

## SECTION VII

### REPORTS OF COUNCILS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

#### THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Recommendations to the 2022 Annual Conference

Each and every disciple of Christ is called to be stewards of the blessings from God. On behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration, I want to thank all United Methodists in South Carolina for their generosity in 2021. We achieved a 91.67% collection rate on apportionments. We praise God for our churches and the way they responded during the ongoing pandemic. We celebrate the Orangeburg District for collecting the highest percentage at 98.03%. The largest percentage point increase was in the Florence District at 10.65%.

The following pages outline the complete ministry funding plan for our South Carolina Annual Conference for calendar year 2023. 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. We are happy to report that this percentage has been below the 15% target rate since 2020.

The recommended budget for 2023 is reduced by \$328,520 and is estimated to be 13.7% of average net funds. The Council is happy to report that the General Church apportionments are lower than in 2022 by \$293,011.

We appreciate the service of Mrs. Elizabeth (Beth) Westbury 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 2023 will be set at \$107,681, a 3% increase. (DS compensation for 2022 is \$104,545 and for 2021 was \$103,000.) In accordance with paragraphs 613.13 and 614.1a of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, housing for each superintendent shall be provided in the form of a parsonage, funded by the respective district as provided in paragraph E below.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration of the South Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, hereby designates 15% (\$16,152) of the district superintendent's salary for the year 2023 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, which includes \$8,000 for the common lodging and meal expenses of retreats. 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. District superintendents will be reimbursed for actual meal and hotel expenses (not per diem) when reasonable in amount and supported by a detailed receipt. In addition, insurance & pensions is expected to be approximately \$331,500 (\$27,625 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 requirements of the district administration fund. The schedule for 2023 will be as follows:

District	2021 Membership	Amount
Anderson	12,295	2,800
Charleston	21,490	3,100
Columbia	33,137	4,300
Florence	15,382	2,800
Greenville	20,350	3,000
Greenwood	13,462	2,800
Hartsville	15,719	2,800
Marion	18,058	2,800
Orangeburg	15,526	2,800
Rock Hill	15,366	2,800
Spartanburg	13,220	2,800
Walterboro	12,770	2,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>206,775</b>	<b>35,600</b>

- 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:

District	Parsonage	Office	Total	Avg. Net Funds
Anderson	40,000	45,000	85,000	.011937
Charleston	25,000	40,000	65,000	.006237
Columbia	25,000	35,000	60,000	.003127
Florence	30,000	40,000	70,000	.009107
Greenville	30,000	35,000	65,000	.004904
Greenwood	40,000	40,000	80,000	.011054
Hartsville	40,000	40,000	80,000	.010464
Marion	10,000	35,000	45,000	.004246
Orangeburg	25,000	30,000	55,000	.008236
Rock Hill	15,000	35,000	50,000	.006905
Spartanburg	35,000	25,000	60,000	.007695
Walterboro	25,000	40,000	65,000	.011009
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>780,000</b>	

## 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 15, 2023
  - Golden Cross Sunday – February 5, 2023
  - UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) – March 19, 2023
  - Native American Awareness Sunday – April 23, 2023
  - Peace with Justice Sunday – June 18, 2023
  - Epworth Children's Home
    - Mothers' Day – May 14, 2023
    - Work Day – September 10, 2023
    - Church school offering first Sunday each month
  - Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday – August 13, 2023
  - Youth Service Fund Sunday – September 17, 2023 (youth offering)
  - World Communion Sunday – October 1, 2023
  - Conference Advance Specials Sunday – November 5, 2023
  - United Methodist Student Day – November 26, 2023
- 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 carpooling, 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 2023 apportionments shall mean for each church the two-year average of net funds in the years 2021 and 2020. 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. Satellite churches will be phased in beginning in the first year they do not receive support from Congregational Development. "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 2020 and 2021.
- 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) reflects changes in funding as a result of Methodist Oaks being 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 2023, the apportionment request and the allocation of funds among the participating homes remains the same as in 2022. The recommended allocations are:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Methodist Oaks	27%	27%
Wesley Commons	50%	50%
Methodist Manor	23%	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 2023, 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.umsc.org](http://www.umsc.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 2023 Extra Mile for Colleges and Homes voluntary asking remain at \$625,000 and allocated as shown 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.

	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 Recommendation</b>	<b>Notes for 2023</b>
Senior Scholarship Fund	67%	67%	One-third to each: Clafin University, Columbia College, Wofford College
Methodist Homes	15%	15%	Wesley Commons 70% Methodist Manor 30%
Spartanburg Methodist College	18%	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 dba Wesleyan Investive,
- 5) funds managed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath),
- 6) endowments with The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or Foundation Investment Management (formerly 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 Foundation Investment Management (formerly 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 Foundation Investment Management (formerly 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 dba Wesleyan Investive.
- 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 dba Wesleyan Investive, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath), The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc., or Foundation Investment Management (formerly 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 2021 Average Net Funds for each district for the total Conference. These are the figures used in the calculation of the 2023 apportionments.

<b>District 2021</b>		<b>District 2021</b>	
Anderson	7,120,585	Hartsville	7,644,942
Charleston	10,421,093	Marion	10,598,110
Columbia	19,187,105	Orangeburg	6,677,668
Florence	7,686,170	Rock Hill	7,241,116
Greenville	13,253,657	Spartanburg	7,797,637
Greenwood	7,237,313	Walterboro	5,904,138
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$110,769,534</b>

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:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Approved for 2022</b>	<b>Requested for 2023</b>	<b>Recommended for 2023</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1 Contingency Fund	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	0.0%
2 Journal Publication	17,063	12,063	12,063	-29.3%
3 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
4 Director of Administrative Services Office	770,989	791,470	791,470	2.7%
5 Reserved for future use	0	0	0	
6 Conference Expense Fund	245,689	249,223	249,223	1.4%
7 Administrative Committees	4,900	4,900	4,900	0.0%
8 Conference Secretary	44,287	39,287	39,287	-11.3%
9 Methodist Center Trustees	36,858	40,206	40,206	9.1%
10 Coordinator of Clergy Services	257,070	273,790	273,790	6.5%
11 General Conference Delegates	4,875	4,875	4,875	0.0%
12 Judicial/Administrative Proceedings	11,700	11,700	11,700	0.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,613,431</b>	<b>\$ 1,647,514</b>	<b>\$ 1,647,514</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

**Report No. 8**

**The Conference Benevolences Fund (Item 1, Report No. 9) will be divided as follows:**

Fund	Approved for 2022	Requested for 2023	Recommended for 2023	%
				Change
<b>A. Connectional Ministries</b>				
<b>1. Conference Advance Specials</b>				
Ministry Programs	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	0.0%
Special Salary Supplements	20,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (1)</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>2. Board/Agency Programs</b>				
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%
<b>Total Board and Agency Programs (2)</b>	<b>\$ 198,010</b>	<b>\$ 198,010</b>	<b>\$ 198,010</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>3. Board/Agency Administration</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>4. Operations (100% guaranteed)</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,356</b>	<b>\$ 1,559,380</b>	<b>\$ 1,559,380</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>5. Communications</b>				
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%
<b>Sub-totals (5)</b>	<b>\$ 102,000</b>	<b>\$ 102,000</b>	<b>\$ 102,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>6. Advocate</b>	<b>\$ 113,715</b>	<b>\$ 113,000</b>	<b>\$ 113,000</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
<b>Sub-totals (A)</b>	<b>\$ 2,097,581</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,890</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,890</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>B. Other Conference Agencies</b>				
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	12,937	16,741	16,741	29.4%
4. Committee on Episcopacy	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
5. Episcopal Residence	23,000	23,000	23,000	0.0%
6. Archives & History: Conference Archivist Contract	28,686	29,833	29,833	4.0%
7. Ordained Ministry				
a) Operations	85,000	85,000	65,000	-23.5% *
b) Career Planning Programs	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
<b>Sub-totals (B)</b>	<b>\$ 207,123</b>	<b>\$ 212,074</b>	<b>\$ 192,074</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>
<b>Total Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$ 2,304,704</b>	<b>\$ 2,359,964</b>	<b>\$ 2,339,964</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

\* Amounts recommended are less than the amount requested because the area has reserves to supplement its budget.

**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 2022	Requested for 2023	Recommended for 2023	%
				Change
<b>Conference Apportionments:</b>				
1 Conference Benevolences-see Report 8	2,304,704	2,359,964	2,339,964	1.5%
2 Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency	1,000,000	800,000	800,000	-20.0%
3 District Superintendents Salary	1,254,540	1,292,176	1,292,176	3.0%
4 Equitable Compensation	535,000	565,000	565,000	5.6%
5 District Administration	819,000	821,822	821,822	0.3%
6 Conference Administration-see Report 7	1,613,431	1,647,514	1,647,514	2.1%
7 Congregational Development	948,724	955,708	955,708	0.7%
8 Campus Ministry	655,023	672,729	672,729	2.7%
9 Senior College Scholarships	950,000	950,000	950,000	0.0%
10 Spartanburg Methodist College	588,018	588,018	588,018	0.0%
11 Methodist Homes Residents' Assistance	400,000	400,000	400,000	0.0%
12 Camps & Retreats Ministries	319,800	319,800	319,800	0.0%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>11,388,240</b>	<b>11,372,731</b>	<b>11,352,731</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

**General Church and**

**Jurisdiction Apportionments:**

13 World Service **	2,326,903	2,176,172	2,176,172	-6.5%
14 Episcopal Fund **	689,091	644,453	644,453	-6.5%
15 General Conference Administration **	276,301	258,403	258,403	-6.5%
16 Ministerial Education **	785,920	735,010	735,010	-6.5%
17 Interdenominational Cooperation **	61,465	57,483	57,483	-6.5%
18 Black College **	313,496	293,189	293,189	-6.5%
19 Africa University **	70,159	65,614	65,614	-6.5%
20 Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry #	29,328	29,328	29,328	0.0%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 4,552,663</b>	<b>\$ 4,259,652</b>	<b>\$ 4,259,652</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 15,940,903</b>	<b>\$ 15,632,383</b>	<b>\$ 15,612,383</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>

Average Net Funds for Apportionments	<b>\$113,683,739</b>	<b>\$110,769,534</b>	<b>\$110,769,534</b>
Budget as percentage of Average Net Fund	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

Asking: Extra Mile (reference Report No. 3	625,000	625,000	625,000
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\* Amounts recommended are less than the amount requested because the area has reserves to supplement its budget.

\*\* Line items marked with \*\* are General Conference apportioned funds.

# Line item marked with # is a Southeastern Jurisdictional apportionment.

## THE CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

*“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” — Philippians 2:1-4*

These words are attributed to Paul in his epistle to the church at Philippi. You may recognize them, for they precede Philippians 2:5-11, which is commonly thought of as “The Christ Hymn.” The underlying sentiment in verses 1-4 is unity – the “being in full accord and of one mind.” From this perspective of the heart, seek to place the interests (and needs) of others before our wants, so that others may know the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Conference Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference has sought to be a body of unified vision and action for the sake of God’s kingdom, the Church, and our annual conference. The global community has labored on the same side of a pandemic for more than two years. The presence of this unwanted force has left us perplexed by the uncertainty of what to expect next. The presence of divisive words and actions in the world, in our nation, and in our denomination have only further complicated the call we all carry – to witness to the unifying love of God, the peace of God, and God’s abundant mercy where judgment is often deserved. Our world is as imperfect as each one of us who fill the globe. But we serve a God of grace, and so we labor on – striving to bring glory to his name.

Connectional Ministries has intentionally worked toward unifying our witness across its four Ministry Areas: Advocacy, Discipleship, Outreach and Lay Leadership. One important step taken by Connectional Ministries was the adoption of “Our 4 Priorities.” As a full committee, we adopted these priorities as “vision statements” – or perhaps better said, as “aspirational goals” – that would help direct our collective work. The identification of shared priorities enables us to collaborate and to foster unity in voice and unity in action. Our 4 Priorities are:

- Developing Leaders
- Engaging our Communities
- Connecting With & Growing Disciples
- Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities & Missional Opportunities

The conveners of our four Ministry Areas have provided reports, as well. I hope you will be inspired and encouraged by their words. If you wish to learn more about Our 4 Priorities, go to [umcsc.org/4p](http://umcsc.org/4p).

Blessings,

E. Rossiter Chellis, Convener  
Conference Connectional Ministries, [erchellis@umcsc.org](mailto:erchellis@umcsc.org)

## KEY MOMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The **Advocacy Ministry Area** was equipped with an anti-predatory lending policy position from the South Carolina Annual Conference. This issue was expected to receive stiff opposition from the payday lending industry and some members of the General Assembly. Advocacy pursued partnerships to assist with this effort, and quickly secured support from the South Carolina Christian Action Council. Advocacy also joined the South Carolina Fair Lending Alliance, a coalition of faith-based groups, nonprofits and corporations working together to get legislation passed to cap interest rates at 36 percent. During the 2021-22 conference year, Advocacy, represented by its co-convenor Rev. Bernie Mazyck, launched efforts to get legislation introduced and passed in the General Assembly with a public education campaign through South Carolina Educational Television. Advocacy worked with the Alliance to host three virtual “Lunch and Learns” and three “Dinner and Dialogues” in January. Advocacy also hosted town hall events in Blackville and at Reid Chapel AME Church in Columbia – and participated in the Day of Prayer that took place February 22, 2022.

At the invitation of the Annual Conference and several district offices, Advocacy participated in several trainings on “Our Response to Racism.” These sessions equipped churches of the Annual Conference with skills in addressing issues of race, inequities and justice. In many churches in the Annual Conference, the conversation about race became more approachable. The courage of the Annual Conference places United Methodists in South Carolina ahead of the curve in seeking ways to address the most difficult issue of our state and our country.

The **Discipleship Ministry Area** began 2021-22 by discussing “Our 4 Priorities,” identifying ways to align Discipleship’s work directly with these conference-wide priorities. Our plans include creating a hub through which to share discipleship ideas and resources, offering discipleship training, and equipping churches to reach out and connect with people in creative ways. Three groups were formed to explore how to carry out these tasks. Our goal: Help UMCSC churches understand discipleship and be effective disciples in their ministries by helping them create their own discipleship system and their own vocabulary that works for them.

A Discipleship team this year published a fourth “Come, Follow Me” sermon series and discussion guide.” Come Follow Me: Disciples Love and Care for Others,” an eight-week sermon/discussion series, was written by Rev. Timothy Drum, Rev. Dr. Sheila Elliott Hodge, Rev. Jon Hoin, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Rev. Dr. Kitty Holtzclaw, Rev. Cameron Levi, Rev. Edward Stallworth and Rev. Mary Teasley. The editor is Rev. George Donigian.

Several groups within the **Lay Leadership Ministry Area** reported many positive and engaging activities that took place in 2021-22. On March 3, 2022, the United Methodist Women changed its name to United Women in Faith. We congratulate them on this move, as it will allow them to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women, and expand options for membership and engagement. The United Women in Faith had four Legislative Advocacy Days – virtual workshops that brought more than 200 registered attendees – along with its Day of Giving, which resulted in many donations to their permanent endowment. More than 270 women registered for the virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat, while more than 200 dressed in red for the virtual Come Together Be Together event.

The United Methodist Men continue to help men grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they work to build leadership teams in the districts. Their “One in the Spirit” virtual event had more than 700 men in attendance, along with the successful “Timely Truths for Troubled Times” program.

Lay Servant Ministries continues to offer successful Lay Servant Schools and other training during the pandemic, implementing unique ways to offer schools so all may be served. LSM strives to strengthen and build lay and clergy partnerships while implementing the conference’s “Our 4 Priorities” and beginning discussions about how we can all better address “Our Response to Racism.” LSM also certified several new Certified Lay Ministers, bringing to 10 the total number across the conference.

In 2021, the **Outreach Ministry Area** received several requests for funding from our various grant programs. One we would like to highlight is the Belin Trust Fund – a grant for congregations seeking to create a new ministry or use an existing ministry in hopes of reaching new people for the transformation of the world. In 2021, we were able to assist several congregations with more than \$55,000 in grants from this fund.

Deadlines to apply for Outreach grants are Jan. 15 and July 15 each year. Apply at [umcsc.org/grants](http://umcsc.org/grants). All it takes is a church with a vision. Examples of grants awarded this year were for the creation of a new worship service and technology upgrades (Belin Trust Fund), scholarships for those going into the medical profession (Golden Cross), and aiding with the expansion of a congregation's food pantry and distribution (Hunger Ministry).

**OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR**

**Advocacy** will continue its partnership with the South Carolina Fair Lending Alliance to secure the passage of legislation to cap interest rates in the state at 36 percent. We will explore affordable housing issues, especially those related to gentrification in cities. With the rapid population growth of South Carolina (especially in urban areas), minority communities, low-income communities and indigenous communities are overwhelmed with housing development that is not affordable. The ELCC Committee will focus on Developing Lay Leadership, including launching a Lay Academy designed to build the skills of lay members of local churches. COSROW will work on the issue of domestic violence, recognizing that South Carolina is a state that continues to suffer with more incidents of domestic violence than is acceptable. COSROW will host workshops and outreach efforts to educate local churches and the public about the issue of domestic violence as a challenge to families and communities.

**Lay Leadership** will work with Connectional Ministries to ensure that laity are equipped with the resources and information needed to continue their work within the districts and the local churches. We will encourage churches to have gatherings that focus on Our Response to Racism, emphasize across all laity-led groups the importance of Our 4 Priorities, and continue to build lay and clergy partnerships across the conference.

**Outreach** will work to increase the number of grant applications and to continue engagement with Our 4 Priorities – particularly how congregations reach and engage their communities, how to create new disciples, and seeing leadership development as a result.

**REPORT 2 – PART I**

**SPECIAL DAYS FOR 2023**

**A. MANDATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Human Relations Day (GBGM, GBCS, CORR)	January 15
Ecumenical Sunday (CUIC)	January 22
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUIC)	January 18-25
Black History Month	February 2023
Boy Scouts Sunday / Scouting Ministries Sunday (UMM)	February 5
Women's History Month	March 2023
World Day of Prayer	March 3
Girl Scouts Sunday / Alt. Scouting Min. Sunday (UMM)	March 12
UMCOR Sunday	March 19
Holy Week	April 2 – 8
Aldersgate Day/Heritage Sunday (Archives and History)	April 23
Native American Awareness Sunday (GBGM)	April 23
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	May 2023
Christian Home Month (GBOD)	May 2023
Older Adult Recognition Day	(any day in May)
National Day of Prayer	May 4
Peace with Justice Sunday (GBCS)	June 18
Hispanic Heritage Month (GBGM)	Sept. 15-Oct.15
World Communion Sunday (GBGM, GBGH, CORR)	October 1
Children's Sabbath: A National Observance	October 15
Laity Sunday (GBOD)	October 15
Reformation Day	October 31
Native American Heritage Month	November 2023
All Saints Sunday	November 5
Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (GBGM)	November 12
National Bible Week	November 19-26

United Methodist Student Day (GBHEM)	November 26
World AIDS Day	December 1

**B. S.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGNATED SPECIAL DAYS 2023**

Human Relations Day	January 15, 2023
Golden Cross Sunday	February 5, 2023
United Methodist Camps and Retreats Sunday	March 5, 2023
UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)	March 19, 2023
Native American Awareness Sunday	April 23, 2023
Advocate Awareness Sunday	May 14, 2023
Epworth Children's Home Mother's Day	May 14, 2023
United Methodist Men's Day	June 4, 2023
Peace with Justice Sunday	June 18, 2023
Aldersgate Special Needs Sunday	August 13, 2023
Call to Ministry Sunday	August 13, 2023
Epworth Children's Home Work Day	September 10, 2023
Youth Service Fund Sunday	September 17, 2023
World Communion Sunday	October 1, 2023
Conference Advance Special Ministries Sunday	November 5, 2023
United Methodist Student Day	November 26, 2023

**ADVANCED SPECIAL MINISTRIES for 2023**

**ALSTON WILKES SOCIETY**

**Agency Description:** The Alston Wilkes Society is a non-profit statewide organization founded in 1962, by Rev. Eli Alston Wilkes, a Methodist minister. 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 citizens.

**Community Services** providing re-entry and self-sufficiency services for offenders, former offender's family members and homeless individuals to help them find the structure and security they need to become productive members of their community.

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

**Veterans Home** providing housing and counseling for homeless veterans in order for them to secure employment and their own residence.

**Support Services for Veteran Families** providing housing, utility, and employment assistance for Veterans and their families.

**High Management Youth Home** providing 24-hour care for youth looking to transition to a familial setting.

**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, Asbury 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 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 which enables us to distribute school supplies to the students, 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. We continue to think outside the box and be in mission and ministry. We realize no matter what we encounter, ministry still has to continue.

#### **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.

<https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaBethlehemCommunityCenter>

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

#### **BETHLEHEM CENTER SPARTANBURG**

The Bethlehem Center is a non-profit organization proudly serving the Spartanburg community since 1930. The Bethlehem Center was established as a partner of the National Office of United Methodist Women, The South Carolina Conference, and a program of the Advanced Special Ministries. The Bethlehem Center role in the community then and now was to address the needs of the underserved, low to moderate income individuals and families as well as to advocate for women, children and vulnerable citizens.

The Bethlehem Center envisions a world in which all of people are recipients of the basic necessities for a fruitful and enriched life. Toward this goal, the Bethlehem Center provides services and programming to help the most needy in the community, low income families and children and seniors.

The Bethlehem Center desires to engage and encourage those in the community by building relationships, fostering opportunities for partnerships with other groups or businesses and advocating for the needs of the community. The Center's efforts are focused on providing opportunities for individuals to realize their potential and improve the quality of their lives.

The Center's mission is to support, strengthen and inspire individuals and families and support the redevelopment of the Highland community.

To be aware. To Contribute. To Foster. To Provide. To Empower.

Programs:

**Youth Services:**

SOAR AFTER SCHOOL and SOAR Summer Camp  
Highland Early Learning Center 4K (projected Fall 2021)  
Mentoring & Youth Sports Partnerships

**Community Wellness Program:**

Senior Days Out - Active Living, Sewing to Sow, Soul Food  
Community Fitness Program  
Community Events

**Community Supportive Services:**

Food Pantry  
Information and Referral Services  
Volunteer Management  
Full Service Computer lab - WIFI, Printing, Soft Skills & Computer Skills Training  
Case Management

**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. The goal was to establish a collaborative method of administering assistance to those in need while preventing duplication of services. The Cooperative Ministry is now supported by 53 partnering churches, family foundations, corporations and small businesses, government agencies, and thousands of individuals.

The Cooperative Ministry is a debt-free organization, and 90 percent of all expenses go to direct ten unique program services. A local board of directors governs The Cooperative Ministry's operations.

**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. Compassion 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 our clients.

**INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Interfaith Community Services of South Carolina 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 and we are housed at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Columbia. Our current

focus is the support of quality early childhood experiences by providing technical assistance, training, monitoring and resources for home child care providers in 23 counties. Child nutrition, safety, literacy and physical activity are addressed to positively impact children, families and multi-generational poverty. We do this as a sponsor organization for childcare homes participating in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program. Through this program we help improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children in child care homes and assist the care providers in receiving reimbursements for nutritious meals served. Approximately 90% of our providers serve children in high poverty school attendance zones. Interfaith also increases the capacity of our providers, 100% female and 50% racial minorities, to successfully operate their home childcare businesses. We are the only faith-based family home daycare sponsor organization in SC.

