Board of Congregational Development, Board of Church Location and Building, Lay Servants and Trustees. In these capacities, your cabinet represents the connection and seeks to empower congregations to be effective in ministry.

This year, your cabinet has collaborated with district leadership in creating a missional culture. Bishop Holston's visits to each district have been intentional in strengthening ministry. Through "Becoming a Good Neighbor", Rock Hill District clergy and laity were encouraged to more effectively engage our communities in mission. The Spartanburg District offered Christmas gift wrapping as an expression of service and invitation to worship. The Florence District coordinated missional workdays in disaster recovery and wheelchair ramp construction. Throughout the conference, districts provided workshop, training and coaching opportunities.

Your cabinet knows that the local church is the primary arena where people are formed into followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In the local congregation, individuals profess faith in Christ and are baptized, the gospel is proclaimed and taught, and persons experience community and grow in Christian formation. Ministries of the conference, district and extension ministries seek to supplement and enhance local church effectiveness. We celebrate the good work we share with the clergy and laity of this conference. John Wesley sent Thomas Coke to America with the words, "Offer them Christ." Early Methodists believed God had raised them up "to spread scriptural holiness over the land." These statements resonate with the spirit within us as we are called to mission in our day. We are surrounded with many who need the grace of God, hope of Christ and love of Christian fellowship. Ours is an age of mission opportunity.

May we join John Wesley who said: "I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

Rev. Joe Long, Dean of the Cabinet

THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

It is my privilege to serve this conference as Conference Chancellor, legal advisor to the Bishop and the Annual Conference. By Conference standing rule 98, requests for my services are made through the Episcopal office.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Conference. I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue work with the dedicated clergy, staff and laypersons of the Conference.

My work this year has included serving as a resource for lawyers defending local Churches and the Conference in litigation, in working with the Conference Board of Trustees by preparing leases, deeds and sales contracts and in assisting in drafting resolutions and resources for Churches as we have dealt with COVID-19.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to serve this Conference and the United Methodist Church.

Kay G. Crowe, Conference Chancellor

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST MEN
Areas of Work and Ministry

Charters

- SC continues to seek increase number of Chartered Churches
- Some of our Districts have made some progress, but have also seen other charters lapse.
- South Carolina has 266 active charters, most being in the Southeast Jurisdiction.

EMS

- SC has been successful in increasing EMS members this year.
- That increase has come mostly from our conference team leadership
- 2018 was 37. At this point in 2020 we have 39

Upper Room Prayer Ministry

- With the close of the Toll Free call line and start of the Prayer Wall, there was a sufficient change in the scope of Prayer ministry.
- Our SC Prayer Advocate, Dennis Sullen, has had health problems over last couple of months.
- SC Contribution to Upper Room – $1,050.00

Spiritual Retreat

- This our sixth year in our God Guided effort to reach men in SC
- One event at Springmaid Weekend had over 550 attendees
- Three events at Christ Church Weekend had 800 to 1000 attendees
- One event at Mt Horeb UMC, One Day Men Only had over 700 attendees
- The One Day event – more 1st time attendees and Younger Men
- The Goal is to challenge and grow men in their Faith
- 2020 is for a One Day Men and Pastors only
  - The Theme for 2020 is “Restored”. Our keynote speaker is Eric Mason. He has written several books on Restored, one titled *Manhood Restored*
  - The event is set for February 29, 2020 – extra day this year (Leap Year)
- Golf outing is set for Friday, February 28. Also Mt Horeb is adding an Oyster Roast from 6 till 8 and inviting SC Men. A car show with restored car will be part of Saturday activities.
  - Using Sponsor Church model again this year. $ 600.00 for 12 registrations
  - All 2019 Sponsor Churches that Sponsor again will get 2 extra registrations
  - There were a total of 21 sponsor churches for 2020.
  - Almost 500 men and pastors attended

Teaching Churches

- Have been unsuccessful in getting Districts to set and follow thru
- Even with matching money from Conference UMM no takers
- To be successful in Districts there needs to be District connection
- Some of our Districts had some success with fund raisers and mission events

Leadership

- In SC we have name leadership in all 12 Districts
- Working to move to Leadership Teams in all Districts

YoungER Men

- Our One Day event provided an increase in younger men
- Need to convert that increase from attendance to Leadership

