

The Third Day - Tuesday Morning June 3, 2014

At 7:30 AM the Awards Breakfast was held in the Pee Dee Room. The following awards were presented on behalf of Connectional Ministries:

The Bishop's 5 Star Award of Excellence, which is an award given to provide incentive for churches to annually embrace new ministries specifically geared toward growth and outreach. It is designed to enable churches of all sizes to receive recognition. Five Star churches meet the following criteria: increased Sunday School attendance by 5%, developed a new ministry that impacts youth, have a "new work" program that impacts growth, have a 1% increase for members who are received by profession of faith, paid all apportionments in full for 2013 or increased apportionment payments by 25% over those paid in 2012. The award was presented to the following churches:

Church

Asbury UMC, Shiloh
Bethel UMC - Charleston
Bethel UMC – Columbia
Boone Hill UMC
Chapin UMC
Christ UMC
Clemson UMC
Concord UMC
First UMC - Clover
Grace UMC
Grove Hall UMC
Lebanon UMC
Little River UMC
Mauldin UMC
Mays UMC
Mays Chapel UMC
Mt. Hebron UMC
Mt. Vernon UMC
Mt. Zion UMC - Florence
Mt. Zion UMC - Bishopville
Shady Grove UMC
Shandon UMC
Shiloh UMC
Springtown UMC
St. Andrews by The Sea UMC
St. John UMC - Shiloh
St. Luke UMC - Walhalla
Trinity UMC
Trinity UMC

Pastor

Reverend Pattie Elaine Gordon
Reverend Cindy S. Shaw
Reverend Henry M. Davis
Reverend Kelli W. Taylor
Reverend Jody Flowers
Reverend Wade Everett
Reverend Keith D. Ray II
Reverend Kimberley Evans
Reverend Tommy Wilkes
Reverend James McCoy-Bruce
Reverend Virginia Stafford
Reverend Dr. Mark Williams
Reverend Stuart R. Smith
Reverend C. E. Kanipe
Reverend LaSheila Mack Wyatt
Reverend Mark A. Williams
Reverend Tim J. Rogers
Reverend Linda B. Dunn
Reverend J. Derrick Cattenhead
Reverend Angela Ford Nelson
Reverend Bob Vincent
Reverend Mike Guffee
Reverend Christopher Greene
Reverend Albert Middleton
Reverend Neil Yongue
Reverend Pattie Elaine Gordon
Reverend Richard Reams
Reverend LaSheila Wyatt
Reverend Sandra Stevens Poirer

Washington UMC
Wesley UMC - Pinopolis

Reverend Williams M. Wrighten
Reverend Lee C. Bines

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families, and their leaders to participate in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America. The United Methodist Men of South Carolina join with Bishop Holston in recognizing Scouting Ministry as an important part of the Church's total ministry because of who is involved, ALL God's children. These children will learn of God's love from those servants who model their faith. Scouting affords many opportunities for ministry from the church's buildings to camping in God's creation. Those involved become part of a worldwide identity in the local community influencing youth positively for Christ. Not only are the youth ministered to, but the adults also ministry to each other. This award was presented to the following churches:

Charleston District

Boone Hill UMC

Reverend Kelli W. Taylor, Pastor
Charles Smith, Scouting Coordinator

Cub Scout Pack 759
Boy Scout Troup 759
Venturing Crew 314

Stallsville UMC

Reverend David James, Pastor
Rolland Fitch, II, Scouting Coordinator

Cub Scout Pack 750
Boy Scout Troop 750

Columbia District

Asbury Memorial UMC

Reverend Steve McCormick, Pastor
Gene Clark, Scouting Coordinator

Cub Scout Pack 397
Cub Scout Pack 518

Red Bank UMC

Reverend W. Russell Freeman, Sr., Pastor
Robin Smith, Scouting Coordinator

Girl Scout Troop 2323
Boy Scout Troop 518

Orangeburg District

Trinity UMC

Reverend Larry D. McCutheon, Pastor
Ernest Nimmons, Scouting Coordinator

Cub Scout Pack 190
Boy Scout Troup 190

Greenwood District

Grace UMC

Reverend Jim Dennis, Pastor
Allan Coutts, Scouting Coordinator

Cub Scout Pack 7
Boy Scout Troop 7

The Herbert Hucks Award is presented to local churches and publications who celebrate the history of the church. This year's awards were presented to the following churches:

Livingston UMC, Livingston
Main Street UMC, Abbeville
Mt. Hebron UMC, West Columbia
Mount Dearborn UMCX, Great Falls
Mountain View UMC, Taylors
Nazareth UMC, Batesville – Leesville
Oak Grove UMC, Swansea
Pisgah UMC, Aynor
Tabernacle UMC, Lancaster

The 2014 Herbert Hucks Individual Award was presented to Horace Harmon of Mt. Hebron UMC, West Columbia, former church historian and active historian of Lexington County. His work in historical preservation for the church and the county led to the preservation of the Temperance Hall at Mt. Hebron.