### **KILLINGSWORTH**

The mission of Killingsworth, a National Mission Institution of United Women in Faith, is to support, to empower and advocate for women recovering from varying life crises within a safe nurturing Christian environment. 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 the mission changed to serve 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 the nation leaving addiction treatment facilities, homeless shelters, prison, domestic violence facilities, and other toxic environments. Residents are expected to work or go to school and be able to pay a nominal fee for residency. Killingsworth provides not only a safe supportive community for residents, but also life skills, Bible study and spiritual development, career development, individual and group counseling and financial literacy 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 than 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**

**PATH** exists for the purpose of helping or ministering to those in need: finding temporary aid in times of crisis, guiding those in need to appropriate social agencies, receiving contributions to support the corporation and operating the thrift store for the purpose of receiving donated goods, providing clothing and other goods without cost to our clients and selling those goods to the public to support the administrative cost of **PATH**, Inc.

**PATH** serves families monthly with a generous week's supply of groceries. We also give families hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and lotions, and toilet tissue, paper towels and diapers when in stock.

**PATH** also provides financial assistance to clients in crisis for utilities, rent, prescription medications and the occasional doctor visit co-pay.

We offer financial life skill classes, couponing classes, haircuts bi-monthly and job search clinics.

### **THE COASTAL SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER**

The Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center's mission is to assist people on their journey toward healing and wholeness. The Center ministers to individuals, couples, and families in crisis through affordable holistic counseling, education, and consultation. The Center also is providing a school enrichment program to assist public and private schools with their students and staff mental health needs.

The Center also promotes and maintains close associations with various churches, inter-faith communities, and clergy in the Grand Strand area. Assisting area business, non-profits, and ministry leaders, the Center offers relevant educational and consultative services to help create, strengthen and sustain a culture of excellence that is needed in today's COVID-19 world.

While the Center's main office is in the heart of Myrtle Beach at First United Methodist Church, the Center offers an additional 5 day per week office in North Myrtle Beach serving the North Grand Strand. Because of COVID-19 and the necessary lockdowns CSCC have added Video Therapy to replace our normal satellite locations. With Video Therapy, we can service the entire State of South Carolina.

The Center is affiliated with a national network of faith-based counseling centers called The Solithen Institute. The Solithen 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 Volunteers in Mission are 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. They have felt and followed the call of Christ in their lives to go out into the world. They share the 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**

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.

## **THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER**

### **Purpose**

Lay Leadership Area is one of the 4 areas within the South Carolina UM Conference Connectional Ministries program. Lay Leadership serves to unite laity across the Conference and to encourage laity to be engaged in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### **Key moments from the previous year**

Several groups within the Lay Leadership Area reported many positive and engaging activities that took place this past year. One exciting change is that on March 3, 2022, the United Methodist Women changed their name to United Women in Faith. We congratulate them on this move as it will allow them to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The United Women in Faith had 4 Legislative Advocacy Days of virtual workshops that brought over 200 registered attendees along with their Day of Giving that resulted in many donations to their permanent endowment.

Also, they had 271 registered attendees for the virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat and 202 ladies dressed in red for the virtual Come Together Be Together event. The United Methodist Men continue to help men grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they work to build leadership teams in the districts. Their "One in the Spirit" virtual event had over 700 men in attendance along with the successful *Timely Truths for Troubled Times* program. Lay Servant Ministries continues to offer successful Lay Servant Schools during the pandemic and have implemented unique ways to offer schools so all may be served. LSM strives to strengthen and build Lay and Clergy Partnerships while implementing the Four Priorities of the Conference and beginning discussion of how we can all better address the Response to Racism.

### **Objectives for the coming year**

- 1) Work with Connectional Ministries office to ensure that laity are equipped with the resources and information needed to continue their work within the districts

- and the local churches.
- 2) Encourage churches to have gatherings that focus on the Response to Racism.
  - 3) Emphasis across all laity led groups the importance of the 4 Priorities.
  - 4) Continue to build lay and clergy partnerships across the conference.

**Action(s) required from the 2019 Annual Conference**

Per the nomination of the Lay Leadership Advisory Committee per SR 30f, the following persons are being recommended to fill two current vacant positions within the Lay Leadership Area: Associate Conference Lay Leader-Jeff Fogle, and Secretary of Lay Leadership-Cassie Watson. Upon the conclusion of this annual conference, these persons will assume their roles. Barbara Ware will continue as Conference Lay Leader until the next General Conference and a new quadrennium begins.

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

The laity in the local churches of the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference are an important component in the making of disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Whether you attend a 10 member church or a 2,000 member church, everyone is important when it comes to the mission and ministry of the church. It is the hope of the Lay Leadership Area that those laity who are willing and have a heart for working with others will continue to be involved in their local church and if they feel so called, to get involve on the district and conference level.

**Narrative**

The Lay Leadership Area (LL) has made great strides over the last few years in connecting with the many different lay led groups in the 12 districts. We are grateful to Bishop Jonathon Holston who has led the way through his commitment to the laity being in partnership with the clergy. Bishop Holston has given so much of his time to engage with laity and to particularly be involved in our gatherings of district and conference wide laity. We thank the Office of Connectional Ministries for their continued support of Lay Leadership. It has been my honor to serve alongside so many talented and faithful lay people over these last 10 years. I am especially grateful for the guidance and commitment of the Lay Leadership Advisory committee who helps direct our goals and vision for Lay Leadership throughout the year. A thank you to Lisa Fusco, Chairperson, Marlene Spencer, UM Women representative, Herman Lightsey, UM Men representative, Sylvia Watson, Lay Servant Ministry representative, Cassie Watson, at large representative, Tyler Cattenhead, youth adult representative and Jeff Fogle, District Lay Leader representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ware  
 Conference Lay Leader  
 Email: [conferecelayleader@umcsc.com](mailto:conferecelayleader@umcsc.com)  
 1-803-786-9486

Other ministry members:

District Lay Leaders:

Jeff Fogle, Anderson, Katrina Patton, Charleston, Michael Jennings, Columbia, Tracy Johnson, Florence, Tony Watson, Greenwood, Chandra Dillard, Greenville, Sarah Johnson, Hartsville, Michael Toms, Marion, Shelia Shanklin, Orangeburg, Bob James, Rock Hill, Rick Hammett, Spartanburg and Karen Kendo, Walterboro.

**CONFERENCE LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES**

**Purpose:**

Lay Servant Ministries is a part of the Lay Leadership Area of Connectional Ministries which is designed to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Lay Servant Ministry strives to help disciples become aware of their gifts by offering education to enhance and develop the skills necessary to bring them to fruition. Key moments from the previous year are:

- 1) Each of the 12 districts developed training opportunities using new technology to provide online classes, hybrid classes, and in-person classes when possible.
- 2) A Train the Trainer Academy was held virtually in August to train lay servants in

the teaching of adults. In addition, the training included overview sessions of several lay servant courses.

- 3) Provided an online video of a Lay Servant Worship Service. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston was the guest preacher and challenged lay servants to seek a More Excellent Way in this time of pandemic as we continue to provide leadership training opportunities.
- 4) Certified several new Certified Lay Ministers. With these newly certified CLMs, the total number as of the writing of this report stands at 10 in the conference.
- 5) Provided to Lay Servants, the Cabinet, and the DCOM members, a clear procedure and checklist for becoming a Certified Lay Minister. Lay Servant Ministries also clarified the procedure for Recertification as a Certified Lay Minister, which must occur every two years.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

Objectives for the coming year include:

- 1) Continuing the great work Lay Servant Ministries is presently doing.
- 2) Continue to search innovative and new ways to provide lay servant training in each of the 12 districts and possibly provide conference wide courses sponsored by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. Also, return to in-person classes in a safe environment when possible.
- 3) Continue to develop a conference wide data base so that each lay servant's completed classes may be accessed by the district directors and others to better evaluate certification.
- 4) Introduce new Advanced Courses in the 12 districts so that Certified Lay Servants have more choices when taking recertification classes.
- 5) To continue to incorporate the 4 Priorities of the Conference into the Lay Servant Ministry Courses with the goal of producing leaders with the skills which will allow them to better lead in their local churches, districts, and conference. The Conference Lay Servant Committee will discuss how lay servants may better lead discussions in the local church in response to racism.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:** None

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

Although speaking from the pulpit has always been one important role of lay servants, many never actually speak from the pulpit. However, all lay servants are trained to have the skills to serve as leaders in the church, spiritual caregivers, visit in hospitals and nursing homes, lay readers in services, and many other ministries in the church and community. Lay Servant Ministries is a support agent for the local church helping Christians to claim their spiritual gifts, talents, and skills. Lay Servants serve as partners with the clergy in ministry.

### **Narrative:**

The Conference Lay Servant Committee would like to thank Bishop L. Jonathan Holston for his continued outstanding leadership in the South Carolina Conference. We would also like to thank him for his emphasis on the Laity/Clergy Partnership in all levels of the church.

The Conference Lay Servant Committee would like to thank the Office of Clergy Services for, at our request, becoming partners with the committee in the certification process of Certified Lay Ministers. This partnership has streamlined the process of initial certification and the recertification of CLMs each two years.

Respectfully submitted:

Becky Green and David Salter, Co-Directors,  
Conference Lay Servant Ministries  
davidsalter68@gmail.com, 1-803-646-1704

LSM Conference Officers:

Becky Green, Co-Director; David Salter, Co-Director;  
Pamela Goodwine-Glover, Secretary;

District Directors, Co-Directors, and Associate Directors:

Gwendolyn Brown, Director, Anderson District; Constance L. Wilborn, Director, Charleston; Sylvia Harris Green, Co-Director, Columbia; Chuck Sovick, Co-Director,

Columbia; Cynthia B. Williams, Director, Florence; Mark McGee, Associate Director, Florence; Cathy Trevino, Director, Greenwood; Kenneth Moore, Director, Greenville; Emma McClinton-Thompson, Associate Director, Greenville; Sha'Rome Henry, Director, Hartsville; David Lovell, Co-Director, Marion; Ann Sowers, Co-Director, Marion; Rosa Kennerly-Dance, Director, Orangeburg; Lynne Tyner, Director Rock Hill; Jerry Newlon, Jr, Associate Director, Rock Hill; Annie Crocker, Director, Spartanburg; Beth Lewis, Associate Director, Spartanburg; Terry Sturgill, Associate Director, Spartanburg; Thelma Hudson, Director, Walterboro; Arlene Bates, Associate Director, Walterboro;

Extended LSM Team Members include:

Kris Bergmann, Rev. Cathy Joens, Rev. Kenneth L. Nelson, Rev. Jeffrey Salley, Betty J. Void, Tom Whitacre.

## **ALDRSGATE 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 supports six men, our Columbia home supports six women while our Florence home supports four men.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

The pandemic continued to have an impact on ANSM, and safety was our priority. This included monitoring the frequently changing regulatory guidelines. We are grateful that our residents were vaccinated, remained healthy and were able to return to many of their activities.

A work group continued to make progress to recruit representatives within the United Methodist community to join our grassroots coalition. Another work group finished planning Aldersgate in the Morning (AIM) a new program to give caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities a short-term break. Grace UMC in Columbia is the host site. AIM opened its doors on Jan. 20, 2022.

ASNM is networking with other private residential providers and developing an advocacy strategy. The ministry continues to seek ways to provide more housing.

August 8, 2021 was designated for churches to collect a special offering for the ministry. 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 to keep our residents and staff safe and healthy. We will continue to monitor the pandemic and implement the needed precautions.

We will continue to identify local church representatives to join our grassroots network. These representatives will be our liaisons for sharing updates, news and engagement opportunities related to the ASNM 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.

We are excited to recruit more participants and volunteers for our new respite program AIM. Respite helps family caregivers relax, relieve stress and maintain their own physical and emotional well-being.

We will celebrate our 20th Anniversary in 2023. We look forward to planning for this milestone including publishing ASNM's history.

Finally, we look forward to another successful ASNM Sunday on Aug. 14, 2022.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

Vote on our Board of Trustees

### **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.

As we continue to make progress on our organizational priorities, we look forward to having 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:**

JT's Story

JT lived with his mother and brother. When their mother passed away, his sister became the guardian of JT and their young brother while caring for her own child. While juggling caregiving duties, work and nursing school, sometimes his sister had to leave JT at home by himself. "It was a very stressful time," she said. "I didn't want JT staying by himself because of the safety risk and not being able to socialize with others."

She learned about Aldersgate at the Oaks through a family friend. JT moved into the Orangeburg home in 2020. He is thriving from receiving the attention and support he needs. "The staff are loving and kind," she said. "Aldersgate has been great for JT, me and our family."

JT enjoys playing video games, Wii and air hockey with his housemates and the staff. He remains close to his sister and looks forward to their daily chats. JT enjoys sports. His favorite teams are Clemson, the Carolina Panthers, the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Braves. JT says he enjoys living at Aldersgate and hanging out with his housemates.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Mathis, Executive Director

asnm-sc@att.net, 843-754-8936

Officers

Term: July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

Chair – W.C. Hammett, Vice Chair – Mike Simpson

Secretary – Michelle Hunt, Treasurer – Daly Ward

Immediate Past Chair – Susan Kovas

## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

**Purpose:**

The purpose of Epworth's Children Home is to break the destructive cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame and replace it with an opportunity for each person to live a life of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

Every Child is a Miracle campaign closed at the end of 2021. It is exciting to report that the campaign surpassed the goal of \$7,000,000. These funds will be used to continue transforming lives for God's most vulnerable children and families.

Church giving increased for the 15th year in a row. Through the support of the United Methodists of South Carolina, Epworth is able to offer children and families the support and guidance they need in order to move toward stability and well-being.

Epworth continues to expand into new regions of the state through its Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing. The Institute is made up of several Centers of Excellence. The key activities of the Centers are provided in detail below.

Epworth's Center for Family Engagement established two additional regional hubs for foster care programs including the Florence and Rock Hill Districts. Epworth staff has received exceptional support from the districts, pastors and church members with the launching of these new programs.

Epworth's Center for Family Empowerment launched additional Circle of Parents mutual self-help groups. The expansion of groups includes partnerships across the state through SC Children's Trust and SC First Steps. Circle of Parents is a nationally recognized model for parent self-help support groups. The support groups are offered to all caregivers and parents who seek help from each other in navigating the many challenges in parenting. In addition to birth parent groups, Epworth offers specialized groups to kin caregivers and foster parents.

Epworth's Center for Family Empowerment also launched the Homebuilders prevention programs in Upstate, Midlands and Lowcountry Districts. This program uses an evidence-based model that prevents children and youth from coming into state custody and being removed from their families. Staff were onboarded and trained in this model and supported 36 families last year through providing services and resources needed to increase family stabilization.

The Independent Living Center served 25 youth ages 18-23 years of age during

2021. This center prepares youth who are aging out of care with the necessary tools to be successful in life.

The Family Care Center serves mothers who struggle with substance use issues and their children. The goal is to provide a safe environment in order for moms and their children to learn how to create a healthy family life.

Epworth's Early Intervention Center serves children with special needs through a preschool on campus and home-based services. This program expanded its Midlands program in 2021 and served over 100 clients through its home-based program.

Epworth's Center for Counseling saw a record number of clients during the 2021. The center treated 291 clients through outpatient services. This center provides in-person and telehealth services to children, youth and families.

The traditional residential population continued to see a decline as a result of the federal lawsuit that was filed against South Carolina. The settlement requires 86% of children and youth to be placed in home-like settings and not group homes.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Epworth will continue the expansion of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing by opening a regional hub in Beaufort County. The Walterboro District churches are supportive and have offered office space for foster care and counseling staff.

A fourth Homebuilders program will be operationalized in Florence County, serving vulnerable children and families. This will complete the expansion of the prevention program.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

No action is needed from the conference at this time

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

Epworth Children's Home has a long tradition of assessing the needs of underserved children and their families and of offering new services and programs that meet the changing needs of South Carolina's families. The centers of excellence under the umbrella of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing reflect Epworth's recognition of the demands that the 21st century places on abused children and the families from which they come. Whether Epworth is serving children and families through the traditional group home, foster family programs, kinship care initiatives, counseling programs, family care programs or services for older, disengaged youth, the mission of healing hurts and nurturing hope through Christian communities continues. Epworth is a community where unconditional love and grace are modeled to all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, or religious preference.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Beth Williams, President/CEO  
Smoke Kanipe, Pastor/Board Chairperson  
bwilliams@epworthsc.org, 803-256-7394

## 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 which witnesses Christian values and love.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

As was reported to the annual conference last year, the sale of The Methodist Oaks retirement community was completed on March 31, 2021. The sale of The Oaks PACE program was completed on March 1, 2022. Along with the transfer of substantially all of The Methodist Oaks assets to the new owners, all outstanding liabilities were paid or assumed. The new owners, the Oaks of Orangeburg, continue to provide services to seniors in the Orangeburg community.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Over the coming year, The Methodist Oaks Board of Trustees along with the CEO and President will take actions to close the ministry.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None

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

The goal of the Board of Trustees in considering a change of ownership was to ensure services would continue to be provided to seniors in the greater Orangeburg community. With the closing of the PACE sale this March, this goal has been accomplished.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Scarborough, Chairman, Board of Trustees  
res@tds.com, 803-730-8577

**WESLEY COMMONS****Purpose:**

Wesley Commons exists to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles. Wesley Commons is a master-planned, full-service Life Plan Community for the 55+ consumer.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

For yet another year, our nation, state and community were ravaged by the global pandemic and related economic impacts. Yet, Wesley Commons remains grateful for our staff, our protocols, our residents and our supporters. The impacts of COVID 19 were devastating on so many fronts and touched the lives of every member of our Wesley Commons family in some fashion. However, our mission remained resilient and our drive never diminished. Not only have we remained in high alert for the past two years, we have also navigated through the correlating financial impacts related to those safety efforts. While taxing, we are grateful to have traversed through these awful storms.... many times. Once again, we see the hint of clear skies ahead. With cheerful hearts, we remain hopeful, yet prepared; but overall, we remain grateful for the unending support of our residents and our employees.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

As our country moves forward navigating through evolving variants of the virus and mass staffing and economic challenges, Wesley Commons looks forward to several project updates scheduled to begin in 2022. In conjunction with our goal to normalize our own operations, we will begin a multiyear refresh project that will enhance amenities and offerings across our campus. These projects will address the evolution of our market and consumer. The complexity and nuances of expectations across all service lines can be daunting; especially after the events of the past 24 months. However, Wesley Commons envisions even more changes ahead. Our 50 years serving the mission of Wesley Commons has kept us humble, while seasoning us for what is to come. We envision considerable tribulations and also opportunities for our field and our entire community remains facing forward...as we lean into our future.

**Action(s) required from the 2021 Annual Conference:**

We are grateful for the support of the Conference and friends across South Carolina. The support enables Wesley Commons to provide care for many in financial need, when they have outlived their resources.

On behalf of our residents, customers, employees and board members, we want to thank the South Carolina United Methodist Conference for its continued support of our mission. Wesley Commons' current level of resident need is extremely taxing on our resources. Our ongoing Ministry will not be possible without the constant support of our friends, such as the Conference. We thank the Conference for your continued financial support of those in need.

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

We are a grateful and blessed community that continues to enrich our residents, our employees and our greater community. We are only able to do this through God's Grace and our acknowledgment of such. Through a common goal to advance our community, we have all coalesced around our common bond of service to one another. Over this past year, Wesley Commons has poignantly lived out its mission to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles.

**Narrative:**

We are located on more than 180 beautiful wooded acres in Greenwood, South

Carolina, a charming Southern city offering the warm appeal of small-town living with ready access to major metropolitan areas. Benefiting from a rich legacy of continuous reinvention, our residents enjoy an active lifestyle in neighborhoods of wonderful homes enhanced by exceptional services, sumptuous culinary creations and spectacular amenities – all coordinated by a trained, attentive staff that truly cares. In addition to its several active adult neighborhoods of single family homes and apartments, Wesley Commons provides the finest in wellness, assisted living, skilled nursing care, specialized care for Alzheimer’s and dementia-related illnesses, as well as critical therapy and post-acute programs. Recognized as a destination community, Wesley Commons’ reputation and market reach attracts consumers from across the US.

Respectfully submitted:

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

## CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

### **Purpose:**

Clafin University is continuing its upward trajectory towards being recognized as a leading 21st Century institution of higher education that develops a diverse and inclusive community of globally engaged visionary leaders. Clafin has consistently achieved recognition as one of America’s best liberal arts colleges by U.S. News and World Report, Forbes.com, and Washington Monthly.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

From a philanthropic perspective, Clafin University’s work has garnered investments from every sector of the communities we serve. During fall semester, for example, we celebrated six-figure gifts from Bank of America, Gilead Sciences, and the Johnson Group.

A community-wide effort for Giving Tuesday (November 30, 2021) to raise \$50,000 for need-based scholarships raised \$97,841.79.

In February, we celebrated an announcement by Getty Images of a \$500,000 award to digitally preserve the University’s historic photographs, which represents an opportunity to give several fortunate student-interns an opportunity to work with an iconic global company while deeply exploring the history of South Carolina and their alma mater’s role in the Civil Rights era. This spring, among many other generous gifts, we received a \$1.2M gift from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina to provide tuition support, internship opportunities, and post-graduate career placements for talented Clafin students.

On March 25, the University celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for a \$30M student center, which will enhance the co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students and provide much-needed spaces for community gatherings and special events for residents of Orangeburg County and well beyond.

In addition to the growth in programming and services that has been made possible by increasing support for the University, new recognitions of Clafin’s commitment to excellence include one that rises above all the others: U.S. News & World Report now ranks Clafin as #3 in graduation rate for HBCUs nationwide, behind Spelman College and Howard University, institutions whose endowments dwarf Clafin’s.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

During the coming year, much of Clafin’s focus will be on implementing the University’s new strategic plan in support of the University’s mission and vision and in keeping with its guiding principles – commitments to excellence, valuing people, being student centered, exemplary educational programs, fiscal accountability, and social justice.

The 2022-2026 strategic plan, “Clafin Soars,” was approved by the Board of Trustees during its Fall 2021 meeting. Broadly, the plan includes five strategic initiatives (abbreviated as S.O.A.R.S.) include:

- I. Commitment to Student Engagement and Success
- II. Creative Online Global Strategies through programs and initiatives leveraging Leading-Edge Technology
- III. Cutting Edge Academic Enterprise to promote student competitiveness and success
- IV. Consistent Resource Enhancement through Friend-raising and Fundraising
- V. Collaborative Strategic Initiatives for Economic and Workforce Development

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None.

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

Support from the United Methodist Church is critical to Claflin’s ability to sustain its proud legacy of nurturing and cultivating future leaders for the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Furthermore, The University remains steadfast in its commitment to honor, promote, and support its affiliation with the United Methodist Church locally, nationally, and globally.

