

# 2015 S.C. Annual Conference

## SUNDAY AT-A-GLANCE

■ Lay delegates and clergy arrived at the Florence Civic Center today for the start of the 2015 Annual Conference.

■ Bishop Jonathan Holston presided over the opening Clergy Session.

■ The Clergy Session approved 17 provisional elders, four ordained deacons and 12 ordained elders who will be commissioned and ordained during a worship service Monday night.

■ The Laity gathered in the Civic Center for an opening session and orientation to the conference.

■ Following a break, the Conference officially opened with a worship service.

■ The Africa University choir provided uplifting music during the evening worship service.

■ The offering received during the worship service went to the Burdine Lodge Restoration Project, an effort to restore and preserve an 18th Century log home in which Francis Asbury stayed and in which a Methodist Society was organized.

■ Monday activities begin at 7:30 AM with a Holy Communion service.

■ The Annual Conference is called to order at 8:30 AM Monday with the traditional opening of conference, singing of "And Are We Yet Alive."

■ This year, Annual Conference delegates are using an electronic voting system in the election of delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference..

*"We are to be people of hope."  
- Bishop Jonathan Holston*



FLORENCE, SC — It's about hope and the Holy Spirit.

That's the message that Bishop Jonathan Holston passionately decreed as the 2015 South Annual Conference opened with worship Sunday night.

In a sermon entitled, "Who Could Ask for Anything More," Bishop Holston tied the image of hope to the words of Paul in Romans 5:1-5.

He reminded those listening of the work of serving Christ and the times that it can be difficult.

"Any worthwhile thing does not come easy," Bishop Holston said.

However, he said, the Holy Spirit is present and walks with us in the journey. Through that connection, he said, we find a source of hope.

"We are to be people of hope," he said. "We are never by ourselves. We are never alone.

"We can be anywhere in South Carolina and God is always there."

The theme of the conference is "Becoming Disciples God Can Use."

"God can use a good disciple — one who wants to stand in the midst of the gaps in life," Bishop Holston said.

He reminded those in attendance of the power of God's grace and for the need to work together.

"We might not agree with one another," he said, "but we should not be disagreeable."

Following the sermon, Annual Conference delegates shared in Holy Communion as they prepared to begin the business of the conference on Monday morning.