Scouting

- Our new Scouting Coordinator, Robert Cox, is doing an awesome job.
  - Has located and put in place 8 District Coordinators
  - Has developed a great plan of 2020 Celebrating 100 years of Scouting

Give Day 2019

- Information was sent to all UMM Leadership
- Also information was put on UMCSC website
- Bishop Holston prepared Letter to endorse Give Day and it was sent out across SC
- SC Conference leadership team gave an offering at our Annual Business Meeting on October 12.
- Leadership Team voted to match individual gifts
- Team total offering $ 752.00 plus matching amount of $ 752.00
- Total sent from SC Leadership team $1,504.00
- Continuing to seek Gifts to Give Day across SC

Promote The 8 Goals for UMM in 2019

- Grow the Connection
- Prayer Ministry
- Support Society of St Andrew
- Provide Personal Energy Transportation Carts
- Support Strength for Service
- Encourage Small Group Studies
- Host Teaching Churches in Districts
- Build YoungER Men Ministry

The Church needs MEN to Step Up for Jesus. By God's Help WE are The Group Called to accomplish that task. Let us PRAY together and Give Willing Minds and Hearts in His Service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Horton, President
UMM S C Conference

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Purpose:

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Key moments from the previous year:

United Methodist Women celebrated their 150 year anniversary on March 23, 2019. Celebrations took place in all twelve districts. We remembered our foremothers through service projects, painting, delivered meals, food pantries stocked, parties and singing, dancing and skits, a Rock-a-Thon and bake sale fundraisers, photographs, and special speakers. We joined the 3,500 givers to the Legacy Fund on our special Day of Giving March 23rd.

Joyfully we received $13,827.47 for the Legacy Fund contributed by the first night's offering at our SC Annual Conference. Thank you to all who donated. The Legacy Fund is our permanent endowment.

Our United Methodist Women National General Secretary and CEO Harriett Olson was keynote speaker at our 47th Annual Meeting. Being hosted by Buncombe Street United Methodist Church and the Greenville District United Methodist Women made our October 25-26 meeting a time of welcome, fellowship, study, learning and a celebration of United Methodist Women in South Carolina.

We awarded three Presidential Scholarships to strong, focused young women, members of SC Conference Methodist churches who are pursuing higher education degrees. This was the third year for awarding $1000 scholarships. We have joyfully made this award eleven times.

Many opportunities for study, prayer and learning took place. Workshops and inspiring speakers at Legislative Day (298), Spiritual Growth Retreat (435), Come Together Be Together (160) and Mission u (166) all increased our knowledge and understanding of the world we share. We are all God's children sharing his planet earth. We strive to love one another.

Objectives for the coming year:

We will attend the Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting, theme "Born to Celebrate". At the 47th Annual Meeting we elected our two nominees for the Southeastern Jurisdiction in Mobile, Alabama April 17-19. We selected three young women as Program Advisory Members. Three voting delegates were elected. We are ready for leadership. We have wonderful candidates and pray the win their elections and are given future opportunities to lead.

We are thankful to have our South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women member Sue Owens nominated to serve as President for the Southeastern Jurisdiction. We celebrate her selection. We applaud others recognizing her talents and gifts. Our prayers go with Sue as she serves for the next four years.

We anticipate continuing our Presidential Scholarship for young women, members of our Methodist churches who are seeking degrees of higher education. We wish to support their growth as our future leaders. We keep them close in prayer.

We will experience our first Limitless Young Women's event on February 29th. Limitless ladies, 14-30 years of age will share a Leap Day with each other. A talent show, love and laughter will fill the day. Hosted by Lebanon United Methodist Church in Eastover, Columbia District we know this will prove memorable fun for all.

Communication through our quarterly Mission Echo newsletter will continue as an online resource. Our monthly Advocate column will highlight current events and service work as told by officers around the conference. District quarterly newsletters will share local activities. We are growing our website.

Action(s) required from the 2020 Annual Conference:

none

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

South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women wish to expand their membership. We welcome new members. We have a desire to grow in mission and fellowship with all women, children and youth, seniors too!

Our vision is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

We are over 10,000 members in South Carolina and over 800,000 members worldwide. We celebrated 150 years in mission on March 23, 2019. Come! Join! Belong!