**Narrative:**

While this year has included numerous blessings – too numerous to count – one blessing came to us in the form of a most unwanted call.

On February 16, following a spate of bomb threats to other HBCUs across the nation, Claflin received a bomb threat of its own. Faculty and most staff evacuated campus almost immediately, and students sheltered in place.

While horrifying in many ways, the campus community found in this adversity a strength many may not have recognized we had. “Claflin Strong” rolls easily off our tongues now, however. We know that we were and are in the hand of Devine Love, the beneficiary of care that surpasses all our understandings.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, President  
dwarmack@claflin.edu, (803) 535-5412  
Rev. Dr. Robin Dease '92, superintendent of the  
Hartsville District and Board of Trustees member  
Rev. Larry McCutcheon '72, interim chaplain

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

**Purpose:**

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

**Key moments from the previous year:**

The highlighted accomplishment for the institution came in Fall 2021, as the academic year was underway. August saw more than 45 men move into Hudson Hall, as the first group of men to reside on the Columbia College campus in its 167-year history. A total of 63 men chose to attend the College at this historic time. The residential growth also included the addition of four new athletic programs to support the students: Men’s Cross Country, Men’s Golf, Men’s Soccer, and Men’s Track and Field.

Also notable, was the relaunch of the College’s nationally renowned Honor’s Program. The program was renamed as tribute to long-time director, Dr. John Zubizarreta. The Dr. John Zubizarreta Honors Program, under the leadership of Dr. Marlee Marsh, began the Fall semester with 21 students, a record in recent years. In the area of Academic Affairs, Provost, Dr. Madeleine Schep announced her return to the faculty. A search for the new Provost was launched with the new individual to be announced in the Spring and join the College on July 1st.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

The College will focus on continued growth opportunities in enrollment with a focus on mission-centered academic programs such as Trauma-Informed Education. Launched in 2020, TIE has grown with indications of continued opportunity in reaching additional students. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will be implemented, improving the environment for student learning. The QEP is comprehensive in its reach of all students, both the 40% of students who are traditional, residential, undergraduate and the 60% in evening, online and graduate programs.

Facility renovations are underway and include areas for academics, administration, and athletics. Two new sports teams: Men’s Swimming and Men’s Tennis will be complemented with the revitalization of Women’s Tennis, along with facility updates. Esports will launch in Fall of 2022. The hiring of a coach will be followed by space identification, game specific decisions, and the inaugural season.

Through facility upgrades, there will be a focus that includes growth of the community

in which we reside. Use of properties on the periphery of campus will allow increased activities through non-profit organizations and other mission-focused entities.

After several years of service by a part-time chaplain, the College is actively engaged in the search to hire a full-time chaplain. Recognizing our institution's founding and the importance of providing for and supporting our campus community through opportunities of faith formation, having a full-time individual on staff as chaplain is welcomed as we continue to grow. This important position will also assist in connecting the College with the broader community through several points of outreach.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None

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

Columbia College appreciates and respects its tradition of founding in the United Methodist Church and our continued relationship with the Church. Our mission, vision, values, and strategic plan remain rooted in our commitment to education of all students. The College is fully inclusive, welcoming all students in varying educational modalities who embrace and grow in their lives and professions with a focus on service, social justice, and leadership development.

**Narrative:**

Many refer to Columbia College as a "home away from home," but that sentiment holds true in a different way for recent graduate Natasha Seymore. She grew up on Columbia College Drive, next door to her grandmother and grandfather, former President of Columbia College, Dr. Ralph T. Mirse. When it was time for her to choose a college after high school, Natasha says she was determined to create her own space and go her own way, which led her away from Columbia College. While Natasha wishes that she had gotten a true student experience, she is proud of what she has accomplished and she believes her grandfather is proud of her as well. Natasha, a life-long healthcare professional, wife, and mother graduated in December with her master's degree in Business Administration with a Concentration in Hospital Administration, fulfilling her long ago promise to graduate from Columbia College. The Online Program made this promise a possibility for her at age 50, living in Clinton, SC, while working full-time in Greenwood, SC and managing a family. Natasha had every reason NOT to fulfill the promise she made, but she ended the semester with nearly a 4.0 grade point average and received her diploma. Her grandfather, a deeply involved member of the Eau Claire community and man of faith, taught her the importance of teamwork and utilizing opportunities to move forward. In December, Natasha became what she calls, "a true alumna," as a part of a tradition and community unlike any other.

Respectfully submitted:

William T Bogart, President  
president@columbiasc.edu, 803-786-3178  
Madeleine Schep, Provost  
Francis Schodowski, Executive Vice President  
Wilma Allen, VP of Finance and Administration  
LaNae Budden, VP of Student Affairs  
Vincent Maloney, Dean of Enrollment Management

## SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

**Purpose:**

Spartanburg Methodist College is a four-year private residential institution 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 has begun to enter life beyond the COVID – 19 pandemic due to the hard work and persistence of our outstanding faculty and staff. Most of our classes have returned to in-person instruction alongside alternate learning methods. SMC Online now offers both associate and bachelor's degrees. Our faculty have developed multiple new course offerings for in-person learning and our growing online program.

SMC graduated our second class of bachelor's degree students in May.

Our admissions team continues the test-optional admissions policy in response to COVID -19. We shifted to hosting enrollment day events (instead of traditional open houses). These smaller events allow students to complete financial aid and admissions documents while learning more about SMC's programs.

The College hired its first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and we have launched comprehensive training in conjunction with a campus climate survey. We will leverage this knowledge to ensure that our campus is inclusive for all students.

SMC has added the sport of Beach Volleyball for its inaugural season.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

We continue to add to our course offerings and schedule to accommodate our 3rd and 4th-year students.

SMC is committed to ensuring that our students have the best opportunity to persist through to graduation. As a result, SMC restructured our advising team to better serve our students from enrollment to career.

SMC's master plan includes the needed renovation of several academic spaces, including our library and science buildings.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

Approval of the Board of Trustee class.

**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 campus, regardless of position, is committed to shepherding these young people in the direction of love, peace, and purpose.

We believe offering a Bachelor's degree enables us to serve these students better. Time and again, we hear from alumni who wish they could have remained at SMC instead of transferring to a different institution. Now we can offer the opportunity to grow in knowledge, citizenship, and faith while continuing to be nurtured by our committed, caring faculty and staff.

**Narrative:**

The following is a testimonial from an SMC Junior.

When I was a sophomore in high school, I became pregnant with my daughter. I figured that my future would have to change and that college might not be an option anymore. I started doing research for schools that were affordable and close to home so that I'd be closer to my daughter. When I came across SMC, a small two-year school that met all of that criteria and more. Being a part of a Methodist Church in Greenville also made my vision clearer when I found out about all the scholarships and opportunities SMC had to offer. I knew there was no other school for me. My mother is also a very proud alumna, and was very persuasive. When I started at SMC in 2019, I learned very early that SMC wasn't like any other institution. It was a family. It was a place where everyone on campus is an advocate for your professional and academic success. A place that is naturally inviting and welcoming to people of all backgrounds. So, when SMC added their BA program for Criminal Justice in 2020, I knew I had to stay because I already felt at home. I'm so glad I decided to attend SMC. During my three years of being here, I've enhanced my interpersonal skills and professional development, and most importantly, I've been able to excel in my academic achievements. Spartanburg Methodist College was the right choice for me, and I'm proud to be a Pioneer!

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Timothy C. Drum, II,  
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations  
drumt@smcsc.edu, 864-327-5794

**WOFFORD COLLEGE**

**Purpose:**

Wofford College provides a superior liberal arts education that prepares students to be leaders who think critically while possessing the knowledge and skills to turn thoughts into action to make positive contributions to the world around them.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

If there is one word that adequately describes Wofford College in 2021 it is resilience. We continued to navigate the challenges created by COVID-19, and we did so with the health and well-being of students, faculty, staff and visitors and the integrity of the academic program as our top priorities.

We maintained our heightened focus on racial justice and equity and named Dr. Dwain C. Pruitt, Wofford Class of 1995, Wofford's first chief equity officer to lead our efforts. The Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) task force delivered 30 recommendations to improve the student experience. Board of Trustees adopted the recommendations, and the administration has developed an action plan that builds on the college's current successes in academic excellence, accessibility, selectivity and diversity.

We announced the successful completion of the six-year, \$300 million comprehensive "For Wofford" campaign, with gifts and pledges totaling more than \$470 million, one year ahead of schedule. The campaign included a \$150 million gift to the endowment, the largest in the college's history, from Jerome J. Richardson, Wofford Class of 1959. The campaign also yielded five new buildings, the renovation and improvement of several others and 189 new endowed scholarships.

Wofford welcomed the Class of 2025, 461 students who were selected from the largest applicant pool in Wofford's history. It is the most selective class ever and has the highest GPA of any entering class. The class also is the most diverse, with 24% from populations underrepresented in higher education.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Wofford will continue to find ways to leverage Jerry Richardson's \$150 million gift. The gift nearly doubled the college's endowment and supports need-based scholarships and experiences for students, ensures support staff earn a minimum of \$15 an hour and provides for the maintenance of buildings.

Wofford will continue addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. An ad hoc committee of the board on history, memory and commemoration is working toward policies and practices for the naming of spaces and ways to more authentically tell our shared history.

Wofford continues to expand athletics opportunities for women. The Terriers softball team will take the field for the first time next spring.

Wofford remains a national leader in the collegiate interfaith movement while led by the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, a 1978 Wofford graduate and the Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, and Dr. Trina Jones, professor of religion and associate provost for curriculum and co-curriculum. Robinson serves on the Development Committee of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and as a credentialed coach through the United Methodist Church. 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.

The college continues to house the S.C. Conference Archives, administered by Wofford and S.C. Conference archivist Dr. Phillip Stone, a 1994 Wofford graduate. The college's archives have been relocated to a renovated, climate-controlled space within the Sandor Teszler Library.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 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 2021-22 academic year, Wofford distributed more than \$74 million in merit and need-based scholarships, federal and state aid, as well as outside scholarships and loans. A third of Wofford's budget goes toward scholarships and financial assistance, and 97.6 percent of Wofford students receive some form of financial assistance. Specifically, the college's 224 United Methodist students (12.5 percent of the student body) shared in more than \$8.2 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:**

Wofford College continues to find innovative ways to deliver a world-class liberal arts education that prepares today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. Our sincere gratitude goes to the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the many servant-leaders for their continued support of higher education.

Nayef H. Samhat, President

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Dalton, Writer/editor  
daltonrw@wofford.edu, 864-597-4199

## CHARLESTON WESLEY FOUNDATION

### **Purpose:**

Our purpose is to serve and grow the Kingdom of God by making and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ at The Citadel, Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, MUSC, and Trident Technical College.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

This year we have faced many challenges in adapting to shifting Covid-19 safety measurements which have greatly impacted the colleges in Charleston. We sought to safely work with school policies, and as a result, enjoyed growth in our ministry, despite a limited number of events and opportunities at the beginning of the year. Numerically, we have sustained constant growth at the Citadel, ministering to over 150 students each week and retaining more upper-classmen than ever before, allowing us to grow a strong leadership community that is essential to our programs. We have grown especially in our presence at CofC, with weekly Bible study and local church involvement, and steadfastly reach out and grow at CSU. We continue to encourage students at MUSC and Trident Tech to plug in with our ministry meetings and local church gatherings. We were able to plan and attend both a Fall Retreat, where 4 students were baptized into the family of Christ and a Winter Retreat where we were able once again to join with Wesley communities from across the state for fellowship and growth. Staffing transitions have been a challenge, as there has been a considerable flux in the past few years, but we are seeking to meet that by building personal relationships and trust with students and maintaining consistency in leadership and programs as much as possible.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

We are hoping to continue to grow our ministries; especially focusing on serving and discipling our communities at the College of Charleston and Charleston Southern. We also hope to continue to offer important discipleship relationships through 1:1 Bible Studies and meetings, with the goal of encouraging our leaders to learn to disciple others as well. Our goal is to resume missional activities as well, and we seek to offer multiple mission opportunities locally and internationally as able. In addition, we hope to continue to strengthen the community within our Wesley Foundation through our weekly meetings and worship together, the use of the Wesley Student Room at Trinity UMC, local church involvement, and more.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

We would benefit from continued support at the state, district, and local church levels prayerfully and financially. We would also benefit from any support given to strengthening the BHECM community to allow that to be a thriving resource for our college ministries across the state.

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

God's ministry through the Charleston Wesley Foundation is thriving, but we are in need of continual support from the Conference, churches, and individuals to fund our ministries and take full advantage of the opportunities God has put before us. Staffing transitions, navigating Covid, and other restrictions have made the past 2 years of ministry especially challenging, but the blessing we have enjoyed this year has the potential to grant us great momentum to move forward into the ways God is calling us to go in growing our ministry, adding programs, and strengthening our discipleship of college students in Charleston.

### **Narrative:**

Charleston Wesley has been blessed to grow disciples who are making significant steps in their call from God. In the past year, we have baptized 4 students with 2 others expressing interest in being baptized this semester. Additionally, we have several Charleston Wesley alumni currently in Seminary, with others graduating this year hoping to follow, in pursuit of callings towards vocational ministry. As an alumna of this ministry and a lifelong United Methodist, I firmly attest that Charleston Wesley, and our other college ministries, are a vital aspect of the discipleship journey worthy of attention and support. God truly seems to be working through our college ministries and strengthening his global church as a result of these campus efforts.

Respectfully submitted:

Aly Lain José, Director  
aly@wesleychs.org, 8038000758

Aly Lain José, Director  
Ja'Brion Grice, Assistant Campus Minister

William José, Worship Leader  
Thuy Patterson, Treasurer

## **CLEMSON WESLEY FOUNDATION**

This has been another great year for Clemson Wesley. We continue to reach out to the college students at Clemson University, Tri-County Technical College and Southern Wesleyan University. Clemson Wesley partners with churches around the Anderson District and the conference. Clemson UMC remains a strong covenant partner with Clemson Wesley and provides a strong partnership in ministry to our community.

This past academic year we saw a new influx of students and student leaders, after an interesting past two years. During the 2021-2022 school year, Clemson Wesley averaged 168 students in weekly worship and discipleship groups. 113 students participated in our fall and winter retreats and 23 students served on a weeklong mission trip to New Orleans, LA.

Investing in vital campus ministries that are bearing tangible fruit is an investment in the future of the UMC and the communities we live in. It is my hope that the S.C. Conference will continue to fund our campus ministries. Last year alone, Clemson Wesley raised over \$120,000 at the local level to help us reach our ministry goals. Many of you already understand the importance of this great ministry. All that we do at CW would not be possible without all of the Sunday school classes, men's and women's groups, youth pastors, clergy, individuals and congregations across the conference who faithfully support Clemson Wesley through apportionments and special gifts. It is an honor to partner with you as we reach out to our young adults on campus.

Lastly, we report the number of students we reach weekly and it's important to know that we do a lot of fundraising to make our ministry happen. However, what I would like to celebrate most is the community that we have created. In a time where polarization seems to be the popular choice, we strive to be different. 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 am thankful for this group of students that seek to live life together. It's not always easy living into diversity but Jesus never promised that the life of discipleship would be easy.

Rev Steve Simoneaux, Campus Minister  
Clemson Wesley Foundation

## **COLUMBIA WESLEY FOUNDATION – METHODIST STUDENT NETWORK**

COVID 19 continued to be a major shaper of campus ministry this past year. Pastoral concerns, physical/mental well being and related societal issues have continued crucibles for spiritual formation. Much emphasis has been about how to return to "normal" when the "normal" no longer exists. While spiritual matters seemed to rise to the top during the more restricted lock-down and masking previous year, there seemed to be a lessening interest/investment in the spiritual as life fell back into older patterns. What has been even more noticeable this past year is that mental health issues among students have seemed to rise. Covid fatigue has continued to play itself out as many have displayed lessening resilience, higher anxiety and greater inter-personal difficulty. So here at the Methodist Student Network-Columbia Wesley Foundation we have been trying to realize a Christian community while we attend to one another, allow ourselves to be graciously vulnerable and support one another. At the same time we have increased our focus on the world around us as we have sought to re-engage with the world through service and solidarity. Focusing on the needs of others rather than our own needs is a must not just because the gospel demands it but it is an avenue of self-care.

We returned to some traditional service activities as we traveled to New Orleans for the 20<sup>th</sup> time in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane. We cleaned out homes and helped a local fire station in Jean Lafitte become operational again through mucking out, taking out water-damaged walls and insulating outside walls. Soon after we left, the station became operational again. Over Spring Break ('22) we returned to Ecuador after a 2 year absence. We provided a health clinic specializing in medical, health education and optometry services attending to some 1700 people throughout the week. We met with local Ecuadorian Methodists, worshipped together and visited in homes. Service continued in May as we repaired homes in Colleton County working with the United Way and the AME Church.

Looking for other ways to be in-person in service we began a Saturday morning breakfast for the downtown population of homeless and food insecure. Every several weeks students make and serve breakfast for nearly a hundred people in the Washington Street UMC parking lot. We began serving in the Soup Cellar again serving to-go meals at lunchtime.

We have continued to focus on small groups and also on meeting in twos and threes over coffee. Our small groups have been guided by the need to address mental health issues among students in the context of the Christian faith. Learning about handling anxiety and using Christian meditation and spiritual principles has been important. Learning how live graciously with imperfect selves and lives has been popular. Bible study about the nature of God and scripture as well as current topics such as the death penalty and war and violence have compelled students.

Retreats have been re instituted as a break away from campus and academic life for spiritual renewal and community building. Without these longer periods of intentional learning and sharing, students do not engage at a deeper level required for spiritual formation and building relationships. We retreated to the NC mountains and the SC coast. In May a group traveled to spend a week at Taize in France. Known as a place of deep prayer and contemplation and solidarity with the world's struggling marginalized, many hundreds of young adults from around the world meet and worship and try to envision a new church for a new time.

Some of our ministry has continued to be outside on our front patio. We often eat outside. Our Table of Abraham (Christian, Muslim and Jew) group meets outside and has transitioned this year with the attempt to broaden the focus of the group. Table of Abraham has become Friends in Faith as other religious groups have been welcomed. Our relationship with the Jewish group Hillel that now shares the renamed building with us (Carolina Faiths Center) continues to develop as we seek to be a ministry and center know for a wide inclusion and embrace. For this younger generation who often see Christians and the church as judgmental, hypocritical and anti LGBTQI+, we want to demonstrate radical hospitality and a fully loving integrity in the spirit of Christ.

Thanks to the students/servant leaders, staff, churches, the CWF board, Sunday school classes, UMWs and alumni who have encouraged and supported the Wesley Foundation-Methodist Student Network throughout this and past years.

## **THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY**

### **Purpose:**

Francis Marion University Wesley Foundation, known on campus as Alive in Christ Student Ministry, exists to help students grow stronger in their faith, to share the love of Christ to those around them, and to serve others on campus and in the community.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

The year 2022, is the thirty year anniversary of The Wesley Foundation being in ministry on FMU's campus. What a celebration for the Unity Methodist Church! We welcomed the largest group of freshman in eight years, into our group this past fall. Our participation in FMU's 1st Friday night event was a success, along with FMU's Student Organizational Fair, in getting the word out to the students about our group. We promoted spiritual growth through our Monday Night gatherings, other group times and events. Our students managed to also continue to do outreach in our community too. We are definitely celebrating seeing God working in our students.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

We will continue to encourage students in their Christian life and continue our loving environment for them. The students and I would like to resume our retreats next year, which we have not done in the past few years due to the pandemic concerns. Increasing our engagement with local missions is something we will continue to work on. We know things change and we are looking at the best social media for our group to use. The Wesley Board is continuing to work on board participation and board member selections for individuals who are committed to our campus ministry.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None at this time.

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

Please know that God is continuing to transform the lives of our students though this campus ministry. Lives are being changed because of The United Methodist Church ministry on Francis Marion University Campus . We thank all of you who have supported us in various ways to make this happen. We cannot do it alone.

**Narrative:**

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

Alive in Christ has been a positive influence during my time at Francis Marion University. I have been a member of Alive in Christ for almost 4 years. In those years I have not only grown as an adult, but as a Christian. I have learned that I need more than one Sunday out of the week to speak to the Lord. It is great to see people around my age that strive to seek the Lord. It is even more great to be apart of an organization that will always be there for you. We have been more of a family than an organization to the students of FMU. I'm grateful that the Lord guided me to this organization and has enabled me to be a part of this group for so long. I will continue to keep everything that I have learned from this group and utilize it in my everyday life beyond college.

– Taylor F.

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 student of Furman.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

This year we have begun to "get back on our feet" from the past year with COVID restrictions. We have resumed many of our normal activities, in addition to our Gatherings, including weekly lunches, retreats, and mission projects. It is good having our Fellowship back! We continue to host our student-led small groups and began a new weekly Bible Study. In addition to our returning students, we have experienced an amazing group of new folks getting involved in our activities. We are also thankful for an amazing Leadership Team. This has actually been the hardest year, in my 14 at Furman, to do ministry; however, these students embraced the challenge and have done an incredible job. 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. 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 life.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Obviously, our biggest priority is finding creative ways to stay connected to our students, campus, and community. after the past few years. Our group has sought new ways of connecting with students, as well as, partnered with a few other campus groups to provide outreach to the community. Another priority is being strategic about how to provide a sustainable ministry 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. Our Leaders continue to seek ways to speak into, and connect with, all of our wonderful students at Furman. We have a diverse campus, and it is important for us to live into the whole of United Methodism. We value our role in 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. 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 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 2022 Annual Conference:**

None, this report is for information only.

**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:**

"My friends at Furman can always tell when I come back from a Wesley Fellowship event. It could be anything as informal as Praise Band rehearsal to Tuesday night service itself. They say there is a joy in my heart only enlightened with the community that surrounds me in Wesley. Without this community, I do not think I would feel as at home at Furman as I do." [Chloe Treible, Memphis, TN]

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Edward 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.

## ORANGEBURG WESLEY FOUNDATION

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Wesley of Orangeburg (#The W.O.O.), is to create a space where students of Claflin University and South Carolina State University can discover and live out their purpose through worship and fellowship with a community that accepts them just as they are.

And to help them grow deeper in their faith through discipleship and service to the community and world through outreach and witness.

**Key moments from previous year:**

Students provided community service in support of the Granville Hicks Academy

**Objectives for the coming year:**

Continue to bring awareness of ministry opportunities at The W.O.O. to students of Claflin University and South Carolina State University.

Continue to work with newly establish student leadership mentoring program for the continuity of the ministry of The W.O.O.

Partnering with African American church, so students are aware of the ministry of The W.O.O.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference: None**

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

That Jesus is at The W.O.O. and Jesus will meet at the W.O.O. and He will surely woo you, so meet us at The W.O.O. (The Wesley of Orangeburg).