The 2014 Advocate Scholarship was established in 2014 to help alleviate tuition costs for students majoring in business, communications or journalism; and ideally will be awarded to a student who understands the role of journalism in Christian ministry. The inaugural award was presented to Ms. C'Nell L. Boone who received a \$1,000 scholarship. She attends Claflin University and is a member of Edisto Fork United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, SC.

The T. Dennie Smith Scholarship assists any young man or woman who intends to devote their lives to the ministry in the Methodist Church. The 2014 recipients are: the Reverend Walter Edward Strawther and the Reverend Edward Preveaux.

The Seminary Students Scholarship is awarded by the S.C. Conference to assist students from South Carolina in pursuing a program of study leading to a first professional degree. This year's recipient is the Reverend Sean Michael Kilpatrick.

The Denman Evangelism Award honors people, both lay and clergy, who are effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ. This effort can involve speaking, personal witnessing, or inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism. Nominees' lifestyles bring honor to Christ and the Church in ways that are in keeping with the United Methodist history and traditions. This award was presented to Ms. Mary Beth McCombs, Lay recipient; and the Reverend Jonathan Tompkins, Clergy recipient.

The Joseph B. Bethea Distinguished Service Award is presented to a person who has performed outstanding service in working for racial justice. This award was presented to the Reverend Amiri Hooker.

Barbara Boultinghouse Bridgebuilders Award, is presented annually to one person or organization of the South Carolina Annual Conference who has built bridges of understanding by promoting the equity and inclusiveness of all persons, without regard to race, gender, age, handicap, or economic condition. This award was presented to: Mr. Cassius Rhue.

The United Methodist Men Life Membership Award was presented to Mr. Clayton Easter. Mr. Easter received a life membership certificate, Lifetime membership card and a pin.

Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award is presented annually to one clergy person and one lay person who has exemplified extraordinary volunteer mission service in the South Carolina Conference. The award was presented to: Ms. Suzanne Jones – Laity, and the Reverend Neil Flowers – Clergy.

The Archives and History Awards were presented to churches celebrating their 100th or 200th year anniversaries:

Bicentennial Churches: Greenwood District - Ebenezer UMC, Newberry, the O'Neal Street- Ebenezer Charge. Centennial Churches: Anderson District – St. Andrew UMC, Easley; Columbia District – College Place UMC, Columbia; Florence District: First UMC, Hemingway; Greenwood District: Broad Street UMC, Clinton; Orangeburg District: Neeses UMC, Neeses, Springfield Charge; Walterboro District: Furman UMC, Hampton, Estill-Black Swamp Charge.

The following **Students in Mission (SIM)** were recognized: Cory Nelson, Kayla Norris, Javon Etheredge, Curtis Hudson, Will Shelton, Murphy Belton, LaQuaan Malachi, and Tripp Edwards.

The Reverend Dr. Robin Dease opened the morning with a time of **Bible Study**. She focused on Peter's healing of a lame man in Acts 3. She pointed to themes of hope and the church's continuing mission to those in poverty. She challenged those in attendance to wrestle with the ways in which we can create corridors of hope for those in need.

Following the study, those in attendance watched a video featuring children talking about hope.

The Reverend Karen Radcliffe encouraged those in attendance to participate in the blood drive with a goal of collecting 37 units.

The Reverend Kathy James and Ms. Cynthia Williams - Conference Convener, presented the **Connectional Ministries** Report. The report began with a video explaining the role of Connectional Ministries in the Annual Conference.

They recognized the Reverend George Olive for his service as the Conference's Disaster Response Coordinator. The Reverend Gregg Varner was introduced as the new coordinator. Rev. Varner thanked Rev. Olive for his work and shared the importance of disaster response.

The Reverend John Culp made a motion to address race reconciliation. The motion was seconded. The resolution was printed and submitted to those in attendance.