Narrative:

South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women wish to expand their membership. We welcome new members. We have a desire to grow in mission and fellowship with all women, children and youth, seniors too! Our vision is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

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Narrative:

Our organization provides numerous benefits to all.

Our community of women is beyond description. Our network of fellowship and friendship is strong. Our bonds and care for each other grow deep. Borders do not exist. Love and compassion rule.

Opportunities for educational enrichment and leadership experience are without boundaries. Every position of service is open to every member. Training and guidance is abundant. Experienced officers of United Methodist Women serve in communities, schools, churches, governments, businesses, neighborhoods and homes. A foundation for caring leaders is our specialty.

We invite and welcome all women to join our organization. Come be part of our journey “to know God”.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathy Ford, Conference President 2019-2020
cathylford@gmail.com, 8642316740
Cathy S. Ford – Conference President
Vice-President – Janice Eaddy
Secretary – Jacqueline Williams
Treasurer – Ruby Hannah
Communications – Kim Love Quick
Secretary of Program Resources – Velva Ellerbe
Education & Interpretation – Eunice Y. White
Membership Nurture and Outreach – Lavonne James
Social Action – Linda Eichenbaum
Chair CONominations – Mary Cabaniss
Dean Mission u – Betty Swinton
Assistant Dean – Vanessa Key

THE SOUTH CAROLINA METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION

The year 2020 marks sixty-five years of service by the South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union (SCMCCU) to the Ministers and their families, the churches and their members, and the institutions of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. The Credit Union was chartered on September 19, 1955, by ten elders of the South Carolina Conference (1785). The Reverend Hawley B. Lynn was elected to serve as the first President. Initially the Credit Union was chartered to serve ministerial members of the annual conference and others under appointment of the bishop, employees of the Boards and Agencies of the annual conference, and their family members. Today, membership encompasses not only the clergy of the South Carolina Conference and their families, but also members of the churches, and employees of the local churches, the Annual Conference, and the United Methodist Colleges, and Retirement Homes of the South Carolina Conference.

The Credit Union remains safe, strong and sound in its mission to serve its members. As a member of the Credit Union, individuals and their family members can benefit from a member-owned, not-for-profit, service-driven, relationship-oriented, stewardship model that is at the core of our financial ministry. Although our primary

business continues to be new and used automobile loans and personal loans for our members, the Credit Union also offers loans to the local churches and institutions of the South Carolina Conference. In 2019 two additional churches used our credit union's lending service increasing the number of churches now being served to seven in five districts: Hartsville, Greenwood, Spartanburg, Columbia, and Charleston.

On January 27, 2020, at the Credit Union's Annual Meeting held at the Epworth Children's Home, the members elected Board of Directors and the financial condition of the credit union was reported. Please note below the outstanding financial condition of the credit union at the end of 2019.

The staff of the SCMCCU remains focused in its mission to serve its members. The Reverend Rex Wilson serves as President of the Credit Union, a role he has held since 2007. Mr. Harry Metz is the Manager of Accounting & Operations. Mrs. Donna Lollis is Loan Officer & Member Services and Mrs. Carolyn Lucas is Receptionist & Member Services.

You are most likely a member of a United Methodist Church in South Carolina. As a member you are invited to join the South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union as it continues to serve United Methodism and United Methodists in South Carolina. Visit our website (www.scmccu) to learn more.

The Board of Directors, Committees and staff of the SCMCCU are grateful for the trust placed in us as our members' financial stewards.

Directors: Mr. James Bradley Jr., Rev. Eugene L. Curry, Rev. Roger M. Gramling, Mr. Joel S. Hughes, Rev. Dennis R. Lee, Ms. Lisa K. Livingston, Rev. Ronald A. Pettit, Rev. Robert M. Vincent, Rev. Lillian H. Washington

Credit Committee: Rev. John E. Holler, Chairperson, Rev. John W. Culp, Mr. H. Parker Evatt

Supervisory Committee: Ms. Christine C. Dominick, Chairperson, Rev. Sara A. White, Rev. Meredith M. Dark.