**Narrative:**

After two years of being at the Wesley of Orangeburg, #The W.O.O., we continue to spend time bringing awareness of the Foundation's ministry to African American churches throughout the state as well as to the students of Claflin University, South Carolina State University, and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Shirley P. Gordon,  
Director and Campus Minister,  
Wesley of Orangeburg  
spgordon@umcsc.org, 803-662-3909

## WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

**Purpose:**

We exist to create a nurturing Christian community where students may express, explore, and nurture their faith.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

2021 has been a rebuilding year. In 2020 we lost almost our entire student membership when the university closed due to COVID. We have built back to about 30% of our pre-COVID size, similar to other campus ministries at Winthrop.

Reduced programming made available funds and time to accomplish many years of deferred maintenance. Along with minor projects too numerous to count, we replaced carpeting, enhanced ventilation, improved insulation, installed LED lighting throughout, put in a new A/V system, and enhanced outdoor accessibility with new steps and a path from the parking lot.

Wesley's support to students is more important than ever in the midst of a pandemic.

One of our students recently stated “I don’t think I would have made it at Winthrop during COVID if it wasn’t for Wesley.” Our intentional commitment to inclusivity has paid dividends as a self-avowed atheist has started attending events, stating “Wesley seems like the perfect group for me to work with considering your acceptance of those from different backgrounds.”

**Objectives for the coming year:**

We will continue to work on rebuilding during 2022. Promising avenues include the restart of retreats and traditional recruiting events (restricted by the university earlier in the pandemic) and cooperation with the university’s Center for Career Development and Interns in hiring a new student leadership team.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None

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

We are committed to behave authentically, use the Wesleyan quadrilateral, and intentionally include those often excluded. These core values distinguish us from other campus ministries at Winthrop and provide a place to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the Wesleyan tradition: people who will transform the world.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Charles Farnum, Director  
charlie@winwes.org, 586-894-8858  
Board Chair Mallory Nickerson;  
Board Vice-chair Randall Madsen;  
Board Secretary Evelyn Cameron;  
Board Treasurer Sandra Sindell.

## THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

**Purpose:**

To relate to collegiate ministry throughout the South Carolina Annual Conference, especially through our United Methodist Colleges & Universities as well as our United Methodist Campus Ministries.

**Key moments from the previous year:**

The Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry (BHECM) has continued to try to fulfill its important work in the face of much transition. The past few years have seen key changes in senior leadership changes in several of our United Methodist schools as well as our Wesley Foundations, including Charleston, Lander, Orangeburg, and Winthrop. This occurs at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has especially impacted ministry on college campuses.

It has been more difficult than ever for ministries to build/maintain relationships with students while so much campus activity was canceled, postponed, or remote-only. But, the BHECM applauds the efforts among these Universities and Wesley Foundations to be as creative as possible to love and support their students. A particularly noteworthy blessing is that the startup work initiated by Rev. Emily Kirby at Coastal Carolina University, in local partnership with the Marion District, has been especially fruitful.

**Objectives for the coming year:**

At the initiation of the Campus Ministers, the BHECM is now beginning the formation of a task force to study the allocation of resources across the various campuses in the state. The goal is to recognize changing needs and possibilities for ministry, and how the BHECM might need to adjust going forward. It’s a timely task, and one that we hope to complete with due diligence.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None

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

The SC Conference continues to make an impact in the daily lives of students, faculty & staff, and congregations connected to college campuses all over South Carolina.

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Joshua Timothy McClendon, Chair  
joshtmcc@gmail.com, 803-984-9662

## GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

GBHEM seeks to promote innovative and experiential opportunities for transformative learning, higher education, and ministry formation worldwide. The agency works with key partners, churches, and institutions in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Eurasia, Latin American and the Caribbean, and North America to offer connectational, contextual, and collaborative programs to support the Church, the Academy, and the world. Among its various activities, GBHEM is responsible for two initiatives approved by General Conference: The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD) – which includes the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP) – and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF). The agency also maintains Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD Hubs) in various locations around the world, has helped create and support the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU), and works with regional education associations on five continents. GBHEM is currently partnering with general agencies and other organizations to support important projects on COVID-19 vaccine equity, mindfulness and wellbeing, net-zero emissions, human rights, and the promotion of a culture of generosity throughout the United Methodist worldwide connection.

In 1972, The United Methodist Church reaffirmed its support of the 11 historically black colleges and universities related to the denomination by creating the Black College Fund and this year we celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Support for the Black College Fund supports the education of world-changing leaders by investing in the hopes and dreams of students from around the world. Continued support for the Black College Fund renews the vision for the next generation of transformational leaders.

We celebrate GBHEM awarding more than 2,250 students a total of \$4,084,979 in scholarships in 2021. These future leaders range from first year freshmen to doctorate level students across the denomination. We are grateful for the support received in recognizing United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday which helps fund a portion of our scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts, annuities, and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades.

Worldwide Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (WIDEA) is a strategic focus area for GBHEM to align its work with the mission and ministry of congregations and constituents around the world. This renewed commitment includes advanced staff development in intercultural competency, active listening, and a deeper understanding of and appreciation for difference so relevant programs and services may be developed, offered, and implemented more equitably and effectively.

GBHEM remains committed to building and sustaining collaborative cross-conference networks that foster collegiality and guide credentialing for ordained and licensed ministry. We have partnered with conference leaders to clarify the role of those in ministry while assisting in the interpretation and application of relevant paragraphs within *The Book of Discipline*. We have supported the work of recruiting, guiding, and credentialing candidates and clergy through the development of Passage - a comprehensive registry resource - as well as a virtual onboarding module for new district and conference board members.

Hundreds of years before amazon.com, John Wesley stuffed the saddlebags of circuit riders with books of theology and biblical interpretation—selling them to fund the movement while spreading it literally. GBHEM continues this innovative spirit by leveraging social enterprise opportunities and creative partnerships as a way of reducing its reliance on apportionments while continuing to focus on delivering the very best services, products, and programs to United Methodist constituents around the world.

The same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each of us. Today, GBHEM looks confidently to the future taking bold and creative action, remaining good stewards, and continuing to support The United Methodist Church in innovative and meaningful ways.

Greg Bergquist, General Secretary

## THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Every clergy and laity on the Board of Ordained Ministry is thoroughly committed in providing faithful servant leadership. They graciously give of his or her time and share their exceptional gifts to the ministry of leadership development with the candidates. As a team, we constantly pray to affirm the calling of each candidate for ministry. We seek to encourage excellence, to show compassion, and to finally see the transition from being ready to becoming fit for ministry. We are forever appreciative for each member of the Board of Ordained Ministry who serves to walk with the candidates so that we can develop fruitful leaders in various ministry settings. We continued to adapt during the pandemic and much of time was spent gathering on Zoom. This also means that some members have worked longer than their designated time to serve due to the recent postponement of General Conference 2022 until now 2024. We still plan to work efficiently and effectively to be faithful in our two primary responsibilities: leadership development and clergy credentialing.

On Sunday evening, June 5, 2022, the Service of Commissioning and Ordination will be held to celebrate the fruit of persons who have answered a call to ministry and successfully navigated the requirements for commissioning and ordination. These persons are valued as meeting the standards of “readiness” and “effectiveness” for ministry in the local church and other ministry settings.

Nine persons will be ordained Full Elders: William Douglas Herlong FE, Charles Brian Humphries FE, John David Jordan FE, Tae Suk Park FE, Bryan Wray Pigford FE, James David Taylor FE, Sheri Yvette White FE, Charles Lionel Wilbanks FE, and Wade Anthony Wyatt, Sr. FE.

Two persons will be ordained Full Deacons: Emma Mathis Murphy FD, Soon Suck Nix FD.

Six persons will be commissioned Provisional Elders: William David Altman II PE, Morgan Bamer Byars PE, Kenneth Bernard Middleton PE, Deborah McKnight Patterson PE, Martin Luther Quick PE, and Claire Covey Van Den Berg PE.

One person will be commissioned a Provisional Deacon: Katherine Miller Bariou PD.

Ronald (Ron) Alan Hoeskema FE, Darlene Lee Kelley FE, and Marvis Lavern Stewart FE who were previously ordained in another conference or tradition will have their orders recognized and are being received as a Full member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We give thanks that each has responded to a call to ministry and a commitment to the ordination and commissioning process. We ask for God’s blessing on their continual journey in ministry, mission, and service. We encourage all local churches and other ministry settings to invite persons to explore a calling to ministry and prayerfully nurture that calling into leadership.

I personally want to say thank you to all churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference for the generous giving you share. The Board of Ordained Ministry is able to offer scholarships to assist persons called to ministry to achieve the necessary education to equip them for ministry. This year we are delighted to recognize the following scholarship recipients: Seminary Students Scholarship Recipient: Christopher Charles Key \$6,000.00 and Bessie Bellamy Parker Scholarship Recipient: Elizabeth Scott Loughran \$6,000.00.

The Board of Ordained Ministry would also like to recognize those who have reached an achievement in their continued preparation for effective ministry. The following persons completed the five-year Basic Course of Study in 2021: Michael Wood 5/6/2021, Harry Lee Brown 8/11/2021, Wallace Michael Burgess 8/1/2021, Nancy Creswell Reed 10/21/2021, and Vivian Remona Lingard 12/1/2021. Thank you for your commitment for completing this educational goal.

We are appreciative for local churches and the Annual Conference for ongoing support for the Ministry Education Fund. Through your generous giving, the Board of Ordained Ministry has been able to provide financial assistance to students reducing the cost of their education. This past year a total of \$84,725 was disbursed to students. Continue to be generous in your support of our future leaders as they remain dedicated in their leadership development toward excellence in ministry. Send your offering to the SC Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund, an endowment of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, which provides scholarship awards to candidates for ministry from South Carolina attending United Methodist seminaries and theological schools. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

District Committees on Ordained Ministry are an extension of the BoOM that are committed to meeting with all candidates for ministry. Their important role of nurture and

accountability of persons in the ministry process is needed greatly. The Board of Ordained Ministry is grateful for the hard and gracious work of every District Committee on Ordained Ministry. We celebrate God's call on lives to serve, lead, and experience the joy of ministry. Ministry is a continual journey, and we faithfully provide opportunities for growth to occur. The Board of Ordained Ministry continues to plan and implement the Bishop's School of Ministry, Clergy Orders, School of Pastoral Formation, and the Formation in Ministry residency groups. We recruit and engage seminarians as potential and hopeful leaders in the SC Conference, discern and process Extension Ministry requests as the field of ministry shifts, participate in Approval for Service requests for persons seeking to join our Annual Conference, receive and prayerfully process requests for Change of Status of candidates and clergy, and engage persons discerning a call to ministry through the Candidacy Retreats. These are just a few of the ongoing responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry. We will always need the assistance of our local churches to help nurture and provide candidates who may be willing to embark on this ministry journey. As a collective team, we your South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, will strive to faithfully attend to the nurture and holistic accountability of every person called to ministry. Our parish may have changed but serving Christ in the dawn of these new days should offer hope, joy, and grace in which we currently live.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are grateful for the faithful and skilled leadership of the Rev. Mel Arant, Coordinator Clergy Services, and the faithful and talented leadership of Mr. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant, Clergy Services. The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry could not be done as efficiently without the blessing of their direction, leadership, knowledge, proficiency, and love for all people.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Morris Waymer, Jr.,  
Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair

**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 **\$863** 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 2023. (This rate was **\$846** for the year 2022.) 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), **\$5,063,610** for the pension program of the South Carolina Annual Conference for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and that this sum be apportioned or billed to the churches of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
2. For 2023, 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 2022.) 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 Plan (UMPIP) Account in order to receive credit for the full 3% paid by the church. 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 2023, the Board of Pension & Health Benefits recommends each institution, organization or district to which a part-time minister is appointed and enrolled contribute to 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. The contribution by the church will be made if the clergy person contributes a minimum of 3% of his/her plan compensation 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 no 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 2022.

**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 Clergy-persons 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 2021, 2022, and 2023 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 thereunder 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  
2023 Pension and Welfare Operating Budget**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>2022 Budgeted</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>
Clergy Retirement Service Plan (CRSP)		
Defined Benefit Amount	\$2,399,950	\$2,206,499
CRSP Defined Contribution (3%)	\$1,191,972	\$1,025,633
CPP Welfare Plan (3%) or Benefits Funding	\$1,158,608	\$1,031,478
<b>Total Estimated Requirement</b>	<b>\$4,750,530</b>	<b>\$4,263,610</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Direct Bill Payments	\$4,750,530	\$4,263,610
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$4,750,530</b>	<b>\$4,263,610</b>

*Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chairperson*

**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, *Non-retired Supply Pastors (lay persons; and clergy of other denominations)*, *Deacons appointed as pastor in charge*, within the South Carolina Annual Conference and included in the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program Adoption Agreement. *The salary-paying unit must sign an adoption agreement prior to enrollment for supply pastors and Deacons appointed as pastor in charge.*
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. Full Deacons, 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 will set the cost sharing and must sign a sub-adoption agreement.

**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, 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 participants and \$200.00 per month for married participants and an additional \$100 per month for dependents. (This funding is \$200.00 per month for single participants and \$400.00 per month for married participants and an additional \$200 per month for dependents 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 2021-2022 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. Plan summaries are located on the conference website at [umcsc.org/healthflex](http://umcsc.org/healthflex).

### **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 coverage selected from the HealthFlex exchange.

### **C. Additional Information**

Additional information on medical, dental and vision plans is available from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits by visiting [umcsc.org/healthflex](http://umcsc.org/healthflex).

## 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 is 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](http://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 1 of any year must be completed with Wespeth Benefits & Investments during annual election, which is prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Health Savings Account amounts can be updated at any time (H1500, H2000, H3000 plans only).

### B. Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements are also set forth in the *HealthFlex Administrative Manual* published by the Center for Health of Wespeth 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.

### 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, Medical Reimbursement Accounts, and/or Dependent Care Accounts 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**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>2022 Budgeted</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>
Active & Non-Medicare Retiree Group	\$7,746,709	\$8,959,104
Medicare Eligible Retiree Group*	\$850,000	\$789,036
Other Unfunded Benefit Obligations	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>Total Estimated Requirements</b>	<b>\$8,746,709</b>	<b>\$9,898,140</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b>		
Billing to Salary Paying Units	\$7,746,709	\$8,701,992
Apportioned to Churches	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
HMEP Fund Investments		\$257,112
Retiree Medical Investments		\$139,036
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$8,746,709</b>	<b>\$9,898,140</b>

\*to be apportioned.

**Report Number Six  
2023 Group Health Costs**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits makes the following recommendation for action by the 2021 South Carolina Annual Conference.

1. **Billing**

The sum of \$9,501,992 be billed to the local church/charge and salary paying units for the Conference Insurance Program in 2023.

2. **Apportionment Request**

The Board of Pension & Health Benefits requests an apportionment of \$800,000 for unfunded benefits such as, Transitional Pension Funding, Grants for incapacitated and/or suspended participants, and for Post-Retirement Health Funding.

3. **Premium Payments effective January 1, 2023**

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/lay participants (see report Number One A.1) will be billed a health benefit fee of \$1,075.00 per month or \$12,900.00 annually. This fee *is an increase of \$50 per month or \$600 per year* from 2022. **This fee will be billed regardless of the clergyperson/eligible participant's enrollment in coverage or waiving coverage.**

b. **Premium Credit**

The Premium Credit toward the HealthFlex Exchange according to coverage tier as shown below.

- i. Premium Credit for Participant Only coverage is expected to be \$897 per month (\$10,764 annually).
- ii. Premium Credit for Participant + one dependent coverage is expected to be \$1,632 per month (\$19,584 annually).
- iii. Premium Credit for Participant plus family coverage is expected to be \$2,169 per month (\$26,028 annually).

4. **Total Premiums**

Total Premiums for the 2022 HealthFlex Exchange Plans are outline in the table below:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Participant +1</u>	<u>Participant + Family</u>
B1000	\$1,222	\$2,322	\$3,177
C2000	\$1,173	\$2,229	\$3,049
C3000	\$1,022	\$1,940	\$2,653
H1500	\$1,143	\$2,170	\$2,970
H2000	\$1,035	\$1,966	\$2,691
H3000	\$902	\$1,714	\$2,347

5. **Default Plan**

If a participant fails to make an election during the annual election (open enrollment) period or within thirty (30) days of becoming newly eligible, that participant and any covered dependents will be automatically enrolled in the **H1500** plan.

**Note: This does not constitute a recommendation by the Annual Conference, in fact, it may not be 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.

7. **Dental Care Premiums**

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Participant +1</u>	<u>Participant + Family</u>
Passive PPO 2000	\$48	\$96	\$144
Dental PPO	\$39	\$79	\$118
Dental HMO	\$16	\$28	\$50

8. **Vision Care Premiums**

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Participant +1</u>	<u>Participant + Family</u>
Vision Core	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vision Full Service	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$20.00
Vision Premier	\$14.00	\$23.00	\$36.00

9. **Retiree (Retiree Spouse) Premiums Non Medicare**

a. Rates for pre-65 retirees covered under HealthFlex would be the premium found in section 4 of this report 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.

10. **Covered Participants with Negotiated Service, Compensation, & Benefits**

The estimated 2023 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 (7-8) and the entire rate for health coverage (section 12). 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, 2023.

11. **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.

12. **2023 HealthFlex Exchange Rates**

**Proposed Monthly HealthFlex Rate Summary  
for  
Itinerant Clergy, Deacons Employed by the Annual Conference,  
Conference Lay Employees,  
Non-retired Supply Pastors (lay persons; and clergy of other denominations),  
Deacons appointed as pastor in charge.**

<u>Plan Elected</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Participant +1</u>	<u>Participant + Family</u>
B1000	\$325	\$690	\$1,008
C2000	\$276	\$597	\$880
C3000	\$125	\$308	\$484
H1500	\$246	\$538	\$801
H2000	\$138	\$334	\$522
H3000	\$5	\$82	\$178

**\*\*2023 rates reflect an increase of 4% to 7% for all plans except the H3000 plan. The H3000 plan remains the same as 2022.**

## 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.

<u>Plan Elected</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Participant +1</u>	<u>Participant + Family</u>
B1000	\$1,161	\$2,206	\$3,018
C2000	\$1,114	\$2,118	\$2,897
C3000	\$971	\$1,843	\$2,520
H1500	\$1,086	\$2,062	\$2,822
H2000	\$983	\$1,868	\$2,556
H3000	\$857	\$1,628	\$2,230

## 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 generally 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.

Retirement Year	CPP Enrollment Requirement for 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	\$20,808
Death of retiree's spouse	20% of DAC in year of death	\$15,606
Death of retiree's surviving spouse	15% of DAC in year of death	\$10,404
Death of retiree's child	10% of DAC in year of death	\$8,323
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 2022 to 2023 as follows: The 2022 DAC is **\$75,570**. The 2023 DAC is **\$76,221**.

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**UMCSC HEALTH INSURANCE RATE FORECAST**

Health insurance rates are projected to continue to increase in the coming years. As a result the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is taking steps to ease the impact on premiums paid by churches, pastors and conference employees covered by the Wespath HealthFlex Exchange.

Health insurance costs that Wespath charges to the conference for 2023 will increase by 7% overall.

While there is an increase in rates this year, The Board of Pension and Health Benefits continues to use investment earnings to slow the rise in healthcare costs to participants and churches.

While the Board of Pension and Health Benefits will continue to utilize investment earnings to subsidize rates in future years, it is expected that rates will continue to increase for participants and local churches.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

### Benefit Obligations Summary

#### Plan Contributions for 2023

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DB	\$2,206,499
Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DC	\$1,062,056
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)	\$0
Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$0
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$103,534
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy	\$226,767
Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations	\$24,697
Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations	\$0
Health—Active Participants	\$5,431,356
Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$505,117
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$1,097,713
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$1,066,033

#### Ongoing Funding Contributions

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$0

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Chris Lollis	05/24/2022
Conference Treasurer	E.G. Westbury	05/24/2022
Conference Board of Pension Chair	Valerie Brooks-Madden	06/01/2022
Council on Finance and Administration Chair		



### Opinion on **South Carolina Conference 2023** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

*Wespath Benefits and Investments*

Wespath Benefits and Investments  
1901 W Chestnut Ave  
Glenview, IL 60025

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Accounts

<b>Wespath Accounts</b>		<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2020</b>	<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2021</b>	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$15,429,146	\$16,590,907	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Intermediate-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	55.11%
			Fixed	29.68%
			Short-term	15.21%
<hr/>				
H M E P ACCOUNT		\$20,920,180	\$22,430,868	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Intermediate-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	53.52%
			Fixed	28.82%
			Short-term	17.66%
<hr/>				
<b>\$</b>	RETIREE HEALTH CARE	\$24,716,935	\$27,171,978	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Intermediate-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$27,171,978	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%
<hr/>				
SOUTH CAROLINA SUPERANNUATE		\$1,201,280	\$1,312,905	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Long-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	65.00%
			Fixed	35.00%
			Short-term	0.00%

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

<b>Non-Wespath Accounts</b>		<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2020</b>	<b>Market Value as of 12/31/2021</b>	
Health Insurance Conference Held		\$1,910,603	\$982,215	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Short-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	0.00%
			Fixed	0.00%
			Short-term	100.00%
<hr/>				
Pension Fund Conference Held		\$833,564	\$475,108	
<b>Pre-82 designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Investment Objective</b>	Short-term	
<b>PRM designated assets</b>	\$0	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	Equity	0.00%
			Fixed	0.00%
			Short-term	100.00%

**\$** *A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.*

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Incoming Money**

<b>Primary Sources</b>	<b>Estimated amount for 2023</b>
Apportionments	\$736,000
Annual Apportionment	\$800,000
x Expected Collection Percentage	92.00%
Direct Billing	

*Refer to the following "Allocate Funding Sources" pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Deposit Account	H M E P Account	South Carolina Superannuate	Health Insurance Confer	Pension Fund Conference Held
<b>Available Balance</b>		\$16,590,907	\$22,430,868	\$1,312,905	\$982,215	\$475,108
<b>Total Allocated</b>		\$0	\$505,117	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Remaining Balance</b>		\$16,590,907	\$21,925,751	\$1,312,905	\$982,215	\$475,108
<b>Plan Contributions for 2023</b>						
CRSP DB	\$2,206,499					
CRSP DC	\$1,062,056					
MPP						
Pre-82						
UMPIP Lay	\$103,534					
UMPIP Clergy	\$226,767					
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$16,638					
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employee	\$8,059					
Health Active	\$5,431,356					
Health Additional	\$505,117		\$505,117			
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,097,713					
CPP	\$1,066,033					
<b>Ongoing Funding Contributions</b>						
Pre-82						
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0					

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Apportionments	Direct Billing	Pre-82 Surplus	Prm In-Plan & Outside Assets
<b>Available Balance</b>		\$736,000		\$33,291,433	\$27,171,978
<b>Total Allocated</b>		\$736,000	\$10,120,942	\$0	\$361,713
<b>Remaining Balance</b>		\$0		\$33,291,433	\$26,810,265
<b>Plan Contributions for 2023</b>					
CRSP DB	\$2,206,499		\$2,206,499		
CRSP DC	\$1,062,056		\$1,062,056		
MPP					
Pre-82					
UMPIP Lay	\$103,534		\$103,534		
UMPIP Clergy	\$226,767		\$226,767		
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$16,638		\$16,638		
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employee	\$8,059		\$8,059		
Health Active	\$5,431,356		\$5,431,356		
Health Additional	\$505,117				
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,097,713	\$736,000			\$361,713
CPP	\$1,066,033		\$1,066,033		
<b>Ongoing Funding Contributions</b>					
Pre-82					
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0				

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

<b>Plan Contributions for 2023</b>		<b>Funding Needed</b>
CRSP DB	\$2,206,499	\$0
CRSP DC	\$1,062,056	\$0
MPP		\$0
Pre-82		\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$103,534	\$0
UMPIP Clergy	\$226,767	\$0
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$16,638	\$0
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$8,059	\$0
Health Active	\$5,431,356	\$0
Health Additional	\$505,117	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$1,097,713	\$0
CPP	\$1,066,033	\$0

<b>Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2023</b>		<b>Funding Needed</b>
Pre-82		
Post-Retirement Medical	\$0	\$0

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

**Plan Overview:** The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan--provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church
- A defined contribution (DC) plan--provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

### Elections and Estimates

	<b>Final</b>
<b>Eligibility requirement</b>	100%
<b>Conference Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	432.00
<b>CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)</b>	
Required contribution for 2023	\$2,206,499
<b>CRSP Defined Contribution (DC)</b>	
Expected average future annual increases	1.50%
Estimated contribution for 2023	\$1,062,056

### Rationale for each change

Estimated 2023 contribution reduced to reflect current census. Expected annual increases reduced to 1.5% due to churches reducing service time from full-time to less than full-time.

### CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2021

Total plan liability	\$(2,134,736,431)
Total plan assets	\$2,520,654,197
Total plan funded status	\$385,917,766
Total plan funded ratio	118%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.7565%

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations

Discount rate	7.00%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	2.00%
COLA increases for actives	2.00%
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

**Plan Overview:** Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

#### Elections and Estimates

	<b>Final</b>
Required contributions for 2023	\$0

#### MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2021

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,630,817,808)
Total plan assets	\$4,439,554,422
Total plan funded status	\$808,736,614
Total plan funded ratio	122%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.5146%

#### Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2021

Total participant account balances	\$3,437,346,240
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$96,541,235

#### Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

Discount rate	6.25%
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

**Plan Overview:** Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit--approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)--the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

### Elections and Estimates

	<b>Final</b>
Past Service Rate (PSR)	863
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	2.00%
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	75 %
Discount rate	5.5000%
Minimum contribution for 2023	\$0
Advanced funding contribution for 2023 payable in 2022	\$0

### Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2021	\$(48,228,175)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$75,267,051
Funded status	\$27,038,876
Funded ratio	156%
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2022	\$30,094,945
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2023	\$0

**South Carolina Conference (741)  
2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

**Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2021**

Total plan liability	\$(1,773,713,538)
Total plan assets	\$1,977,157,868
Total plan funded status	\$203,444,330
Total plan funded ratio	111%

*Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.*

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Health—Active Participants

#### Elections and Estimates

	Final
Health plan offered to actives	Self-Funded - HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2021	\$4,943,650
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2022	\$5,121,600
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2023	\$5,431,356
Expected average future annual increases	8.00%

#### Rationale for each change

Projected 2023 figures from HealthFlex 2023 rate sheet. The rate increase reflects expected future rate increases.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment. Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants

### Coverage Obligations

Covered Category	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2020	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2021
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$159,588	\$466,368
Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants	\$125,166	\$61,072
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,754</b>	<b>\$527,440</b>

### Annual cost calculation

*The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.*

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2021		\$527,440
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	1.2179
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2021	=	\$433,056
Expected average future annual increases	x	8.00%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2023	=	\$505,117

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

#### Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Willis Towers Watson as of 12/31/2021.  
Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 12/31/2023.

#### PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 12/31/2021

Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$20,078,235
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$17,220,587
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$444,886
Annual plan benefit cost	\$1,039,134
Intention regarding PRM	Retain current plan benefit

#### Participant counts by category

Active participants	524
Active dependents	378
Retirees	247
Surviving spouses	66
Dependents of retired participants	92
<b>Total participants</b>	<b>1,307</b>

#### Key actuarial assumptions

Census date	01/01/2021
Discount rate	2.55%
Expected return on assets	0.00%
Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	6.25%
Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	5.00%
Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2027

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Elections and Estimates

#### Description of Benefit

\$200/ month subsidy for those retirees and dependents retiring prior to 2016. Those retiring after 2015 would be a \$100 subsidy for each retiree and dependent.

	<b>Final</b>
Health plan benefit offered to retirees	Stipend
Expected average future annual increases	2.78%
Projected annual plan benefit cost as of 2023	\$1,097,713

#### Rationale for each change

Updated to reflect current census.

#### Funding Plan Contribution

*The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.*

Net PRM assets		\$26,810,265
APBO net plan sponsor cost	-	\$17,220,587
Funded status	=	\$9,589,678
Portion of funded status payable (\$0 if Funded status ≥ \$0)		\$0
Funding plan service cost (\$0 if Net PRM assets ≥ EPBO)	+	\$0
Ongoing funding contribution for 2023	=	\$0

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

**Plan Overview:** The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the SOUTH CAROLINA contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

#### Elections and Estimates

	<b>Final</b>
Expected average future annual increases	5.00%
Estimated premium for 2023	\$1,066,033

#### Rationale for each change

Change value to reflect current census in conjunction with eligibility. Percent increase has been increased to reflect inflation.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

**Plan Overview:** The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

### United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay

#### Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	6.00%
Estimated contribution for 2023	\$103,534

#### Rationale for each change

Estimated 2023 contributions reduced due to workforce reduction. Disaster recovery grant ended. Expected average annual increases value changed to 6% due expected raises due to inflation.

### United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy

#### Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	6.00%
Estimated contribution for 2023	\$226,767

#### Rationale for each change

2023 contributes reduced to reflect census. Expected annual increases changed to reflect projected salary increase due to inflation.

## South Carolina Conference (741) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

### Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability	\$16,638

**Description**

Conference Lay Employee Death & Disability

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	1.00%
Estimated contribution for 2023	\$16,638

**Rationale for each change**

Reduced 2023 contribution to reflect reduced census. Cost should remain near flat since the workforce is not expected to change.

Name	Estimated annual contribution
Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.	\$8,059

**Description**

Death Benefits for Pre BPP Retired Lay Employees.

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	0.00%
Estimated contribution for 2023	\$8,059

**Rationale for each change**

Should remain flat. There are no lay employees expected to retire.

## THE CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **Purpose:**

Our purpose is to help preserve the history of the Conference and its antecedents as well as the history of Methodism; to provide educational resources; to assist local churches in preserving their individual histories; and to help ensure that the history of Methodism is accurately interpreted.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

After many years of fundraising, at a dedication by Bishop Jonathan Holston, the Society celebrated the opening of the "Burdine Lodge" in Pickens County, a restoration of a log cabin visited by Francis Asbury and used as a place of Methodist worship in the late 1700s - early 1800s.

Society leaders continued the documentation process for a "historical trail" of important sites throughout South Carolina to commemorate the progress and challenges of Methodism.

Society leaders published a monthly educational column in The Advocate on a variety of historical topics, including, among others: Temperance, The Methodist Practice of Conference, African-American influences such as the Holloways of Charleston, Camp Meetings, Hymnody, and the meaning of "Enthusiasm."

Members of the Society responded on numerous occasions to individual requests for advice on how to research or preserve church history.

The Society typically publishes three newsletters during the year and holds two meetings with a program. Because of the pandemic our only meeting during the past year was in November to dedicate the Burdine Lodge. By the time of the Conference Report, we should have been able to hold our postponed annual meeting, including the election of new officers, a program recounting the merger of the 1785 and 1866 Conferences, and a tour of renovated facilities at Wofford College, which house the Conference archives.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

Society leaders will be seeking methods of more effective communication with all ministers and laity of the S.C. Conference.

We hope to increase knowledge of how the preservation of our faith depends on the preservation of our history.

The Society will continue its efforts to provide training in preservation techniques for local church historians.

The Society will continue its column in the Advocate and publication of its newsletters.

In person programs will be held, assuming health and safety can be accommodated.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

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

The Conference Historical Society is alive and well. We are all volunteers who appreciate and understand the importance of our Methodist foundations. We are preservationists and educators, ministers and laity, black and white. The preservation of our history begins with the local church. Your church should take it seriously. Let us help. We can speak to your group about history and how to preserve it. You can learn more about and join the Society here: <https://www.umcsc.org/historical-society/>

### **Narrative:**

The preservation of our faith depends on the preservation of our history. History helps us understand who we are and whose we are. Members of the Historical Society think of themselves as Christians, Methodists and historians, in that order. We believe we are a "Ministry of Memory" following God's call to remember how far, and by whose providential strength, we have come. By remembering our true kinship in Christ, the preservation and study of our history can help us overcome divisive forces.

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce E. Plyler, President  
joyce@charlotte.twcbc.com, 704-847-6096

We work closely with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

## **THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (Form Report)**

### **Purpose:**

The main purpose for the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) is to make sure that full time ministers in the South Carolina Conference are paid to meet the minimum wage which the annual conference establishes each year upon recommendation by CEC.

### **Key Moments From the Previous Year:**

The challenges we encountered in 2020 continued in 2021. New vaccines for COVID-19 helped many churches to return to in-person worship and activities; however, the effects of the pandemic are still resolving in South Carolina. Our CEC has continued to work hard to ensure our clergy are sufficiently compensated for their time and effort, and we have been able to come in under budget this year thanks to the assistance of the cabinet.

This year was a major one for our leadership on the CEC. We said goodbye to our long time chair Skipper Brock, and we welcomed our new chair Rev. Jon Hoin. We also elected as our vice chair Cassie Watson. As we enter the new year, our long-time statistician Lollie Haselden will step down to allow Mr. Wayne Hester to assume the role. Lollie and Skipper were wonderful contributors to the CEC and we wish them well in their new ventures. We look forward to serving the South Carolina Annual Conference.

### **Objectives for 2022:**

Foremost, to meet any challenges which 2022-2023 will bring for churches struggling to compensate their full time ministers. Continue helping Congregational Development in providing ministry opportunities for this conference. Continue to have a working relationship with the cabinet and extended cabinet.

### **Actions Required by the 2022 Conference:**

Due to the ongoing economic shifts caused by the pandemic, the CEC is recommending a cost of living increase of 6% to our minimum salary in 2023: our aim with this increase is to continue to provide competitive minimum salaries as well as to ensure pastors can pay their bills after the large amount of inflation we saw in 2021. This increase also recognizes that no increase was made in minimum salaries for 2022. We have asked for \$565,000 from the CF&A for 2023 which is the same amount as requested for 2021 and 2022.

### **If You Take Away Nothing Else From This Report, Know This:**

The funds you provide allow ministry to happen in places where we would otherwise not be able to have a presence. CEC has always been, and will continue to be, good stewards with the money supplied by the conference. Your generosity has not been taken lightly by our committee. We are thankful for all that you have done so we can continue to make sure we take care of our pastors. With that being said, we ask that churches make sure your pastors take their designated time off. A rested minister will function better to promote the ministry God has in store for your church.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rev. Jon Hoin, Chair  
jahoin@umcsc.org, 704-839-3953

Below are the members of CEC whom I would like to thank:

Cassie Watson, Anthony Hodge, Beth Westbury, Chris Lollis, Blondell Miller, Wayne Hester, Jerry Harrison, Patricia Parrish, Pattie Gordon, Lollie Haselden, Tim Rogers, James Friday, Veronica Clinkscales, Allen Nesmith, Donald Scott, Sherry Eisom, Morris Waymer, Donald Love, and Barbara Ware

**THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION  
(Detail Report)**

**Report Number 1**

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

Historically, the CEC has served to support the full-time clergy in the charges of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Through the years, the CEC 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 CEC 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, not just 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 2023**

The CEC requests that a line item apportionment of \$565,000 be made to fund the CEC operational budget for 2023. These funds will be used for salary support for *base compensation supplements, renewed vitality situations, new church starts, special situations, cooperative parishes, mission situations, and Hispanic/Latino ministries* for clergy and situations who meet the criteria to receive funding.

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

1. In accordance with the mandate of the *Book of Discipline*, the CEC recommends that the South Carolina Annual Conference fix the following as its minimum base compensation scale, effective January 1, 2023 and continuing until changed by action of the annual conference.

**FOR FULL TIME CLERGY APPOINTMENTS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

	2023	2022
a. Members in Full Connection, Elders and Deacons	\$49,350	\$46,556
b. Provisional, Commissioned, and Associate Members	\$44,862	\$42,322
c. Licensed Local Pastors	\$41,619	\$39,263

We are recommending a cost of living increase of 6% for the following reasons.

- a. The minimum salaries have not increased since 2021.
- b. The Social Security cost of living increases for 2022 and 2021 were 5.9% and 1.3%, respectively.
- c. We do not know what inflation will be in 2022 so we must project an increase that will help compensate for a further decrease in purchasing power.
- d. Based on the clergy population and salaries in 2022, the 6% increase would render only 5% of the clergy population at or below the proposed minimum salaries.
- e. The increase has a minimal impact on the variable costs of direct billing, approximately \$141 to \$210 per year.

2. 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.

3. 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 completes 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

**C. 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 close proximity to the charge which he/she serves.

**D. 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.

**E. 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 assistance 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.

**F. Investment of Reserve Fund**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that all funds held in reserve be invested and the interest reinvested or used in the Commission's operating account depending on the needs at the time. 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.

**G. 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.

**H. 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)

**I. Reimbursement for Travel and Professional Expenses**

1. 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 in effect at the time of travel. 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. Remember that failure to submit the proper documentation means the reimbursement funds received becomes taxable income. The amount set by the charge as reimbursement for travel and professional expenses should be determined after consultation with the 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.

2. 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.

**J. 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.

**K. 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, at a minimum, annual vacation and days of renewal according to the following schedule:

<b>Total Years of Service</b>	<b>Number of Weeks</b>
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" reflects the 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, or at a meeting of a general board/agency of the conference/district. 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 to the Annual Conference communicate this information to the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee and to the local church.

**L. 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](http://www.umcsc.org).

**M. CEC Grants**

Salary supplementation grants are disbursed by the CEC using the processes and categories described in report 3. All supplements are disbursed utilizing the CEC's annual operational budget and/or reserve funds if the need arises (as outlined in point F. of this report).

**Report 3**

**A. Applying for a CEC Grant**

1. The District Superintendent shall request the supplementation 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 com-

pleted 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).

2. Application Procedure

CEC requests the following for initial grant consideration:

- a. An application form 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.
- b. The above application form is to be presented and approved in accordance with Cabinet policy and then forwarded to the CEC Chairperson by the appropriate District Superintendent.
- c. 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, bank statements, audit forms, treasurer's reports, etc. Failure to produce the required documents would be cause for non-approval of the grant.

3. 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 2.B.1-2. and Paragraph 625.4 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, pg. 443).

**B. Disbursement of Supplements**

All compensation supplements from the CEC 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 disbursed directly to the pastor (as a Conference employee) 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 Report 2.B.3. Longevity Increases above), changes in clergy status, and to reflect changes in minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference. The CEC's maximum salary supplement will be 100% of the minimum salary for the clergy status and applicable longevity increases multiplied by the percentage of support scheduled for that year. The churches on the charge are encouraged to contribute additional monies to the pastor's compensation, but the total salary paid may not exceed 150% of the applicable minimum.

**C. Grant Guidelines and Schedules**

1. Base Compensation Assistance (BCA)

BCA supplements are designed to help local churches achieve the total minimum compensation for full time clergy. 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.

2. New Church Starts

- a. Salary supplementation for new church starts shall be as follows:

Year 1 and 2: The Commission on Equitable Compensation will pay the minimum base compensation 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.

- b. 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

3. Renewed Vitality Situations (RVS)

RVS 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. RVS 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: Up to minimum compensation (as described in Report 2.B.1. above) and up to one-half the appropriate Direct Billing.

4. Mission Situations

- a. Mission situations are new 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:

The District Board for Congregational Development shall be the authorizing body to project a transitional situation. The District Board for Congregational Development in consultation with the District Superintendent will refer this to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for verification as a transitional situation.

The potential new mission situation will then be referred to the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet will strive to inform the CEC of potential new mission situations one year ahead of the time the appointment is to start. The CEC will budget for new mission situations after Cabinet approval.

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.

In all cases where a new mission situation is to be launched, the District Superintendent shall notify the CEC by December 15<sup>th</sup> 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 shall take into consideration all sources of income from the local church or from any other source. In all cases where a mission situation is attached to an existing charge, these become charge figures.

Note 2. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d. Payment of Direct Billing Costs for Pensions and Health Benefits in Mission Situations Only- The CEC 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- Equitable Compensation assistance in mission situations 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. If the sole salary paying unit in this mission situation is the Commission of Equitable Compensation, it will pay 100% of the clergyperson's direct bill for pensions and health benefits. If there are other funding sources included, the grant schedule will remain the same, decreasing from the original grant amount.

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 mission situations will be provided by the District(s) in which the ministry is located.

#### 5. Ministry With Hispanic/Latino People

- a. 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 Mission Situations (Report 3.C.4.e.). CEC 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:

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 clergy person'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 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 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 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.

A salary supplement for clergy living in areas where the cost of living is high. The maximum yearly supplement shall be \$2,400.

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.

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.B.3. A clergy person who has served 5 or more years full time 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.

#### 6. Special Grants

Occasionally, unforeseen circumstances, both crises and opportunities, arise in which a church or churches would benefit from a short term grant from the CEC. The commission reserves the right to make grants outside of the parameters of the grants outlined above and below, so long as those Special Grants would be consistent with the mission of the CEC and do not exceed a period of 12 months. Special Grants may be issued up to the maximum applicable base compensation without direct billing. Prior to issuing the grant, the CEC will ask for a comprehensive rationale in writing to substantiate the need for a Special Grant.

7. 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 1st 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 they serve agrees in writing to release them 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.

**Report 4**

Grant Category	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New Church	4	147,769	5	194,983	5	175,933	4	110,797
BSA	14	196,393	10	166,040	10	126,068	7	91,923
Special	6	93,457	5	59,401	5	64,897	4	40,084
Low Income	1	8,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/ Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Parish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	1	32,449	2	36,864	2	30,961	1	19,250
RVS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	34,917
Direct Billing Costs		90,809		61,811		72,289		46,652
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>568,977</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>519,099</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>397,859</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>296,971</b>

Categories of Pastors Receiving Support:

	December	December	December	December
Full Members	11	13	14	10
Provisional Members	6	4	1	2
Associate Members	0	0	0	0
Local Pastors	6	2	5	2
Other	3	3	2	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>

Respectfully Submitted:

Rev. Jon Hoin, Chair

## THE COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**The work of the Committee on the Annual Conference** entails planning, implementing, and evaluating the annual conference. The committee always works to be relevant and responsive. The global pandemic has also required the team to be innovative and adaptable in the face of constant change and uncertainty.

**Key moments from the previous year:** Building on lessons learned during the first year of the pandemic, we continued to focus on accessible technology and practices that made the business of the annual conference possible. We were able to conduct both the Clergy and Business Sessions of the Annual Conference virtually over the course of two days. We sought ways to be innovative and safe while rejoicing for all that God continues to do in the life of churches, laity and clergy.

**Objectives for the coming year:** We had hoped to return to an in-person format this year, but the uncertain nature of our time made that potentially unsafe. The theme chosen for the 2022 Annual Conference is "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Trusting, Believing & Knowing God is with Us." This theme celebrates and acknowledges the presence of God in the midst of the every shifting and uncertain realities we continue to face in our time. As we mourn what has been lost, rebuild what can be, and create what will be, we do so in the presence of God.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:** ¶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. Under the leadership of Bishop Holston, we projected June 4-8, 2023 as the projected dates pending changing realities in the global pandemic.

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 2023.

**If you take away nothing from this report, know this:** The committee expresses its gratitude to the 2022 host team under the leadership of the Rev. Terry Fleming, Florence District Superintendent, for their spirit of adaptability. This team has done tremendous work under some of the most trying circumstances. They have helped care for many of the important details along the way. We owe them tremendous level of thanks. We also express gratitude to our host church, Pisgah United Methodist Church and its team under the leadership of the Rev. Josh McClendon. We are most grateful to our Bishop and the Committee on the Annual Conference for their faithfulness in this season. A special word of gratitude expressed to Pat Mack and Sharome Henry for going above and beyond the call of duty this season.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth L. Nelson, Conference Secretary  
L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop  
knelson@umcsc.org, 803.312.2824

## THE COMMITTEE OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Committee of Congregational Development shall be to work with the Bishop and Cabinet to provide long term planning and provide the framework for all the efforts of the Annual Conference related to new church development, church redevelopment and congregational revitalization. We exist to continue finding ways to create new spaces for new people. We work with existing congregations to develop processes to revitalize ministries and some building projects so that we are able to develop more maturing, world-transforming disciples of Jesus Christ. We work with the District Boards of Congregational Development, the Cabinet, and Connectional Ministries to identify, resource, and deploy new church plants to reach the people of new communities and changing areas across the state of South Carolina. We strive to be a vital resource for local pastors and congregations as we seek more excellent ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We do all this trusting, knowing, and believing that God is with us.

### **During this past conference year:**

Like so many others during the pandemic we faced as a nation and the global effects of Covid-19, 2021 and 2022 were years of constant change, shifts, evaluations and

adjustments, and moving us into a new normal. As many of our churches engaged our online communities in new ways, we as a committee provided:

- Two training opportunities called “Both/And” for our local churches to learn more about using the Hybrid Worship model effectively
- Three existing church grants totaling \$91,000.00 that span the spectrum of vital ministry to improve and provide needed substance for people in our various communities across this conference. From investing in new property to expand, a much needed homeless ministry in Charleston, a new expression of college ministry partnership, and making the necessary facility repairs to make a sacred space again occupiable.
- In the spring of 2022, we were able to grant funding totaling \$81,000.00 to seven existing congregations in support of their varying ministry initiatives.

These accomplishments are only possible because of you and your church’s generosity and commitment to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our team continues working together, along with our district boards, to learn best practices from each other and to adopt official guidelines to that will inform the work that we do. 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 received from our local congregations of the annual conference.

#### **Our Hope and Vision for this coming year:**

This team is energized, ready, and willing to work to resource local churches as they seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are supporting the efforts that have been adopted by the Annual Conference in Our Four Priorities. While we will work towards all four, Congregational Development can support the work of the annual conference, the districts, and most importantly local churches in Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities and Missional Possibilities. Our plan is to reignite the use of Mission Insite to do this work. How will we do this work? We are so glad you asked!

- Training for District Congregational Development Team Leaders
- Laity trained within each district to help facilitate work with local churches
- Refresher training for congregational specialists

We are determined to be good stewards of the funds allocated for congregational development by funding ministry for local churches to engage their communities while maximizing our resources by employing the efforts of the district congregational teams who are on the ground in the local churches and can assess and identify the needs.

Thanks to local churches that make it possible to revitalize, restart, and reignite ministries by pooling our resources and gaining access to ministry opportunities that on our own as a congregation we might not be able to harness, such as Mission Insite and district congregational development funds.