The resolution as follows:

"I would like to move that the South Carolina Annual Conference take seriously its passion for race reconciliation and create out of the emerging ministry fund in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 a task force and/or committee to address racial prejudice and injustice as a theological and missional imperative on the local level in congregations and neighborhoods. In order to more deeply understanding racism in our state and local communities and the church's opportunity and challenge in bearing witness to the New Create wrought up in Jesus Christ, the following is offered as a way forward.

- (1) The conference request of Wofford College and Claflin University to work with the Commission on Religion and Race (or Advocacy Ministry Area or cabinet) in designing and implementing two one-day conference with one session on each campus during 2015.
- (2) The conference include the following topics: Current Realities Regarding Race in SC and the US; Role/Opportunity of the Church in Addressing Racism(specifically the UMC); How Clergy Can Provide Transformative Leadership in Racial Reconciliation; Moving Beyond Integration to Reconciliation.
- (3) All clergy be strongly urged to attend one or both of the conferences with at least one layperson from the local church.

- (4) Each pastor report at Charge Conference what is being done in the local congregation and community toward racial reconciliation and justice; or set specific goals with results to be reported at the 2015 Charge Conference.

The Reverend Gary Phillips made a motion to refer the Resolution to Connectional Ministries. The motion was seconded. The Reverend Hayes Gainey spoke in opposition to the motion to refer. Mrs. Nancy Russell spoke in favor of referring it to Connectional Ministries. The Reverend Larry McCutcheon spoke in opposition to referring the proposal and said that referring would be delaying it. Ms. Cynthia Williams, of Connectional Ministries, spoke before the vote and said that Connectional Ministries is working on issues as they come forward. Rev. John Culp spoke in opposition to the motion to refer. The Reverend Bob Huggins spoke in favor of referring the motion.

Bishop Holston called for a vote and attendees voted to refer the motion. Bishop Holston reminded those at the Conference that we are one body.

Following that, the Connectional Ministries report was approved.

Mr. Chris Lynch, Congregational Specialist, presented Hillary Taylor and Erica Oliveria who are serving as **Ministry Interns**. The interns shared information about their backgrounds and talked about the work they are doing in ministry. They encouraged others to be involved in ministry and missions efforts and to visit their booth in the exhibit hall.

The Reverend Robert Cannon asked for a point of personal privilege and he spoke about Dr. Mike Watson who has purchased a memoir on the efforts of volunteers in ministry. That memoir is available at the UMVIM table.

The Conference took a 10-minute break before continuing reports.

Following the break, the Conference watched a video on Revolution and the impact it has had on youth in South Carolina.

The Reverend John Holler presented a report on **Epworth Children's Home**. Epworth Children's Home has recently adopted a new slogan, "In the pursuit of excellence, aim higher." Rev. Holler shared that Epworth received a gift from the Duke Endowment to improve quality and efficiency.

Rev. Holler shared that, for the third consecutive year, 100 percent of Epworth's high school students graduated. All of this year's graduates have been accepted in institutions of higher learning. He said that Epworth is strong and there are many possibilities for the future to address the needs of children in South Carolina.

The Reverend Stephen Gaither presented a spotlight on the **Advanced Special**. He reported that each of the ministries supported by the Advance Special has a United Methodist tie and the ministries address many areas of need. The Advanced Special

Ministries provide support to 14 ministries. Ms. Sue Owen shared information on the ministry of the Bethlehem Center in Spartanburg, one of the ministries supported by the Advanced Special.

Following this report, the Conference attendees were dismissed for lunch break.

Tuesday Afternoon, The Third Day

The afternoon session opened with the attendees singing, "My Hope is Built." Bishop Holston reported that, so far, 64,400 books have been packaged at the conference.

The Reverend Jeremy Howell presented the report for the **Commission on Equitable Compensation**. In Report 2.A.1., the Commission requested a budget line item of \$650,000. However, CF&A requested that the request be reduced to \$550,000 and the Commission on Equitable Compensation amended the request. The report was approved.

In Report 2.B., the Commission on Equitable Compensation requested an increase in the minimum salary level for pastors. It was approved.

Report 2.D. makes a change in the Experience Merit for pastors. It was approved by the Conference.

Report 2.I. changes the language relating to charges receiving salary supplements. The requests asks the charges to take on an increasing amount of the pastor's salary. It was approved.

A requested change in Report 3.B.4. strikes the language of "at least 4 years of experience" to allow the Cabinet to make the best appointments for each situation. It was approved.

The report of the Commission of Equitable Compensation was approved.