James Bradley, Jr., Chairperson, Board of Directors

Reginald D. Wilson, Jr., President

South Carolina Methodist Conference Credit Union	12/31/17	12/31/18	Change	12/31/19	Change
Assets	**$**	**$**	**%**	**$**	**%**
Cash & Equivalents	274,152	292,131	6.5	460,086	57.4
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	1,687,347	1,204,347	-28.6	647,274	-46.2
Loans Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Loans	305,519	399,698	30.8	441,828	10.5
Unsecured Loans	357,594	374,401	4.7	348,815	-6.5
Other Loans	2,749,029	2,899,928	5.4	3,123,880	7.7
TOTAL LOANS	3,412,142	3,674,027	16.9	3,914,523	6.5
(Allowance for Loan & Lease Losses)	(45,523)	(41,087)	-9.7	(54,020)	31.4
Land And Building	72,995	70,350	-3.6	67,788	-3.6
Other Fixed Assets	186	89	-52.1	2,663	2892.1
NCUSIF Deposit	48,455	46,330	-4.3	44,106	-4.8
All Other Assets	22,219	15,936	-28.2	16,087	.95
TOTAL ASSETS	5,471,973	5,262,123	-3.8	5,098,507	-3.1

SCMCCU - Liabilities, Shares and Equity					
Dividends Payable	0	0	0	0	0
Notes & Interest Payable	0	0	0	0	0
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities \3	20,999	18,020	-14.1	18,298	1.5
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20,999	18,020	-14.1	18,298	1.5
Share Drafts	0	0	0	0	0
Regular shares	3,067,264	3,010,264	-1.8	2,869,178	-4.6
All Other Shares & Deposits	1,832,185	1,668,030	-7.8	1,639,810	-1.7
TOTAL SHARES & DEPOSITS	4,899,449	4,678,294	-4.5	4,508,988	-3.6
Regular Reserve	304,175	304,175	0	304,175	0
Other Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
Undivided Earnings	247,350	261,634	5.8	267,046	2.1
TOTAL EQUITY	551,525	565,809	2.6	571,221	.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES, SHARES, & EQUITY	5,471,973	5,262,123	-3.8	5,098,507	-3.1

Income & Expense	12/31/17	12/31/18	Change	12/31/19	Change
	$	$	%	$	%
Loan Income*	238,984	259,531	8.6	255,232	-1.6
Investment Income*	27,796	29,391	5.7	28,763	-2.1
Other Income*	17,039	15,315	-10.1	12,481	-18.5
Total Employee Compensation & Benefits*	179,470	187,488	4.4	203,138	8.3
Corp. CU Stabilization Exp. & NCUSIF Premiums	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Operating Expenses*	71,094	74,690	5.1	70,644	-5.4
Non-operating Income & (Expense)*	0	0	0	0	0
NCUSIF Stabilization Income*	0	0	0	0	0
Provision for Loan/Lease Losses*	17,120	18,620	8.8	10,658	-42.7
Cost of Funds*	7,759	9,156	18.0	6,624	-27.6
Net Income (Loss)*	**8,376**	**14,283**	**70.5**	**5,412**	**-62.1**

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

In 2019, Africa University's story was one of resourcefulness, generous investment and ministry growth.

The university community extends its thanks and appreciation to Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, the Cabinet and the committed lay and clergy leaders who foster vitality within the local congregations of the South Carolina Conference. The dedication and gracious support of the South Carolina Conference found tangible expression in a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2019. Thank you, South Carolina Conference, for your prayers, AUF investment and second-mile gifts which affirm our United Methodist connection and global mission.

The generosity of South Carolina United Methodists helps Africa University to nurture, educate, and equip leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. Since opening in 1992, Africa University has trained more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. These young people are equipped to be ethical, responsible and responsive leaders who can discern their calling and determine how best to serve the needs of their communities.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University has an annual student population of more than 2,800. There are 25-30 African nations represented in the student body each year.
- The university's three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community engagement and enterprise development. Africa University is still the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degree programs.
- Students, faculty and alumni contribute effective solutions to Africa's current challenges. Their interventions include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee students, as well as doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa. Why military chaplains? They are among the first responders in crisis situations in Africa who address immediate needs such as rescue, shelter, food and comfort for the bereaved as well as the longer-term challenge of healing shattered dreams.
- Africa University is transitioning to solar energy provision on its main campus. With the support of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, a residence hall for women and a new wing of the student union building–gifted to the university by the Dallas, Texas-based Highland Park United Methodist Church–will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus.

Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, its Cross and Flame, and the denomination's global mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, in every season and despite a shifting social landscape.

Through its faithfulness, the South Carolina Conference invites new partners to join in the mission and change the world. By giving freely, South Carolina United Methodists walk alongside their neighbors, participate in bringing dreams to life, and assure an abundant present and future for more of God's people.

South Carolina Conference, thank you for your proactive engagement and generosity. Thanks to your stewardship of God's blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was impossible. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.' Luke 18:27 NKJV

Submitted by:

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office · jsalley@gbhem.org · 615.340.7438

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders who are dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current shifts in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward, we will continue to invite and welcome those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

This year, Candler has continued to strengthen our deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $6.3 million in financial aid, with 100 percent of master of divinity (MDiv) students receiving support and financial coaching. In fall 2019, we announced a major expansion of our financial aid program to include full-tuition scholarships for all MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and new merit scholarships covering 75% of tuition for qualifying MDiv students who identify as pan-Wesleyan, and those pursuing chaplaincy through Candler's new chaplaincy concentration. In addition, all incoming students in the master of divinity, master of theological studies, and master of religious leadership programs will receive awards covering at least 50% of tuition.

This year also saw the launch of two pilot "formation communities," off-campus student housing that focuses on intentional living and spiritual formation. Students from multiple degree programs applied to take part in these pilot groups. At the start of the year, the housemates created a "rule of life" to guide their days together, emphasizing prayer, fellowship, and celebration. A house chaplain—a Candler faculty member or church leader—supports them and shares in the journey. The ten students who took part this year describe feeling a richer sense of community and deeper connections to God and one another in the midst of their busy lives. It is clear that this fulfills a need for our seminarians, and we eagerly anticipate the program's growth in the coming years.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 470 from 12 countries and 38 states, with 40 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 42 denominations, with 45% of all students and 50% of MDivs coming from the Methodist family.

We offer six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees.

Candler draws strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu.

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

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a $12 million grant in support of DDS's three core priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors, embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church of today and the future. The collaboration will be led by the Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School.

In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M., 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min. 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. Duke Divinity's new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative at the school.

The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students, with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent. There were 24 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 42 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Strawn has a secondary appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eighteen years.

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences.

Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

United Methodist faculty member Brittany Wilson received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of the Divinity School as Senior Strategist for the Hispanic House of Studies. He will also serve as a consulting faculty member.

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year.

The Duke Endowment has also awarded Duke Divinity School a grant of $5.5 million over five years to cultivate meaning and purpose across diverse professional schools at Duke. The Lilly Endowment has also awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on "Thriving in Ministry" and "Thriving Congregations" across the United States.

Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create streamlined admissions process and private campus events in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is also partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO
www.mtso.edu

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you news from MTSO.

Full-tuition scholarships extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy

MTSO and the school's generous donors have pledged to extend a full-tuition pledge to all prospective students who are pursuing United Methodist elder or deacon candidacy. This pledge applies to qualified prospective students who apply by July 1 for the 2020-21 academic year. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions at 800-333-6876 or admissions@mtso.edu.

Two young scholars appointed to faculty

MTSO President Jay Rundell has announced the appointment of Tejai Beulah and Kyle Brooks to the faculty, effective July 1. Beulah has been appointed assistant professor of history, ethics, and black church and African diaspora studies. She earned her doctorate in American religious history from Drew University; a Master of Theological Studies degree from MTSO; a master's degree in African American and African studies from Ohio State University; and a bachelor's degree in English, history and gender diversity studies from Xavier University. Brooks has been appointed assistant professor of homiletics, worship, and black church and African diaspora studies. He has served for two years as a Louisville Institute postdoctoral fellow at MTSO while completing his doctoral dissertation in pursuit of a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University with a concentration in homiletics and liturgics. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, and an M.A. in Urban Education Studies and B.A. from Yale University.

Al Gore among participants at MTSO conference

In June 2019, more than 100 religious leaders, scholars, scientists and farmers gathered at MTSO for a three-day conference, "On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change." Former Vice President Al Gore, founder and chairman of the Climate Reality Project, participated in all three days of the conference, delivering a multimedia climate presentation during a plenary session.