God bless you, and God bless the ministry that has been entrusted in your hands.  
Yours In Christ

Rev. Dr. James P. Smith, Chairperson  
Rev. James L. Friday, Director

### **THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY**

#### **Purpose:**

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

- \*Interpret nature, function of episcopacy office
- \*Determine, communicate episcopal needs
- \*Advise about concerns that affect relationships and people of the conference
- \*Consultation and appraisal of Bishop’s relationship and responsibilities
- \*Report episcopal leadership needs to SEJ COE

#### **Key moments from the previous year:**

The COE agrees that Bishop Holston continues to lead this conference by example and provides insight, encouragement, and motivation for our congregations to grow spiritually. He has led the conference in prayer each morning and recorded several worship services this year.

Bishop Holston has remained faithful to the leadership of both clergy and laity. During the past year, he led virtual lay leadership retreat sessions with district and conference

laity. Approved by action of the SC Annual Conference, our unique priorities are four-fold: Developing Leaders; Engaging our Communities; Connecting with and Growing Disciples; and Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities and Missional Possibilities.

Bishop Holston, through positive, consistent alignment, has kept SC's focus on ministry more than controversy. Our apportionment revenues were an outstanding 91.67%. We have developed leaders among clergy and laity through Clergy Orders, Lay Servant Ministries, UMM, UMW, and SCMYP. Whenever our UMM, UMW, and SCMYP meet, they are the largest gatherings in the connection. The Bishop is constantly strategizing for the future with the Ministry Advisory Team and the Cabinet.

The COE supports requesting the SEJ COE to assign Bishop Holston to the South Carolina Conference for a third term.

The Bishop's involvement includes:

- \*General Board of Global Ministries, director
- \*Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, secretary
- \*Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, chair
- \*Columbia College Board of Trustees
- \*Emory University Board of Trustees
- \*Gammon Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, chair
- \*Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees
- \*Pan-Methodist Commission, chair
- \*Council of Bishops, Executive Committee, secretary
- \*Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops

#### **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 in the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference.

We will continue to present to the SEJ COE about Bishop Holston's success over the last 10 years in the South Carolina Conference in support of his return for a third quadrennium.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:** None.

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

This 16 member committee, which includes the two SC members of the SEJ COE, meets two to four times per year to provide support for the resident bishop's work in our conference and to interpret the work of the bishop and the conference staff to our conference church members. For 2022, the COE will implement more succinct, directed conversations on the work being done, with a summary report being sent to the SEJ COE. The COE offers its unanimous support of Bishop Holston's ministry in SC and supports his return for a third quadrennium.

#### **Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Holbrook Platts, Chairperson  
hplatts@earthlink.net, 803-943-2777

Jennifer Pettit, Genevieve Burgess, Ken Jenkins, Calvin Smith, Barbara Ware, Tim McClendon, George Ashford, Candice Sloan, Jeanette' Cooper, David Taylor, Ronnie Norton, Loretta McKelvey, Dorothy Harrison, Herman Lightsey, Martha Thompson

## **THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES**

The Office of Clergy Services serves as the liaison between the Bishop, the Cabinet and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to leadership development and clergy credentialing. We function as a resource to help clergy cultivate their leadership skills throughout the life of their ministry through mentoring, ethics trainings, continuing education, and much more. This office maintains the Conference clergy personnel files and manages/monitors the processing of the criminal background checks conducted on all candidates, clergy, certified lay ministers and lay supplies every three years. The Coordinator of Clergy Services is a member of the Conference Ministry Advisory Team.

#### **Key moments from the previous year:**

Clergy Services conducted and processed over 384 Criminal Background Checks this year on candidates, clergy, certified lay ministers and lay supplies. We continued improving our

screening process in hopes of protecting personal information by streamlining the procedure and reducing the number of persons involved. We have implemented a monitoring process that better helps to keep background screens current.

We have continued the process of digitizing personnel records for former ministry candidates, former clergy, retired clergy and deceased clergy. The process continues to be slow and tedious, but necessary. We have also partnered with the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Leadership to help monitor the Certified Lay Servant credentialing process.

Clergy Services assisted the Chairs of the Clergy Orders and Local Pastor & Associate Member fellowship in the two virtual clergy gatherings this year focused on clergy health and wellbeing. We were also excited to assist the Board of Ordained Ministry Bishop's School planning team hold the 2021-22 Bishop's School of Ministry in person with a virtual option. It was the first time clergy have been able to gather as a group in two years. The event also was designed to focus on clergy self-care, boundaries and wellbeing.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

We find ourselves living in uncertain times. We will continue to respond to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters of clergy status within the conference. We will also strive to provide relevant and creative resources to assist clergy with their leadership development. It is our hope that we can assist the clergy of South Carolina make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ in this quickly changing landscape.

### **Closing Comments:**

Mr. Sha'Rome Henry, Executive Assistant to the Office of Clergy Services, continues to provide excellent support to district offices and candidates. His concern for each of our congregations and candidates is apparent in his endless willingness to help guide candidates through the process. 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 literally would not happen without him. I continue to be grateful to the twelve district administrative assistants for their work. They give diligent oversight to a great deal of information vital to so many different people. We owe them a profound measure of gratitude.

I am grateful for the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Their dedication and commitment has allowed us to adapt and continue with excellence both credentialing and leadership development during a difficult time in the life of Methodism. It is a gift to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to support them as they continue the important and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervise the clergy of our Conference.

This office continues to evolve to better support the changing leadership needs of the conference and local churches. For the opportunity to serve Christ and the church in this capacity, I give thanks. Respectfully submitted.

A. Melton Arant, Jr.  
Coordinator of Clergy Services

## **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 worked to interpret and update policy issues and employee compliance needs during staff transitions and as the work of the Disaster Recovery staff concluded.

Juneteenth (June 19th) was added as an officially recognized holiday for conference staff.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

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

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None.

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

The committee supports 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, Chair  
bishop@umcsc.org, 803-786-9486  
Pat Gannaway, Larry McCutcheon, Alphonza Jones, Pamela Cook, Diana Currence, Mike Galloway, Jane Smith, Robert Bedell, Barbara Ware, Mitch Houston, Ross Chellis

**THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES**

The Committee on Standing Rules met in March of 2022 to consider requests to amend existing standing rules. This year the committee proposes changes to only one standing rule: Standing Rule 30, section f.

**Standing Rule 30**

**Rationale:** This proposed change to Standing Rule 30, section f, would bring the paragraph into agreement with the current practice of the Annual Conference's Lay Leadership area of Conference Connectional Ministries. The change concerns election of conference lay officers, as well as language we use to describe the Lay Leadership area.

**Standing Rule 30.f - Existing Rule:**

**30.f** The Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Conference Lay Leader, and the Secretary of the Conference Board of Laity shall be elected by the Annual Conference on nomination by a nominating committee composed of the representative on the Conference Board of Laity from the Conference United Methodist Men, the Conference United Methodist Women, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry; three (3) District Lay Leaders to be elected to this nominating committee by the Board of Laity, and three (3) at-large members elected by the Board of Laity, to insure inclusiveness. This nominating committee shall make its report to Annual Conference as Report No. 2 of the report of the Board of Laity without endorsement by the Board of Laity. The Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Conference Lay Leader, and the Secretary of the Conference Board of Laity shall be elected each quadrennium and the tenure shall not exceed eight consecutive years. The Associate Conference Lay Leader and the Secretary of the Conference Board of Laity shall have voice without vote in the annual conference, if not otherwise a member of the annual conference.

**Standing Rule 30.f - With Proposed Changes:**

**30.f** The Conference Lay Leader, the quadrennial officer for Lay Leadership ~~Associate Conference Lay Leader, and the Secretary~~ of the Conference Board of Laity, shall be elected by the Annual Conference on nomination by a nominating committee composed of one ~~the~~ representative each ~~on the~~ Conference Board of Laity from the Conference United Methodist Men, the Conference United Methodist Women, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry; two ~~three (2 3)~~ District Lay Leaders and one (1) representative from Lay Servant Ministries ~~to be~~ elected to this nominating committee by the Conference Lay Leadership area; ~~Board of Laity~~, and three (3) at-large members elected by the Board of Laity ~~Conference Lay Leadership area~~, to insure inclusiveness. This nominating committee shall make its report to Annual Conference as Report No. 2 of the report of the Conference Lay Leadership area ~~Board of Laity~~ without endorsement by the Conference Lay Leadership area ~~Board of Laity~~. The Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Conference Lay Leader, and the Conference Secretary of Lay Leadership, ~~the Conference Board of Laity~~ the Director of Lay Servant Ministries, the Associate Director of Lay Servant Ministries, and the Secretary of Lay Servant Ministries shall be elected each quadrennium ~~by~~

the nominating committee and the tenure shall not exceed eight (8) consecutive years. The Associate Conference Lay Leader, ~~and the Conference Secretary of the Conference Board of Laity-Lay Leadership,~~ the Associate Director of Lay Servant Ministries, and the Secretary of Lay Servant Ministries shall have voice without vote in the annual conference, if not otherwise a member of the Annual Conference.

### 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 hold 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. Additionally, the Trustees are actively preparing for any changes in the polity of our denomination resulting from, or not, the upcoming General Conference currently scheduled for 2024. Additionally, Trustees are beginning steps to better utilize the assets held by them in new and exciting ways to further the mission and Ministry of the United Methodist Church within the South Carolina Annual Conference. 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 Accounting by Property for AC Trustees.)

<b>SC Conference of the United Methodist Church</b>		
<b>Summary of Insurance Coverages</b>		
<b>Policy Begin Date: 09/01/2021</b>		
<b>Policy End Date: 09/01/2022</b>		
<b>Broker: HUB International Southeast, Columbia, SC</b>		
<b>Insurance Company</b>	<b>Coverage type</b>	<b>Description of Coverage</b>
Philadelphia Insurance Companies	Claims made	Directors and Officers, Employment Practices
Philadelphia Insurance Companies	Discovery	Crime Coverage
Philadelphia Insurance Companies	Occurrence	General Liability, Auto, Property, Professional Liability, Sexual/Physical Abuse
Philadelphia Insurance Companies	Occurrence	Umbrella Liability
Philadelphia Insurance Companies	Claims made	Cyber Liability
United States Liability Insurance Group	Occurrence	General Liability on Vacant Properties
Accident Fund	Occurrence	Workers Compensation

Trustees of the Annual Conference  
Accounting by Property for AC Trustees  
December 31, 2021

Property	District	12/31/2020 Balance	Sale Proceeds	Other Receipts	Expenses	Transfer to beneficiary	Retained by Trustees	Ending Balance	Designation
Orville (South Main Chapel & Meroy Center)	Anderson	(18,878.84)			(6,028.00)			(24,906.84)	Urban Center/Mission Church
Smiths Chapel	Anderson	(893.92)			(754.96)			(1,638.88)	Undesignated
Union	Anderson	(2,320.00)			(76.80)			(2,396.80)	
Zion Wainhalla	Anderson	-		14,666.45	(1,371.36)			13,295.09	Sold in February 2022
Berea (Cordessville)	Charleston	15,733.26			(2,127.09)			13,606.17	Pending resolution
Berea (Cordessville) cemetery	Charleston	15,209.17						15,209.17	Pending resolution
Cherokee Place	Charleston	-		231,498.64	(19,016.61)			212,482.03	Urban Center
Cherokee Place, Shalom Funds	Charleston	-		18,972.46				18,972.46	Disbursed in 2022
St James	Collumbia	59,328.91			(2,176.00)			57,152.91	Urban Center
Greeleyville	Florence	(45.68)			(432.76)			(478.44)	
Trinity	Florence	814.95			(114.96)			699.99	
Trinity cemetery	Florence	-						-	
Concord (Greenville Korean Mission)	Greenville	26,239.01			(3,916.00)			22,323.01	Urban Center
McKinney Chapel	Greenville	(3,477.82)		6,143.14	(2,760.00)			(94.68)	
Fledmont Park	Greenville	36,229.64	208,698.10		(4,456.17)	(217,801.76)	(20,669.81)	(0.00)	Resolved
Zion-Andrew s (New Beginnings)	Greenville	59,626.78						59,626.78	Urban Center
Bath	Greenwood	(7,786.03)			(5,537.29)			(13,323.32)	
Bath (parsonage)	Greenwood	5,092.45		4,800.00	(11,892.63)			(2,000.18)	
Gassaway	Greenwood	(60.46)			(1,471.64)			(1,532.10)	
Sandy Springs	Greenwood	16,501.31	29,869.00		(2,700.95)	(5,973.72)		43,669.36	Resolved
Sandy Springs cemetery fund	Greenwood	5,973.72						-	
Mt Tabor (Chesterfield)	Harrisville	(593.93)			(687.80)			(1,181.73)	
Snow hill	Harrisville	(620.80)						(620.80)	
Wilkes Chapel	Harrisville	-		-	(66.32)			(66.32)	Sold in February 2022
Chris/Myrtle Beach	Marion	(155,636.35)	123,215.86		(206,713.59)			(239,134.08)	Urban Center
Iona	Marion	(1,933.91)			(114.96)			(2,048.87)	
Old Galilee	Marion	(240.41)						(240.41)	
Central Row esville	Orangeburg	(1,243.72)			(114.96)			(1,358.68)	
Rocky Swamp Misson Church	Orangeburg	97,391.46			(1,893.00)			95,498.46	
Broomfield	Walterboro	(37.36)			(255.32)			(292.68)	
Jerusalem	Walterboro	(573.92)			(189.96)			(763.88)	
Retained by Trustees	Conference	395,096.64		6,185.02	(3,617.22)		20,669.81	418,334.25	
Total		538,904.15	359,782.96	282,265.71	(278,396.35)	(223,775.48)	-	678,780.99	

## SOUTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

### **Purpose:**

The Advocate is the newspaper for South Carolina United Methodists. Founded in 1836, 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:**

- Produced 12 strong editions of the Advocate, each designed to inform, inspire, encourage, or connect United Methodists across the state; special emphasis this year on mental health, racial healing, and church in a pandemic;
- Exceeded ad sales goal and returned to pre-pandemic giving levels for tax-deductible contributions;
- Revamped our subscription program with new rates to reflect print/postage increases and logical pricing tiers (individual subscriptions now \$20/year, established a Church Leadership Plan where churches select 5 people to get the Advocate for a discounted \$15/year rate, and offering a Group Print Plan for more than 5 at a church for \$10/year apiece, with the Online Church Plan remaining at \$1/year based on average weekly attendance);
- Experienced best year yet in book sales for our Advocate Press and released 7 new titles: "Who Am I? A Devotional for a Jesus-Centered School Year," by Cindy Curtis; "From My Heart to Your Eyes: Poems of Faith and Social Justice," by Stephon Void; "Faith in Action: Stories of Salkehatchie Summer Service," compiled by Rev. John Culp; "Walk With Me: Your Spiritual Esteem Journey," by Rev. Cathy Joens and Toni Taylor; "What I Have Come to Believe," by Rev. Arthur Holt; "Preaching in the Midst Of: How Black Preaching has Changed in the COVID-19 Pandemic," by Rev. Amiri Hooker; and "More Stories of Racial Awakening," compiled by Jessica Brodie. To purchase any of these (paperback or ebook) go to [Advocatesc.org/books](http://Advocatesc.org/books); and
- Working on a redesigned Advocate website ([advocatesc.org](http://advocatesc.org)).

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

- Continue with 12 more strong editions of the Advocate, and continued focus on mental health, racial healing and awareness, and church in a pandemic;
- Increase ad sales and contributions;
- Increase subscribers;
- Release at least four more books this year, including Darkness to Light, stories about the intersection of faith and mental health compiled by Jessica Brodie; and
- Launch redesigned website.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

Approve new board members and budget

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

The Advocate helps our United Methodist churches in South Carolina all stay connected and prevent us from operating in a silo, alone and isolated. Please keep your church strong in the connection with a subscription:

- Individual Subscriptions: Print \$20/year, Online-only \$10/year
- Church Leadership Plan: Select 5 church leaders for \$15 apiece (\$75 total)
- Group Print Plan: \$10/person per year (minimum six people)
- Online Whole-Church Plan: \$1/member based on your church's average weekly attendance In the conference journal
- New Members Free: Your new members get a free subscription. Just send their name/address to [atrussell@umcsc.org](mailto:atrussell@umcsc.org).

Sign up at [www.advocatesc.org/subscribe](http://www.advocatesc.org/subscribe),  
call 803-786-9486  
or email [atrussell@umcsc.org](mailto:atrussell@umcsc.org)

**Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica Brodie, Editor  
jbrodie@umcsc.org, 8037869486

**2021-2022 Advocate Board of Trustees:**

David Bryant, Linda DuRant, Rev. Sh'Kur Francis, Rev. Sharon Spann Gamble, Dr. Christopher Greene, Rev. Michael Henderson, Rev. Sheila Elliott Hodge, Enid Jenkins, Glen Levine, Rev. Karen Radcliffe, Rev. Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass, Licita Rogers, Creg Smith, Selena Ruth Smith, Michelle Sturzenbecker

**Ex Officio Members:** Millie Nelson Smith (or designee) and Rev. Cameron Levi

**Staff:** Editor Jessica Brodie and Assistant Editor Allison Trussell

## 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 having a deep cleaning of the building's carpets and floors and began evaluating options to freshen the buildings landscaping to include the replacement of the sickly Indian Hawthorn bushes. During 2021 the United Methodist Center gradually opened for small groups to meet. The upstairs conference room can accommodate twelve persons while maintaining social distancing to reduce the risk of COVID 19. It is the hope of the trustees that the building will continue its gradual reopening as long as it is safe to do so. Because of the pandemic, the Trustees were not able to perform an onsite inspection of the facility. The next onsite inspection is tentatively scheduled for October 2022.

**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 providing suitable office and meeting space to carry support the mission and ministry to which we are called. It continues with its project to enhance the landscaping in the front of the building. The Trustees are also considering staffing alternatives upon the retirement of Ms. Alice Bouknight as the building's receptionist.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

None

**If you take away nothing from this 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 superb stewards of the funds for ensuring the facilities are safe, secure, and properly maintained. The building stands ready to support the various ministries of the Annual Conference.

**Narrative:**

The Trustees thank Ms. Alice Bouknight, building receptionist, for her dedicated full time service over the past six years and for prior years of part time service. We wish her well in her retirement from full time work and are thankful she will continue in a part time capacity as building receptionist.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Thessa Smith, Chairperson  
bwestbury@umcsc.org, 803.726.6741

## 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 2021-2022 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 communicate conference priorities and align conference resources toward these identified areas.

In 2021, funds from the Bobo Trust were dispersed as grants for leadership development training. The current fund balance is \$80,285.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

The Ministry Advisory Team will continue to build on partnerships across ministry areas of the annual conference in an effort to increase alignment of resources with identified needs.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 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  
Stephen Love, Dean of the Cabinet  
Barbara Ware, Conference Lay Leader  
Millie Nelson Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries  
Ross Chellis, Convener, Conference Connectional Ministries Team  
James Friday, Director of Congregational Development  
James Smith, Chair, Conf. Committee on Congregational Development  
Laura Hill, MAT Secretary  
Beth Westbury, Conference Treasurer  
Smith Patterson, Vice Chair, CF&A  
Mel Arant, Coordinator of Clergy Services  
Morris Waymer, Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry  
Chris Lollis, Conference Benefits Officer  
Valerie Brooks-Madden, Chair, Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

## THE REPORT OF THE CABINET

### **Love is the Way: Trusting Believing Knowing God is with Us!**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In spite of our desire to have Annual Conference in person we are having our third Annual Conference virtually. The General Conference scheduled for August 29, 2022 has been postponed until 2024. The Bishop and Chancellor are guiding the Cabinet on issues related to the delay of General Conference. We are committed to helping pastors and churches in this season of uncertainty. This is our current reality, which is still evolving.

We continue in a season of waiting. This is frustrating in many ways and yet it reminds us to turn our attention to the Lord, who knows all about us. There are some ways we can be productive while we wait. Our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has not changed. We are still guided by God's Holy Word. We still operate guided by the scriptures and our *2016 Book of Discipline*. Our *Book of Discipline* is described on page "v" in the Episcopal Greetings section, as "the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodist govern themselves. It

sets forth the theological grounding of the United Methodist Church in biblical faith and affirms that we go forward as "loyal heirs to all that is best in the Christian past."

While we wait, we are called to continue our faith walk. While we wait, we can begin with prayer for God's will to be done in our midst. While we wait, we can live into our four priorities. This year we have not stopped being or doing in service to God. Bishop Holston has continued to lead, encourage, and remind us to be intentional about staying focused on our ministry purpose. He has given us daily prayers and shared letters and messages addressing the pressing matters before our church and community. He has met periodically with our laity and clergy casting vision and reminding us of our future with hope.

We focus on our improving our abilities to serve and meet the needs we have heard from local churches. Specifically, we are moving forward embracing our four priorities: 1. Developing Lay and Clergy Leaders, 2. Engaging Our Communities, 3. Connecting with and Growing Disciples, 4. Measuring Current Realities and Evaluating Missional Possibilities.

We have worked with our Congregational Specialists and the Ministry Advisory Team to review and develop strategies for training on our priorities.

We work with our conference chancellor when matters facing our conference needs her leadership. We encourage use of our resources in our Response to Racism, moving us to action steps to make a difference. We are exploring ways we more effectively identify and support persons who are called to serve as clergy in SC Annual Conference Local Pastors, Deacons and Elders. We also celebrate our lay servant ministries and the addition of more Certified Lay Ministers. We ask you to join us in this effort to support and encourage those who may be considering their call into ministry. We work with the Office of Congregational Development and the Committee on Equitable Compensation to discover ways to revitalize and strengthen current congregations and discover new missional opportunities for faith communities. We have reorganized our committee to review salary inequities among clergy. Our team approach helps us to identify and implement best practices.

We may be asking ourselves the question the prophet Habakkuk asked. How Long Lord?

We are challenged in ways that we have never experienced before. God continues to provide. The road ahead remains unpredictable and yet the one constant is that we still have Jesus and our hope is not lost; our possibilities are not limited. Our current reality is full of challenges. We must keep our faith and trust anchored in the Lord.

Although we are in season of waiting. We have cause for celebration. We celebrate how together we have increased our missional support through our apportionments. We have been charged to remain faithful followers of Jesus Christ in these anxious times. I believe that we are experiencing the difference it makes when we focus on our mission and purpose of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This year, new challenges arose. Through it all we see the best of who we are in Jesus Christ. Our Episcopal leader, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, continue to lead with integrity through sometimes rough and unsettled waters. We also thank Mrs. Felecia Holston, the First Lady of The South Carolina Annual Conference for the many ways she offers her support and encouragement. We celebrate the effective leadership of our Cabinet Secretary, The Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, who has given eight years of effective service to our conference as our Columbia District Superintendent. She will return to the local church and share her gifts of leadership there. We welcome The Rev. Fran Elrod as the new Columbia District Superintendent and look forward to her joining this team.