Mr. Herman Lightsey and the Reverend David Anderson presented the report of the **Board of Pensions and Health Benefits**. The insurance programs will change from a five-tier program to a three-tier program (participant only, participant and spouse, participant and family). The church costs for 2015 will be a uniform cost among all churches of \$9,870 per year (\$873 a month). This would stop the need for budget changes in mid-year due to clergy changes.

Rev. Anderson stated that the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is a ministry and is there to assist those who serve. He made a motion to adopt Report 1. It was approved.

Report Two lists budgetary items that will be received by direct billing and other categories. It was approved.

Report One in the Group Insurance section defines those eligible for coverage. It was approved. Report Two details the major medical insurance benefits and wellness program. It was approved.

Report Three outlines retiree Medicare primary benefits. Rev. Anderson reported a smooth transition to the AmWINS Group Benefits. This report was approved.

Report Four outlines the administrative procedures for the collection of benefits. This report was approved. Report Five outlined the budget for 2014 and estimates for 2015. It was approved.

Report Six specifies the changes in the insurance program including the changes to a three-tier program. This also outlines the charges for churches in relation to clergy insurance.

The Reverend Steven King made a motion to amend Report Six. His motion as follows:

“Amend Report No. Six of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits Section, Page 43.

- Add at the end of line 17, “The Church’s share would be approximately 70 percent of the rate; this is expected to be \$520 per month.
- Add at the end of line 19, “The Church’s share would be approximately 70 percent of the rate; this is expected to be \$1,125 per month.
- Add at the end of line 21, “The Church’s share would be approximately 70 percent of the rate; this is expected to be \$1,464 per month.
- Line 30 and 31, delete all C. and replace with the following: “All Churches/charges who have eligible clergy who do not participate in the Clergy insurance plan will be direct billed a Mandatory Coverage Fee of \$745 per month.”

Rev. Anderson talked through a number of the options that are available but described this proposal as the “most equitable way.” This, he said, would equalize the billing and it removes the insurance cost factor when it comes to making appointments. The Reverend Patricia Parrish, District Superintendent, spoke of the struggles of making appointments while balancing the issues of pension and insurance.

A vote was called and Rev. King’s motion was defeated.

Edward Kennedy asked a question as to the meaning of “Spouse plus one.” Rev. Anderson said this combined “Participant plus spouse” and “Participant plus child” into one tier.

The Reverend Joseph James thanked the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. He said that the Board helped to pay for him to attend the Clergy Health Initiative. Rev. James said the Board is making a difference in the life of clergy.

The Reverend Deborah Armstrong asked a question about the total costs for a church in relation to clergy insurance. Rev. Anderson stated that the costs was for each clergy person.

The Reverend Randy Smith asked whether that cost was the same for the church regardless of the number of participants in the clergy participant's family.

The Reverend Valerie Mireb asked for clarification on the amount paid by clergy. Mr. Sanders thanked the Bishop and the Board for making this change.

The Reverend Donna Eidson asked how the charge would be split among churches in a charge. Rev. Anderson said the bill would be prorated among the churches in a charge.

The Reverend Angela Marshall asked whether a church would be charged for a full-time deacon if that deacon was not covered under the plan. Rev. Anderson stated that would not be the case.

Ms. Francis Hill requested a call for the question.

Bishop Holston called for a vote and the Report was approved.

Rev. Anderson asked approval of the entire report. Bishop Holston called for the vote and it was approved.

The Reverend Dickie Knight and the Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray presented the **Report of the Cabinet**. Rev. Knight and Rev. Leonard-Ray shared stories of churches and groups who were involved in ministry and having fun.

They shared information about the excitement of Stop Hunger Now meal packaging and the Million Book Effort. They encouraged churches to be in ministry with the poor and not just to the poor, for churches to seek new ways to share Jesus Christ, and to look for ways to serve others.

The report was approved.

Ms. Barbara Ware presented the **Report of the Laity**. She stated that Bishop Holston believes in the partnership between clergy and laity. She shared that Bishop Holston will be traveling to each District in the fall. Ms. Ware shared information on the tasks and mission of the Lay Leadership Area of Connectional Ministries.

The report included a video sharing information on the lay leadership in the Annual Conference.

Following the video, Mr. Donald Love recognized those involved in the lay ministry within the Conference.

Mr. Love shared information on the Missions Fair that was held during the Conference. He thanked God, the churches and the participants for their involvement in the Missions Fair.

Mrs. Ware thanked Mr. Love for his work as associate Conference Lay Leader. She concluded her report and made the motion to move it into record. Bishop Holston called for a vote and the report was approved.

Bishop Holston concluded the session with prayer and Conference adjourned for the day.