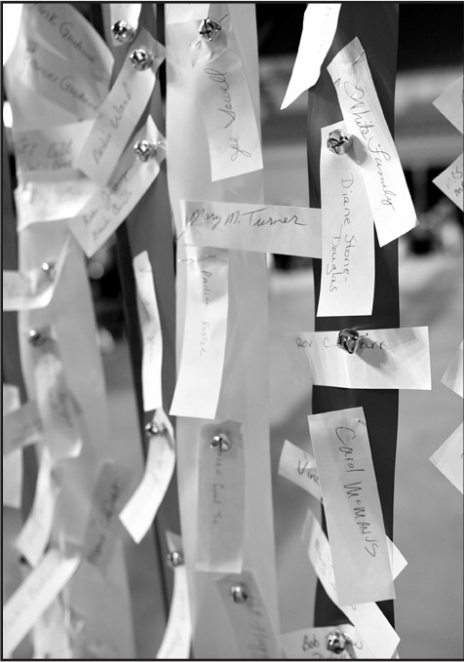


Souls to be remembered



Annual Conference will celebrate the lives of 39 souls who passed on since last year's gathering: active and retired ministers, spouses and surviving spouses. Dr. Kitty Cooper Holtzclaw will preach the memorial service today (Tuesday) at 2 p.m.

Photo by Matt Brodie

Retiring pastors have 560 years of service



Photo by Matt Brodie

Annual Conference recognizes 27 retiring pastors today (Tuesday) at 11 a.m. The pastors have served a combined total of 560 years. Above, during last year's 2013 Retirement Celebration, the late Rev. Angelin Simmons passes the mantle from her shoulders to those of newly ordained elder the Rev. Scott Smoak, reminding incoming pastors that the responsibilities and dedication of the retiring class are to be caught and carried by them.

New AC secretary elected



Photos by Allison Trussell

Annual Conference elected on Monday a new conference secretary, the Rev. Ken Nelson (left), and celebrated the service of the Rev. Karen Radcliffe (right, with Bishop Holston), who stepped down to focus on her new appointment.

Local Church Mission Fair a hit



Hundreds headed to a fair-themed mission event Monday hosted by Lay Leadership that showcased children- and poverty-focused ministries of UMCs across S.C.

Photo by Matt Brodie



'In the Beginning was the Word'
My Dear Demas, featuring United Methodist pastor the Rev. Scott Johnson and his bandmates, will headline tonight's worship service celebrating young adults and service. The Rev. Tiffany Knowlin will preach.



DAILY ADVOCATE

A joint publication of the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church and

South Carolina
United Methodist Advocate

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Today's Agenda June 3, 2014

Packing 1,000,000 Books

- 7-10:30 a.m. Health Screening
- 7:30 a.m. Awards Breakfast
- Holy Communion
- 7:30-9 a.m. Reconciling Ministries Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 9 a.m. Connectional Ministries Mission Interns Epworth
- Advanced Special Spotlight
- 11 a.m. Service of Recognition for Retiring Ministers and the Passing of the Mantle
- Ministers' Spouses Luncheon
- Noon Diakonte Luncheon
- UMVIM Luncheon
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Recess
- Extension Ministries Luncheon
- 2 p.m. Memorial Service
- 3:30 p.m. The Commission of Equitable Compensation
- The Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- The Cabinet Report
- The Report of the Laity
- The Report of Congregational Development
- The Conference Chancellor
- 5 p.m. Dinner Recess
- 5:30 p.m. Candler Club Dinner
- Clafflin/Gammon Alumni Fellowship Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. In the Beginning Was the Word: A Celebration of Young Adult and Service
- 9 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal Worship Service

MBE: It's Packing Day!



Today (Tuesday) is the final MBE processing event, held here in the Florence Civic Center. Help is still needed; register at www.millionbookeffort.org. At left, volunteers load books during the Greenville District's Processing Event, held May 31.

Photo by Rev. Robert Cox

By Jessica Connor

Today's the day: the final book processing event for the Million Book Effort, capping 15 other processing events held across S.C. between May 26 and now.