We are thankful to serve as your extended cabinet. Our work is accomplished by the grace of God and with the assistance of those who give their time, energy, and leadership. The work we do is possible because we are blessed to have effective administrative assistants and support staff. Whenever there is more to be done, our entire team rises to the occasion.

The administrative assistants meet monthly via ZOOM and have been engaging in the Authentic Task Approach, Appreciative Inquiry, and Action Research to gather data and identify ways of assisting and supporting Conference and District Ministries. This is cause for celebration. We are grateful for the many ways we experience God's love and grace. The lay and clergy of the South Carolina Annual Conference are strong. We thank all of you for your prayers and faithfulness.

I invite you to join us as we continue to pray for unity in our community. Praying without ceasing for our denomination, Conference, and all of our local churches and communities. While we are in this season of waiting let us follow the words of scripture. "But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31 NRSV) "

Let us keep watch and see what the Lord will say to us. "There is still a vision for the appointed time. If it seems to tarry wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay (Habakkuk 2:1-3 NRSV)."

May we take the next faithful step, acknowledging and remembering, "Love is the Way; Trusting, Believing, Knowing; God Is With Us!"

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love, Dean of the Cabinet  
(The Extended Cabinet members are: Bishop Holston, The Conference Lay Leader, The Conference Treasurer, The Director of Connectional Ministries, The Director of Congregation Development, The Coordinator of Clergy Services, The District Superintendents)

## **THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR 2022**

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 working 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 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 the pandemic has continued.

We were able to organize and file claims in the Boy Scout bankruptcy for those UMC churches that had and were currently sponsoring troops. I worked with leaders from churches and from the Boy Scouts in development of a model facility use agreement that has allowed Boy Scouts to continue to meet in South Carolina UMC churches while we await the final resolution of the Boy Scout bankruptcy.

As a practicing defense litigation lawyer, I am seeing an increased amount of litigation and an increasing willingness of individuals to sue churches. Please make sure that the Board of Trustees of your Churches conducts a complete review of all insurance policies and their coverages and limits each year.

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**

We continue to struggle in South Carolina to get increases in Chartered Churches. The Pandemic has had huge effect. We currently have 226 Active Chartered Churches and continue to be one of leaders in the Southeast Jurisdiction. We have 86 Churches that have lapsed, some of these is because Men are not meeting. Some of these will come back in the next few months

#### **EMS**

We did have a decrease in EMS this year. Most of our EMS come from our Conference Leadership Team. At this point we have 41 active EMS members.

#### **Upper Room Prayer Ministry**

We continue to promote the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, however it seemed to have lost momentum with close of prayer line and start of Prayer Wall. Dennis Sullen, our Prayer Advocate, has been recovering from Medical Problems.

In February at our Virtual MnM Event, Dennis, Clayton, our former prayer advocate, and Rev. Chris Snelgrove teamed up to provide a prayer room for One in the Spirit event that went great.

#### **Spiritual Retreat**

Our "Resilient" In Person / Virtual event was February 27, 2022 from 6:00 to 8:00. It was produced from Mt. Horeb UMC and livestreamed to Churches across South Carolina.

We had 26 Major Sponsor and Local Sponsor Churches that was able to reach over 200 men for an in-person experience. Some of our Sponsor Churches invited other churches to join with them to experience the Event.

Individuals were able to login in to the event from their computers or cell phones. We believe over 600 attended the event.

Keynote Presenters were Jarad Lopes and Pastor Francis Chan. Bishop Jonathan Holston, Rev. Jeff Kersey, and Rev. Stephen Love were also on the program. We were Blessed to have Rev. Trevor Miller of Mt. Horeb UMC to help us plan and lead the event.

An In-person / Virtual Event is being planned for February 26, 2022.

We are again partnering with Mt. Horeb UMC to connect Friday night/Sunday night.

A Golf Tournament will open the Event on Friday Morning, February 25, 2022.

### **Teaching Churches**

A plan to follow up the 2022 Event is to have District Meeting In-person or Virtual during 2022. The February Event was designed to be first part of total.

Three extra sessions were available to be used as follow up. Two districts are now planning for early 2022 District Events. The Conference MnM has resources of up to \$400.00 in matching funds for each District to help the 12 districts with expenses for these events.

### **Leadership**

SC is continuing to Build leadership teams in each District. We hope the above Event will push this along. Last year MennMinistry lost a great leader, Clayton Easter, in December. Clayton was Conference Prayer Advocate for many years. His death leaves a void that will take time to fill.

### **YoungER Men**

We continue to focus on YoungER Men's Ministry. Several of our Districts have provided contact information for men to work with SEJ to help to build leadership. Some of our District Leadership Teams have younger men on them.

### **Scouting**

Rev. Robert Cox served 2 years as SC Scouting Coordinator. He assembled an awesome leadership team and this year has moved on in his retirement plan. But before he left, he found a great replacement. Roland Finch has taken over and has great plans to continue to build leadership and Scouting connection in SC.

### **Give Day 2021**

We had a great response to Give Day 2021 from our leadership team. Thanks to GCUMM for providing great promotional materials and videos. It would have been better to have had the materials and videos sooner. Something to think about for 2022. South Carolina's total contribution to date is \$2,527.00. This is from a check \$1,727 from UMMSC and contributions from Men's Groups and Individual Men.

### **Goal for 2022**

The Conference Leadership Team set as main goal to help the Districts without Teams, to work with DS and District Lay Leaders in locating men to fill these opportunities. As a personal Goal, I have committed to visit each District. At this point I have attended 4 of 12 districts and have 2 more set.

We will continue to Work our 8 basic Goals These are set to give Local Church MnM Groups to pick 2 or 3 as a guide to connect in ministry.

- Grow the Connection
- Support Prayer Ministry
- Support Society of St Andrew
- Support for PET carts
- Support Strength for Service
- Encourage Small Group Studies
- Work to get Teaching Churches in the Districts
- Build YoungER Men Ministry

The pandemic this year has brought change to our way of operating. Some have gone in hiding but some have seen this as positive change. A time to explore new and different ways of doing Ministry. We are certainly blessed by having a connecting tool like Zoom. Our February Event has been key to our success in past years. God has used that time in so many special ways. He is already working to help us see new opportunities in new directions for 2022. When we yield to His call, Great and Awesome things happen. Glory to God. Amen

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Horton President  
MennMinistry. SC 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:**

The 2020 Membership Survey recorded 9,458 members, 319 units America's largest. We celebrate our numbers.

Legislative Advocacy Days brought over 200 social action advocates to virtual sessions: Juvenile Justice Reform, Elder Abuse, Opioid Education Prevention, and Jesus, Justice and Action.

March 23rd Day of Giving to Legacy Fund saw generous giving.

Two Presidential Scholarships were awarded to young women pursuing higher education degrees.

Virtual Spiritual Growth Event, Rock Hill District hosts, April 24th registered 271. Rev. Jacoby, Two Rivers United Methodist Church, Charleston led "Behind Every Great Woman: Community, Call and Creativity in the Life of the Women in Moses' Life".

Come Together Be Together, Anderson District hosts, May 15th theme "This Too Shall Pass: Keep the Faith", registered 202 virtually. Keynote Rev. Brock, Toxaway United Methodist Church, and workshops Bible Study-Psalm 23, Going Green, Recipe Exchange, Relaxation with Laughter and Spiritual Wellness inspired us.

July 3rd virtual Limitless Party women 14-30, attended by 13 Moms, daughters, babies and Grandmas enjoyed a virtual scavenger hunt.

Mission u virtual learning July 24, 31, August 7 registered 228 students. Theme "There is Far More Here than Meets the Eye", textbooks Bearing Witness in the Kingdom, Pushout, and Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence composed adult and youth programs.

49th Annual Meeting "Exercising Faith Over Fear", virtual hosts Hartsville District, brought 254 registrants for worship, celebration and organization business. Keynote Rev. Marshall, St. John's United Methodist Church, Bible Study Rev. Thomas, Good Hope Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church inspired everyone. Program Book dedicated to Bishop Holston.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

Our 2022 emphasis is the fourth portion of our pledge, "to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church". Together we grow our mission work and expand our reach.

We recognize the Fifty Year Anniversary being United Methodist Women, keyword united. First South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women President Mrs. Connie Byrneside (1972 -1976) wrote "My prayer for the years ahead is that we unite our minds in understanding, and our hearts in ever deeper devotion and commitment, that our joy in service might become a convincing expression of our goal to achieve greater oneness with the Church universal." Today we renew our commitment. Our simple plan Remembering Our Fifty Years United in Faith guides participation through reflection, prayer, giving and remembrance March 15 to August 15. Individual and Unit forms exist.

Organized by Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator Vickie Harvey we seek to grow our Prayer Partners everywhere.

Our Presidential Scholarship for women, members of our SC Methodist Churches seeking degrees of higher education continues. We have provided sixteen \$1000 scholarships for our future leaders.

We support South Carolina Mission projects, Bethlehem Center Spartanburg, Columbia Bethlehem Community Center, Killingsworth and Wallace Family Life Center. We embrace their work enabling women, children and youth to thrive.

Communication remains essential. Our quarterly Mission Echo newsletter is an online resource. District quarterly newsletters share local activities. Our website and face book pages grow. Our monthly Advocate column, advertisements and news articles highlight current events and service work.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

We solicit prayers and more members. Please share about our organization and our good news. Thank you.

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

South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women welcome new members. We desire growth in mission and fellowship with all women, children and youth, seniors included!

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 putting faith into action.

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

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 the largest conference in America in both membership count and units. 2020 Membership Census recorded 9,458 SC members in 319 units.

We celebrated 150 years in mission March 23, 2019. Our Legacy Fund, permanent endowment, prepares for our future.

**Narrative:**

We are a community of women, coming from South Carolina Conference's twelve districts. Our network of fellowship and friendship is strong. We pray together.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action. Our Limitless young women will provide our path forward. Our Reading Program, Daily Prayer Guide, Program Book, and national website [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) are resources which sustain member learning.

Year 2022 marks the word UNITED in our name for fifty years. South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Past President Mrs. Connie Byrneside explains in *Voices From the Recent Past*. "The White Methodists in South Carolina were organized in 1785 and the Black Methodists in South Carolina were organized in 1866. South Carolina has the largest percentage of Black Methodists of any conference. When early meetings were held, the designation of Conference '85 and Conference '66 came into being. While there had been cooperation and shared activities for some time, it was necessary to insure the continued success of Kingdom building, providing opportunities to share leadership and for the South Carolina Conference to function as a loving and reconciled people of God. "The Plan of Merger" called for all elected leadership to be based on the ratio of our people-75% white and 25%black. This we did and in 1972 we celebrated the merging of all our Methodist work."

We invite all women to join our organization. We welcome new members. Come be part of our journey "to know God" and to know Him well.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathy L. Ford – Conference President 2019-2022

[cathylford@gmail.com](mailto:cathylford@gmail.com) #864-231-6740

Vice-President – Janice Eaddy

Secretary – Dr. Renee Ritter

Treasurer – Ruby Hannah

Communications – Kim Love Quick

Secretary of Program Resources – Shirley Crosby

Education & Interpretation – vacant

Membership Nurture and Outreach – Angela Allen

Social Action – Linda Eichenbaum

Spiritual Growth – Vickie Harvey

Chair CONominations – Kathy Roys

Dean Mission u – Vanessa Key

Assistant Dean – Michelline Cooper-Williams

## SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE LLC

### **Purpose:**

Originating in 1978 by Rev. John Culp, Salkehatchie unites youth and adult volunteers with the support of local churches, schools and communities in week-long mission work camps across the state of South Carolina for the purpose of repairing the homes of families who live in poverty situations.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

Although the Salkehatchie Board of Managers cancelled the 2021 camps due to the unpredictability and spread of the Covid-19 virus, Salkehatchie Camp Directors met in the Fall of 2021 determined and motivated to hold 42 camps in 2022. A reboot Salkehatchie campaign began with excitement. Salkehatchie had a new social media presence as a means to reach youth.

The Board of Managers met for a day-long session for the purpose of developing written Covid-19 protocols to implement at all Salkehatchie camps, including requiring all campers and homeowners to be vaccinated. No exceptions.

As camp directors explored the possibilities of reopening their camps, new challenges surfaced, including the fact that some churches and schools were not ready to welcome the Salkehatchie campers for meals and/or lodging.

In addition, some schools are contemplating year-round school schedules.

Also, the vaccination requirement eliminated non-vaccinated Camp Directors and adult leaders.

By February 27, 2022, 14 brave camps are preparing to hold camps.

In May of 2020, our wonderful Salkehatchie staff person resigned. With no 2020 or 2021 camps planned, the weekly miscellaneous administrative duties of Salkehatchie were left to a volunteer and Conference staff.

On a bright note, the book, "Faith in Action: Stories of Salkehatchie Summer service" compiled by Rev. John Culp, Sr., stirring good memories of the early years, was published in 2021 by South Carolina United Methodist Advocate Press. Profits are donated to Salkehatchie.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

The Board of Managers revisited some of its Guidelines, Policies and Procedures as we maneuver through the new normal.

Camps were always held from Saturday to Saturday. Several camps requested to change dates so campers arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave on Friday, keeping Sunday morning church worship and Sunday school schedules unchanged for camps lodging in a church setting. This shorter helps camps along coast avoid the Saturday tourist traffic. It is hoped that youth and young adults will be more inclined to volunteer because this new policy doesn't include the traditional two Saturdays of their summer schedule.

Because of Covid-19, camps can now offer a "commuter option" for local folks attending camp who feel more comfortable sleeping and showering at their nearby home, freeing up space for social-distancing sleeping arrangements at some camps.

### **Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:**

We humbly ask for continuous prayers as we strive to get Salkehatchie back up and running at full capacity.

We humbly ask for local churches to prayerfully consider what they can do to support the Salkehatchie camps being held in 2022 in their area. See [Salkehatchie@umcsc.org](mailto:Salkehatchie@umcsc.org) for a list of 2022 camps.

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

Salkehatchie Summer Service is not dead. With Covid-19 protocols in place, fourteen camps with approximately 795 vaccinated youth and adult volunteers, will be held this summer. The hope is that the other twenty-eight camps will open in 2023. We know the need for Salkehatchie is great and even greater now that we haven't been operational for the last two years. Volunteers are eager to get back to work being God's hands and feet.

The book, "Faith in Action: Stories of Salkehatchie Summer Service," compiled by Rev. John Culp, Sr. was published and can be purchased through the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate Press.

**Narrative:**

Salkehatchie Summer Service is extremely grateful for the partnership we have with the SCUMC Conference office and staff and the Advocate Press' staff for their generous support. They approach their jobs as their personal ministry.

We greatly appreciate Mt Hebron UMC in West Columbia for hosting our Camp Directors meetings in their beautiful Family Life Center.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathryn Ferguson Hart, Chair of Board of Managers  
salkehatchie@umcsc.org, 803-691-6066  
Current Board of Managers and legal counsel

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## THE REPORT OF SC METHODIST CONFERENCE CREDIT UNION

The year 2022 marks sixty-seven 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.

In 2021 the Credit Union continued to be negatively affected by the COVID19 pandemic. As with most organizations, the impact was not just the direct effect on health, but also operational and supply chain issues that impacted all. More specifically, the lack of computer chips for new autos made it difficult for our members to find a vehicle when needed and negatively impacted loan demand from the Credit Union. As a financial institution, we also dealt with a historically low rates on investments, but thankfully this is beginning to change. Through it all, the Credit Union continued to focus on serving its members.

The Credit Union experienced significant changes in personnel during the past year. Rex Wilson, long time President of the Credit Union, retired. Andy Cox who had previously served as the Credit Union's CEO returned as President and CEO and Tiffany Jackson joined the Credit Union as Loan Officer. Latasha Whitaker continues as Operations Manager and Carolyn Lucas continues as Member Service Receptionist.

On February 28, 2022, the Credit Union's Annual Meeting, due to the pandemic, was held virtually again. At the meeting, the members elected the Board of Directors, and the financial condition of the Credit Union was reported. We are hopeful that next year's meeting will be in person.

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.org](http://www.scmccu.org), to learn more about the benefits of belonging to a financial institution cooperative.

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

Credit Committee: Rev. John E. Holler, Chairperson, Rev. Leatha Brown, Rev. Neal (Lex) McDonald

Supervisory Committee: Mrs. Christine C. Dominick, Chairperson, Rev. Willis E. Haselden, "Rett," and Mr. Alston Brooks.

Roger M. Gramling  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Talmadge A. (Andy) Cox  
CEO and President

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY

***You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden.***  
— Matthew 5:14 (CEB)

This year, The United Methodist Church marks 30 years of vibrant, transformative ministry through Africa University. Thank you, South Carolina Conference, for your faithfulness and generosity in bringing the dream of Africa University (AU) to life.

In celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Africa University is honoring the past and looking to the future, while remaining true to its mission as the cornerstone ministry for United Methodist-related leadership development in Africa.

From the first conversations in 1984 to formal approval at the General Conference in 1988, the planting of Africa University required vision, faith, and bold action in the face of predictions that it could never succeed. Africa University found many friends and staunch advocates in South Carolina, across the global Methodist connection, and beyond. The "Dream is Alive" was the rallying cry in March 1992 as 40 students from six African countries attended lectures in renovated farm buildings.

Africa University's journey from day one to the present is a shared story of being salt and light. Africa University is also a South Carolina Conference success story—of restoring hope, equipping, and sending forth young leaders to shape an abundant life for themselves and for the communities they serve.

Like the year that preceded it, 2021 affirmed that God's grace is sufficient in all circumstances. Africa University is grateful to the South Carolina Conference for investing 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) in 2021. Thank you, South Carolina United Methodists, for second mile giving to endow scholarships and ensure access for the many gifted students who are unable to fund a college education on their own!

In January 2021, the students, faculty and staff grappled with the sudden death of Africa University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Munashe Furusa. As the year unfolded, national lockdowns continued to restrict travel and damage livelihoods. Unable to be on campus together, the students, faculty, and staff grieved, pivoted, supported and encouraged each other, and persevered.

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, Africa University harnessed new opportunities for missional engagement in 2021. The year's highlights include:

- **Effective online-only teaching, learning and student assessment:** About 99 percent of students participated in online learning. Enrollment held steady at 3,060 students and more than 500 graduates from 24 African countries were awarded degrees in July 2021.
- **The installation of AU's fifth Chancellor:** Bishop Gaspar João Domingos of the Western Angola Episcopal Area was elected Chancellor following the death of Bishop John K. Yambasu of Sierra Leone.
- **Research and community service:**
  - ◊ AU researchers received US\$2 million in funding for regional initiatives to eradicate malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases.
  - ◊ AU's students and graduates led, and showed their love of neighbor, with initiatives to feed hungry families, care for the environment, and improve the quality of life of legally blind parents and their children.
  - ◊ AU was awarded the 2021 Jairos Jiri Humanitarian Award by the Government of Zimbabwe for its pandemic impact mitigation efforts.

Thank you, South Carolina United Methodists, for letting your light shine for young women and men who would otherwise be left on the sidelines. “A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden” ...similarly, AU’s current students and its more than 10,000 graduates to date are that metaphor made real. Continue to walk alongside them, South Carolina Conference, as they hone their abilities, live fully into their God-given purpose, and join in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

## **LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY 2022 South Carolina Annual Conference Report**

In 2021, Lake Junaluska Assembly (LJA) continued to live into its mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. As LJA began to emerge from the economic disaster caused by the pandemic in 2020, it resumed hosting events and provided hospitality for individuals from all across the U.S.

In January 2021, LJA learned that the World Methodist Council (WMC) had decided to move its museum and sell its two properties at Lake Junaluska. This was a surprise. One of the properties was the museum, which housed an extensive collection of important artifacts to the Methodist heritage. This building had been a gift to the WMC by the Lake Junaluska community in 1955. The other property was the Reynolds World Headquarters Building. The exterior of this structure is an exact replica of the rectory at Epworth England where John Wesley was born. It had been gifted to the WMC by Royce and Jayne Reynolds. After several months of discussion with the WMC, LJA was able to purchase these buildings for \$1.25 million. Plans for the renovation of the former museum building are currently in development.

People began to return to the conference center in May when N.C. Governor Roy Cooper removed restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Leisure travel did not make up for what was lost from groups, however lodging revenue numbers were closer to what they were two years ago before the pandemic. People came seeking outdoor venues and authentic experiences. More canoes, paddleboards, and kayaks were rented than ever before. It was wonderful seeing families experience renewal on the grounds again! Leisure travel revenue plus the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans have put LJA in a good financial situation.

LJA did not escape the impact of the nationwide hospitality industry staffing shortage. It was a bumpy road at times, but the organization was able to do more with less staff. Before the pandemic, the staffing level was 275 or more employees in the summer season and 190 in the winter. During 2020 the staff level dropped to fewer than 100 employees. Throughout 2021 staff was rehired and, in August, the level was at 217 employees.

In August, Haywood County experienced a devastating flood as a result of Hurricane Fred. Anticipating the storm, LJA was in conversation with county officials and extended its facilities to all in need. Swift-water rescue crews arrived as rain was still falling. LJA provided the first responders with lodging and meals. Prayer ministry leaders and members of the community prayed over every seat before each meal. The impact was phenomenal. The LJA staff and community provided a sanctuary for the rescue workers while they helped those directly impacted by the storm. LJA also partnered with Haywood County Department of Social Services to provide emergency shelter to residents who lost their homes as a result of the storm. The last of those residents moved out of temporary housing in December.

LJA experienced a significant financial transition in 2021 as it began to emerge from the impacts of the pandemic. The organization finished the year with a surplus of \$538,458 in the general budget and \$371,254 in the Assembly Public Works budget. The general budget surplus was made possible by the hard work of the staff in reopening the organization, \$741,203 in unrestricted charitable support, and the forgiveness of the 2021 PPP loan received in February.

Looking toward the future, the board of trustees has adopted the following guiding aspirations:

- **Aspiration 1:** To preserve and enhance the lake and grounds so that more people will recognize the natural beauty of God’s creation.
- **Aspiration 2:** To be a conference center that rivals hospitality industry leaders by exceeding guests’ expectations through excellence in staff and facilities.

- **Aspiration 3:** To be the place that connects more youth to Christ through meaningful ministry, recreation, and education programs.
- **Aspiration 4:** To identify, uphold, and strengthen the Lake Junaluska tradition of implementing innovative, shared experiences – for both individuals and families – that celebrate faith, recreation, the arts, and education.
- **Aspiration 5:** To be an involved, inclusive community that provides the highest quality of life for residents and guests.

LJA appreciates your input into the creation of these aspirations and for your continued support as it lives into God's purpose for this special place.

The leadership and staff invite you to visit Lake Junaluska for a conference, retreat, or vacation. The lake and surrounding mountains will provide the perfect setting for you to experience transformation and renewal. To plan your next visit, please visit [lakejunaluska.com](http://lakejunaluska.com).

Ken Howle, Executive Director

## HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

### **Purpose:**

Our Mission: Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Rural Life Center serves individuals, congregations, and rural communities through retreat ministries, educational opportunities, and missional outreach. In 2021, Hinton celebrated 60 years of serving the Southeastern Jurisdiction, equipping clergy and local churches and offering opportunities for mission outreach and retreat/renewal in our scenic Appalachian setting.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

With the support of local volunteers and mission teams, as well as generous support from individual, organizational, and United Methodist churches (Board of Global Ministries Advance Project #731372), Hinton was able to offer relational and impactful ministries.