Faculty offer reading recommendations

MTSO's faculty members, who are widely published themselves, have compiled a list of theological books that shaped their lives and work. Their brief reviews cover titles from *Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison* to *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*. They are available online at www.mtso.edu/goodbooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Russell, director of communications

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PREDATORY LENDING
TO THE
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FROM THE ADVOCACY WORK AREA
OF
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Scriptural Reference

Exodus 22:25 esv says:

> "If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.

Deuteronomy 23:19 esv says:

> "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest.

Whereas: Payday and car title loan lenders are having a negative impact on the lives of the poor and marginalized residents of South Carolina, and;

Whereas: Payday and car title lenders are terms used to describe a wide range of unfair financial lending practices that target the poor, communities of color and those individuals who cannot access the traditional financial system, and;

Whereas: Twenty-three percent of South Carolina's jobs are low-wage jobs, and;

Whereas: A South Carolina resident, being on a fixed income or earning low wages does not make an individual or family a credit risk deserving of high interest rates and finance charges, and;

Whereas: South Carolina residents who pursue payday loans are often low-income and have an emergency bill that must be paid, and they have no other means of paying this bill, and;

Whereas: South Carolina has some of the highest utility costs in the southeast, requiring a significant number of low-income residents to borrow short-term loans from payday lenders to pay utility bills, and;

Whereas: In South Carolina by law, lenders can charge any interest rate they choose, only being required to file that rate with the SC Department of Consumer Affairs and post it in their place of business, resulting in lenders having filed interest rates as high as 999%, and;

Whereas: Abusive lending practices in poor communities are not limited to mortgage lending. Smaller dollar loans can result in low-income consumers paying thousands of dollars on relatively small loans of $601 to $2,500. One industry, Auto Title Lenders, regularly charges 300 percent interest on its loans, expecting a consumer to repay this loan within 30 days, and;

Whereas: Fifty-six percent of South Carolina payday loan consumers borrow more than 5 times per year, 29.8% borrow more than ten times per year, and 11% borrow more than 15 times per year, and;

Whereas: In 2018 nearly 700,000 payday loans were made to 86,000 people living in South Carolina, which is an average of 8 loans per person. These borrowers paid exorbitant interest rates and fees totaling roughly $44 million, and;

Whereas: Fifty-five percent of South Carolinians use subprime credit, and;

Whereas: Forty-two percent of all South Carolinians have at least one account that is in collection and at least 14% of South Carolina households fell behind on bills in the past year.

Therefore, ***be it resolved that*** the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage the South Carolina General Assembly and/or the United States Congress to pass binding legislation capping usury fees and interest rates for small dollar loans at 36%, and;

Be it Further Resolved that the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage financial institutions, foundations, state and federal government, and other interested parties pursue the development of financial products that meet the needs of low-income residents for small dollar loans to address emergencies that are not high interest or high cost, and;

Be it Further Resolved that the members of the SC Annual Conference mobilize and use its collective voice of justice to encourage lawmakers, financial institutions, funders and decision-makers to address the unjust effects of high cost lenders, including consumer finance, payday lending and auto title lending.

Respectfully Submitted,

Advocacy Work Area of Connectional Ministries
Bernie Mazyck, Co-convener
Tracy Pender, Co-convener

THE CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar provided for in Standing Rule No. 22 allows for the adoption by "consent" of reports and other items which do not necessarily require deliberation by the Annual Conference in open session and which can be adopted or "moved to the record without reading" by a simple majority vote.

Prior to the consideration of the Consent Calendar scheduled for Monday morning, any fifteen members of the Annual Conference may request the removal of a specific item from the Consent Calendar, and it shall be removed and considered at an appropriate time determined by the President and the Secretary. The Consent Calendar shall be adopted by a majority vote.

To remove an item from the Consent Calendar, complete and secure the required signatures on the form at the end of this section and deliver the completed form to the Secretary of the Annual Conference prior to consideration of the Consent Calendar. A separate petition is required for each item to be removed.