The Million Book Effort is a conference-wide "God-sized dream" designed to combat poverty by tackling one of its root problems, illiteracy. Churches and individuals have been hard at work for months collecting one million brand-new elementary and preschool books for children in need.

Beginning at 8:15 a.m. today (Tuesday), volunteers will process books in five shifts, with a celebration during tonight's Annual Conference worship service.

MBE organizers said it's not too late to help.

"Volunteers are still needed for today, as well as books and funds," said Conference Communications Director Matt Brodie.

To sign up as a volunteer for today's processing, visit www.millionbookeffort.org and scroll down the list to the Florence Processing Site. Click "register now" at right.

To donate books, bring them to the processing area here in the civic center today.

To donate money toward books, go to www.millionbookeffort.org and click Make a Donation.

To apply to be a book recipient and distribute some of the books to needy children in your area, go to www.millionbookeffort.org and click the Donate-A-Book tab at left. Then click the link "Book Request Form" to sign up.

"Across South Carolina, United Methodists and members of our communities have already volunteered their time and effort to collect, sort and prepare books for distribution to the children of our state," said the Rev. Ricky Howell, who is organizing the MBE for the conference.

"We have already impacted our state in amazing ways, but it's not too late for you to be involved. Please go to www.millionbookeffort.org to see how you can be a part of our church's God-sized vision of combatting illiteracy and transforming the lives of children throughout our state."

Coming tomorrow

- Vote on Resolutions
- Vote on Budget
- Final Business
- Sending Forth and Fixing of Appointments Worship Service

Coming today: Pensions and health proposals

By Jessica Connor

FLORENCE—Some major changes are on the horizon when it comes to pension and health benefits for clergy, retirees and conference staff. That report is scheduled for presentation this afternoon (Tuesday).

Dialogue is intensifying among Annual Conference members about a new plan to switch billing for church costs for their pastor's 2015 insurance from a tiered rate to a uniform rate across all churches—a flat \$823/month cost.

According to the Rev. David Anderson, conference pensions and health benefits officer, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits believes a uniform

rate will make transitions smoother for churches in their budgeting process. Amounts will not fluctuate when pastors move mid-year from one church to another.

Additionally, regarding health benefit premiums, the conference will see an increase of 5.5 percent, plus a shift from a five-tier insurance premium to a three-tier one, covering Participant Only (\$225/month cost), Participant Plus One (\$470/month) and Participant Plus Family (\$622/month).

Anderson said the 5.5 percent increase is far less than he expected because of last year's high loss-ratio; claims were extremely high at 120 percent.

"It's very good,"

Anderson said. "I was expecting a 16 percent increase. Instead, we got 5.5 percent."

Finally, regarding pensions, the past service rate will increase 2 percent for clergy who retired with pre-1982 service; they will now get a \$725/year pension payment instead of \$720/year. And when it comes to pension costs, there will be no increase in percentage for full-time or part-time clergy.

These elements are broken into several different reports, found in full in pre-conference materials.

Annual Conference members will have the opportunity this afternoon to vote to agree or amend each report individually.

Camps and Retreat Ministries to sell Sewee

S.C. Camps and Retreat Ministries reported Monday their board has decided to sell its Sewee property.

Les Prichard told Annual Conference that while their Asbury Hills property is thriving as a camp and retreat site, they have been exploring development of

the Sewee property for some time, with no success. They have been leasing the property to Clemson University, "But as a board we don't feel like we're meant to be landlords," Prichard said.

They pledged to work with conference leadership in the property sale.

Local pastors licensed

25 were licensed as local pastors Monday: Marilyn Le'Cene Boyer, Kenneth Ray Carter, Beverly Cheryl Crowe-Tipton, Meredith Marie Dark, William Anthony DuBose, Eleanora Coaxum Ellington, Jeffery Warren Farmer, Julie Kay Gibson, Daniel Troy Hembree, John Quincey Hooks II, Brandon Craig Lazarus, Miriam Wilson Mick, Maurice McNab, Roy Wayne Mobley, Joseph Sohhwan Park, Travis Aaron Pearson, Nancy Creswell Reed, Donald Ray Studebaker, Heyward Daniel Sullivan Jr., Richard Dale Toy, James Allen Vaught, Paige Danielle Wheeler, Sandra Eslinger Whetsell, John Talbert Windham and Daniel Cameron Wood Jr.