Highlights of 2021 include:

- Completed 123 home repair projects on 25 different homes and 4 nonprofits in our area, prioritizing and addressing the health and safety of homeowners.
- Hosted over 400 mission participants.
- Installed vegetable gardens for homeowners to support their nutritional well-being.
- Provided over 570 loads of firewood to over 480 families/individuals, who heat primarily with wood.
- Premiered our House on Wheels (HOW) mobile teaching unit to promote home safety awareness and practices in our local community and with our volunteers.
- Provided local and missional leadership training for more than 35 adults and young people.
- Provided over 300 children with new clothes at Christmas through Christmas Care.
- Began installation and enhancements of trails and Sanctuary Gardens on our campus for individuals and groups to experience rest and renewal for mind, body, and soul.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

Another exciting highlight was the planning and promotion of Theotokos Confirmation Retreats, which launched in March of 2022. All four weekends filled, with groups from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. Content focus is on the vows of membership (prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness), biblical stories of call, and services of baptism renewal and Holy Communion. Hinton also developed and now offers a digital confirmation resource, Theotokos Connections, designed to be small-church relevant and accessible, but available for any size church.

We will also continue to offer a mission week experience to Kentucky Residents in Ministry in April 2022 as part of our efforts to equip and support clergy and churches in rural ministry contexts.

Another ministry focus is leadership development of young people. In addition to Confirmation retreats and our 10 weeks of summer mission outreach, Hinton will offer Hinton YouthLead Academy, August 5-7, 2022, for high school youth who are wired for leadership and ready to create and launch ministry projects that address needs and/or justice issues in their local and global communities.

**Action(s) required from the 2022 Annual Conference:** None

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

Hinton Rural Life Center wants to resource and support United Methodist congregations and clergy through its campus and program resources that focus on renewal of mind, body, and soul, as well as provide life changing, faith building, and fruit bearing mission outreach opportunities in our Appalachian community.

### **Narrative:**

Respectfully submitted:

Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO,  
Hinton Rural Life Center  
jackie@hintoncenter.org, 828-389-8336

## **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like 2021 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in cultivating transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

### **BREAKING NEWS:**

- **Return to Campus:** Faculty, administrators, and library returned to in-person instruction and work in Fall 2021, with many events reaching hybrid audiences. Strict COVID-19 precautions continue to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and administrators.
- **Students:** Our Fall 2021 entering class was among our most diverse, with 108 new students enrolling in September.
- **Faculty:** In September we celebrated the appointment of Cristian De La Rosa as Associate Dean for Students and Community Life. Prof. Shelly Rambo leads the Lilly-funded project on "Trauma-Responsive Congregations," and two faculty members—Prof. Dana Robert and Wesley Wildman—were each honored with festschrifts. Prof. Jonathan Calvillo's book *The Saints of Santa Ana* received the HTI Book Award, and Prof. Choi Hee An published *A Postcolonial Leadership*. BUSTH is conducting two faculty searches with anticipation of welcoming new faculty in the fall.
- **Launch of a New Online Degree:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—is currently enrolling students for its first cohort in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life.
- **Peale Foundation Grant:** Prof. Steven Sandage and his research team were awarded a \$2.19 million, five-year grant by the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation for a project that fosters a network of communities for relational care and support to spiritual leaders and therapists to offer resources to reduce trauma risk and vocational burnout and foster flourishing.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the **Sacred Worth Scholarship Fund** and the **Dean Thurman & Bishop Easterling Fellowship Fund**.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online workshops for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent workshops include "Practices of Grief in a Time of Pandemic" and "Reflecting with Howard Thurman." To learn more, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Center for Global Christianity and Mission upon its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

### **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:**

- BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as "Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds."
- The 2021-22 Lowell Lectures are dedicated to cross-advocacy and intersectionality in racial justice efforts. This fall, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan advocated for broader understandings of political theology and greater awareness of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.

- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

With faith and gratitude,

G. Sujin Pak, Dean

## CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has lived into our mission, educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. This year, as we leaned into this critical work and continued to adapt to a world changed by the coronavirus pandemic, we imagined new possibilities for students who are called by God to pursue serious theological study and preparation for ministry. For some, opening avenues to graduate theological education requires moving financial obstacles, and for others, geography or family responsibilities may be the barriers. Candler is committed to assisting students in removing these barriers and opening new pathways to ministry.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from 43 denominations, with 45% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 466 from 16 countries and 38 states, 45% persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 28 among MDivs. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our students and our larger community and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that reaches across difference, works to resolve injustice, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our DMin is 90% online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Its high 87% completion rate illustrates both the quality of our students and Candler's commitment to their success. This year, we increased online offerings in other degrees as well. Now students can complete the Master of Religion and Public Life completely online; the Master of Religious Leadership with concentrations in Youth Ministry, Justice, Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, or Wesleyan Leadership and Heritage in a hybrid format; and MDiv students can complete core classes online. Plus, our new Remote Teaching Parish (RTP) program allows MDiv students who have jobs in ecclesial settings far from our Atlanta campus to take core classes online and complete their contextual education requirements at their place of ministry, participating in mentor-led online groups with other RTP students.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$6.8 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98.5% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

Hundreds of laity and theology students alike have joined in classes and events offered through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to all. Through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one and online panel discussions, those who want to delve more deeply into theology and the Bible have the chance to do just that. View the latest offerings at [candlerfoundry.emory.edu](http://candlerfoundry.emory.edu).

Associate Dean of Methodist Studies the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder will retire from Candler at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to God for her energetic and skillful leadership in this vital area as she strengthened the connection between our students and conferences throughout the UMC, mentoring them as they discerned their call and navigated the ordination process.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

— Jan Love

*Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and  
Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University*

## DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

In spring and fall of 2021, Drew Theological School began returning to its Madison, New Jersey, campus for some classes, meetings, and worship. As with many churches, in person events were held in spaces equipped for live-streaming or Zoom participation. The shift to remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic thus significantly expanded our online course offerings and accessible community events. Now, a number of students in Drew's masters programs will progress through their programs in U.S. and global locations far from New Jersey. This year, we welcomed 150 new students, again the largest class in a decade, and have a current enrollment of 376 students.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who are taking their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents. Diversity is a hallmark of our student body, including theological, vocational, age, and especially racial and national diversity both international--Asian, African, and South American and U.S.--black, white, Latinx, and Asian American--students. Our student body is truly global, with 35% of students from 21 different countries. For the first time in its history, Drew has an African student association, initiated by Drew Theological School students from 14 African countries, that is already contributing richly to the Drew community both on campus and online. We have welcomed new faculty in Latinx ministries and world Christianity. We have also seen an increase in United Methodist students particularly interested in the school's Gospel-inspired traditions of social justice advocacy and widely inclusive ministry. We are proud that many United Methodist Global Fellows have recently chosen to continue their journey in ministry at Drew. Our UMC graduates are serving in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York conferences as well as conferences across the country.

The faculty is committed to continuing to develop the curriculum in ways that take seriously the wide range of lived experience and calls to ministry of the students that gather in our global classrooms. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

## DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Theology and Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation, began his two-year term as the dean of Duke Divinity School on July 1. Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Duke and has been a member of the faculty since 2008. He has served as the director for the Hispanic House of Studies and as the director for the Center for Reconciliation (CFR). Under his leadership, CFR expanded its capacities, partnerships, and areas of engagement, including convening the Americas Initiative. He also sought to strengthen connections between Duke Divinity and local Hispanic-Latino/a ministers and churches, often in partnership with The Duke Endowment's support for rural congregations and pastors in North Carolina. An ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he directs the Central American Methodist Course of Study and the Peru Theological Initiative and serves on the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order and on both national and international Methodist-Catholic dialogues. Recognizing that he is entering the dean's office at a pivotal time for the school, Colón-Emeric stated his commitment to keep the Divinity School heading in a life-giving direction: "The world needs the church, and the church needs the theologically grounded, intellectually vibrant, and socially innovative pastors and leaders that we train. From the heart of Duke University, we cultivate wisdom that is joyfully orthodox, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, and irrevocably anti-racist or the sake of the church in its mission for the life of the world." He is the first Latino dean of the school.

This year the school launched several new programs to provide support for current and future students. A new partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College will enable qualified undergraduates to take master's level courses at Duke Divinity School beginning in 2022. **The Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program** offers select juniors and seniors the option to begin coursework toward Duke's Hybrid M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.) degree programs while completing their baccalaureate degree. Funded by the support of the Kern Family Foundation, the Accelerated Program will help students lower educational debt incurred in the preparation for ministry process and accelerate their timeline to engaging the field of ministry. In the spring the school launched the **Asian House of Studies**, a formational community that will support Asian and Asian-American students; build a network of Asian and Asian-American students, alumni, and church leaders; and provide resources for Asian theological studies. Asian House of Studies is under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, a consulting professor and senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

Three new certificates were approved this year, and all can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Hybrid M.Div., M.T.S., and M.A. degree programs. The **Certificate in Methodist/Wesleyan Studies** is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage in robust and intentional training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for leadership positions in Methodist and Wesleyan organizations and churches, such as the United Methodist Church, AME Church, AME Zion Church, and Korean Methodist Church. In the **Certificate in Latinx Studies**, students will practice and hone skills for ministry while becoming part of a learning community that is committed to Hispanic/Latinx communities and seeks to learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and cultures. The **Certificate in Worship** is designed to prepare Duke Divinity students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the worship of God in Christian congregations. The new certificate is one of several measures being introduced by the school in response to listening sessions on racial justice and cultural competency that revealed a desire and need for both formation and expression that would welcome, support, enhance, and celebrate worship from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

In January, the school announced 12 full-tuition fellowships to support incoming residential Master of Divinity degree program students who pursue a certificate in Black Church Studies or Latinx Studies. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships, the Black Church Studies and Latinx Studies Fellowships provide vocationally specific formation and mentoring opportunities for the fellows and up to \$24,000 in stipend support and internship opportunities through the Office of Field Education. The fellowships begin in the fall of 2022.

The Office of Wesleyan Engagement announced the **"Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism"** project. This project is a missional initiative of the Divinity School with the support of the Kern Family Foundation. It seeks to nurture innovative leadership within the Wesleyan tradition as a constructive and hope-filled response to a turbulent ecclesial landscape.

Supported by a gift from the Duke Endowment, the school launched **To Heal the Wounded Soul**, a project to strengthen Wesleyan pastors in the Carolinas who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, including from the AME, AME Zion, CME, and UMC churches. Led by the Office of Black Church Studies and the Clergy Health Initiative To Heal the Wounded Soul will develop peer networks, support groups, and retreats to address the specific mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of this community.

This academic year Duke Divinity School welcomed the largest incoming class in the school's history, with 259 new students from 31 different states and five other countries—India, Zimbabwe, Colombia, Mexico, and South Korea. Enrollment in the flagship M.Div. degree program jumped to 133 students, up from approximately 110 students during each of the previous four years. The growth was heavily driven by the first cohort of 52 Hybrid M.Div. students. There were 27 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 38 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church (up from 30 percent in 2020). Anglican-Episcopal students made up 13 percent of the new M.Div. students (up from nine percent the prior year); non-denominational students, 11 percent; and Baptists, 10 percent. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) welcomed 36 students, the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) gained 33, and the M.A. saw 17 new students. The Master of Theology (Th.M.) enrolled 12 students, and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) enrolled seven new students. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students to campus and a large first cohort of 14 students in the hybrid version of the program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a

race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx students, six percent; Asian students, two percent; and American Indian students, two percent. Women made up 47 percent of incoming students across all programs.

Three new faculty members, with expertise ranging from the Reformation era in the history of Christianity, to Methodist and Lutheran studies, to Latinx theology, joined the faculty in 2021. **Polly Ha** is an Associate Professor of the History of Christianity whose work focuses on the history of Christianity and the construction of diverse confessional and ecclesiastical traditions in the Reformation and post-Reformation world. **Ronald K. Rittgers** is the Duke Divinity School Chair in Lutheran Studies and Professor of the History of Christianity, and his research interests include the religious, intellectual, social, and cultural history of medieval and early modern/Reformation Europe, focusing especially on the history of theology and devotion. **Daniel Castelo**, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, taught intensive Wesleyan theology courses in Mexico, Honduras, and Brazil, and then took a teaching post at a Mexican seminary for three years. He has been an active participant in the Central American Methodist Course of Study program and recently has served as a doctoral mentor for the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among The United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric  
Dean of Duke Divinity School

### **GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities.

Gammon was founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church, with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominately Black Seminary of the thirteen approved United Methodist-related Theological Institutions. The faculty and administration of Gammon at the ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision-making, and responsible action happen. The ITC's accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. The Gammon Board of Trustees elected our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and she is the first woman to lead the Seminary in our 138-year history. Dr. Lewis began her tenure on April 1, 2021.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year at Gammon include:

- **The Rev. Geraldine Williams-McClellan \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund launched** with Bishop Kenneth Carter and Florida Annual Conference.
- **Commissioned our First Gammon Seminary National Research Project** focused on COVID-19's impact on Black United Methodist Clergy, Laity and Congregations – partnership w SBC21, BMCR, BCW, Discipleship Ministries & Convocation Pastors Black UMC. Please visit our website at [www.gammon-itc.org](http://www.gammon-itc.org) for the findings.
- **Hosted a Virtual Church Leadership Training Event, “Navigating Next,”** in January 2022 to equip leaders for effective ministry 2022 with over 700 registered attendees.
- **Gammon student participates in the 2021 – 2022 Ecumenical Institute at Bossey** – Mr. Tavis Tinsley, a Gammon Senior, was invited by the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) the World Council of Churches. He completed

the “Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies” through the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

- Celebrated **our 138th Anniversary** and Founder’s Day.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant amount of debt our students are incurring as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students who are called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church.

We are grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean

## METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

2021-22 Report  
[www.mtso.edu](http://www.mtso.edu)

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

### **With \$1 million grant, MTSO supports existing religious leaders and helps form new ones**

MTSO has received a five-year grant of \$999,665 to establish “Connecting Pathways: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Strengthen and Sustain Current and Future Faith Leaders.” The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

The project utilizes MTSO’s distinct strengths in two distinct parts. Part One, “Connecting Pathways: Congregations and Other Ministry Partners,” supports existing religious leaders, focusing on anti-racism training and resourcing. Working with partner organizations, MTSO helps faith leaders to assess land use and church food programs to assist in building community engagement. Part Two, “Connecting Pathways: Vocational Exploration Intensive for Young Adults,” invites young adults to imagine the possibilities for lifelong faith, offering experiential learning, theological reflection, worship, and relationships with healthy community leaders and vibrant faith communities. It introduces the whys and hows of ministry, connecting participants with faith leaders, including some of those involved in Part One of the project.

### **New initiative enhances scientific literacy for seminarians**

MTSO has a longstanding commitment to preparing religious leaders who are conversant in and respectful of science. An important part of that effort is “Questioning Science with Good Faith: Shifting the Engagement of Science in Seminaries,” a project that integrates science into church history and theological studies curricula while also contributing to the public discourse on intersection of science and religion. The project is made possible by a \$75,000 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. The grant is funded by the John Templeton Foundation. In September 2021, MTSO offered an online, multi-professional conversation, “Pastors, Pandemics and Public Health: Building Collaborative Responses to COVID-19.”

### **Full-tuition scholarships extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy**

MTSO and the school’s donors pledged to extend a full-tuition pledge to all prospective students who are pursuing United Methodist elder or deacon candidacy. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions about this initiative at 800-333-6876 or [admissions@mtso.edu](mailto:admissions@mtso.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Russell, director of communications

## SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating tomorrow’s leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and a contextual curriculum.

As the global pandemic continues to bring challenges to our daily lives, Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2021-2022 academic year, again offering students an option to attend courses via Zoom or on-campus while maintaining safety protocols. Our weekly chapel service continues to be available online, allowing staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. In addition to faculty and staff serving as chapel speakers, we were blessed to have alumni and special guest speakers Rev. Winter Hamilton of Manchester UMC, Rev. Delessyn Kennebrew, Rev. Dr. Carol Cook Moore, and more. Chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel for those who cannot join live.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have had many faculty and staff changes. After many years of tremendous service to students and the Seminary, Dr. James Brandt and Dr. Hal Knight announced retirement plans effective at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, Dr. Jeanne Hoeft will step down from her role as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at the end of the academic year but will continue as faculty. New additions to the Seminary family include Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society; Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Campus; and Rabbi Michael Zedek, Rabbi-in-Residence.

The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

- Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, was re-elected to a second term on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion. She also had an article published in a South African journal. With more than a decade of service, she serves on the Broader Social Impacts Committee of the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian.
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, was invited to be a writer for “Lent Another Way,” an e-course, with The Plural Guild and The Many, and she offered the convocation address for Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Fall 2021. She also applied for and received a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching to support my project entitled: “Resisting the Plagiarized Pulpit: Helping Students and the Professor to Find trust their voice through Artistic Instructional Design.”
- This January, Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society, was the guest speaker at a Kansas City event, “Black Theology and the Black Panthers: A Conversation with Dr. Joshua Bartholomew.” In addition, he was recently interviewed by Climate Central for the article ““A moral imperative”: Monastic sisters in rural Midwest make faith-based case for climate action.”

Saint Paul welcomed 45 new students for the 2021-2022 academic year. New student enrollment for the Fall semester increased by 44% (34 new students), with an overall increase for the year of 73%. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in our midst, prospective students previewed the Saint Paul community and curriculum via online visits. Students joined in community worship, attended classes, and participated in online discussions with current students to discern if Saint Paul was indeed their choice for theological education. Enrollment remained strong for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth in our newly designed Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) programs.

In September, Saint Paul held the 2021 Harrington Lecture online featuring Dr. Eboo Patel. His lecture, “We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy,” expanded knowledge and built skills, helping people become the kind of leaders our diverse democracy needs. In the Spring Semester, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a forum given by Dr. Amos Yong, Professor of Theology and Mission, and Dean of the School of Mission and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, on “The Holy Spirit and People of other Faiths: Relational Christian Witness in the 2020s.” Later in the semester, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Joy Moore, Professor of Biblical Preaching and Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean at Luther Seminary. And for the first time, on May 13, Saint Paul held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both the Kansas and Oklahoma Campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. We honored the 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Dr. Stan Copeland during the ceremony.

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 228 individual students, 49 of which were new students, with approximately 550 registrations and offering a total of 50 courses. Serving 32 Conferences, including 94 Districts, 121 Full Time and 106 Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors comprised these registrations. Saint Paul Course of Study School welcomed new Regional Director Dr. Lucas Endicott. Dr. Endicott has been serving as Associate Director for the Office of Mission, Service, and Justice at the Missouri Annual Conference and lecturing at Central Methodist University. Due to the continuing pandemic, the school has continued its course offerings in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. Utilizing this online format, we reached students in 24 states. Plans include an increase in the number of hybrid course offerings. This fiscal year has also ushered in the new ability of online registration completed by the student and access to their student account through Populi as used by Seminary students. All our students share the same benefits by integrating Course of Study School into Populi, making them a more integrated part of the Saint Paul experience.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees added two new members to their ranks: Ms. Debra "Debbie" Buzard, Director of Outreach Ministry at First United Methodist Church of Kearney; and Rev. Martin "Tino" Herrera, Congregational Care Pastor at UM Church of the Resurrection. Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, the Saint Paul Board of Trustees has devoted a significant portion of the last year's meetings to church leaders with experience and expertise in creating more diverse and inclusive communities and organizations. Aiding Saint Paul's trustees in better understanding these issues, the Board hosted the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell in April 2021. Dr. Boswell, Senior Pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, described the anti-racism work he has led in that community. The City of Charlotte awarded Dr. Boswell its Martin Luther King, Jr. Medallion for his work. In July 2021, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II of Kansas City shared his perspective on the racial and social justice issues confronting our nation and the efforts he and his colleagues in the House of Representatives hope to undertake in response. With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans to guide us into the future.

As we have happily reported in years past, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. These last years' changes have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. Our significant investments in technology have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the continuing pandemic.

Our aim has always been to utilize technology as a conduit to bring faculty and students together regardless of whether they are on-campus or joining remotely through Zoom. We took a hard look at the distance learning landscape during the pandemic to see how we could substantially enhance the classroom experience. After significant testing, we opted to replace our distance-learning classroom technology with Neat's offerings, including technology still in development. All our classrooms began upgrades in Fall 2021 with offerings from Neat. Each smaller classroom added a 65" neat.board, a self-contained screen that functions as a full Zoom room, as well as an electronic whiteboard. Anything written or drawn on these boards is transmitted through Zoom to the screens in the classroom and remote Zoom participants. This content can also be saved and emailed to all participants. We implemented neat.bars in other classrooms that connect to our classrooms' existing screens. We are currently implementing neat.bar pros, just released at the end of 2021, in each of our large classrooms. At Saint Paul School of Theology, we have always tried to be pioneers with distance-learning technologies. We are very early in the lifecycle of this stimulating and groundbreaking technology. We are thrilled to partner with Neat and Zoom in revolutionizing the classroom experience.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers and support.



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*Where Theology Meets Life*

**UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Dayton, OH

For the past 150 years, United Theological Seminary has educated men and women for Christian ministry within the historic traditions of the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist churches. On October 11, 1871, United Theological Seminary, then Union Biblical Seminary, held its first classes in Dayton, Ohio. From a starting class of 11 students, the seminary has grown to 488 students in its most recent academic year,\* representing 39 denominations, 11 countries, and 39 states. Today's seminary serves a diverse student body that is 53% African American.\*\*

On October 10, 2021, the seminary celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and burned the mortgage on its current campus facilities, freeing up \$400,000 annually to support student scholarships.

In 2021, United received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to expand the seminary's Houses of Study, which offer specialized master's tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations they serve. The seminary has introduced six **Houses of Study**, currently enrolling for 2022-23:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Mosaix, in partnership with Mosaix Global Network and directed by Rev. Chip Freed;
- Hispanic, 100% in Spanish for Spanish-speaking leaders, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa;
- Black United Methodist, directed by Dr. Vance Ross;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Mark Chironna;
- and Global Wesleyan, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover.

Because United believes so passionately in this initiative, the seminary has dedicated additional resources to offer half-tuition scholarships for inaugural students in its Houses of Study programs.

United also introduced the **Academic Dean's Scholarship**, which provides 50% tuition for the duration of a master's degree program, and the **Presidential Scholarship**, awarding up to \$5,000 per year to new students.

In honor of United's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, a generous donor gifted \$2 million to help graduating students reduce their educational debt. Each graduate in the 2021-22 academic year will receive up to \$20,000 toward student debt from theological and previous academic studies.

As United looks forward to the next 150 years with gratitude and anticipation, the seminary remains committed to the preparation of faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Kent Millard, President

\* Student data represent 2020-2021 headcount enrollment.

\*\* Figure represents those who responded.

## NOTES