Special Days for 2021 11
Advance Special Ministries 20201 12
Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry 15
The Methodist Manor 18
The Methodist Oaks 18
Wesley Commons 19
Claflin University 20
Columbia College 21
Spartanburg Methodist College 22
Wofford College 23
Charleston Wesley Foundation 24
Clemson Wesley Foundation 26
Columbia Wesley Foundation 26
Francis Marion University Wesley Foundation 27
Furman Wesley Fellowship 28
Greenwood Wesley Foundation 29
Winthrop Wesley Foundation 30
Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry 30
The SC Conference Historical Society 39
The Committee on the Annual Conference 46
The Committee on Episcopacy 48
The Office of Clergy Services 49
The Conference Staff Relations Committee 50
The Trustees of *The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate* 53
The Trustees of the United Methodist Center 54
Ministry Advisory Team 54
The United Methodist Men 56
The United Methodist Women 57
The SC Conference Methodist Credit Union 58
Africa University 60
Candler School of Theology 61
Duke Divinity School 61
Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) 62

See Page 65 for

"Petition To Remove"

PETITION TO REMOVE

FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

(7) _____

(8) _____

(9) _____

(10) _____

(11) _____

(12) _____

(13) _____

(14) _____

(15) _____

PART II

- **Parliamentary Process**
- **Voting Rights and Badge Color Information**
- **Motion Form**
- **Written Ballots**
- **Recognition Sheet (To speak from the floor at conference, please hold up the recognition sheet.)**

Guidelines for Participation in Parliamentary Process

Handling A Motion:

1. Member **makes** a motion.
2. Another member **seconds** the motion.
3. Chair **states** the question on the motion.*
4. Motion is **pending** and open for **debate**.
5. Assembly decides on the motion: adopts/rejects.
6. Chair announces results of vote.

(Page 48-51 – *Robert's Rules,* 2010 edition)

*Until the chair states the question, the maker of the motion has the right to modify the motion or withdraw it entirely. i.e. with the agreement of the Second.

P. 59-RR: Fundamental Principle of Parliamentary Law:

Only one question can be considered at a time; once a motion is before the assembly:

1. Adopts or rejects.
2. Or disposed in some other way.

SECONDARY MOTION:

1. Made and considered while the main motion is pending.
2. Must be acted upon or disposed of before direct consideration of the main question can be continued.

P. 62-65-RR: Subsidiary Motions can be amended except:

Motion to "Postpone indefinitely", "Previous Question", or "Lay on the Table".

P. 54- RR: In cases where there seems to be no opposition in routine business, time is saved by procedure of GENERAL CONSENT:

example: "If there is no objection ...". If there is objection, chair states the question and allows debate and vote.

P.135-RR: AN AMENDMENT of the THIRD degree is not permitted.

P.153-RR: It is possible to introduce a "Substitute for the substitute" which CANNOT be amended, since it is a Secondary Amendment.

PP.153-162-RR: TO SUBSTITUTE:

A substitute offered for a main motion or resolution (or paragraph), is a PRIMARY AMENDMENT and usually is in order ONLY when no other amendment is pending.

HOWEVER, superseding this is GENERAL CONFERENCE RULE OF ORDER NO. 28 – "PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTITUTES" AND "AMENDING BY SUBSTITUTION":

(Rule of Order No. 28 used when substitutes are offered for ORIGINAL Conference Reports of Boards, Committees, or Resolutions "even if amendments thereto are pending, a substitute therefore may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the house."

Steps For G.C. RULE 28:

1. Debate limited to merits of substitution only, no amendments allowed.
2. Vote on substitute, if prevails by majority vote, becomes main motion.
3. Debate, amendment moves forward on main motion.
4. MAIN MOTION is voted upon with minimum of two speeches on each side of question.

PP. 138-139-RR: IMPROPER AMENDMENTS ARE THOSE ...

1. not germane to the question.
2. merely making adoption of amended question equivalent to rejection of original motion.
3. making question identical, or contrary to, one previously decided during the same session.
4. proposing to change one of the forms of amendment (i.e. "to insert or add; to strike out and insert; to substitute") into another form.
5. having the effect of converting one parliamentary motion into another.
6. that strike out the word "Resolved" or other enacting words.
7. frivolous or absurd.
8. having incoherent wording or no rational purpose.
9. converting a primary amendment into an improper form.