Photo by Matt Brodie

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A joint publication of the S.C. United Methodist Advocate and the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church

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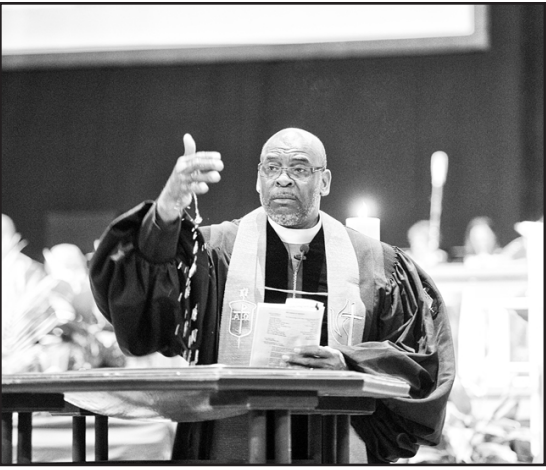


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Photos by Matt Brodie and Allison Trussell



38 commissioned, ordained

Annual Conference ordained or commissioned 38 in a service Monday night led by S.C. Bishop Jonathan Holston (above left) and Western North Carolina Bishop Larry Goodpaster. Fourteen elders, 20 provisional elders, one deacon and three provisional deacons (above right) were honored. Drawing from Philippians 2:1-11, Bishop Goodpaster preached on "A Fine Madness." Full coverage coming in the July *Advocate*, which goes to press June 6.

Body to hear motion on race reconciliation today

By Jessica Connor

Annual Conference members will hear a motion from the floor today designed to foster racial reconciliation among S.C. United Methodist churches.

The Rev. John Culp told the *Daily Advocate* he will present the motion during the Connectional Ministries report to create out of the Emerging Ministry Fund a task force or committee to address racial prejudice and injustice as a "theological and missional imperative" on the local level in congregations and neighborhoods.

The motion asks for up to \$10,000 to create the task force and host two one-day conferences in 2015—one at Wofford College and one at Claflin University. The conferences would address current realities regarding race in S.C. and the U.S.; the role of the church in addressing racism; how clergy can provide leadership in racial reconciliation; and moving beyond integration to reconciliation.

As part of the motion, all clergy

would be strongly urged to attend one or both of the conferences and with at least one layperson from the local church, and each pastor would also 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.

Culp notes in his motion that S.C. has the largest number and percentage of African-American United Methodists and clergy, and while society has made much progress since the merger in 1972, much more needs to be done to provide a prophetic witness to the broader society and to remove existing barriers.

"Racism remains a systemic problem in the church and society, though the manifestations tend to be more subtle," Culp said, noting local churches often remain segregated with little interaction across racial and ethnic boundaries.

AC members will have the chance to vote on the motion this morning.

Nominations

In addition to those listed in the conference registration materials, the following are additional nominations:

Board of Ordained Ministry

Replace Rev. Karen Kluever with Rev. Jeff Childress; replace Rev. Bobbie Taylor with Full Deacon to be elected by Order of Deacons; replace Rev. George Howle with Rev. Jerry Temple; replace Rev. Ken Nelson with Rev. Jerry Gadsden; replace Rev. Mary Teasley with Rev. George Howle; replace Rev. Karen Radcliffe with Rev. Ken Nelson.

Eight additional members per standing rule change: Rev. Kitty Holtzclaw, Rev. Rodney Powell, Rev. Telley Gadson, Rev. Steve Patterson, Mr. Dan Canada, Rev. Tiffany Knowlin, Rev. Kelly Taylor, Rev. Joyce Murphy.

South Carolina Board of Camps and Retreats

Replace James Smith with Rev. Karen Radcliffe 2018. Replace Ken Owens, resigned, with Jeff Nates 2014, 1704 Laurel St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Epworth Children's Home

Replace John Gramling with Robert J. Barham, 308 Longbow Ct. Columbia, SC 29212

The Trustees of the James L. Belin Property

Chairperson: Stuart Ford
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