VOTING RIGHTS OF CLERGY AND LAY MEMBERS
TO SC ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY CATEGORY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

- Lay members to AC may vote on anything on the floor of the annual conference, including constitutional amendments (this does not include clergy session, although the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are allowed voice and vote at clergy session). [1 33]

- South Carolina clergy members in full connection (this includes deacons and elders, active and retired, as well as persons in all voluntary leave categories) are eligible to vote on anything on the floor of the annual conference plus all matters that come before the clergy session. [1 33]

- Associate members of South Carolina (retired and active) may vote on all matters except (a) constitutional amendments; and (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (this is basically nearly everything at clergy session). [1 321.1]

- Local Licensed Pastors (full-time and part-time) who are currently (this means at the time of the AC session) under appointment may vote on all matters except (a) constitutional amendments; and (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Note that Local pastors who have completed Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conference; but this will not be in play at the 2020 AC session. [1 316.6]

- Provisional members of South Carolina may vote on all matters except constitutional amendments; and (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Note that provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conference; but this will not be in play at the 2020 AC session. [1 327.2]

- Clergy members of other annual conferences currently serving under appointment in South Carolina maintain their right to vote in their home annual conference. They are allowed to sit within the bar of the conference in South Carolina, with voice but not vote. [1 346.1]

- Ministers of Other Denominations currently serving under appointment in South Carolina, and approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, are allowed to sit within the bar of the conference with voice. When the BOM certifies that their credentials are at least equal to a UM elder, then they may be accorded the right to vote on all matters except (a) constitutional amendments; and (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (this is basically nearly everything at clergy session). [1 346.2]

  A current list of clergy thus certified can be found in the Business of the Annual Conference Report, Question 25 (names with an asterisk are those who have been accorded voting right within the annual conference).

- Clergy on Honorable Location no longer hold membership in the annual conference, So do not hold voting rights on any annual conference or clergy session matter [1 358]

BADGE COLOR GUIDE

CLERGY

Full Members (Elders & Deacons) (Active & Retired) ..... White
(White badges may vote on all matters before the Annual Conference)

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Provisional and Probationary Members (Elders and Deacons) ..... Red
Associate Members (Active & Retired) ..... Red
Local Pastors (Full-Time & Part-Time) ..... Red
Retired Local Pastors (Currently Serving) ..... Red
(Red badges may vote on all business matters before the Annual Conference but not matters before the Clergy Session and not constitutional amendments.)

Affiliate Members ..... Purple
Recognized Retired Local Pastors (technically lay-persons) ..... Purple
(Purple badges have the privilege of voice but not vote in the Annual Conference.)

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Supply Pastors ..... Green
OD, OE, OF, OP ..... Green
Honorably Located Clergy, Candidates, Visitors, Others ..... Green
(Green Badges have no vote or voice on any matter before the Annual Conference.)

LAY

Lay Members ..... Blue
Diaconal Ministers (Active and Retired) ..... Blue
Active Deaconesses (under Episcopal appointment) ..... Blue
(Blue badges may vote on all business matters before the Annual Conference including constitutional amendments.)

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Annual Conference Staff ..... Yellow
Alternate Lay Members ..... Green
Others (Visitors) ..... Green
Clergy Spouses ..... Pink
Annual Conference Volunteers..... Gold
(Green and pink badges have no voice or vote in the Annual Conference.
If an Alternate is to be seated in the place of a Lay Member and thus become the Lay Member with the right to speak and vote, that Alternate must obtain a new badge from the Registrar Table after approval by the district superintendent.)

The South Carolina Annual Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be completed and delivered to the Secretary's Desk by the Conference Member **immediately** after presentation of any of the following actions

☑ **Check the proper square:**

- ☐ Motion
- ☐ Amendment
- ☐ Substitute
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Point of Order
- ☐ Nomination(s)
- ☐ Other _____

REFERENCE: Page _____ Other _____

_____

(continue on back if necessary)

Name _____

District _____ Church _____

Date _____ Time _____ AM PM

The South Carolina Annual Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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☑ **Check the proper square:**

- ☐ Motion
- ☐ Amendment
- ☐ Substitute
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Point of Order
- ☐ Nomination(s)
- ☐ Other _____

REFERENCE: Page _____ Other _____

_____

(continue on back if necessary)

Name _____

District _____ Church _____

Date _____ Time _____ AM PM

Written Ballot #3

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #1

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #4

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #2

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #7

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #5

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #8

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Written Ballot #6

Yes

NO

(Please circle to Indicate your vote.)

Recognition Sheet

Recognition Sheet